Sláintecare

Overview, Implementation & Challenges

Sláintecare

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Sláintecare

What is Sláintecare?

Sláintecare is a vision for a new health service in Ireland detailed in the report from the Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare published on 30 May 2017.

It is the first time there has been political consensus on a health reform plan for the next ten years and cross party support on delivering a universal health system in Ireland It is the first time there has been political consensus on a health reform plan for the next ten years and cross party support on delivering a universal health system in Ireland.

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Why now?

When a new government was established in May 2016, the Programme for Partnership Government 2016 committed to set up a parliamentary committee to agree cross party consensus on the future of health reform. The Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare was established in July 2016.

The terms of reference of the Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare included the need for political consensus on a ten-year plan for health reform which was to establish 'a universal, single-tier health services where patients are treated on the basis of health need not ability to pay', as well as 'reorienting the health service on a phased basis towards integrated primary and community care, consistent with the highest quality of patient safety'.

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How did the Oireachtas Committee come to their conclusions?

The Committee met between June 2016 and May 2017. They invited written submissions from interested representative bodies, individuals and groups. 167 submissions were received from public and private healthcare providers, managers, frontline staff, unions, academics, advocacy and voluntary agencies, industry and interested individuals.

The committee held 22 public hearings between July 2016 and January 2017. A secretariat from the Houses of the Oireachtas provided administrative and health policy support to the Committee, while a small team from the Centre for Health Policy and Management in the School of Medicine in Trinity College Dublin facilitated three expert-led workshops with the Committee in November and December 2016 and provided technical support until May 2017.

The Committee drafted their report in closed sessions between February and May 2017, all the time seeking to achieve consensus on matters.

Sláintecare – An Overview

Components of Sláintecare:

- Entitlement for all Irish residents to all health and social care
- No charge to access GP, primary or hospital care and reduced charges for drugs
- Care provided at the lowest level of complexity, often outside of hospital, in an integrated way
- eHealth as key tool for developing a universal health system and integrated care
- Strong focus on public health and health promotion

Sláintecare - An Overview

Components of Sláintecare:

- Waiting times guarantees with a maximum :
  - 4 hour wait time for Emergency Department
  - 10 days for a diagnostics test
  - 10 weeks for an outpatient appointment
  - 12 weeks for an inpatient procedure
- Private care phased out of public hospitals
- Significant expansion of access to diagnostics in the community
- Earlier and better access to mental health services
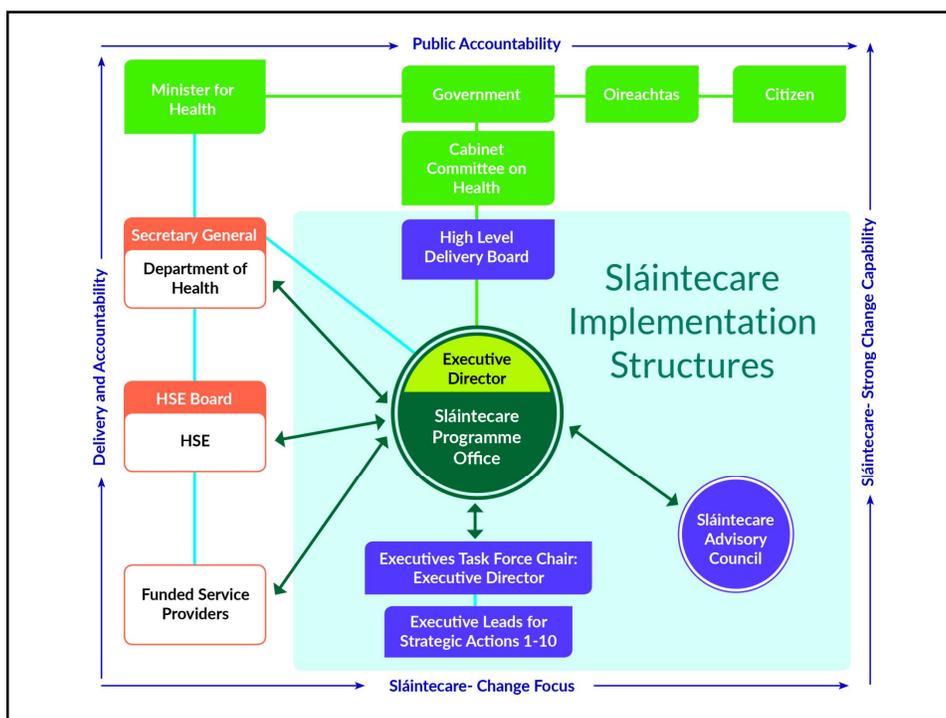- An expanded workforce including allied health professionals, nurses and doctors.

