

# Nursing Home Expert Panel Report

## Implementation Oversight Team (IOT)

Meeting: 25 August 2020, 11 am

### Meeting note

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#### **Attendees:**

Kathleen Mac Lellan	Chair, Assistant Secretary, Social Care Division, DOH
Rachel Kenna	Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, DOH
David Noonan	Principal Officer, GP Services and GMS Contract, DOH
Sarah Cooney	Principal Officer, Older Persons Policy Reform Unit,
Fiona Larthwell	Principal Officer, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH
Celeste O'Callaghan	Director, Acute Hospitals, DOH
Malachy Corcoran	Principal Officer, Unscheduled Care, Department of Health, DOH
Pat Healy	National Director Community Strategy, HSE
Dr Siobhán Kennelly	National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, Older Persons, HSE
Gerry Clerkin	Head of Quality and Patient Safety Social Care Division, HSE
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Assistant National Director, Public Health, HSE
Susan Cliffe	Deputy Chief Inspector, HIQA
Carol Grogan	Head of Regulatory Practise Development Unit, HIQA
Fiona Walsh	Fair Deal Specialist, NTPF
Ms. Brigid Doherty	Public Interest Representative
Prof. Cecily Kelleher	Chair of the COVID-19 Nursing Home Expert Panel

#### **Apologies:**

Niall Redmond	Principal Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Rosarie Lynch	Head of Patient Safety Surveillance, NPSO, DOH
Mary Dunnion	Chief Inspector, HIQA
Sandra Tuohy	Assistant National Director Operations, Services for Older People, HSE
Dr. John Cuddihy	National Director, Public Health, HSE

#### **Secretariat:**

Nuala O'Reilly	Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Catherine Gibson	Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Helen Simon	Administrative Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Graham Mooney	Administrative Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH

## DISCUSSION and ACTION POINTS

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion and Actions Agreed</b>
<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	<p>The Chair welcomed members and gave a brief overview of the background to the establishment of the IOT. It was noted that a Reference group will also be established to provide a focussed engagement forum, and its first meeting will take place in mid to late September.</p>
<b>Terms of Reference and modus operandi</b>	<p>The Terms of Reference as agreed by the Minister of Health were set out by the Chair and noted by the participants.</p> <p>The Chair also introduced the modus operandi for the working of the group which was agreed by the participants. This included noting that in line with public health advice, all meetings will be held virtually.</p> <p>It was noted that all members of the IOT will be asked to complete a conflict of interest form which will be provided and that conflicts of interest will be a standing item on the agenda of each meeting, in order for any potential issues to be raised as they arise.</p>
<b>Presentation from Chair of COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel</b>	<p>Professor Cecily Kelleher, Chair of the COVID-19 Expert Panel, gave an overview of the work of the Panel and the approach it took in compiling its report.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Panel was appointed on 20<sup>th</sup> May on foot of a NPHE recommendation to examine emerging best practice and recommendations to ensure that all protective COVID-19 public health and other measures to safeguard nursing home residents are planned and in place to respond to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• The Panel submitted its interim report on 30<sup>th</sup> June and final report on 27<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>• An evidence-informed and consultative approach was taken, which included an evidence review and public consultation.</li> <li>• The importance of timeliness of response was highlighted among the Report's key learnings as were the widespread testing of staff and the centrality of the voice of residents.</li> <li>• A recurring message throughout the Report was that we are managing a new disease, which we are continuing to learn about and develop appropriate mitigating strategies, public health measures and preparedness plans to support the sector.</li> <li>• The tireless efforts of healthcare workers were acknowledged.</li> <li>• The role played by the COVID-19 Response Teams was noted, which the Panel suggest should be maintained and regularised.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Report’s 86 recommendations, across 15 themes, note the need for systematic reform in the delivery of care for older people.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Professor Kelleher and acknowledged the significant work and expertise of the Panel. The Panel’s recommendations were welcomed by the group, and the significant supports stood up by HSE and regulatory inputs from HIQA as part of the response to COVID-19 were acknowledged.</p>
<p><b>Overview of current epidemiological data</b></p>	<p>An overview of current epidemiological data was presented including trends in relation to outbreaks, age profile and serial testing in nursing homes.</p>
<p><b>Discussion on recommendations, sequencing and priorities</b></p>	<p>Recommendations across 15 key themes were discussed at a high-level, with a particular focus on what can be delivered by the end of 2020.</p> <p><b>Key points discussed included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was consensus on the importance of supporting nursing homes in terms of the supply of PPE, staffing, and training on swab taking</li> <li>• The importance of communication with residents and their families was highlighted. The easing of restrictions in terms of visiting was welcomed particularly noting for compassionate reasons and in situations where residents are receiving palliative care.</li> <li>• It was acknowledged that the Report’s recommendations point to a need for regulatory change in the medium to long term but that there is an imperative for the system to ensure required administrative or operational arrangements are put in place in the immediate term to support the sector this winter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> The Secretariat will write to IOT members to request the following information before the next meeting of the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set out their high-level approach to this work including the internal structures being established internally to support the delivery of these recommendations;</li> <li>• provide a single point of contact to provide feedback from agencies;</li> <li>• provide any high-level observations on the recommendations under the thematic area including identifying potential facilitators, barriers and enablers; and to</li> <li>• identify which of the recommendations are for early delivery by end of 2020.</li> </ul>

<b>AOB</b>	The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September.
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