

Nursing Home Expert Panel Report

Implementation Oversight Team (IOT)

Meeting: 9 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
Rachel Kenna	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	Head of Quality and Patient Safety Social Care Division, HSE
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Assistant National Director, Public Health, HSE
Mary Dunnion	Chief Inspector, HIQA
Susan Cliffe	Deputy 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
Prof. Cecily Kelleher	Chair of Reference Group

Apologies:

Dr. John Cuddihy	National Director, Public Health, HSE
Fiona Larthwell	Principal Officer, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH
Celeste O'Callaghan	Director, Acute Hospitals, DOH
Pat Healy	National Director Community Strategy, HSE

Secretariat:

Nuala O'Reilly	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

Agenda item	Discussion and Actions Agreed
Adoption of minutes of previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without any changes.
Conflict of Interest	<p>The chair asked all members of the IOT to complete and return the conflict of interest forms in advance of the next meeting.</p> <p>The chair also reminded the group 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. There were no issues raised in this regard at this meeting.</p>
Update on Epidemiological Data	<p>An update on epidemiological data was presented including trends in relation to, the general situation in Ireland, cases by mode of transmission, outbreaks in nursing homes and other settings and healthcare workers.</p> <p>There is concern regarding new clusters emerging in nursing homes. The Chair reported that the Department met with HSE and HIQA on 31 August regarding the increased cases in nursing homes. At that meeting the Department received reassurances from HSE and HIQA with regards to the monitoring, escalation and assessment work that they are doing in relation to nursing homes.</p>
Update from Agencies on their high-level approach and implementation structures established.	<p>HIQA: HIQA have established a team to oversee implementation of the recommendations pertaining to HIQA. HIQA has also appointed a single point of contact.</p> <p>HSE: HSE has been appointed an Implementation Lead and a single point of contact. HSE is in the process of putting together its implementation structure which will feed into the overall process.</p> <p>NTPF: NTPF has been appointed a single point of contact for the NTPF. NTPF is working on establishing baseline costs in relation to the Temporary Assistance Payment Scheme. This work will feed into the recommendations as they are implemented.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chair asked the agencies/organisations to provide a paper to the Department outlining the processes in place. • The chair asked that information with regards to costings be provided as a matter of urgency as the Minister has requested that a Memorandum for Government on the implementation of the Expert Panel’s Report provides details of the resource implications.

Discussion on feedback on recommendations

The recommendations have been set out into 7 different priority categories. They are as follows:

- Priority 1: ongoing
- Priority 2: delivery by end of year
- Priority 3: needs to commence by end of year
- Priority 4: delivery within 6 months
- Priority 5: delivery within 9 months
- Priority 6: delivery within 12 months
- Priority 7: delivery within 18 months

The chair asked that for this meeting the group focus on the recommendations that need to be continued, delivered or commenced by the end of 2020, reflect on the comments and add additional comments as necessary.

The chair also asked the group to consider the priority category assigned the recommendations.

Key points discussed included:

- Governance and accountability were raised as an issue in implementing all of these recommendations.
- It was suggested that the roles and responsibilities document under recommendation 14.1 should include a formalised description of public health interaction with nursing homes.
- Timeline of 18th September (within 4 weeks of the publication of the report) for implementation of some recommendations will be challenging, given the amount of work that needs to be done in terms of skillsets in place, linkages, training, sourcing of specialist staff which need to be co-ordinated.
- HIQA have developed a self-assessment tool for providers. It is expected that it will issue to nursing home providers shortly. It was suggested that it would be useful if the Expert Panel recommendations for individual nursing homes could be mapped into the self-assessment tool to see what level of compliance there is with regards to the recommendations and to ensure that each nursing home is focused on the recommendations falling under their responsibility.
- HIQA is intending to run a webinar to facilitate engagement between public health, HSE and nursing home providers.
- Recommendations around GPs should be strengthened, enhanced and prioritised.

An update on the Safe Staffing Framework was provided as follows:

- The first international evidence review is expected in 2 weeks.
- Confident that safe staffing framework will be delivered within

	<p>the required timeframe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft guidance document for nursing homes based on international evidence with regards to COVID-19 has been developed. The guidance will be tested in five nursing homes. • Once tested and finalised the guidance will be made available to all nursing homes. <p>The Chair stressed the importance of receiving costings from all the agencies but that the issues around costings should not be a barrier to progressing the implementation of the recommendations. The Department will be liaising with the agencies over the coming days on this matter.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The leads from the agencies/organisations will meet to finalise commentary and prioritisation in relation to the recommendations and discuss the costings in advance of referring the recommendations to the Reference Group. • The Reference Group will be asked for its views on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the recommendations table, and - how best to communicate and engage with nursing home providers in relation to the implementation of the recommendations for which they have been identified as lead.
AOB	The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 23 rd September.