



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Phil Ni Sheaghda
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Office of the Head of Operations & Service Improvement
Services for Older People
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21st September 2015

Re – Community Nursing Role and Home Care Services

Dear Ms Ni Sheaghda,

I am writing to you in relation to our previous meeting and recent discussions in relation to the above matter. I wish to acknowledge that it would be appropriate to explore the option of the setting up of a technical group with agreed terms of reference and an independent chair, for the purposes of providing a report on this matter, with a view to exploring the issues of concern and ensuring that there is clarity going forward in the environment of supporting older people, in particular, to remain in their own homes and communities through appropriate home care services.

Secondly, I would also propose that the group would consider the implications of the Single Assessment Tool and its roll out across the hospital and community. As you will be aware, there has been a requirement for a long period of time to come forward with such a tool that can be used to bring a consistent approach and sound good practice in the area of assessment of people in relation to their dependencies and to use the tool as a guidance to matching it to resource requirements for such individuals. The Single Assessment Tool, using Inter Rai as the basis for its assessment process, brings an IT based solution to this requirement and is in an advanced stage of development with some local testing being undertaken in the acute hospital system at this point in time. The next aspect of the Single Assessment Tool, which is a community based aspect model, is coming to a testing stage very shortly and I would like there to be some engagement around this matter and how best to move forward with it in the context of the extensive service provision by community nursing to older people in community settings at present.

You might revert to me on this matter so that we could progress, if in agreement, this technical group and have a meeting to discuss terms of reference, chair etc.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Fitzgerald".

MICHAEL FITZGERALD
Head of Operations & Service Improvement Services for Older People