Sláintecare – An Overview

Components of Sláintecare:

- The importance of addressing recruitment and retention issues of all healthcare staff and the development of integrated workforce planning is emphasised in the report
- A new HSE Board, to be established promptly
- Accountability and clinical governance, to be legislated for
- A National Health Fund set up to ring-fence funding for a transitional fund and expansion of entitlements

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Implementation

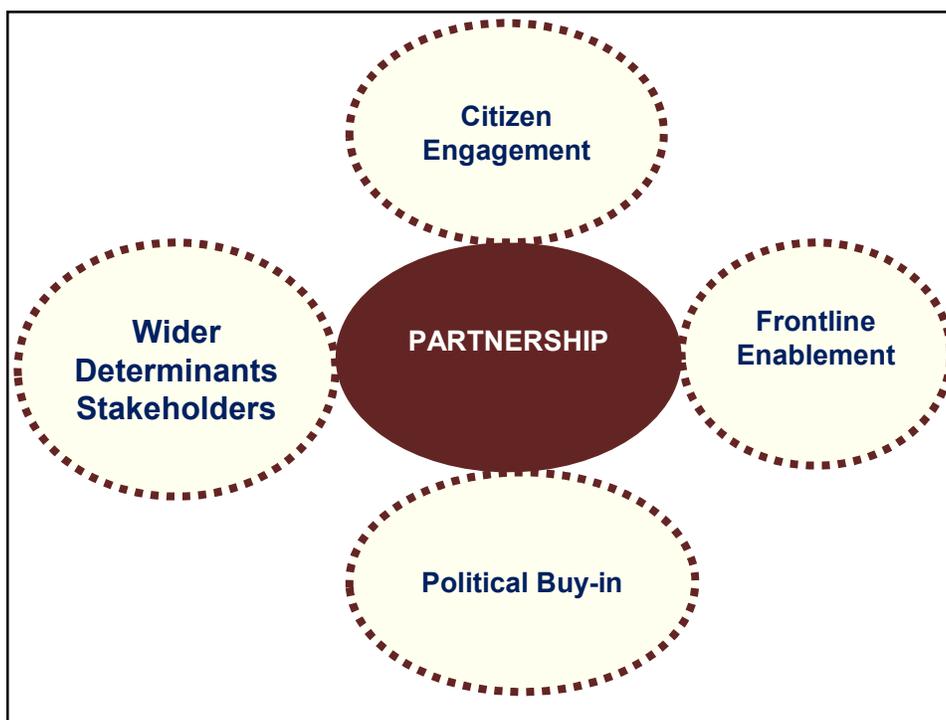Sláintecare Implementation Structures

Sláintecare - Implementation

In the next 10 years…..

- Promote the health of our population to prevent illness
- Bring the majority of care into the community
- Create an integrated system of care, with healthcare professionals working closely together
- Create a system where care is provided on the basis of need, not ability to pay
- Move our system from long waiting times to a timely service
- Drive accountability and performance in the health service
- Deliver a health service that has the capacity and ability to plan for, and manage, changing needs

Sláintecare - Implementation

PROGRAMME OFFICE - Remit

- To establish the programme of reform
- To develop a strategic and programmatic approach to implementation
- To ensure all parts of the system are following the strategy
- To work collaboratively with all stakeholders
- To support work of colleagues and reform efforts
- To report on progress

- **Not** to duplicate effort

Citizen Engagement

Wider Determinants Stakeholders

PARTNERSHIP

Frontline Enablement

Political Buy-in

Sláintecare – Monthly Progress Update

- Sláintecare Programme Office established September

- Executive Director in place and engaged in discussions with a wide range of stakeholders

- Engagements to date have been positive and stakeholders keen to embrace and be part of Sláintecare's implementation programme

- Programme Office set-up progressing well and team is being recruited

- Advisory Council established and meeting planned in October

- Action Plan for 2019 in progress for completion by December

- Citizen Care Masterplan approach being finalised

- Citizen Engagement and Empowerment planning to start before year end

- Budget for 2019 being discussed

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The full implementation strategy can be found on line :
- https://health.gov.ie/blog/publications/slaintecare-implementation-strategy/

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Challenges

Sláintecare - Challenges

- Funding – how will it be paid for?
  - Taxes
  - Procurement & tendering
  - Negotiations with stakeholders
  - New consultant contracts
- Universal Health Care
- Resistance to change
- Political – cross party consensus
- Legal
- Time frame

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Sources

❖ Sara Burke – Trinity College

❖ Department of Health

❖ Sláintecare Implementation Strategy