

Expert Advisory Groups



Expert Advisory Groups provide a platform for health professionals and service users to actively participate in the health transformation programme by influencing and setting operational policy, strategy and quality standards.

welcome

Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) - At the heart of operational policy, strategy and quality standards.

Ireland's health and social care services are currently being transformed.

We are striving for nationally consistent, high quality services, that are sustainable and easily accessible by everyone who needs them when they need them.

Achieving this will involve persistence and determination. It will also involve harnessing and channelling the wealth of experience and expertise that is available across the country among people who provide services and receive services.

EAGs aim to achieve this by inviting consultants, doctors, nurses, therapists, carers, managers, people who use our services and leaders in health and social care, to play influential roles in the Health Service Executive's (HSE) decision making process. They will also involve representatives from the Department of Health and Children.

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As each Group concentrates on a clearly defined area, such as mental health, diabetes, children and elder care, they have the potential to impact significantly on the quality of care that patients and clients of the HSE and related agencies receive.

They will be in a position to champion best practice, national consistency and promote operational excellence.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have expressed an interest in being part of this initiative and willingness to contribute in this way.

For those participating in a Group, I wish you every success in your work and hope you find your engagement with the HSE worthwhile and professionally rewarding.



Professor Brendan Drumm
Chief Executive Officer
Health Service Executive



expert advisory groups



1 Purpose

- EAGs provide a central platform within the HSE for clinical and health communities, patients, clients, managers and carers to become actively involved in the development and transformation of specific health and social care services. The result will be improved care for patients and clients.
- They provide opportunities for front line professionals to use their knowledge and experience to influence operational policy development within the HSE.
- They also enable recognised leaders to apply their expertise and, where possible, bring an international perspective to the health transformation programme.
- EAGs ensure that the highest international standards of care and best practice are integral to the HSE planning process.
- In addition, they play a key role in driving integration across the HSE's three service delivery units - National Hospitals Office (NHO); Primary, Community and Continuing Care (PCCC) and Population Health and promoting national consistency.

2 Key areas of responsibility

Each EAG acts as the HSE's primary source of operational policy and strategic advice in the service area under its remit. They are responsible for proposing implementation protocols which have service integration within the HSE as a key component and key measures of service performance.

Each EAG is also responsible for verifying and assuring that within its area of responsibility;

- Adopted policies and strategies are implemented; and
- Legislation, national policies, standards and best practice protocols are complied with.

3 Centrally located within the HSE

EAGs are centrally located within the HSE as part of the Office of the CEO. This facilitates national cohesion across all directorates, a consistent approach and the

transformation and integration of services throughout the HSE.

4 Membership

Each EAG has up to 20 members who are appointed by the CEO of the HSE. All members are appointed on a personal basis. They therefore contribute and engage in a personal capacity and not as members of professional bodies or representative groups, even if they hold such membership.

This removes any obligation members may feel to put forward the views of peer groups and interest groups with specific local and regional agendas. It also enables members to retain their impartiality and apply a national perspective. To maintain each Group's momentum, focus and pace, each member is initially appointed for two years.

5 Chairpersons

Each EAG has a Chairperson who is appointed by the CEO of the HSE. Chairpersons are respected among their peers and are recognised as supporters and drivers of change. They play key leadership roles in creating the vision, values and culture of each EAG.

They also provide guidance, motivation and build enthusiasm among members. They ensure their EAG concentrates on key targets, produces high quality work and remains independent, impartial and focused on the goal of delivering the best quality care for patients and clients.

6 Executive support

Executive support for each Group is provided by an Assistant National Director who reports directly to the National Director of the Office of the CEO. These executives are members of the relevant EAGs and

work closely with their Chairpersons. They have executive responsibility for the work and output of their designated EAG and provide executive leadership.

7 Relationship and engagement with the HSE

The EAG Chairpersons and Assistant National Directors meet as a group with the CEO and the National Director, Office of the CEO, quarterly. This ensures that an overview of the work of each EAG is provided directly to the HSE at regular intervals and any difficulties and/or opportunities are addressed in a constructive manner.

While EAGs have, as part of their membership, representatives from the HSE's three service delivery units (NHO, PCCC and Population Health) they can also engage directly with all directorates. This will enable them to meet their data requirements, seek formal input from front line providers and examine existing practices and innovations within the health service.

8 Modus Operandi

- Each EAG prepares a working timetable to ensure it remains focused on its terms of reference and on target in relation to key deliverables. This is reviewed periodically.
- In carrying out its tasks, each EAG follows a number of key steps including, but not exclusive to, the following:
 - Needs assessment;
 - Examination and analysis of current service provision in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and value for money;
 - Exploration of alternative models of service delivery;
 - Consultation processes;
 - Evaluation of best practice and standard models nationally and internationally;
 - Option appraisal; and
 - Review compliance with relevant legislation, development of guiding principles and determination of the appropriate actions to be taken.
- Reports and recommendations developed by EAGs are firstly presented by the Chairperson and relevant Assistant National Director to the HSE's Strategic Planning and Reform Implementation (SPRi) Steering Group for initial consideration and review. They in turn address any issues raised by SPRi.
- Following this process, the reports and recommendations are presented by the Chairperson and the relevant Assistant National Director to the CEO and Management Team for consideration.
- Following adoption of an EAG's reports and recommendations, a cross-directorate Implementation Group is established to ensure they are put into practice.
- Implementation Groups are chaired by an Assistant National Director or Hospital Network Manager from within the relevant service delivery unit (NHO, PCCC and Population Health). Advice is also available to this Implementation Group from the relevant Assistant National Director and/or EAG support staff.
- Implementation Groups draw up detailed plans, including timeframes and costs where relevant. These plans are detailed through the HSE's National Service Plan and associated relevant business plans.
- Feedback in relation to the implementation of their recommendations is available to EAGs from the relevant Assistant National Director.
- EAGs can avail of data collected by the Corporate Planning & Control Processes Directorate, which reports on the HSE's corporate, service and business plans.

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