

**Oversight Group for the Implementation of Recommendations in the HIQA
Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital
16th Meeting – Friday 24th March, 2017**

Report of Meeting

Present

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| Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan (Chair) | Director of National Patient Safety Office, DOH |
| Joan Regan | Acute Hospitals Division, DOH |
| Susan Kent | Office of the Chief Nurse, DOH |
| Sheila O'Connor | Patient Focus |
| Bridget Doherty | Patient Focus |

Apologies

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| Dr Tony Holohan | Chief Medical Officer, DOH |
| Tracey Conroy | Assistant Secretary, Acute Hospitals Division, DOH |
| Dr Siobhan O'Halloran | Chief Nursing Officer, DOH |
| Fionnuala Duffy | Acute Hospitals Division, DOH |

In Attendance

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| Liam Woods | Acute Hospitals Division, HSE |
| Margaret Brennan | Acute Hospitals Division, HSE |
| Kilian McGrane | Programme Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme |
| Angela Fitzgerald | Acute Hospitals Division, HSE |
| Eileen Ruddin | Acute Hospitals Division, HSE |
| Dr Susan O'Reilly | CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group |
| Dr Colm Henry | National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Acute Hospitals, HSE |
| Geraldine Shaw | Director of Nursing & Midwifery, Office of the Nursing & Midwifery Services Director / Clinical Programmes |
| Rosarie Mannion | National HR Director (via teleconference) |

Admin Support

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| David Keating | National Patient Safety Office, DOH |
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1. The minutes of the meeting on 21st December 2016 were agreed.
2. The 12th Report from the Oversight Group covering the period to 3rd November, 2016 was submitted to the Minister on 20th January 2017. This report was circulated to the Group.
3. The Oversight Group reviewed the Implementation Plan Report No 17, covering the period to 31th December 2016, Implementation Plan Report No 18, covering the period to 31st January 2017, and Implementation Plan Report No 19, covering the period to 28th February 2017.

Dr Mac Lellan noted the intention for the Group to conclude its work shortly and, as such, reminded that this was likely to be the final meeting of the Oversight Group in this format. While significant, positive progress had been made, there remained a number of milestones which were yet to be completed. Accordingly, it was agreed that the meeting would focus on those milestones which had not yet been indicated as being “complete” in order to inform the 20th Implementation Plan, covering the period to 31st March 2017. In order to be able to complete the work of the Oversight Group, the Group will need to be satisfied that any outstanding items will be mainstreamed into existing reporting processes between the HSE and the Department.

- a) **Milestones 4.1 and 4.2:** These would continue to be progressed by the Department.
- b) **Milestone 5.4:** Kilian McGrane informed that the outstanding posts would be advertised again shortly.
- c) **Milestone 6.6:** Liam Woods noted the need for ongoing guidance from the Department in relation to strategic planning.
- d) **Milestones 6.13 and 6.14:** Kilian McGrane noted that the NWIP was continuing to engage with Hospital Groups and Hospital Group CEOs in relation to governance of the clinical networks. It was noted that other requirements, e.g. IT solutions, also needed to be put in place to enable a group clinical network to be fully operational.
- e) **Milestone 6.16:** The Department was still considering the revised submission in relation to the job specification for the Director of Midwifery post.
- f) **Milestones 6.25- 6.27:** Margaret Brennan confirmed that the first Hospital Patient Safety Statements were expected to be published at the end of April. The pilot project was concluding shortly. A discussion on the title was held. Kathleen Mac Lellan indicated that the Department would be satisfied with a title such as “Hospital Patient Safety Reports”. Susan O’Reilly indicated that the Hospital Group CEOs preference was for the title to include a reference to “indicators” rather than “statement”. It was agreed that Margaret Brennan and Kathleen Mac Lellan would follow up on this point.
- g) **Milestone 6.42:** The need to progress the Patient Safety Culture Survey in 2018 was underlined.
- h) **Milestone 6.47:** It was confirmed that the National Patient Experience Survey was on track to be conducted during the month of May.
- i) **Milestone 6.51:** Margaret Brennan explained that a radical shift to develop more capacity internally for the conduct of patient safety investigations was underway. A framework would go to consultation in the coming months. Kathleen Mac Lellan recalled the need to ensure the approach

being taken by the HSE complements the forthcoming HIQA Standards for the investigation of patient safety incidents.

- j) **Milestone 7.9:** The Department, the HSE and the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group were continuing to progress the plan for the future of Portlaoise Hospital. Susan O'Reilly noted the need to conclude the process as soon as possible to ensure that adequate provision of service was maintained.
- k) **Milestone 7.11(b):** Dr Susan O'Reilly indicated that the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group expected to be able to move towards publication of the report within the coming two months. All families would receive individual letters. Sheila O'Connor emphasised the need for the lessons that have been learned from the conduct of the reviews to be shared nationally. She also noted her satisfaction with the letters that had been prepared, and with her recent meeting with Susan O'Reilly. It was agreed that the Department would be briefed on the final report when it was fully completed.
- l) **Milestone 9.1:** Susan Kent noted that this milestone can now be marked as "complete", and that consideration was now being given to developing a scheme as outlined in Milestones 9.2 and 9.3, and of annotating the required items on the Register.

4. **Consideration of the current status Portlaoise Implementation Plan and the future of the Portlaoise Oversight Group**

It was agreed that a final Implementation Plan Report, Number 20, would be produced on progress to the end of March 2017. The Department would then draft a final report for the Minister, outlining what has been achieved by the Group to date and setting out the proposed way forward. If the Minister is agreeable, the Group would not therefore be meeting again, while the outstanding milestones identified in the final Implementation Plan Report will be mainstreamed into existing reporting lines between the Department and the HSE. The Minister would also write to the Director General of the HSE, to inform and direct him in relation to these arrangements.

David Keating and Eileen Ruddin will collaborate in the development of the final Implementation Plan, and a final report to the Minister.

Actions Agreed:

- i. HSE and Kathleen Mac Lellan to agree final arrangements in relation to the publication of Hospital Patient Safety Statements.
- ii. Dublin Midlands Hospital Group to provide a briefing for the Department upon completion of the final report into the case reviews.
- iii. David Keating and Eileen Ruddin to produce a final Implementation Plan

- iv. The Department to prepare a final report for the Minister, outlining the progress to date and the proposed way forward in relation to outstanding milestones
- v. The Minister to write to the HSE DG confirming the agreed arrangements to ensure implementation of the outstanding milestones.

David Keating
Patient Safety Unit
30 March 2017