

Initial Analysis of HSE Service Plan 2019

Dec 21st 2018

Some Top Line Figures

- Plan to deliver an additional 700,000 home care hours – bringing provision to a total of 18,26m to 53,000 people. (4% increase)
- 4.7m home support/personal assistant hours also planned under disability services (No change on 2018 levels)
- Nursing Home/Fair deal – Similar levels supported for 2019 – 23,000.
- Overnight respite – plan to deliver 182,000 overnights – but this was the same target as last year but was missed by approximately 13% in 2018. (23,000 overnights).

The Plan highlights the challenging demographics;

"The greatest change in population structure over the last ten years is the growth in both the proportion and the number of people aged 65 years and over, increasing in the intercensal period from 11.6% in 2011 to 13.3% in 2016. It is projected that people aged 65 years and over will increase by 22,935 (3.5%) in 2018 and 21,969 (3.3%) in 2019 (Population and Labour Force Projections 2017-2051). Similarly, adults aged 85 years and over will increase by 2,505 (3.6%) in 2018 and by 3,116 (4.3%) in 2019." (p10)

The plan commits, **for the 10th year in a row**, to progress the use of a Single Assessment Tool – but significantly for the first time references its use within the Disability Services.

"Progress the development and implementation of the standard Single Assessment Tool (SAT) across older people and disability services." (p40)

Home Care

- There appears to be a plan to deliver an additional 700,000 home care hours – bringing provision to a total of 18,26m to 53,000 people. (p58) But rather confusingly, in another part of the document a reference to an additional 410,000 home care hours is made. (p59) Taking the 700,000 figure as correct, this represents a 4% increase in provision year on year. Noting the 23,000 increase in population of those aged 65 and over (3.5%) and the 3,114 increase in the 85 and over (4.3%) – this planned increase in provision will do nothing to address the existing deficit in home care. Furthermore,

as no additional entrants to the Fair Deal Scheme (net) are envisaged, this will inevitably place further pressure on the demand for home care.

- It is of concern that a reduction in the 2018 level of intensive home care packages is planned – from 219 clients receiving 395,000 hours in 2018 to 235 clients receiving 360,000 hours in 2019.
- The plan proposes to deliver home care support to in the region of 53,000 people with, a marginal increase in the likely 2018 outturn of recipients.
- It is not clear that this level of service delivery will make an impact on the 6,000 families currently on waiting lists for this service.
- There is no plan to change the 2018 level of home support/Personal Assistant hours. It is planned to keep this at 4.7m hours, and in doing so supporting 10,629 people with disabilities.
- There is a commitment to strengthening governance and management capability and other service delivery changes in home care provision (p59). We hope this includes greater reporting transparency on the duration of waiting lists and the gap between assessed need and actual provision.
- There is also a specific commitment to *'support the Department of Health in relation to the development of plans for a new statutory scheme and system of regulation for home support services.'* (p59)
- A more thorough review of individual home care provision delivered via hospital discharge is proposed;

"Develop and implement a 'Discharge to Assess' protocol for people who require home support to leave hospital. This will allow for the review of home support hours following an initial period post discharge in recognition that people may require a different level of service, when they are at home, after a period post discharge." (p60)

Nursing Home/Fair Deal /NHSS

- The plan is to provide residential care for a similar level of people in 2019 – 23,042. This is up marginally (0.4%) on the likely year end figure for 2018; 22,951. The budget has increased however by 2.5%, we assume to reflect higher rates paid to providers.
- The 2019 target is for the % of population over 65 years in NHSS funded beds to be kept at or below 3.5%. The figure achieved in 2018 was 3.4%
- There is a continued modest reduction (2%, from 4,988 to 4,900) planned in the use of public long stay units.

Respite

- The plan is to deliver 182,000 overnights – but this was the same target as last year but was missed by approximately 13% in 2018. (23,000 overnights).
- The proposal is for the additional 51 additional respite beds that came on stream in 2018 to address this gap.

Other Plans

- 28,000 places per week will be provided across 300 day-care centres.
- 1,850 (down 4%) short stay public residential care beds will be available.
- Over 10,900 people will be supported through transitional care funding in their discharge from acute hospitals.

References to Family Carers/National Carers Strategy.

- There does appear to be some positive movement in this area. Specifically, there is a commitment to introducing a Carers Needs Assessment Tool (though this was already referencing in the 2018 Service Plan but not delivered) as well as a possible refreshed National Carers Strategy;

"Continue to implement the health and social care related actions in The National Carers' Strategy – Recognised, Supported, Empowered and support the DoH to elaborate an action plan for the further implementation of the strategy."

- There is also a commitment to 'explore how we will develop a programme of support to carers within our own workforce'. (p58)



