

1. Runaí Aire

Note for the Minister's Information

Twelfth Report from the Oversight Group for the Implementation of Recommendations in the HIQA Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital

1. This is the twelfth report from the Oversight Group to the Minister on the progress being achieved in the implementation of the HIQA recommendations. The report covers progress made for the period up to 30th of November, 2016 which was discussed at the Oversight Group meeting on 21st of December, 2016. The Implementation Plan shows a large number of actions completed and a large proportion on track for implementation. There are minor challenges in relation to some actions. These challenges are largely due to timing issues where the action is being progressed but it has missed the project completion date.
2. Publication of the monthly Maternity Patient Safety Statements (MPSS) by the HSE commenced in early 2016, and Statements for all 19 maternity units are now available on the HSE's website for each month for the period December 2015-October 2016. The Department is also focused on the need for all hospitals to begin publishing similar metrics in the form of a Hospital Patient Safety Statement; the HSE have indicated that agreement on the procedures for this new reporting mechanism is expected in Q1 2017. The Department is concerned with the length of time it is taking to begin the publication of Hospital Patient Safety Statements. Similarly, the Department is concerned with the delays that have been experienced in relation to setting up the Patient Safety Culture Survey.
3. Broadly speaking, the Department is satisfied with the implementation of the recommendations by the HSE. The Department continues to engage with the Dublin-Midlands Hospital Group in relation to the final report into the cases of individual families, and to ensure that all of the outstanding needs of the families affected have been addressed appropriately.
4. It was originally envisaged that the Group would complete its work by June 2016, however that has not proven possible. In advance of the finalisation of the work HIQA were asked to visit Portlaoise to verify the progress being made on the ground and as you will be aware that report, which found that the maternity services at the hospital have been significantly enhanced, was published on 5th of December 2016.
5. The Department is continuing to examine how to bring the oversight process to an appropriate close, with the intention being that the remaining outstanding milestones will be folded into existing accountability mechanisms in order to ensure they are fully implemented. I will prepare a submission for your attention on this matter when the proposed approach has been fully mapped out.
6. A copy of the Oversight Group's Implementation Plans to 30th of November, 2016 will be placed on the Department's website in the coming days.

*Dr Tony Holohan,
Chief Medical Officer and Chairperson of the Oversight Group
20 January, 2016*