HBOG
25th March 2020, 11:45am
Conference call

Attendees

D/Health: Paul Bolger, Fiona Prendergast, Aidan Gilchrist , Aonraid Dunne, Caoimhe Dolan, David Bolger, Denise McCarthy, Eoin Halpin, Kevin Colman, Louise Carrigan, Rhona Broderick, Evan Walker,

HSE: Alan Ryan, Colum Maddox, Jennifer O Callaghan, John Shiel, Nigel O'Keeffe, Sinead Stone, Stephen Mulvaney, Tony Patterson

D/PER: Ronnie Downes, David Owens, Terry Jennings, Patrick Moran, Deirdre Collins, Robert Scott, Sean Prior, Albert Morris, Cian McCarthy, Kevin O'Farrell

1. **Introductions and Minutes**
   The Minutes circulated from the last meeting (20.03.20) were provisionally agreed.

2. **Update on HSE COVID-19 Action Plan – Finance**

The HSE's updated Consolidated Costings spreadsheet was discussed.

D/PER requested that the costings document be in line with the Memo *Scaling up of Health & Social Care Services Arrangements for the duration of the emergency arising from the spread of Covid-19* and clarified that a separate process for any additions to this need to be distinct from this piece of work.

HSE agreed that the spreadsheet will be distilled into the key elements that are live and consolidated to reflect sanctioned spending and Government decisions.

3. **COVID-19 Reporting and Monitoring Procedures**

a. Sanctioning Procedure
   All agreed that sanctioning procedures would be streamlined and responded to quickly in line with public financial procedures while recognising the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves in.

   Actions: Sanction conference call to follow this afternoon between D/PER and D/Health.

b. COVID-19 Expenditure

   The frequency of cost reporting was discussed; HSE are working towards providing total activity and costs on a fortnightly basis (cash, income/expenditure and commitments). The Consolidated Costings spreadsheet is the main expenditure plan with baseline costs at present. The HSE plan to report at as low a level as possible going forward and capture costs as robustly as possible by tracking;

   - Costs of planned elements of COVID_19

- Impacts on overall budget pressure, and
- New issues such as sick leave and agency.

All agreed that monthly financial reporting is vital and will continue and that these HBOGs (now also in effect the NPHET Finance subgroup for COVID_19) will continue weekly.

The importance of cash drawdowns at this critical time was discussed.

Actions: It was agreed that there would be an offline discussion on Cash and I&E commitments.

Fees to GP's will be monitored on an ongoing basis and discussed bilaterally outside of this forum.

c. PCRS Update

Short discussion of GP arrangements in place for COVID19 response strategy.
D/Health agree to follow up on technical details of new contract including appropriate reporting mechanisms given cited expenditure risks and report back to HBOG.

d. COVID-19 Recruitment

The introduction of payment for student nurses was discussed. It was outlined that this payment agreement only applies to the current stock of nurses during this crisis. *Actions: A paper of additional costs from Chief Nursing Officer office in D/Health will when finalised be circulated to Vote and Pay side of PER.*

4. Update on Legislation

Not discussed except to note omnibus Bill being taken this week.

5. AOB

- D/Health requested that there be one senior D/PER voice on the NPHET Workforce subgroup
- The HBOG is now the Finance Subgroup and will provide monthly reports to cabinet subcommittee and Government.
- D/PER are considering the sanction request re Citywest and will respond today.
- EU Procurement – clarification vis-à-vis ventilators order recently sanctioned was sought by DPER

Next meeting: 1st April, 11am.