

Health Service Executive Intercultural Health Governance Group

The HSE launched the [National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007 – 2012](#) in February 2007. While there is no new strategy planned, the HSE's Intercultural Health Governance group now has the remit to review those recommendations remaining to be implemented and assess how they can be put into practice.

The Health Service Executive Intercultural Health Governance group meets on a regular basis - approximately once every 6 weeks. The group has set terms of reference, a copy of which is provided below for information.

Terms of Reference: HSE National Intercultural Health Governance Group

- Guide, support and monitor the implementation of National Policies/Strategies in relation to Intercultural Health.
- Oversee, support and monitor the development and implementation of actions committed to in the National Service Plan pertaining to Intercultural Health.
- Identify and address emerging priorities, needs and issues relating to Intercultural Health and provide advice / guidance to the National Social Inclusion Governance Group on such matters and support the work of the Social Inclusion Governance Group.
- Identify best practice and quality standards in relation to HSE responses to Intercultural Health.
- Identify gaps/ deficiencies in information and oversee the development of both minimum and long-term data sets where required.
- Identify areas where research is required and support where required.
- Address urgent tasks/projects assigned by the National Social Inclusion Steering Group.
- Communicate information on activities, outcomes, and associated issues to colleagues as appropriate.

Membership of the Intercultural Health Governance Group

Membership of the Intercultural Health Governance Group comprises HSE staff from across the four HSE regions and includes representation from Social Inclusion Managers, Health Promotion, Public Health Nursing and Public Health Specialism. Additional members may be co-opted as necessary.

Roma

Health matters pertaining to Roma are included within the remit for Intercultural Health and considerable work has already been carried out in relation to supporting Roma access to health services. For example, the increasing demand for the Roma Clinic based at Tallaght Hospital has resulted in the expansion of hours of this GP service as of September 2013. The Safetynet Roma GP service is an outcome of collaboration between the HSE, South Dublin County Partnership's Local development programme, South Dublin County Council and Fettercairn Community health project. Roma cultural mediators are an important part of the service, ensuring

that the service is culturally appropriate and understandable and meets wider needs than health alone (advocacy and support in areas such as social welfare entitlements, housing, homelessness, education, migration and integration).

Development of Resources

Efforts have also been directed towards production of resources to support staff in delivery of responsive, quality services to minority service users. Examples of this include the Emergency Multilingual Aid, Intercultural Guide etc. These resources have been made available in many different languages on the HSE website at this page - http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find_a_Service/Languages/.

The HSE is currently working on the development of an APP that will assist Interpreters and any other stakeholders who work in health settings with people from diverse language or cultural backgrounds.

The HSE has also produced a resource to assist staff in developing, effecting and assuring translation of health related material into other languages. Other useful resources and good practice supports have also been produced in collaboration with NUIG and the Centre for Participatory Strategies including Good Practice Guidelines in Cross Cultural General Practice Consultations. These can be referenced here at the following location <http://www.mediacontact.ie/mediahq/nuig/26965/nui-galway-research-produces-guidelines-for-communication-between-gps-and-migrants.html>.

The final guidelines are here

http://www.nuigalway.ie/general_practice/documents/final_guideline_for_communication_in_cross_cultural_general_practice_consultations.pdf

The guidelines were included as an example of good practice in the Health Research Board's 2012 Picture of Health publication (pg 16)

http://www.hrb.ie/uploads/tx_hrbpublications/Picture_of_Health_2012_Web.pdf

Projects funded by the HSE

The HSE funds AkiDwA to undertake a series of agreed actions in the area of Female Genital Mutilation and associated issues of violence against minority ethnic women. A resource for health professionals, developed originally by AkiDwA and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, has now been updated and edited to reflect current legislation and this will be formally launched in September/ October.

The HSE also funds a number of agencies to deliver agreed actions on its behalf including Spirasi, CAIRDE, AkiDwA and Pavee Point (Roma Outreach Worker).

In terms of cooperation among and between statutory agencies, the HSE holds regular high level meetings with officials of the Reception and Integration Agency of the Department of Justice and Equality. The Department of Social Protection has also recently joined these meetings.