

Note for the Minister's Information

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

1. The HIQA Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital called for the establishment of an oversight group to oversee the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report. The Minister approved the establishment of an Oversight Group.
2. To date the Oversight Group has met four times and agreed the scope of its work and how the progress being achieved can be recorded and reported to the Minister. The Oversight Group has worked closely with the HSE to identify the key higher level actions required to implement the HIQA recommendations and to develop the reporting template to monitor their implementation. The Oversight Group is satisfied that the HSE is fully engaged and is working towards implementation of the recommendations.
3. The attached Implementation Plan reports on the period up to 31st August 2015 and shows the status of implementation of each of the eight HIQA recommendations contained in the HIQA Portlaoise Report. The Oversight Group has also included two recommendations from the CMO's Report on Perinatal Deaths in Portlaoise Hospital in the Implementation Plan. The Plan shows the actions, milestones, timelines and progress of implementation of the plan. The status of implementation of each milestone is shown and comments are included opposite each milestone as necessary.
4. The establishment of a Patient Advocacy Service is indicating a minor challenge against the timeline set. The Minister will be aware that the establishment of the service forms part of a proposed Memo to Government which is due to be submitted to Government shortly.
5. In relation to the establishment of a National Women's and Infants Programme, as at 31st August, a response was awaited from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding funding for this programme. Approval has just now been received from DPER and the HSE has been notified.
6. The Oversight Group's overall assessment is that the HSE is making a significant effort at local and national management levels to work towards implementation of the HIQA Portlaoise recommendations. Progress has already been achieved in the implementation of certain actions and others are on track to be implemented within the timescale provided.
7. It is intended that a report on the progress of implementation of the recommendations will be provided to the Minister on a monthly basis. The Oversight Group will arrange to have each monthly report published on the Department's website once it has been presented to the Minister and it is agreed to publish. The next report will cover the period 1st to 30th September 2015.

Dr Tony Holohan

Chief Medical Officer and Chairperson of the Oversight Group

2nd October, 2015