



HSE Planning and Performance Committee Meeting

Minutes

A meeting of the HSE Planning & Performance Committee was held on Friday 21 July 2023 at 9:00 via video conference.

Committee Members Present: Fergus Finlay (Chair), Sarah McLoughlin, Brendan Whelan, Anne Carrigy, Sarah Barry, Joan Johnston.

HSE Executive Attendance: Damien McCallion (COO), Yvonne O'Neill (ND Community Operations), Mary Day (ND Acute Operations), Sonya Cotter (AND Performance Management and Improvement Unit), Orla Treacy (Operational Performance and Integration), Tony Canavan (CEO Saolta Hospital Group), Dara Purcell (Corporate Secretary), Niamh Drew (Deputy Corporate Secretary), Rebecca Kennedy (Office of the Board).

Joined the Meeting: Mark Brennock (ND Communications – Item 2.3), Bernard O'Regan (Head of Operations Disability Services – Item 4), Ann Bourke (National Disability Specialist - Item 4), Dean Sullivan (CSO – Item 7), Philip Crowley (ND Strategy and Research – Item 7), Stephanie O'Keeffe (ND Operations Planning – Item 7).

Minutes reflect the order in which items were considered and are numbered in accordance with the original agenda. All performance/activity data used in this document refers to the latest information available at the time.

1. Committee Members Private Discussion

The Committee held a private session to review the agenda, the relevant papers and approach to conducting the meeting, noting that the focus of the meeting would be to receive updates on key items and to suggest relevant actions as they became apparent.

2. Governance and Administration

The Chair welcomed executive members to the meeting.

2.1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations.



2.2 Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Committee approved the following minutes:

- 23 June 2023

2.3 HSE in the News

ND Communications joined the meeting

The ND Communications provided the Committee with an update on current HSE media coverage, particularly in relation to the NSP 2023 and disability services.

ND Communications left the meeting

3. Performance Oversight

The COO Report, Operational Service Report (May Data), Performance Profile (May Data), National Performance Oversight Group (NPOG) Meeting Notes (May Data), and the PMO Report – Winter/NSP 2022-23, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were noted.

The COO updated the Committee on the key strategic and operational updates outlined in the above documents, focusing in particular on Scheduled Care, Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

In relation to Scheduled Care, the COO advised that activity has been increasing year-on-year however referrals are also increasing. An element of this is backlog is the Covid-19 pandemic and similar situations are being observed internationally. The Committee sought detail on waiting list management, particularly actions being taken to provide care for patients who have been on waiting lists for extended periods of time. The ND Acute Operations advised that dynamic purchasing solutions (DPS) are being utilised as a short term solution. The Committee expressed concern about a potential drift towards privatisation and emphasised the importance of ensuring that this is monitored. The ND Acute Operations confirmed very strict monitoring of the DPS is in place through the monthly access meetings. She assured the Committee that it is not a sustainable solution and only used in specialities where there are significant numbers of patients waiting extended period. It will be reviewed at year end as to it continued utilisation.



In relation to UEC, the COO advised that the system has stabilised over the past number of months although it remains challenged by KPIs as they are based on best practice. The Committee discussed whether zero tolerance in relation to certain KPIs should be the aim and the culture shifts that may be necessary in some sites to achieve this. The COO advised that work is ongoing in relation to identifying initiatives which have improved compliance with targets and whether these could be rolled out throughout the system.

The COO advised the Committee that the Mental Health Commission (MHC) report on CAMHs was due to be published in the following week. The COO confirmed that clinical leads for CAMHs and the adult mental health services have been appointed and they will be driving the implementation of the report's recommendations.

The ND Community Operations provided an update on an agreement reached in relation to an older persons home care staffing tender process which was previously discussed at the Committee's April meeting. This tender process aims to improve staffing levels and provide more home help hours for older persons. The ND Community Operations confirmed that the Minister has provided sanction for the HSE to progress to an Authorisation Scheme for the provision of home support services. The Contract Approval Request and associated approval documentation have been submitted for the Board meeting on 28th July. The outcome of the tender process will be communicated to the successful Providers and to Chief Officers following Board sign-off and the Authorisation Scheme is due to commence on 14th August 2023. A similar process for home support in disabilities services will be engaged with soon.

The COO also presented information on Urgent Colonoscopy and Cancer Services in addition to updates on Therapy Waiting Lists, Serious Incident KPIs, Disability Services Assessment of Need, and escalation to National Directors under the Performance Accountability Framework 2023 which was noted by the Committee.

4. Committee Focus Area

B O'Regan and A Bourke joined the meeting

4.1 Disability Services

The Committee noted the Disability Services paper circulated in advance of the meeting which was due to be submitted to the Board as a Strategic Focus item at its July meeting.



4.2 Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2025 Disability Service for Children and young People

The Committee noted the draft Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2025 Disability Service for Children and young People (the Roadmap) and the Roadmap's Monthly Progress Report which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The COO updated the Committee on the position of the Roadmap and acknowledged the work of the disability services staff and Committee in its drafting.

The Roadmap outlines: the Aims for Children's Disability Services; the Background and Current Service Model; Primary Targets and Dependencies; the Current context and need for change; the Roadmap's Implementation Plan; Action Plan; Risks and Challenges to its implementation; and Funding and Workforce Requirements.

The Committee recommended the report for Board but queried some of the language and tone of the Roadmap and recommended that it be amended to become more communicable for families. The COO advised that there will be a version for families produced with input from Communications and the Committee's feedback would be incorporated.

It was agreed that Committee members would send any further comments directly to B O'Regan for incorporation in advance of the Roadmap's submission to the Board for approval.

B O'Regan and A Bourke left the meeting

5. Risk

5.1 Risk 4 – Access to Care

Corporate Risk Register 04 – Access to Care was discussed. The COO highlighted the control measures for this risk, advising that is very broad and impacts every element of service the HSE provides.

The Committee queried the allocation of risk controls and the clarity of the connection between the control and the risk description. The COO noted the feedback and advised he would seek to have the risk updated so that these are more aligned.

A Carrigy left the meeting



6. Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) Framework

6.1 Update on the HSPA Prototype Visualisation Platform

The Committee noted the briefing paper and presentation which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The COO advised that in 2019, the Department of Health (DoH) secured funding from the European Commission Structural Reform Support Programme to develop a Health System Performance Assessment (HSPA) Framework for the Irish health system.

O Treacy updated the Committee on the HSPA framework (the framework), outlining the HSPA progress to date; the HSPA Prototype Visualisation Platform; the HSPA impact for HSE and HSE Funded Services; Translating the HSPA into Operational Planning and Performance across our Health System; and Transparency of Progress, Results & Impact.

The Committee thanked the COO and O Treacy for the presentation and strongly supported the work done to date in this area.

7. Service Planning

7.1 National Service Plan (NSP) 2024

CSO, ND Strategy and Research and ND Operations Planning joined the meeting

The Committee noted the papers circulated in advance of the meeting and the CSO provided an update in relation to the NSP 2024 which covered strategic priority areas for a small number of focussed new service developments (NSD) in 2024 and the approach to reviewing and refining the HR Sharepoint projected residual WTE for recruitment in 2024 and beyond.

The Committee agreed with the approach outlined by the CSO and thanked the EMT members for the update.

8. AOB

No matters arose under this item. The meeting ended at 12:30.

Signed: 

Fergus Finlay
Chairperson

Date: 22nd September 2023