

**Oversight Group for the Implementation of Recommendations in the HIQA  
Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital  
14th Meeting – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2016**

**Report of Meeting**

**Present**

Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan (Chair)	Director of Patient Safety and Clinical Effectiveness
Dr Siobhan O'Halloran	Chief Nursing Officer
Joan Regan	Acute Hospitals Division
Brigid Doherty	Patient Focus

**Apologies**

Dr Tony Holohan	Chief Medical Officer
Tracey Conroy	Assistant Secretary, Acute Hospitals Division
Sheila O'Connor	Patient Focus

**In Attendance**

Liam Woods	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Angela Fitzgerald	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Eileen Ruddin	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Margaret Brennan	Acute Hospitals Division, HSE

**Admin Support**

David Keating	Patient Safety Unit
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1. The minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were agreed.
2. The 10<sup>th</sup> Report from the Oversight Group covering the period to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 was submitted to the Minister on 14<sup>th</sup> July. This report was circulated to the Group.
3. The Oversight Group reviewed the Implementation Plan Report No 12, covering the period to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016, and Implementation Plan Report No 13, covering the period to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. The Group concentrated on and discussed those actions that were indicating a “minor challenge” to being delivered by the target date or had passed their target date.
  - a) **Recommendation 1**: Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan informed that two new members of staff had taken up duty to progress the Patient Advocacy work item.
  - b) **Recommendation 4**: The HSE is continuing to work with PAS to shorten the time between campaigns to recruit members of Hospital Group boards.
  - c) **Recommendation 5**: Eileen Ruddin informed that of the 13 Director of Midwifery posts that had been advertised, 6 appointments had been made. An examination is currently being made of the issues surrounding the remaining 7 vacancies, including in relation to salary and the required

qualification level, with a view to progressing them shortly. It was agreed that a Level 8 qualification would need to be achieved within 3 years of acceding to the post; oversight would be required to insure this is achieved.

- d) **Recommendations 6 and 7d**: Angela Fitzgerald explained that the Strategic Plan for each Hospital Group would set out the scope of practice for each hospital in the Group. There would also be actions taken through the Service Planning process.

However, Liam Woods noted that guidance on developments and strategic plans was needed from the Department of Health.

- e) **Milestones 6.13 and 6.14**: Angela Fitzgerald informed that originally it had been thought that the maternity networks would be driven by the Women's and Infants Health Programme. In its absence, work is moving ahead in any case. It was noted that further clarity was required in relation to accountability and clinical responsibility within the network.

It was agreed that Eileen Rudin would forward an update to the Oversight Group.

- f) **Milestone 6.16-6.18**: The situation with regard to the Leadership Team for the National Women and Infants Programme Office was considered; Joan Regan clarified that it was premature to re-advertise the posts as revised job specs have not yet been agreed. The Department would furnish obs on the revised specs, and, if the amendments were agreed, the Department would follow up on the business case already submitted to DPER seeking sanction for increased remuneration for the DOM and Programme Manager posts. Joan Regan undertook to forward the DOM job description to Siobhan O'Halloran.
- g) **Milestones 6.22-6.24**: Kathleen Mac Lellan emphasised the need for all maternity hospitals to publish full Maternity Patient Safety Statements each month. HSE were in full agreement, and informed that they are continuing to follow up with hospitals not doing so. As the data sets are becoming more useful, hospitals are moving towards analysing the emerging trends. Angela Fitzgerald noted that Hospital Groups have been advised of the need for appropriate internal governance processes in relation to the statements.
- h) **Milestone 6.27**: The draft Hospital Patient Safety Statement has been amended to include a number of metrics requested by the Department of Health, including pressure ulcers. HSE undertook to forward proposals on how staffing could be captured in the Statements to the Department. DVT would be included in a future iteration.
- i) **Milestone 6.31**: Eileen Rudin informed that NOCA audits are becoming more mainstreamed in acute hospitals.

- j) **Milestone 6.42:** The importance of staff engagement in the patient safety culture survey was emphasised. With a participation rate of 60% required, national leadership on the issue was vital so that staff would see the seriousness with which it was being taken. Liam Woods confirmed that the resources for this would be made available through acute hospitals.
- k) **Milestone 6.51:** Work on strengthening QPS capacity was underway, with serious consideration being given to grading, competencies etc.
- l) **Milestone 7.13(b):** Liam Woods informed that the HSE would seek funding of €3m for patient safety next year, and expected that the €3m allocated in 2016 would recur in 2017 for a total of €6m, which would be sufficient to resource the Acute sector appropriately. Kathleen Mac Lellan underlined the need for a greater degree of specificity around the spending in 2017.

4. **Update from DOH on overall status of the Portlaoise Implementation Plan.**

Kathleen Mac Lellan informed that the Department had begun to consider the future of the group, given that many of the milestones had now been implemented. Thought was being given to whether the outstanding items could be mainstreamed into existing accountability processes to ensure full implementation. It was agreed that the Department and the HSE would discuss further and agree on an approach which if satisfactory could be signed off at the next meeting in November.

*Actions Agreed:*

- i. Eileen Rudin to forward an update to the Oversight Group in relation to Milestones 6.13 and 6.14.
- ii. Joan Regan to forward amended job descriptions for new Programme Leadership posts to HSE. Joan Regan agreed to forward Director of Midwifery job descriptions to Siobhan O'Halloran
- iii. HSE to forward proposals on how staffing can be captured in the Hospital Patient Safety Statement template to the Department
- iv. The Department and the HSE to consider how outstanding milestones could be mainstreamed into existing accountability processes to ensure full implementation.
- v. Following the meeting proper, it was also agreed that Dr. Susan O'Reilly would attend the next meeting of the Portlaoise Oversight Group in mid-November in order to update on the status of the final report.

**David Keating**  
**Patient Safety Unit**  
**12 October 2016**