



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

## Minutes of HSE Board Meeting

A special meeting of the Board of the Health Service Executive was held on Friday, 1 November 2019 at 11:00am at Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.

Members Present via teleconference: Ciarán Devane (Chairperson), Deirdre Madden (Deputy Chairperson), Sarah Mc Loughlin, Yvonne Traynor.

Members Present: Brendan Lenihan, Fergus Finlay, Fergus O' Kelly, Fiona Ross, Tim Hynes.

Apologies: Mark Molloy, Aogan Ó Fearghail

In attendance: HSE Executives - Paul Reid (CEO), Dean Sullivan, Stephen Mulvany, Liam Woods, Colm Henry, Geraldine Smith, Paul Connors, Fran Thompson, Joe Ryan, Pat Healy, John Hennessy, David Walsh, John Kelly.

Board Secretary: Jim O' Sullivan, Niamh Drew (Deputy)

### 1. Welcome, Agenda, Chairperson's Remarks

The Chairperson, Ciarán Devane noted that a quorum was present and the meeting proceeded to business. He advised that this special meeting of the Board was convened as part of the agreed process for developing and ultimately approving the National Service Plan (NSP) 2020 for submission to the Minister.

The Chairperson thanked the Executive Management Team (EMT) and Leadership Team for their work in drafting the plan and acknowledged the work of a group of members of the Board who had liaised with the EMT over a number of weeks to support the development of the plan. He acknowledged that while the budget settlement is significant, it is inevitable that all needs will not be met. He requested that members take the opportunity to challenge the assumptions and approach taken by EMT to ensure that the plan is as robust as possible noting that there is a requirement of the 2020 plan to be developed ahead of the new Corporate Plan which will provide strategic context for future National Service Plans.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Paul Reid CEO outlined the process for the development of the Service Plan prior to and subsequent to the arrival of the Letter of Determination dated 11 October 2019. A copy of the latest working draft of the plan was circulated in advance. He advised that the process is being conducted in accordance with legislative provisions and that his recommendation is to aim to submit the plan within the normal 21-day timeline to facilitate the plan being approved as early as possible by the Minister. This will ensure that details of budget allocations can be conveyed to the system as early as

possible to support a stronger financial discipline. The CEO also advised that work is on-going in parallel on the development of the Capital Plan which will be submitted at the same time as the NSP subject to clarity being available on the multi-year funding of the plan.

He acknowledged the input of all Hospital Groups and CHOs in the development of the NSP 2020 with greater involvement by them than in previous years. It was noted that further clarification is awaited from the Department in relation to the Pay and Numbers for 2020.

## **2. National Service Plan 2020 Briefing Pack**

The CEO along with Dean Sullivan, Stephen Mulvany, Colm Henry and other relevant members of the EMT highlighted a number of key areas set out in the briefing pack circulated in advance of the meeting which was structured around the following sections.

Section 1: Statutory Background to the Plan and the Ministerial Priorities to which it responds

Section 2: Approach to Developing the Plan

Section 3: Context

Section 4: Actions and initiatives to be progressed during 2020 by service area

Section 5: key changes from NSP 2019 in terms of levels of activity to be delivered

Section 6: Consideration of Risks and Issues

Throughout the presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and provide comment and suggestions across a broad range of issues including:

Alignment with and referencing of Slaintecare;

- Impact of additional cost of new Developments/posts in 2020;
- Recognition in the introduction that current system is no longer fit for purpose;
- Acknowledgement of the scale of challenge in some areas and vulnerabilities arising;
- Sustainability of the system in light of recruitment and retention challenges;
- Shortfall of over €40m after the current measures identified;
- Greater use of generics/biosimilars as associated cost savings;
- Funding for Termination of Pregnancy for the full year;
- Service/cost challenges in Disabilities and Acute;
- Funding of strategies generally and specifically the Maternity Strategy;
- Mental Health ringfenced funding;
- Acknowledgement of challenges of Homelessness and Mental Health;
- Year on Year Activity Levels;
- Development of new Regional structures under Slaintecare;
- Restructuring of the HSE Centre;

- Measures to enable moving care from Acute to Community Settings;
- Fair Deal funding and capacity and access measures;
- Risk Analysis and Profiling with proofing of the plan against Corporate Risk Register;
- Funding to implement the proposed Risk Management process;
- Initiative aimed at Building Trust and Confidence including public consultation
- Communication Plan for National Service Plan once approved.

Following the comprehensive discussion, the CEO outlined the next steps which will involve the EMT reflecting on the feedback given by members and seeking to address these to the greatest extent possible over the weekend.

The Chair asked members to provide feedback on the draft via the Board Secretary as early as possible to facilitate consideration by EMT.

It was noted that another special meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday 4 November 2019 to consider a revised draft of the NSP which will be circulated on the evening prior to the meeting.

#### **Any Other Business**

Nothing was raised under this item.

The meeting concluded at 1:00pm.

The next meeting of the Board is a special meeting scheduled for 4 November 2019 at 2:00pm at which the National Service Plan 2020 will be tabled for consideration by the Board for formal adoption.

Signed: 

29-11-19

Ciarán Devane

Chairperson

Date