

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Final Report of the Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck Screening Programme

Monthly Update to Minister

February 2019

Reporting against Implementation

This is the second monthly update to the Minister, to inform on the key actions progressed in working towards full implementation of the 50 recommendations of the Final Report of the Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck Screening Programme.

These updates are being provided in addition to Quarterly Reports against Implementation, which will align with the quarterly targets in the Implementation Plan. The aim is to highlight progress made on particular actions in the previous month.

The 50 recommendations of the Final Report of the Scoping Inquiry are grouped within a number of themes and this update reflects progress under each of these themes:

- Method of Approach
- Listening to the Voices of the Women and Families Affected
- CervicalCheck – Organisation and Governance
- CervicalCheck – Laboratory Services
- Procurement of Laboratory Services
- Auditing Cervical Screening
- Open Disclosure and the HSE
- Open Disclosure and the Medical Council
- Open Disclosure and CervicalCheck
- Cancer Registration
- Other Screening Programmes
- Resolution

Method of Approach

The Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) in the HSE has commenced discussions on the review of compliance with healthcare record management policies across the HSE.

Listening to the Voices of the Women and Families Affected

The Policy and Strategy Division in the Department of Health held a Department-wide working session to examine potential internal changes or improvements that could be made in order to ensure a more consistent, expert and committed approach to women's health issues. This working session took place on 13 February in the Department of Health. The Division is now preparing an options paper for presentation to Management Board.

The working group developing the Women's Health Action Plan, comprising of members from the Department of Health, HSE and NWCI, met on 26 February, to review the draft initial outcome of the scoping exercise undertaken and agree next steps in the development of the Action Plan.

CervicalCheck – Organisation and Governance

HSE Governance Bill

The Bill passed Dáil Committee Stage on 20 February 2019. Amendments will now be incorporated at Dáil Report Stage to address changes to Board membership provisions made by the Select Committee.

Public Health Expertise

Following the publication of the Crowe Horwath Report on the Role, Training and Career Structures of Public Health Physicians in Ireland in December, an Implementation Oversight Group has now been established to oversee the implementation of a new model of public health medicine.

This Group, which will be led by the Department of Health, includes representation from across the HSE, including from the National Cancer Control Programme and the National Screening Programme. It also includes representation from HIQA, the National Cancer Registry, the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and academia.

National Screening Committee

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health attended the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) in London on 27 February 2019 attended by England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Discussions were held with members of the UK NSC in terms of informing the proposed service specification and membership of an Irish National Screening Committee.

Key Appointments

The new Clinical Director for the Cervical Check Programme commenced work on 4 February. The HSE has maintained the current reporting line of the Interim National

Director in the National Screening Service reporting directly to the HSE Director General.

Risk Management

The NSS's Quality Safety & Risk Committee continues to meet every two months and has met four times since its establishment in October 2018. A Quality, Safety & Risk Manager has also been appointed to National Screening Services.

The HSE's Chief Clinical Officer has issued a communication to all Community Healthcare Organisations' Chief Officers and Hospital Group CEOs in relation to key risk management practices to be implemented in addition to commissioning an organisational review of risk management structures.

CervicalCheck – Laboratory Services

A National Laboratory Quality Assurance Lead has been appointed to the National Screening Service.

Procurement of Laboratory Services

The HSE has engaged a procurement process auditor, to ensure that procurement processes are conducted in compliance with national and EU regulations. The procurement process auditor will also confirm that the relevant recommendations of the Scally Report are incorporated into the procurement strategy and contract terms and conditions.

Auditing Cervical Screening

The expert group established within the National Screening Service to review clinical audit processes across all screening programmes has agreed terms of reference and has met four times to date with work progressing.

Open Disclosure

Consultation on the interim revision of the HSE Open Disclosure Policy has taken place, inclusive of representatives from the 221+ group.

To strengthen guidance and support for staff in screening programmes on the implementation of open disclosure, the HSE has engaged the RCPI to develop a screening education programme outlining the benefits and limitations of screening.

Cancer Registration

The working group established between the HSE and the National Cancer Registry of Ireland (NCRI) to collaborate on the common recommendations in the Scally report has met twice since January 2019 and will meet monthly during 2019.

The nine recommendations assigned to the Registry have been broken down into 19 sub-projects. A member of the management team is identified as the project lead for each sub-project. Individuals from all functions in NCRI are assigned to tasks within the projects and overall 39 staff members are involved in the project. Project management training is being carried out to ensure a consistent approach across the organisation.

NCRI Board

Two vacancies on the National Cancer Registry Board were advertised by the Public Appointments Service and State Boards on 11 January 2019 and the closing date for receipt of applications was 1 February 2019.

Based on Dr Scally's recommendation, the following were listed as desired competencies in the information booklet for the campaign:

- **Governance:** persons with experience in Quality Assurance and Organisational Management and/or data management, including data sharing and data protection, and/or accountancy, audit, corporate finance.
- **Patient Safety:** persons with experience in Patient Safety, and/or in-patient experience in the health sector and wider public health services.

A total of 19 applications were received. An Assessment Panel met on 20 February 2019 and a shortlist will be submitted to the Minister shortly.