

CervicalCheck Steering Committee

Terms of Reference

Introduction:

The CervicalCheck Steering Committee was originally established in June 2018 to provide oversight and assurance on the implementation of key decisions taken by Government in relation to CervicalCheck. A significant body of work has been completed and overseen by the original Committee as set out in its terms of reference, and the situation has significantly evolved since the initial establishment of the group. The original Committee last met in February 2020 and ceased meeting from then as the COVID-19 response became the priority focus of the Department and the HSE.

The Programme for Government, published in June 2020, commits to “fully implement the recommendations contained in Dr Scally’s Reports of the Scoping Inquiry, and all other reports into Cervical Check”.

Professor Anne Scott was appointed by the Minister for Health in October 2020, for a two-year term, to steer the next phase of the work.

Membership of the new Committee convened under Prof. Scott is drawn from key stakeholders such as patient representatives and advocates (including the 221+ Group), the Department of Health, the HSE National Screening Service (encompassing the CervicalCheck national cervical screening programme), the Irish Cancer Society, the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland. Terms of Reference were agreed by the Committee in February 2021.

Terms of Reference:

1. Oversight and assurance of implementation of relevant reports, ie the recommendations of the Scally Scoping Inquiry, the Expert Reference Groups' reports on Interval Cancer, and the RCOG Independent Expert Panel Review
2. Engagement with the National Screening Service (NSS), and the wider HSE, on key operational issues relevant to implementation of the Scally Scoping Inquiry and related reports' recommendations. This includes HPV testing; management of laboratory issues; colposcopy capacity; interaction with, and impact of, general gynaecological services and clinical pathways; and other CervicalCheck programme developments
3. Overview of CervicalCheck Supports Package and progressing next steps
4. Interface with issues arising from CervicalCheck Tribunal and the Restoration of Trust Meetings process (as provided for in the CervicalCheck Tribunal Act 2019)
5. Input into the ongoing development of an Open Disclosure framework
6. Identify opportunities to contribute across the health service to a patient-centred culture
7. Support strategic and collaborative communications aimed at improving public understanding, trust and uptake of cervical screening, and promoting the aim of eradication of cervical cancer
8. Engage with and support mainstreaming of oversight into appropriate HSE governance and reporting structures and processes
9. Agree Committee *modus operandi*, including publication and communication of Committee business in a transparent manner
10. Provide update reports, through the Chairperson, to the Minister for Health as required

Membership of CervicalCheck Steering Committee

(from January 2021)

- Professor Anne Scott,
Vice-President for Equality and Diversity, NUI Galway (Chairperson)
- Kate O'Flaherty,
Principal Officer, Population Health Screening, Department of Health
- Dr. Alan Smith,
Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health
- Fiona Murphy,
Chief Executive, National Screening Service, Health Service Executive
- Dr Nóirín Russell,
Clinical Director, CervicalCheck, Health Service Executive
- Fiona Ness, Communications Manager, National Screening Service, Health Service Executive
- Dr Declan Bedford, Chair, Quality Safety & Risk Management Committee, National Screening Service
- Rachel Murrough, Director of Advocacy & External Affairs, Irish Cancer Society
- Stephen Teap,
Patient Representative
- Brigid Doherty,
Patient Representative
- Lorraine Walsh,
Patient Representative, 221+ Group
- Dr Noirin O'Herlihy,
Assistant Medical Director & Director of Women's Health, Irish College of General Practitioners
- Professor Mary Horgan,
President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland