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11th April 2019

Deputy Daly
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ Ref 14615/19To ask the Minister for Health the number of times in relation to the recommendations of the national maternity strategy the steering group for the implementation of the model of care has met since it was established.**

PQ Ref 14616/19To ask the Minister for Health the major outputs of the steering group for the implementation of the model of care to date.**

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the two Parliamentary Questions set out above, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) Steering Group for the Implementation of the Model of Care was established in April, 2018. The Group is co-Chaired by HSE NWIHP Director of Midwifery, Ms Angela Dunne and HSE NWHIP Clinical Director, Dr Peter McKenna. Membership is multidisciplinary with national representation. To date, the Steering Group has met on four occasions - April 2018, June 2018, September 2018 and April 2019.

The key outputs of these meetings including the identification and scoping out specific work programmes which are required to drive and enable the implementation of the National Maternity Strategy and a structure which supports shared learning and two way feedback regarding work undertaken to date at both national and local level. Work programmes identified under the auspices of the Steering Group include workforce and education, communications, key performance indicators and structured engagement with service users. The Service Users Group subsequently convened ensure that users of the service are in a position to provide their insight and perspective to the ongoing work stemming from the NWIHP, ensuring women and their families remain central to the implementation process. Additionally, a Midwifery Champions Group has been formed to gain the perspective of staff midwives who are essential to the implementation of the model of care on the ground.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

**Mary-Jo Biggs,
General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**