

Health Reform

08 June 2004

Bulletin

THE HEALTH SERVICE REFORM PROGRAMME

Welcome

These are exciting times for the health service! Change is happening on a daily basis on a number of fronts. In the last bulletin, we told you about developments up to March.

We have now begun a new phase that is about translating policy into action. A change management team is up and running in the Interim HSE. The Department of Health & Children is taking a lead role in relation to legislation, the establishment of the HIQA and governance and is also engaged in joint working with the Interim HSE on streamlining of identified agencies, HR/IR issues, financial transition, service planning and communications.

Location

We know many of you are concerned with where the boundaries of the new regions will be and the location of the corporate headquarters of the Health Service Executive and the Health Information and Quality Authority. The decision about the locations of both the HSE corporate headquarters and HIQA will be considered by Government in the context of the decentralisation programme. Check out the interim report of the Decentralisation Steering Committee on our website.

No Involuntary Redundancies

Your feedback to us suggests that some people are concerned about their jobs. The Government has made clear its commitment that there will be no involuntary redundancies arising from the implementation of the Health Service Reform Programme. A draft protocol has been submitted to the Health Service National Joint Council. While this has yet to be agreed by the staff side it includes, as a key principle underlying the Reform Programme, that there will be no involuntary redundancies.

Other Developments

- The Interim HSE has been set up as an independent statutory body by virtue of an Order signed by Minister Martin. This Order (S.I. No. 90 of 2004) is available on our website under *What's Happening Now* and also from the Government Publications Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 - Postal Sales: 01 6476834/35/36/37.
- The Health (Amendment) Bill 2004 was published on 16th April. The Bill provides for the abolition of membership of the 7 health boards, 3 area boards and the ERHA. It has now passed all stages of the Houses of the Oireachtas
- The position of Information Project Officer for the Reform Programme was recently advertised in the national newspapers. The position involves developing and managing all aspects of the Project Office's communications strategy.

Watch Our Website - Over 100K Hits So Far!

The website is where we will be announcing any important news in between these bulletins. Keep an eye on the *What's Happening Now* section. All documents mentioned here have been put up on the site.

Thanks to all who've made comments and suggestions. Keep them coming by clicking on *Contact Us* and filling in the online form. We will reply to you within five working days.





THE HEALTH SERVICE REFORM PROGRAMME

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Implementing the Hanly Report

The Hanly Report was published in October 2003. It made detailed proposals for the reorganisation of acute hospital services in two regions – the East Coast and the Mid West. An Implementation Group for each region is looking after this and includes health professionals, managers and representatives of the public interest.

The Minister has also set up the Acute Hospitals Review Group (often referred to as Hanly II) chaired by David Hanly. This group has been asked to propose a National Hospitals Plan for the Interim HSE, taking account of the principles of the Hanly Report including spatial and geographic considerations. The group includes a wide range of doctors, nurses and midwives, health and social care professionals, managers, public interest representatives and an expert in spatial planning.

At the moment, progress is being affected by a dispute relating to medical indemnity. The groups will be anxious to press ahead with the detail of their work as soon as this becomes possible.

Do You Know About HIQA?

Under the Reform Programme the HSE will manage service delivery. The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) will manage both health information and quality.

The Government decided that HIQA should be set up as an independent statutory agency, directly accountable to the Minister for Health and Children. It will have its own governance structures and will be funded by the Department of Health and Children. HIQA will provide external and independent review of quality and performance and its analysis will inform policy development within the Department of Health and Children.

Work on setting up HIQA is being led out by Dr Jim Kiely, Chief Medical Officer and Ms Frances Spillane, Director of the National Children's Office. We expect to see an interim HIQA in place before the Autumn.

Your Designated Liaison Person

Over 80 agencies in the health service have a Designated Liaison Person who is our first point of contact with up-to-date news on the Reform Programme. Contact us to learn who your Designated Liaison Person is or see the list on our website under *What's Happening Now*.

Have You Seen the latest Interim HSE update?

Issued on the 28th May, it tells you more about their work to date. Get it from our website under *What's Happening Now* or contact your Designated Liaison Person.

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(for further contact details see the update)

