Department of Health Business Priorities 2017
(taking into account the Statement of Strategy, Programme for Government commitments and Ministerial priorities)

Support people to lead healthy and independent lives

Promote a Healthy Ireland including through:
- establishment of a cross-Government Healthy Ireland Fund,
- a new Healthy Ireland Council Network
- Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework
- introduction of the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill
- publication of a Code of Practice on marketing for food and drink.

Publish and commence implementation of a new National Cancer Strategy.

Publish and commence implementation of a new National Drugs Strategy.

Promote mental health including through:
- Publication of the Expert Review of A Vision for Change
- Development of the successor policy to A Vision for Change
- Publication of the Final Report of the Taskforce on Youth Mental Health
- Completion of the Pathfinder Project on Youth Mental Health.

Legislate and oversee the establishment of a supervised injecting facility.

Publish the Final Report of Task Force on Personalised Budgets.

Publish a new Transport Support Scheme Bill.

Develop policy and regulation for medicinal cannabis.

Ensure the delivery of high quality and safe health and social care

Establish a National Patient Safety Office and develop a new National Patient Safety Advocacy and Complaints Policy.

Publish the General Scheme of the Patient Safety Licensing Bill.

Publish and commence implementation of a National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan.

Introduce new legislative provisions governing Open Disclosure.
Publish the General Scheme of the Assisted Human Reproduction Bill.

Introduce new legislative provisions governing Deprivation of Liberty.

Agree arrangements for provision of ambulance services in Dublin into the future.

Manage the Department’s response to the Final Report of the Committee on the Future of Health Care.

*Create a more responsive, integrated and people-centred health and social care service*

Develop an overall policy approach to delivery of a new more integrated model of care by means of:

- Complete and publish a review of the projected capacity required by the health service 2017-2030
- A renewed strategic approach to the development of primary care
- Initiation of the development of an acute model of care which limits avoidable inpatient admissions and effectively addresses unscheduled and scheduled workloads
- Development of policy for the Financing and Regulation of Homecare.

Commence negotiation of a new GP contract.

Reduce prescription charges for older people, in line with the 2017 Budget.

Provide medical cards to those in receipt of the Domiciliary Care Allowance, in line with the 2017 Budget.

Oversee plans to reduce Emergency Department trolley waits and to prepare for the management of emergency pressures during winter 2017 – 2018.

Oversee plans to tackle Hospital Waiting Lists.

Strengthen the nursing contribution through the development of:

- Graduate, Specialist and Advanced Nursing and Midwifery Practice
- A Community Nursing response to Integrated Care.

Prepare the General Scheme and Heads of a Human Tissue Bill following a public consultation process.

Implementation of the Neuro Rehabilitation Strategy.

Oversee the New Children's Hospital Capital Project and Programme.

Oversee implementation of National Maternity Strategy.
Promote effective and efficient management of the health services

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Strengthen the performance oversight of the HSE in ensuring delivery of HSE National Service Plan 2017 and effective input into HSE National Service Plan 2018.

Further develop analysis of HSE financial performance.

Provide effective input into Estimates 2018 and the Government’s midterm review of the State’s capital programme.

Support the further embedding of Activity Based Funding in the health service and an agreed approach with the HSE to the Community Costing Programme.

Input to Government pay policy in the context of talks on a successor Public Service Pay Agreement.


Publish the Nursing Home Subvention Scheme Pricing Review.

Support the effective pricing and reimbursement of medicines including bio-similars.

Publish a National Strategic Framework for Health Workforce Planning.

Implement the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nursing and Midwifery Staffing and Skillmix.

Develop a new Health Information Policy, with associated legislative changes, and support the implementation of eHealth.

Develop a health-status indicator to support a refined Risk Equalisation scheme for Private Health Insurance Market.

Develop a high-performing Department

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Utilise enhanced skills in research, analytics and other areas to support the development of evidenced informed policies.

Complete a Workforce Plan for the Department 2017-2019.

Implement the Working Better Together organisational programme.

Manage the Department’s relocation to Miesian Plaza.

Implement a programme of compliance and assurance with the Governance Framework for the Department.

Develop the Department’s strategic communications.
Strengthen the support from the Programme Management Office to delivery of the Department’s Business Planning and oversight of the Programme for Health Service Improvement.

Lead the health sectors preparations for Brexit.

Lead a whole-of-Government proposal for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency to Ireland.

Manage the response to Private Members Legislation initiated within the Oireachtas.