

National Maternity Strategy

The Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar established a Steering Group on 30 April 2015 to advise on the development of a National Maternity Strategy. The terms of reference and membership are detailed below.

Terms of Reference

To develop a National Maternity Strategy which encompasses preconception¹, antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal and neonatal care provided across acute, primary and community settings (generally spanning the period from up to three months before conception and until six weeks after birth).

a) A Strategy that seeks to ensure that:

- i. women and babies have access to safe, high quality maternity care;
- ii. the needs of mothers and families are placed at the centre of maternity services;
- iii. the health and wellbeing of women and babies is promoted and protected;
- iv. women's choice is facilitated insofar as it is safe to do so;
- v. outcomes in Ireland are on a par with best international performance;
- vi. care is accessible and delivered by the most appropriate professional(s) in the most appropriate setting based on the woman's and infant's needs; and,
- vii. resources are used effectively in producing these outcomes.

b) In doing so, addresses the following key issues;

- i. principles which should underpin integrated models of care and appropriate care pathways;
- ii. arrangements for workforce planning and organisation which maximise the contribution of the maternity service workforce, support the delivery of best practice models of care and facilitate staff to work to the full scope of their practice; and,
- iii. governance and leadership arrangements necessary at a local, regional (hospital group) and national level to ensure the outcomes set out at (a) above are achieved and demonstrated.

The process of completing a National Strategy should conclude so as to report back to the Minister by October 31st 2015.

¹ Excluding assisted human reproduction

Membership

- 1) Ms Sylva Langford (Chairperson)
- 2) Professor Cecily Begley, Chair of Nursing & Midwifery Trinity College Dublin for the Irish Council of Professors, Deans and Heads of Nursing and Midwifery
- 3) Ms Mary Brosnan, Director of Midwifery, National Maternity Hospital for the Joint Standing Committee of the Dublin Maternity Hospitals
- 4) Ms Teresa Cody, Principal Officer, Primary Care, Department of Health
- 5) Professor Colette Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group
- 6) Ms Sinéad Curran, MINDI for the Professional Bodies Alliance of Ireland
- 7) Dr Miriam Daly, Director Women's Health Programme, Irish College of General Practitioners
- 8) Professor Declan Devane, Professor of Midwifery, NUI Galway
- 9) Ms Mary Gorman, CMM11, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
- 10) Dr Colm Henry, HSE National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Acute Hospitals
- 11) Ms Dawn Johnston, Group Director of Midwifery, Saolta Hospital Group
- 12) Ms Susan Kent, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health
- 13) Ms Shauna Keyes, Service User Representative for Patient Focus
- 14) Dr Krysia Lynch, Chair, AIMS Ireland
- 15) Dr Kathleen MacLellan, Director of Clinical Effectiveness, Department of Health
- 16) Ms Roisin Molloy, Service User Representative
- 17) Dr John Murphy, HSE National Clinical Lead for Neonatology
- 18) Dr Meabh Ní Bhuinneain, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist for the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- 19) Mr Pat O Dowd, HSE Assistant National Director, Primary Care
- 20) Dr Michael Power, HSE National Clinical Lead for Critical Care
- 21) Ms Joan Regan, Principal Officer, Acute Hospitals Policy Unit, Department of Health
- 22) Ms Mary Reilly, CMM11, Cavan General Hospital
- 23) Ms Grace Rothwell, General Manager, South Tipperary General Hospital
- 24) Professor Jane Sandall, Chair in Social Science and Women's Health, King's College London
- 25) Ms Monica Sheehan, Director of Public Health Nursing, Kerry Community Care Services
- 26) Dr Sharon Sheehan, Master, Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital for the Joint Standing Committee of the Dublin Maternity Hospitals
- 27) Dr Dubhfeasa Slattery, Head of Clinical Risk, State Claims Agency
- 28) Dr Jeremy Smith, HSE National Clinical Lead for Anaesthesia
- 29) Ms Sheila Sugrue, HSE National Lead for Midwifery, Office of the Nursing & Midwifery Services Director
- 30) Ms Pauline Treanor, Secretary & General Manager, Rotunda Hospital for the Joint Standing Committee of the Dublin Maternity Hospitals
- 31) Professor Michael Turner, HSE National Clinical Lead for Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Note about the Chair

Sylva Langford is a former Director General of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and currently a member of the Board of the Child and Family Agency. Ms Langford has extensive experience in policy and legislative work across a number of government areas, and a professional background in social policy and social work.