

1. Runaí Aire

Note for the Minister's Information

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

1. This is the eleventh 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 31st of August, 2016 which was discussed at the Oversight Group meeting on 6th of October, 2016. The Implementation Plan shows a large number of actions completed and a large proportion on track for implementation by the timeline set. 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 earlier this year, and Statements for all 19 maternity units are now available on the HSE's website for each month for the period December 2015-July 2016. The need for all metrics to be included in the Statements was again underlined to the HSE, as for a short period some hospitals were publishing abbreviated versions of the MPSS and one hospital appears to be continuing to do so.
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 that report is awaited. It has been agreed that the next meeting will take place in November. The Department has prepared a report examining the status of the Implementation Plan in order to inform considerations of how to bring the process to a close, with the intention of mainstreaming those outstanding milestones 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.
5. A copy of the Oversight Group's Implementation Plan to 31st of August, 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
18 October, 2016*