



NCCP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING

Date: Monday 10th March 2025 @ 10.30am, MS Teams

Present: R. Ó Laoide (Chair), C. Faul, P. Heckmann, T. Hanan, A. Hill, M. Keane, T. McCarthy

Apologies: F. Bonas, T. Holohan, D. O'Shea

Invited: M. Cox, T. Flattery, C. Mellett, N. Keating for F. Bonas.
For Item A1: Prof. D. Brennan and R. Ryan

A. PRESENTATIONS		
A1	<p>Update on ECHoS and cancer research (Prof. D. Brennan, National Lead for Cancer Research, NCCP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of progress in relation to cancer research and the EU-funded ECHoS project (Cancer Mission Hubs) was provided. The Executive agreed with the general approach outlined in relation to the ECHoS project, subject to the proposal document being circulated to members and the inclusion of feedback from the NCCP Executive. It was agreed the draft proposal on ECHoS would be circulated to the NCCP Executive for review and feedback. 	
B. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING		
B1	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of February 10th meeting were agreed subject to a minor amendment. 	
B2	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion is needed in relation to the management of patients out of hours in non-cancer centres and support from general medical and surgical teams. The management of patient transfers, transfer times and access to clinical trials in non-cancer centres need to be considered as part of the MOU with regions. Review to be completed. <p>Action: To be included in discussion on proposed MOU between NCCP and HSE Health Regions.</p>	
C. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS		
C1	<p><u>Strategic developments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work in relation to the NCCP's engagement with the Health Regions. The HSE Centre is also continuing work on the future operating models that will govern engagement between the centre and the regions. The NCCP is progressing a suite of inter-related strategic planning initiatives to address areas such as performance, data and intelligence, designation and centralisation. <p><u>New Cancer Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of developing the next Cancer Strategy within the usual 10 year cycle has been discussed with the Department of Health. 	

	<p><u>Recent memo from CEO on non-pay cost savings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memo received from the CEO covers non-pay areas like travel, conferences, postage and external consultancies. NCCP are reviewing the memo and will take any necessary action to address the areas raised. <p><u>Upcoming retirement:</u> Marie Cox, General Manager, Business & Planning will be retiring at the end of March. The Executive acknowledged Marie's contribution to the NCCP over the last ten years.</p> <p><u>Stakeholder events</u></p> <p>Upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20th March – Irish Psychosocial Oncology Network 1st/2nd April – CCI4EU Deep Dive meetings 4th April – NCCP Lung Cancer Audit, Quality and Risk Forum 16th May – Launch of four national clinical guidelines 	
D. STANDING ITEMS		
D1	<p>EU Cancer Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCI4EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCI4EU is the EU project focused on developing cancer care infrastructure. The next Deep Dive meetings are scheduled for April 1st (in Galway and online) and April 2nd (in Dublin and online). National Advisors are encouraged to attend relevant sessions. The agenda is being finalised by the Trinity/St. James's team that are leading on the project and will be shared with Executive members. The focus is expected to be on governance, data, pathways for molecular diagnostics and molecular tumour boards, alignment with the National Cancer Mission Hub project and engagement with the university sector. Work is ongoing on JANE, EUnetCCC and the Joint Action for Personalised Cancer Medicine. 	
D2	<p><u>National Service Plan 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCCP is awaiting release of primary notifications by the HSE and will then communicate with service providers on their allocations. 	
E1	Cancer Intelligence	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update at this meeting. 	
E2	Surgical Oncology Programme (N. Keating/A. Hill)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pelvic Exenteration – update awaited on new UK standards and guidelines which are expected to be published in May. Discussion is needed in relation to breast surgeons coming off the general surgical rota as this will have implications for the planning of relevant services for the future. Discussion needed re. triage for breast cancer referrals in cancer centres. 	

	Action: A. Hill to raise issue with Chair of NCCP Breast Cancer Clinical Leads group.	
E3	Surgical Centralisation (A. Hill)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPLND – process is ongoing in relation to the designation of a national centre for RPLND surgery. 	
E4	Medical Oncology/ Haemato-oncology/Molecular (P. Heckmann/M. Keane)	
	<p><u>Systemic Therapy Programme (STP)/Cancer Drug Management Programme (CDMP)/Molecular</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent meeting with the CCO and NCPE to discuss drug funding pathways. Update awaited. Discussion is needed on the implications for the planning of services of several medical oncologists moving to work in the private sector. Two new drugs approved from March 1st for metastatic urothelial carcinoma and relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma. The European Commission adopted a “<u>Communication establishing an Indicative list of hazardous medicinal products according to Article 18a of Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic substances at work</u> (18/2/2025). The HSE Health & Safety function have convened a group to review the HSE Guideline on Handling of Cytotoxics. Consideration is being given to incorporating the EU list into the next version of the HSE Guideline. Implications for sites still to be determined in full. A Radioligand Therapy Advisory Group has been established. 	
E5	National Cancer Information System (NCIS) – P. Heckmann	
	<p>Roll-out continuing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 of 26 hospitals live. Train the Trainer Training for Tumour Conferences completed in Cork University Hospital. Go live for first Tumour Conference (Neurology) planned for March 13th. Wexford General Hospital and Tallaght University Hospital are progressing with implementation projects. University Hospital Waterford go-live date has been postponed until Q2 2025 due to resource challenges. PID for Mater Misericordiae University Hospital is under review. Portiuncula Hospital is experiencing a challenge in resourcing the project. 	
E6	Radiation Oncology (C. Faul / N. Keating)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KPI performance is relatively stable. The Irish Society of Radiation Oncologists met recently with Mr. P. Sweeney to discuss equal access to all modalities of treatment. Update to be provided at upcoming Executive meeting. NCCP Cancer Intelligence team are reviewing HIPE data to inform decision making. The installation of an MRI is proceeding in Galway. This should allow for stereotactic radiosurgery to be operational in Q4 2025. The Radiation Oncology Working Group plan to do a survey to identify resources needed for future service planning. A cyberattack preparedness plan was delivered in December 2024. Artificial Intelligence (AI) group has completed a national survey of all centres. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaumont Phase II – project is awaiting local approval to proceed to next stage and it has been designated a priority in the capital plan for 2025. 	
E7	Cancer Networks (N. Keating/M. Cox)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update from last meeting. Meetings to recommence from Q2 2025 and will continue pending the formalisation of the proposed MOU with Health Regions. 	
E8	Community Oncology (T. McCarthy)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The third meeting of the hereditary cancer test directory will take place at the end of March. Upcoming meeting of the early diagnosis steering group. Ongoing work on an NCCP Cancer Prevention Plan to outline the work of the NCCP Cancer Prevention Function for the coming years. Recent engagement by the Department of Health to collaborate on public health campaigns regarding the risks of alcohol. Ongoing engagement in relation to plans for government warnings on sunbeds. Work is ongoing on the SunSmart campaign which will run from April to September. Genetics and Genomics - upcoming site visit to discuss location for genomic processing centre for coordination of germline testing sent abroad. NCCP and NWIHP involved. 	
E9	Cancer Nursing (T. Hanan)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pathway has been developed by an AHOS nurse for malignant spinal cord compression, funded by Spark. The INMO has served notice of industrial action from March 31st which will impact on service delivery. 	
F	FOR INFORMATION	
	<u>National Cancer Care Experience Survey (CCES)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Cancer Care Experience Survey (NCCES) – the Delphi Study (second round) is due to issue soon by HIQA. 	
G	AOB	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
7TH APRIL 2025 AT 10.30AM, MS TEAMS		