



Sláintecare.

2 March 2020

Dear Councillors

As you will be aware, Sláintecare is the ten-year programme to transform our health and social care services.

The Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare established cross-party agreement on Sláintecare as a single, long-term vision for health and social care and the direction of health policy in Ireland. The goal of the agreed ten-year plan for Sláintecare is to enable the delivery of the right care for patients, at the right time, in the right place and by the right team, at low or no cost.

As we finish the first full year of implementing Sláintecare I would like to update you on the significant progress made since the Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office was established.

In 2019 we announced the €20m Sláintecare Integration Fund, which was awarded to 122 projects all around the country. These projects are designed to:

- Promote the engagement and empowerment of citizens in the care of their own health;
- Scale and share examples of best practice and processes for chronic disease management and care of older people; and
- Encourage innovations in the shift of care to the community or provide hospital avoidance measures.

Funding for these projects will help people stay out of hospital, manage their own health needs and provide 300 extra front-line staff delivering services for patients in their communities.

In addition, we have secured funding for 1,000 new therapists, nurses and other staff to care for people in the community, including dementia advisers. This will allow us to treat people close to home and reduce community waiting lists.

Other work completed in 2019 encompassed some fundamental changes to the system to benefit patients and staff, including agreements:

- to establish six new regional health areas, gealigning Hospital Groups and Community Healthcare Organisations, which is a first major step towards restructuring our health services in line with recommendation in the Oireachtas Committee report;
- to support the findings of the Independent Review Group established to examine private activity in public hospitals (the De Buitléir Report) with the decision and announcement that all future consultant appointments, from second quarter 2020, will be to the new Sláintecare Consultant contract for public only work;

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- on a revised GP contract in April 2019, which will see a € 210 million investment (40% increase) in General Practice over the next four years of which €80 million will be available for the management of chronic diseases, like diabetes and COPD, through family doctors. This is expected to benefit more than 400,000 patients;
- on the strengthening of the Health Service Executive with the formal appointment of the HSE Board in May 2019 and the appointment of a new HSE Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Work is currently underway to design the new regional health areas. This is focussed on two broad areas:

- how services should be developed and delivered to achieve the vision of the Oireachtas Sláintecare Report for timely access to quality services; and
- the appropriate governance and architecture to effect the changes.

This work is being undertaken in partnership with Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and Hospital Groups within the HSE, along with other stakeholders. It is envisaged that each region will hold a number of planning events, which the CHOs and Hospital Groups are managing, and I expect there will be opportunities for engagement at that level.

A member of the Sláintecare team has recently given presentations to the Western, Dublin North East and Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Fora, with a further presentation to the Southern Regional Health Forum planned for June. Attendees will have copies of that presentation, should you wish to see it.

Further information on our work, including progress reports and information on projects funded by the Sláintecare Integration Fund are available on our website or from my colleague Elaine Scanlon, who can be contacted by email at elaine_scanlon@health.gov.ie

I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to the long-term and all-party vision of Sláintecare as we move into our second year of implementation.

Yours sincerely



Laura Magahy

Executive Director, Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office