An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Strategic Digital Health and Social Care Framework

Better Together for Digital Healthcare

1st December 2023

Derek Tierney

Head of Health Infrastructure Department of Health

Why do we need a strategy refresh ?

- Current strategy is **10 years old** and constraining vision

- Need to evolve from eHealth to Digital Health – **Digital Services not eHealth Systems**

- Leverage Global **Digital Technology** Developments**, data** to inform decision making & learn from **experience** in our service & other countries

- **Patient Expectations** of the use of Digital have increased as have **demands for services**

- **EU obligations** & **Targets** - the EU Digital Decade and European Health Data Space Directive & **Government** Digital Strategy 'Harnessing Digital'

- Learnings from the **Pandemic** & **Cyber-attack**

- Establishment of **RHAs,** a need to **enable integrated care** and emergence of **Health Information Bill** to clarify obligations to share

- Need for a visionto **align** & secure **commitment**

What we are hearing from patients, staff, and a wide range of diverse stakeholders across the health and social care sector:

Lack of standardisation and interoperability

Maintaining legacy systems

Workforce capacity to deliver programmes

Staff retention and building the right skills

No access or enabled to share Digital Patient Records

Basic Infrastructure & Connectivity

Cybersecurity

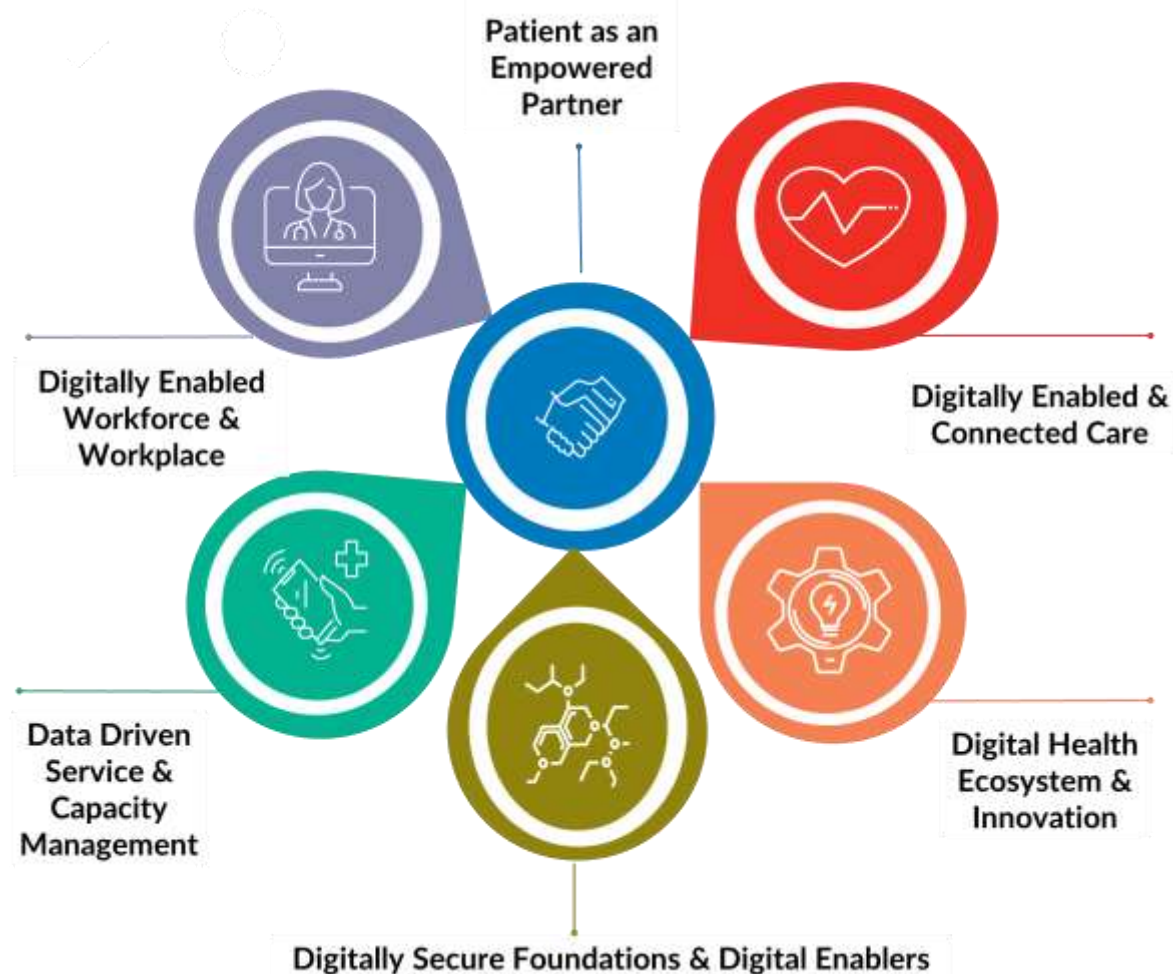# Strategic Digital Health and Social care Framework & 6 Guiding Principles

Our Vison

Better health outcomes enabled by seamless, safe, secure, and connected digital health services and which support health and wellbeing for both our patients and providers.

