

**Oversight Group for the Implementation of Recommendations in the HIQA  
Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital  
15th Meeting – Wednesday 21<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

**Report of Meeting**

**Present**

Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan (Chair)	Director of Patient Safety and Clinical Effectiveness
Joan Regan	Acute Hospitals Division
Fionnuala Duffy	Acute Hospitals Division

**Apologies**

Dr Tony Holohan	Chief Medical Officer
Tracey Conroy	Assistant Secretary, Acute Hospitals Division
Sheila O'Connor	Patient Focus
Dr Siobhan O'Halloran	Chief Nursing Officer
Angela Fitzgerald	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Eileen Ruddin	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE

**In Attendance**

Liam Woods	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Margaret Brennan	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Kilian McGrane	Programme Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme

**Admin Support**

David Keating	Patient Safety Unit
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1. The minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were agreed with one change in relation to the discussion on paragraph 7.13(b). Liam Woods informed that he had requested an update on the spending of the €3m allocated for Patient Safety in the 2016 HSE Service Plan.
2. The 11<sup>th</sup> Report from the Oversight Group covering the period to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 was submitted to the Minister on 15<sup>th</sup> November. This report was circulated to the Group.
3. The Oversight Group reviewed the Implementation Plan Report No 14, covering the period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Implementation Plan Report No 15, covering the period to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, and Implementation Plan Report No 16, covering the period to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The Group concentrated on and discussed those actions that were indicating a “minor challenge” to being delivered by the target date or which had passed their target date.

Kathleen Mac Lellan acknowledged the recent HIQA Report into Portlaoise, the “Review of progress made at the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise in implementing recommendations following HIQA’s investigation”, which had noted the participation of Portlaoise in IMIS and similar data collections, in

line with other clinical centres for maternity outcomes. The positive developments in relation to staffing and budgetary issues were also welcomed.

Fionnuala Duffy noted that the focus was now moving to the question of the broader services provided by the hospital, as the Group has been working for some time on a draft plan for a new model of clinical service delivery at Portlaoise Hospital. The current position on this work should be referenced in the Oversight Group final report.

A formal welcome was extended to Kilian McGrane, the incoming Director of the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIP).

- a) **Milestones 6.13 and 6.14:** The process for the appointment of Group Clinical Director has not yet been finalised. Kilian McGrane agreed that the NWIP would be able to provide oversight to ensure it was closed off.
  - b) **Milestone 6.16-6.18:** Liam Woods had undertaken to revert to the Acute Hospital Division in relation to reporting lines for the Director of Midwifery posts with a view to closing the issue off by the end of Q1 2017.
  - c) **Milestone 6.27:** Discussions have been continuing with Hospital Groups in relation to Hospital Patient Safety Statements. The next meeting has been scheduled for January 2017 and Liam Woods indicated that it was planned to reach agreement by the end of that month. The Department reiterated its dissatisfaction with the slow progress in moving this item forward.
  - d) **Milestone 6.35:** Liam Woods undertook to arrange for a report on this milestone to be forwarded for the information of the Group.
  - e) **Milestone 6.42:** Margaret Brennan noted that the business case for the patient safety culture survey may have to be revised in light of the allocations provided for under the 2017 HSE Service Plan, as no funding had been designated. Margaret Brennan is to revert to the Group on the question of whether and how the survey will proceed in 2017.
  - f) **Milestone 7.11(b):** The review of older cases has been closed. It was expected that the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group would be in a position to share the results of the final report with the families in early 2017.
4. **Update from DOH on overall status of the Portlaoise Implementation Plan.**

It was agreed that David Keating and Eileen Rudin would meet to consider a final report and to agree on a way forward in relation to outstanding milestones, including appropriate oversight and accountability arrangements.

It was also agreed a further meeting of the Oversight Group would be arranged for the end of January.

*Actions Agreed:*

- i. HSE to finalise arrangements in relation to the publication of Hospital Patient Safety Statements.
- ii. Liam Woods to forward a report on milestone 6.35 for the information of the Group.
- iii. Margaret Brennan to revert to the Group on the question of whether and how the patient safety culture survey will proceed in 2017
- iv. David Keating and Eileen Rudin to meet to consider a final report and to agree on a way forward in relation to outstanding milestones, including appropriate oversight and accountability arrangements.

**David Keating**  
**Patient Safety Unit**  
**9 January 2017**