



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE Board Briefing Template

Subject: Childrens Health Ireland Electronic Health Record

Submitted for meeting on: 27th May 2022

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Why is this information being brought to the Boards attention?

For information and noting.

The Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) Electronic Health Record (EHR) procurement is completed and following a memo to government the CHI will sign the contract with the successful vendor. The CHI is the signing authority, the HSE is not a signatory to the contract. HSE ICT Capital allocation for the EHR is €44.7m and the revenue which is the subject of a 2023 revenue bid is €44.8m between 2022 and 2025, with the main expenditures in 2023 – 2025.

It should be noted that the total ICT costs of the CHI programme including the new hospital and the two urgent care centres, is ICT Capital €97.7 and Revenue €72.6m.

Is there an action by the Board required, if so please provide detail?

To note the following:

- 1) Completion of the EHR procurement process for the CHI
- 2) The CHI will sign the contract once approved by Government
- 3) HSE capital (which is budgeted for in the capital plan) and revenue funding will be allocated to the project

Please indicate which of the Board's objectives this relates to;

- The development and implementing of an effective Corporate Governance Framework, incorporating clinical governance and a performance management and accountability system;
- Developing a plan for building public trust and confidence in the HSE and the wider health service;
- 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;
- 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.

Brief summary of link to Board objectives.

An EHR system is the key clinical ICT enabler that is needed to fulfil the vision of a 'digital hospital' for the new children's hospital. It will be the key system for supporting the hospital's delivery of clinical and operational services across all specialties. This project appraisal encompasses the vendor and programme (capital programme), and operating costs of a standalone Electronic Healthcare Record (EHR) for Children's Health Ireland (CHI).

The ability to provide clinical governance, performance management and accountability is fully dependent on the successful implementation of an EHR.

The Sláintecare implementation strategy and plan called out that ICT has the potential to be the biggest and most effective driver of change and improvement for better patient outcomes across the health system. In the future, a coherent suite of eHealth solutions will underpin and support our overall vision for integrated, patient-centred care, population health planning and more effective and safe delivery of health services. Patients and health professionals will have ready access to clinical records and administrative information, which will enable better decisions to be made. A key priority was the implement the national acute Electronic Health Record (EHR), starting with the new National Children's Hospital.

The Business case outlines the benefits of deploying an EHR in four broad categories, Effective, Safe, better Health and Welbeing and patient centric. The EHR is required maximise the effectiveness and deliver safe care within the new hospital.

Background - provide context in order to ensure that the Board fully understand the issue.

Following a government decision, the Childrens Hospital (CHI) was approved to begin construction in 2017. The approval covered the main hospital and the two urgent care centres at Connolly and Tallaght. The initial business case outlined the case to deliver a digital hospital, and this was accepted as part of the government decision to approve the hospital. The approval also included other aspects of the programme including general ICT which was to be the subject of a separate ICT business case.

Childrens Hospital are the contracting authority for all the ICT programme (Urgent Care Centres, Infrastructure at NCH, EHR etc.) the HSE ICT capital and HSE revenue will be funding the programme.

The overall ICT programme is a complex programme with many cross dependencies to the build programme. The CHI has recruited an experienced team to procure and lead the implementation of the programme across the different workstreams.

The EHR procurement was completed at the start of 2022, with the recommendation of EPIC as the preferred vendor (www.epic.com). The programme has been subject to a DPER peer review process and subject to the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES). The IGEES process involves an economic evaluation undertaken by DPER which provides high standards of economic and policy analysis to assist the Government decision-making process. A government memo is being drafted by the Dept. of Health seeking approval to proceed with the contract.

The HSE's Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) reviewed the briefing document (Attached) which was also provided to the Children's Hospital Project & Programme Steering Group Meeting, in addition the ARC invited the Chair and CEO of CHI to attend the April meeting.

The implementation of the new Childrens hospital programme (including the implementation of EHR in CHI) is being taken forward as part of the wider NCH governance arrangements as previously advised to the Board.

As the HSE is not a signatory to the contract, the ARC noted the document and sought assurances from the HSE in relation to the affordability of the EHR within the eHealth capital budget.

Highlight any implications that the Board should be made aware of in its consideration such as;

The project is currently completing the approval process:-

1. CHI Board - completed
2. CHP&P approval – completed
3. HSE Board for noting
4. DOH approval – in process
5. Government Memo – in process
6. Cabinet endorsement

HSE ICT Capital allocation for the EHR is €44.7m and the revenue which is the subject of a 2023 revenue bid is €44.8m between 2022 and 2025, with the main expenditures in 2023 – 2025.

The CHI requires an additional 106 staff, of which 44 will be permanent, to build, implement and run the EHR. The approval for these additional posts is subject to the 2023 service plan approval.

The procurement was managed by HSE procurement, external legal support and advice was utilised from the start and in addition a procurement process auditor was engaged to ensure full procurement compliance. The procurement has completed and there are no challenges to the outcome.

Conclusion

This is a complex programme which needs to run in tandem with the opening of the hospital.

The CHI is the contracting agency.

eHealth has allocated €97.7m for the overall programme of which €44.7 is allocated for the EHR.

The EHR will be the subject of a government memo and cabinet endorsement prior to approval and contract signing.

Recommendation

The HSE Board is being requested to note the following: -

- 1) Completion of the EHR procurement process for the CHI
- 2) The CHI will sign the contract once approved by Government
- 3) HSE capital (which is budgeted for in the capital plan) and revenue funding will be allocated to the project