

Policy Forum for Ireland conference:

Next steps for Sláintecare reform

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 22nd September 2026

Taking Place Online



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 9.05 **Assessing progress and key issues for Sláintecare reform**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Addressing concerns around capacity in the healthcare system - workforce, funding and strategic coordination**
implementation of the Path to Universal Healthcare and stakeholder priorities | role of the HSE in delivery | funding and investment allocation | implications of the 2026 Budget and NDP Sectoral Plan | national and regional coordination | ensuring organisation and accountability of HSE health regions | easing hospital and primary care pressures | meeting waiting time targets | aligning service improvements with delivery capability | addressing workforce shortages and upskilling priorities | response to the Department of Health's Future Health and Social Care Workforce | including patients' voices in decision-making | implications of reform for patient choice | priorities for maintaining a long-term reform vision
Catherine Fowler, Founder, The Aortic Dissection Charitable Trust
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, hospitals
Senior representative, health region
Senior representative, private care
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Safe and responsible use of digital tools and AI in healthcare**
Senior representative, standards
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 11.05 **Supporting national delivery of Sláintecare reform**
Pat Healy, National Director, Services and Schemes, Health Service Executive
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 **Addressing health inequalities and promoting healthy communities**
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **The way forward for delivering inclusive community-based care**
next steps for moving towards community-based and home-first care | priorities for rolling out integrated care | alignment of local provision with national reform aims | assessing implications of a one-tier system for equity, affordability and patient choice | addressing affordability and equity concerns | improving access to primary and community care | reducing barriers for underserved groups | priorities for age-friendly system | policy and funding priorities for women's health | implications of the Mental Health Act 2026 | delivery of services and patient support
Dr Austin Warters, Research Lead, Health Service Executive
Senior representative, mental health
Senior representative, disability
Senior representative, women's health
Senior representative, older people
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Priorities for policy and implementation of Sláintecare reform**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
Harry Nelson, Policy Forum for Ireland