Our Mission

To harness the power of digital to increasingly connect the delivery of health and social care services for our population.

Patient as an Empowered Partner

Digitally Enabled & Connected Care

Digitally Enabled Workforce & Workplace

Digital Health Ecosystem & Innovation

Data Driven Service & Capacity Management

Digitally Secure Foundations & Digital Enablers

Future Vision: 6 Guiding Principles

Patient as an empowered partner

Ambition:

"Patients are empowered to take an active role in their own healthcare journey and to understand and engage with digital health as much or as little as they wish."

What do we expect:

- Providing access to modern digitally enabled services
- Using Virtual/Telehealth to bring care closer to home.
- Improved meaningful patient Involvement.
- Promoting Digital Inclusion and health literacy
- Ensure Trustworthy and secure data.

Patient as an empowered partner

Future Vision: 6 Guiding Principles

Digital enabled workforce & workplace

Ambition: "**The workforce will experience a more collaborative, digitally skilled, and supported environment to care for patients.**"

What do wo expect:
- Advancing Cultural change
- Creating a Digital Identity for our workforce
- Leveling up digital services
- Enabling a Digital workplace
- Promoting a digital first approach

Digitally enabled Workforce & Workplace

Digitally enabled & connected care

Ambition:
"Connect digital technology and solutions to enable timely and effective patient care in the right place, at the right time by the appropriate carer"

What do we expect:
- Delivering Digital Patient Record Programme
- Achieving Nationwide Electronic Health Record
- Continuing to connect digital systems

Digitally Enabled & Connected Care

Future Vision: 6 Guiding Principles

Data Driven

Service &

Capacity

Management

Data Driven Service & Capacity Management

Ambition:

"Enable real-time evaluation of health and social care services, providing high-quality data to enhance service performance, inform future investment and improve population health."

What do we expect:

- Improving data sharing and integration
- Building confidence in how data is used
- Enhancing data analytics capability
- Unlocking the Power of Data

Future Vision: 6 Guiding Principles

Digital health
ecosystem &
innovation

Digital health ecosystem & innovation
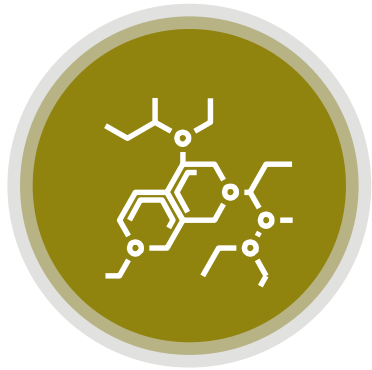
Ambition:

"**Leveraging and developing our digital innovation ecosystem whilst harnessing new and emerging technologies to innovate how we deliver care.**"

What do we expect:

- Supporting Open Innovation through strong governance
- Providing sustainable funding models
- Fostering Continuous innovation and partnerships
  Making procurement processes more effective
- Unlocking Innovation through access to secondary data
- Enabling greater efficiencies through artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automation
- Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Ireland

Digitally Secure Foundations & Digital Enablers

Ambition:
"To ensure Health and Social Care is underpinned by secure and robust digital infrastructure."

What do we expect:
- Targeting Investment in foundational infrastructure
- Connecting our services through Interoperability
- Building Secure infrastructure
- Enabling connected care through legislation Health Information Bill
- Developing a data and information strategy including governance & architecture
- Talent & Skills Development

Digitally Secure Foundations & Enablers

Next Steps

- Seek Government approval of policy direction

- Work with Government to secure increased investment through the National Development Plan (NDP) to enhance the provision of digital health.

- Ensure that the 6 principles guide the development of rolling multi-year action plans for digital health

- Enact the Health Information Bill, to transform the health information system into one that is fit for purpose and best serves important stakeholders.

- Development interoperability standards, governance and infrastructure arrangements for standardisation to enable seamless information flow across healthcare settings

- Use existing partnerships, new arrangements and ways of delivery to propel the delivery of digital services across the health and social care system.