

Nursing Home Expert Panel Report

Implementation Oversight Team (IOT)

Meeting: 23 September 2020, 11 am

Meeting note

Attendees:

Kathleen Mac Lellan	Chair, Assistant Secretary, Social Care Division, DOH
Niall Redmond	Principal Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Catherine Gibson	Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Karen Greene	Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, DOH
David Noonan	Principal Officer, GP Services and GMS Contract, DOH
Malachy Corcoran	Principal Officer, Unscheduled Care, Department of Health, DOH
Rosarie Lynch	Head of Patient Safety Surveillance, NPSO, DOH
Clodagh Murphy	Assistant Principal, Acute Hospitals, DOH
David Walsh	Implementation Lead, HSE
Dr Siobhán Kennelly	National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, Older Persons, HSE
Gerry Clerkin	General Manager, Community Operations, HSE
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Assistant National Director, Public Health, HSE
Pat Healy	National Director Community Strategy, HSE
Dr. John Cuddihy	National Director, Public Health, HSE
Mary Dunnion	Chief Inspector, HIQA
Carol Grogan	Head of Regulatory Practise Development Unit, HIQA
Kelly Jones	Project Manager, HIQA
Fiona Walsh	Fair Deal Specialist, NTPF
Ms. Brigid Doherty	Public Interest Representative

Apologies:

Fiona Larthwell	Principal Officer, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH
Susan Cliffe	Deputy Chief Inspector, HIQA
Prof. Cecily Kelleher	Chair of Reference Group

Secretariat:

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
Stephen Dunk	Executive Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH

DISCUSSION and ACTION POINTS

	Agenda item	Discussion and Actions Agreed
1.	Adoption of minutes of previous meeting	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without any changes.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1.1 Action: HIQA will review, discuss and agree with DOH the format and detail required to gather registered providers stage of implementation of recommendations</p>
2.	Conflict of Interest	There were no issues raised in this regard at this meeting.
3.	Update on Epidemiological Data	<p>An update on epidemiological data was presented including trends in relation to the general situation in Ireland, incidence rates, cases by mode of transmission and outbreaks in nursing homes and other settings.</p> <p>4 new outbreaks have been identified in nursing homes, 3 in Dublin and 1 in Cork.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the potential movement of healthcare workers between facilities and the onsite IPC capability.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.1. Action: The chair requested a breakdown of health care workers COVID-19 positive rates in nursing homes compared to health care workers in the rest of the health service.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.2. Action: The HPSC/Public Health were asked to examine the contact tracing information related to the cases involved in the 4 outbreaks in advance of the next meeting in order to provide a greater understanding of the outbreaks.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.3. Action: The Chair requested assurances regarding the protocols on movement of staff between facilities.</p> <p>HIQA noted that they had carried out an inspection of one of the 4 nursing homes where there are current outbreaks.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.4. Action: The chair proposed an urgent interagency meeting as an appropriate mechanism to further discuss the actions being taken to support the 4 nursing homes.</p>

4.	Costings Update	<p>HIQA: Noted that they have submitted a business case. The Department has asked that HIQA map their business case requests to the recommendations. This detail is required to fully assess the business case.</p> <p>HSE: The HSE is currently engaging with their CFO to identify what critical elements of the recommendations may be covered by other funding streams. This is a work in progress.</p> <p>NTPF: Welcomes the extension of Temporary Assistance Payment (TAPS) scheme for private and voluntary nursing homes, noting that they are currently carrying out an analysis costs claimed under TAPS. Staffing and cleaning have been identified as two significant costs.</p> <p>4.1. Action: The Chair asked that lead agencies revert with indicative costings of items that can be costed by Wednesday 30th September.</p>
5.	<u>Reference Group Update</u>	<p>The Group has been established and it held its first meeting on Monday 21st Sept.</p> <p>There was consensus on the importance of the implementation of the recommendations, with a particular focus on the urgent and prioritised recommendations. IPC, guidelines and strong lines of communication were also strongly endorsed by the Group.</p> <p>5.1. Action: The membership of the Reference Group is to be circulated to the IOT after the meeting (Secretariat).</p> <p>5.2. Action: The IOT were asked to consider if there were any issues that should be referred to the Reference Group. The Reference Group would also be asked to consider how they want to communicate to the IOT.</p>
6.	Item on Priority Recommendations	<p>Prioritisations now agreed in consultation with the Reference Group. Final spreadsheet with all comments will be circulated.</p>
7.	Update from Leads on Recommendations required within one month	<p>DoH:</p> <p>The first draft of the document (rec. 14.1) outlining roles and responsibilities of agencies is well advanced. It is hoped to circulate it to IOT leads for their feedback by the end of next week.</p> <p>Minister Butler has written to all nursing home providers to highlight recommendations in the report particularly around IPC and communication with relatives. This has been communicated through HIQA's Provider portal.</p> <p>The Department is establishing a bilateral group with HIQA to look at existing regulations in place to see what can be changed and</p>

		<p>strengthened.</p> <p>HSE: The HSE have compiled an integrated plan on Infection Prevention and control strategy.</p> <p>The flu vaccine is currently being distributed.</p> <p>A request sent to every Chief Officer to ensure that HSE facilities have a back-up preparedness plan in place.</p> <p>The HSE confirmed that the Chief Officer or their delegate is available 24/7 and there is an on-call arrangement in place.</p> <p>It was noted that many recommendations require cross-agency collaboration.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the PPE distribution protocols remain in place with no issues being identified.</p> <p>HSE noted the ongoing access to HSELand, webinars, HSE training and ongoing regular education programmes continue for all nursing homes and relevant multidisciplinary teams.</p> <p>Progress on updating the visitor's guidance in line with the Government's 5 levels was noted.</p> <p>Actions Secretariat: 7.1. To circulate Minister Butler's letter to the Group.</p> <p>HSE: 7.2. Integrated IPC plan to be circulated to the Group 7.3. Broader update on the flu vaccine to be provided at the next meeting 7.4. PPE distribution protocols that are in place for nursing homes to be submitted to Chair.</p>
8.	Progress Report to the Minister	<p>Ministers Donnelly and Butler will be provided with a regular progress report, the first of which is due soon. It is envisaged that reports will be provided every approximately 4/5 weeks.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that group identified processes to gather information to compile for the minister's progress reports in a timely fashion.</p> <p>8.1. Action: The master recommendations spreadsheet to be circulated to each lead to fill in progress on the recommendations that they have been identified as leading on. (Secretariat)</p>

		<p>8.2. Action: Leads to engage around how updates are gathered and presented.</p> <p>8.3. Action: HIQA to explore the development of an approach to capturing registered provider-specific recommendations progress and related assurances on an administrative basis and to revert with a proposal to the Team.</p> <p>Progress report to be presented to the group before it is sent to the Minister and published on the website in due course.</p>
9.	AOB	<p>The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th October.</p> <p>Brief update on Safe Staffing framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review expected in the next two weeks - Nursing homes to be sourced to validate guidance document noting that it is important that both public and private nursing home providers views are captured.