

Profile Table of Priority Areas, Actions and Deliverables for the Period 2015- 2017

Actions	Deliverables
Priority area: Drive the Healthy Ireland agenda	
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Public Health legislation (Alcohol, Standardised Packaging of Tobacco, Licensing of Sale of Tobacco) • Commence development of a national 'Healthy Workplace' framework across both public and private sector • Publish and implement the National Physical Activity Plan under Healthy Ireland • Publish first Healthy Ireland survey • Publish Obesity Policy • Publish Sexual Health Policy. • Implement National Positive Ageing Strategy • Commence work on new National Drugs Strategy • Drive cross-sectoral implementation of Healthy Ireland • Publish Oral Health Strategy • Lead implementation of health commitments in <i>Better Outcomes Brighter Futures – The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People</i>
Priority area: Deliver improved patient outcomes	
Enhance patient safety, quality and clinical effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Code of Conduct setting out Health Service Employers' responsibilities for optimising performance, safety and overall governance within organisations. • Agree priorities for the extension of HIQA's regulatory remit, commencing with private healthcare providers. • Establish National Healthcare Quality Reporting System, including publication of annual report • Extend and implement suite of National Clinical Practice Guidance and Audit (as developed by the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee) • Develop Public Health Plan for Hepatitis C • Publish Maternity Care Strategy • Publish Cancer Strategy • Strengthen indemnity arrangements with providers to enable improved quality and patient safety • Examine processes for addressing claims of clinical negligence in conjunction with the Department of Justice and Equality.
Implement integrated care programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement five Integrated Care Programmes to introduce clinically-led, multi-disciplinary integrated models of care in respect of patient flow, older persons, chronic disease prevention and management, children's health and maternal health

	<p>Delayed Discharges and Waiting Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of patients with Delayed Discharges by one third to less than 500 and the number of patients on trolleys in EDs waiting for admission for over 9 hours by one third to less than 70. (Q4 average number of delayed discharges and SDU TrolleyGAR). • Deliver additional Fair Deal, short stay and Community Nursing Unit beds and health care packages using the Budget 2015 allocation of €25m • Develop and implement a plan to address waiting lists, with a focus on very long waiters such that by mid-year, nobody will wait longer than 18 months for in patient and day case treatment or an outpatient appointment, with a further reduction thereafter to no greater than 15 months by end year.
Assisted Human Reproduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish and enact legislation to regulate assisted human reproduction and stem cell research
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish National Framework for Suicide Prevention • Publish review of the Mental Health Act 2001 • Update <i>Vision for Change</i> Policy with a focus on implementation of key initiatives
Social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete review of Fair Deal and implement agreed recommendations • Progress the reconfiguration of residential services as recommended in <i>Time to Move on from Congregated Settings</i> • Reconfigure adult day services and services under the Progressing Disabilities (0-18s) programme • Review assessment of needs provision under Part 2 of the Disability Act 2005
Priority area: Reform operational systems to drive high performance	
Develop Hospital Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Hospital Groups up and running, including approving a strategic plan for each Group • Agree an Action Plan to implement the recommendations of the Ambulance Reviews. • Develop and implement revised models of care for pre-hospital emergency care • Develop and implement policy on national specialties
Implement service improvements for the National Ambulance Service	
Strengthen Primary Care structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Community Healthcare Organisations
New Children's Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact legislation to merge the three children's hospitals into one
Plan for new health service structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope the development of new health structures and implement agreed structural changes
Develop and implement robust governance and accountability frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the agreed HSE Performance Accountability Framework and monitor implementation of the 2015 National Service Plan • Procure and implement new national financial management systems in the HSE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement new appointment process for State bodies in conjunction with the Public Appointments Service • Develop a mechanism to ensure the implementation of HIQA recommendations made to the HSE • Develop modernised real-time Health Sector Consolidated Pay Scales incorporating improved pay controls.
Stabilise and build a sustainable workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement key initiatives on medical training and career structure, and staffing and skill mix for nurses • Negotiate and implement Public Service Agreements in line with Government policy • Develop and implement a national integrated strategic framework for Health workforce planning
Develop accountability frameworks for regulated health professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen professional regulation through new legislation and by transposing an EU Directive on Professional Qualifications into Irish law • Implement Health (Misc. Provisions) Bill 2015 • Enact legislation on dental services
Other Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the cost of medicines for patients and the taxpayer • Improve HSE income collection arrangements • Implement Shared Services Plan • Implement External Service Delivery Plan
Priority area: Introduce innovative funding models	
Implement Activity-Based Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed 'activity-based funding' in the health services and work to develop outpatient and community classifications for activity-based funding
Commissioning for better outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a policy framework on Healthcare Commissioning
Social Impact Bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine potential of Social Impact Bonds to provide more resources for drug treatment and rehabilitation services
Tax expenditures/reliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review contribution of relevant tax reliefs to health policy objectives
Priority area: Modernise health facilities and ICT infrastructure	
Establish Individual Health Identifier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue the first Individual Health Identifiers
eHealth Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in ICT and eHealth and establish 'eHealth Ireland'

Health Information Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish and enact Health Information Bill
New Children's Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure planning permission for the new children's hospital (St James's campus) and satellite centres (Blanchardstown and Tallaght) and commence construction works (subject to award of planning permission)
National Maternity Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodge planning application with An Bord Pleanála and commence construction works
National Forensic Mental Health Services (Portrane)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence enabling works in Q2 2015, main construction works in Q4 2015 and complete construction by end-2017 (subject to award of planning permission)
Primary Care Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 9 Primary Care Centres in 2015 and work to deliver a further 28 by mid-2017 • Continue to work with the private sector to deliver Primary Care Centres using the operational lease mechanism.
National Plan for Radiology Oncology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiation Oncology Units for Cork and Galway • Refresh equipment at St Luke's
Community Nursing Units (CNU's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue alternative public/private options to provide new community nursing units
Priority area: Implement agreed steps towards Universal Healthcare	
Phase extension of GP cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the first concrete steps to Universal Healthcare by extending GP services without fees to the under 6s and over 70s • Plan for extension of GP care without fees to other cohorts of the population • Put in place models of care that improve the way people can access services (e.g. new chronic disease management models, increasing GP access to diagnostic services and progressing the provision of minor surgery services in primary care) • Agree a new GP contract
Scope universal healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the initial costing analysis and revert to Government with roadmap for next steps
Promote a sustainable, cost effective private health insurance market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorise VHI • Implement a package of measures to increase the number of people with health insurance
Priority area: Develop the Department's workforce and capability	
Enhance staff engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement internal communications plan and refine methodology and tools
Secure and allocate resources effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a workforce plan and review annually

Align organisational structures with strategic priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align organisational structures appropriately
Promote staff learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement staff learning and development plan
Implement Civil Service Renewal and the health reform programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Departmental governance, business planning, project management and performance management processes • Implement agreed governance structures for the health reform programme, including the ongoing work of the PMO and the monthly reporting system
Strengthen evidenced-based decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the Department's information and research capabilities
Develop the Department of Health to be an Employer of Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure staff roles are aligned with business goals, staff feel valued for their hard work, and staff contributions are acknowledged. • Be a Department where there is a higher level of performance and continuing development of our knowledge base, including through effective succession planning.