Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE Board Briefing Template

Subject: Health Indicators Board Update

Submitted for meeting on: February 25th, 2022

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Why is this information being brought to the Boards attention? For information

Is there an action by the Board required, if so, please provide detail?: N/A

Please indicate which of the Boards objectives this relates to:

▪ The development and implementing of an effective Corporate Governance Framework, incorporating clinical governance and a performance management and accountability system: **N/A**
▪ Developing a plan for building public trust and confidence in the HSE and the wider health service: **N/A**
▪ Ensuring the HSE's full support for and implementation of the Government's programme of health reform as set out in the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy: **X**
▪ Exercising effective budgetary management, including improving the value achieved with existing resources and securing target saving, with the objective of delivering the National Service Plan within Budget: **N/A**

Background

This report outlines progress made in Ireland over time, across a number of global health indicators and compares Ireland's to the OECD and EU average for these metrics. The health indicators presented in this report provide a high-level snapshot on the health of a population and insight into the performance of its healthcare system. This can help identify what interventions have improved the health of the population or where interventions may be needed. However, no single set of measures can comprehensively characterise the overall health of a population nor the performance of a health service. Other metrics which may need to be considered include (1) patient outcomes and experience, (2) equity of access, (3) quality and patient safety metrics including adverse events, near miss and never events (serious medical errors that are deemed to be preventable and should never occur), (4) staff metrics including morale, retention and recruitment, training and development, (5) innovation and learning capacity, (6) responsiveness and agility, (7) governance and accountability and (8) value for money.

Highlight any implications that the Board should be made aware of in its consideration
The contents of this paper illustrate how service provision and development is being planned and delivered progressed in accordance with the principles of Slaintecare.

Conclusion
People in Ireland lead longer and healthier lives than most other European countries. Ireland's health service is delivering positive outcomes for our patients and outperforming the OECD and EU average across many but not all of the global health indicators included in this report. The implementation of several national programmes,

strategies and initiatives have helped enable improvement in these important health indicators. However behavioural risk factors, the outcomes of chronic conditions and vaccination uptake are three areas where further progress is required to improve the health of the population.

The pandemic has shown us that without a fit for purpose digital health infrastructure, we will fall behind other OECD and EU countries not just in terms of operational effectiveness and efficiency but also in our ability to measure and evaluate the performance of our health service and to prioritise where investment and resources can have the biggest impact on improving the future health of our population. Additionally, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health outcomes is not yet fully known, with the potential for an increased number of late diagnoses and worse patient outcomes in the coming year(s).

To drive real and demonstrable improvements in population health we need to focus on prevention not cure. Key to focusing and optimising the clinical effectiveness of future service provision is measuring and evaluating whether we are improving the lives, health, and wellbeing of our population by enabling people to live longer, healthier lives at home, with their families and friends and in their communities.