



HSE Board Briefing Template

Subject: Contract Approval Request (CAR) for HSE 21309: Provision of a National Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Service

Six Year Term – Total Value Estimated [REDACTED]

Submitted for meeting on: 29th May 2024

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Why is this information being brought to the Boards attention?

Board approval is required for:

- The establishment of a single provider contract for the provision of National Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Service with an estimated value of [REDACTED] over 6 years.

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

Board Approval is sought for the establishment of single provider contract for the provision of a National Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Service.

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.

The HSE is required to comply with the Procurement Regulations and Guidelines. The Award of the Contract will ensure the HSE is in compliance with its obligations.

What actions are required by the Board?

Approval of the establishment of single provider contract for the provision of a National Universal Hearing Screening Service.

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



- The HSE provides a National Universal Hearing Screening Service to all newborn infants.
- The programme, developed by the HSE, was rolled out in April 2011 and became a National programme in November 2013.
- The programme is informed by international best practice and evidence with particular input from the UK NHSP model.
- It involves screening all newborn infants. This results in the early identification of congenital Permanent Childhood Hearing Loss (PCHL) leading to early intervention and much improved outcomes for children.
- Currently there is an estimated incidence of hearing loss of approximately 1-2/1000 or 60-120 children diagnosed with a hearing impairment per year as a result of introducing the programme.
- Furthermore, screening can also help in the early detection of unilateral or bilateral moderate to profound permanent childhood hearing impairment.
- The aim of the screening programme is to reduce the age of identification of such hearing loss to not more than three months and to undertake/commence amplification, fitting and enrolment in early intervention programmes by age six months.
- The service provider will be expected to offer and provide newborn hearing screening in accordance with HSE Care Pathways, Protocols and Appendices to all eligible newborn babies in the relevant hospitals, between the hours of 9am to 6pm, 7 days per week.
- The current contract was finalised in 2016 and there is one service provider covering the national requirements.
- The contract expires on the 31.07.24.
- The HSE utilised an Open Annex XIV tender process. Using Annex XIV allowed more flexibility than a strict open process.
- The value of the contract is estimated as [REDACTED] including the extension period of 24 months.
- The funding for the procurement of a National Universal Hearing Screening Service comes from Primary Care.

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

- Current status

The HSE's current contract expires on 31.07.24

- Service User implications

The contract needs to be approved to ensure that there is no gap in the provision of the service.

The earlier hearing issues are identified, the better the outcome for the child.

- Budget

The funding for the procurement of a National Universal Hearing Screening Service comes from Primary Care.

- Impact to delivery of services

This contract is the only means by which newborn infants can access this type of screening at such an early stage.

- Corporate Plan

The implementation of contract will deliver an element of the target Sum Under



Management for Procurement.

Conclusion:

The implementation of the contract is essential for the HSE to move into compliance with its obligations under the Procurement Regulations and to allow the HSE to meet its commitments for provision of this service.
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Recommendation:

The award of the contract is recommended for approval.
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