



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 Monday 9 December 2019 via teleconference at 5:00 pm.

**Present:** Ciarán Devane (Chairperson) Deirdre Madden (Deputy Chairperson), Yvonne Traynor, Brendan Lenihan, Fergus Finlay, Fergus O' Kelly, Fiona Ross, Sarah Mc Loughlin, Tim Hynes, Aogan Ó Fearghail.

**Apologies:** Mark Molloy

**In Attendance:** Paul Reid, Anne O'Connor, Dean Sullivan, Stephen Mulvany, Colm Henry, Anne Marie Hoey, Paul Connors, Geraldine Smith, Fran Thompson, Jim O'Sullivan (Secretary).

### **1. Welcome**

Ciarán Devane, Chairperson welcomed Board members to the teleconference and also noted the participation of Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer and members of the Executive Management Team.

He outlined the purpose of the teleconference and provided context in relation to the on-going engagement with the Minister for Health and the Department in relation to the possible amendments to the agreed National Service Plan 2020. No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **2.0 National Service Plan 2020**

The Chairperson provided an overview of the process that has been on-going since the Board agreed the revised National Service Plan 2020 which was submitted to the Minister on 29 November 2019. He also advised that the outcome of these engagements may result in amendments to the submitted plan.

Paul Reid then provided a high-level overview of the key areas which are currently under discussion with the Department and which may result in additional funding allocations for the HSE. These areas potentially include: Nursing Home Support Scheme; Disabilities; Winter Planning; Mother and Baby Homes and Hospice Care. In presenting these areas, he stresses the importance of noting that active discussions are still underway and accordingly nothing definitive has been committed or agreed on.

He also advised of on-going engagement with the National Treatment Purchase Fund and the fact that there may be further consideration of pharmacy fees. He advised that a definitive position should be known by Wednesday 11 December 2019 and of the intention of the Minister to advise the Joint Committee on Health on that date.

Stephen Mulvany, CFO also provided clarity in relation to technical elements of the process including the fact that it is unlikely that the HSE will have a revised Letter of Determination in advance of the approval by the Minister of the National Service Plan. In particular, he advised that any additional funding for the Nursing Home Support Scheme will be noted in the text but will not be embedded in activity levels currently in the NSP.

Members were given an opportunity to provide observations and to ask questions and challenge elements of the process. This included: whether the funding is recurring or once-off; the confidence of the EMT as to the delivery of additional targets. The Board challenged back on matters that might be a concern at this late stage and the CEO reflected on the funding challenge for new drugs in 2020. Following a comprehensive discussion, the Board noted the on-going engagement process and broadly welcomed the potential additional resources. However, the Board noted that any additional funding could not be used to supplement reduced funding in other areas

It was agreed that the Executive were authorised to amend the National Service Plan 2020 in line with the current known adjustments but, as there may be adjustments beyond those, a further special meeting of the Board will take place via teleconference once the final outcome of the current engagement with the Minister and Department is finalised in the coming days. This will give members the opportunity to agree that the Board is content to proceed with the amendments.

### **3.0 Any other Business**

No matters were raised under this item. The next meeting of the Board is a special meeting scheduled via teleconference for 6:00 pm on Wednesday 11 December 2019.

The meeting concluded at 5:45pm

Signed: 

Ciarán Devane

Chairperson

Date: 13-12-19