

**Chairperson's note of the meeting of the
National Screening Advisory Committee
5 March 2020**

1. Welcome & Apologies

NSAC members present:

- Professor Niall O'Higgins
- Dr Abigail Collins
- Dr John Ward
- Dr Mary Codd
- Dr Sheelagh McGuinness
- Dr Velma Harkins
- Professor Andrew Green
- Dr James O'Mahony
- Martina Fitzgerald
- Irene Regan
- John Gleeson
- Dr Susan Kent
- Dr Ellen Crushell
- Dr Paul D'Alton
- Dr Paul Kavanagh
- Anne Burke
- Jillian Van Turnhout
- Professor Michael Rigby
- Professor Ciaran O'Neill

Invitees:

- Dr Patricia Harrington, Head of Assessment, HTA Directorate, HIQA

Members of the National Newborn Screening Governance Group:

- Carmel Brennan, Programme Manager, National Healthy Childhood Programme
- Paul Marsden, Project manager, Child Health Screening Programmes
- Dr Ingrid Borovickova, Director of the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Laboratory
- Bernie Quirke, Laboratory Manager, National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Laboratory
- Loretta O'Grady, Chief Medical Scientist, National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Laboratory
- Dr Ronan Leahy, Clinical Lead Representative, Our Lady's Children's Hospital

NSAC Secretariat:

- Evette Wade
- Luke Kearney

Department of Health:

- Dr Alan Smith, DCMO
- Emma Craven, Office of the Chief Medical Officer

Apologies:

- Dr Keelin O'Donoghue

2. Minutes of meeting on 18 November 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 18 November 2019 were agreed by the Committee.

3. Documents for discussion and adoption by the Committee

The NSAC discussed and suggested changes to the following draft documents:

- a) NSAC Terms of Reference
- b) NSAC Criteria for considering the Viability, Effectiveness and Appropriateness of a Screening programme
- c) NSAC Standing Orders

The Secretariat of the NSAC will update the documents based on the discussion and circulate for adoption by the Committee.

4. NSAC Application Process Update

Dr Alan Smith presented to the Committee on the proposed NSAC Application Process, setting out how the Committee will receive applications for revisions to current screening programmes or applications to add new screening programmes.

The Secretariat will continue to develop the application process in consultation with the HIQA HTA Team that is in place to support the work of the Committee.

5. Draft proposal on NSAC / HIQA Work Programme 2020 to 2021

Dr Patricia Harrington, Head of Assessment, HTA Directorate at HIQA presented the draft proposal for the NSAC / HIQA Work Programme 2020 to 2021 to the Committee.

The Committee had an opportunity to ask questions to aid their understanding of the proposed work programme.

HIQA will produce a paper for the next meeting of the NSAC updating the Committee on progress made in advancing the programme of work.

6. Report of the meeting of the UK NSC

The Chairman updated the Committee on the recent meeting of the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) that he attended on 26 February 2020, in London.

The Department of Health has agreed an SLA with the UK NSC which affords it observer status at meetings of the UK NSC along with the opportunity to engage on the development of confidential evidence review documents produced by the UK NSC.

It was noted that this link with the UK NSC is likely to be of great value to the Committee.

7. NSAC Observer Seats and Invitees

It was agreed that an invitation would issue to representatives of the following organisations to attend future meetings of the NSAC as observers:

- National Manager, National Advocacy Service
- President of the Royal College of Physicians
- President of the Royal College of Surgeons
- President of the Irish College of General Practitioners

It was agreed that this list is not intended to be exclusive and that additional observers may be invited at a future date.

It was also agreed that a member of the HIQA HTA team would receive a regular invitation to attend Committee meetings.

8. NSAC International Honorary Advisory Faculty

The Committee agreed to the establishment of the International Honorary Advisory Faculty consisting of the following:

- Professor Harry de Koning, Deputy Head and Professor of Public Health and Screening Evaluation, Department of Public Health, Erasmus MC University Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
- Professor Robert Steele, Chair of the UK National Screening Committee.
- Professor Peter Boyle, President of the International Prevention Research Institute, Lyon, France.

It was suggested that further members could be appointed later.

9. Presentation by the National Newborn Bloodspot Governance Group followed by discussion

Dr Abigail Collins, in her capacity as a member of the National Newborn Bloodspot Governance Group presented an update to the Committee on the current status of work examining the case for the addition of ADA SCID to the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme.

It is expected that the Governance Group will make an application to the NSAC to have ADA SCID added to the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme.

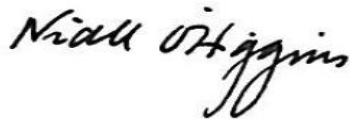
10. NSAC Correspondence

The Chairman noted correspondence received by the Secretariat for the attention of the Committee which had been circulated for information ahead of the meeting.

11. Next Steps:

The Secretariat will:

- Publish the minutes of the NSAC meeting that took place on 18 November 2019 on the website www.nsaccommittee.gov.ie.
- Produce the minute of the meeting.
- Make changes to the draft NSAC Terms of Reference, draft NSAC Criteria for considering the viability, effectiveness and appropriateness of a screening programme and the draft NSAC Standing Orders based on the changes agreed at the meeting.
- Circulate a post-meeting evaluation survey to members of the Committee as part of the continuous improvement approach to work that the Committee has established.



Signed: _____

Date: 1 April 2020

Professor Niall O'Higgins

Chair of the NSAC