

Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at the Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Present:

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| 1. Cllr. W. Aird | 13. Cllr. M. Freehill |
| 2. Cllr. V. Blake | 14. Cllr. P. Gogarty |
| 3. Cllr. P. Brady | 15. Cllr. F. Keena |
| 4. Cllr. T. Cullen | 16. Cllr. V. Jackson |
| 5. Cllr. M. Dalton | 17. Cllr. C. King |
| 6. Cllr. C. Devlin | 18. Cllr. A. Feeney |
| 7. Cllr. M. Dollard | 19. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 8. Cllr. P. Doran | 20. Cllr. C. O'Connor |
| 9. Cllr. P. Hand | 21. Cllr. G. O'Neill |
| 10. Cllr. G. Kelly | 22. Cllr. P. O'Toole |
| 11. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick | 23. Cllr. T. Redmond |
| 12. Cllr. M. Duff | 24. Cllr. P.J. Reilly |
| | 25. Cllr. A. White |

Apologies:

Mr. Joseph Ruane, Interim Lead, HSE Regional Health Forum DML
Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group
Ms. Eilish Hardiman, CEO, The National Children's Hospital Group
Ms Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO 6
Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, CHO8, Midlands/Louth/Meath
Ms Mary Day, CEO, Ireland East Hospital Group
Ms. Paula Lawler, Chief Operations Officer, IEHG
Cllr. Vicki Casserly
Cllr. Tom Murphy
Cllr. Carrie Smyth
Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan
Cllr. Padraig Fleming
Cllr. Anthony Larkin
Cllr. Ray McHugh
Cllr. Brendan Weld
Cllr. Louise Dunne

In attendance:

Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 7, South Dublin/Kildare/West Wicklow, Health Service Executive
Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, Dublin Midland Hospital Group
Ms. Frances McNamara, General Manager, Children's Hospital Group
Ms. Niamh McAldin, CHO 6
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager CHO8
Dr. Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

Dr. Heather Burns, Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine
Ms. Sharon Whelehan, Regional Health Forum Coordinator

17:05:01 Adoption of minutes of the meetings of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on 4th July 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. and seconded by Cllr. the Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 were adopted.

17:05:02 HSE Update – HPV Vaccine- Dr Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick (Vice Chairperson) introduced Dr Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine. Dr. Collins gave a detailed presentation to the Forum explaining that the importance of the HPV vaccine and why they are targeting all first and second year female students.

This school based programme will seek permission of the parents at the beginning of the school year and the vaccine is then administered twice throughout the year. Immunity is expected to last between a minimum of 9 years to a life time.

Members praised Dr. Collins as they felt much more informed as a lot of negatives issues regarding the vaccine were highlighted in the media.

Members asked questions following the presentation and the below issues were raised.

Age Related Virus

Members were concerned that the age of when the girls are given the vaccine was quite young when the Human Papilloma virus is sexually transmitted

The HPV vaccine protects girls from developing a cervical cancer when they grow up but must they must receive the vaccine before they ever come into any contact with the virus hence why this has been the decided age.

Consent Forms

Members advised that parents felt they were being railroaded into a decision regarding the vaccine with the overnight consent form. With so much negativity towards the vaccine, parents felt they needed longer to decide. Dr Collins agreed that this may have to be reassessed but with trying to schedule the 2 doses into such a short school year it may be difficult.

How many lives does the vaccine save each year?

This vaccine is estimated to save 70 lives a year. Every year in Ireland: 6,500 women need hospital treatment for a precancerous growth, 300 (many young) women get cervical cancer, and 90 women die from cervical cancer. So far there has been an 80% uptake with up to 230,000 vaccinated so far. The aim is seal Ireland from the virus. A high uptake will prevent and protect the people who cannot be vaccinated for any reason.

Promotion of the vaccine

Dr Collins felt that doctors were not promoting the vaccine as they were unsure of all the facts but assured members that the HPV vaccine campaign is now targeting all health care professionals to educate them further on the importance of the vaccine

Cost per person

The cost of an individual vaccination is €600 per person for the 2 dose vaccine.

How can members of the forum reassure their constituents?

Dr. Collins advised members that research has been carried out nationally, internationally and globally on millions of vaccinations administered to date with results claiming no difference in the rates of serious illnesses between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

There is no evidence that links the vaccine to chronic fatigue like conditions etc.

Storage of the Vaccine

The vaccine is stored in mercury and has a very stable shelf life. Members queried if any vaccine had been discarded due to low uptake but were assured that this has not yet been the case. If numbers continue to remain low, repeat orders will be affected.

17:05:03 Motions

Motion 1

That CHO8 would provide details on the resource allocation for the 2017 workforce and how does this compare to the years 2015 and 2016?

Cllr. Michael Dollard

A response to this motion was prepared by Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer of CHO8. Members noted the report.

Motion 2

That this Committee calls on the Government and all members of the Oireachtas to pass the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill without delay, as its provisions, although modest, represent a small step in the right direction towards tackling this country's toxic relationship with alcohol, the abuse of which is directly responsible for over 12% of this country's annual health budget.

Cllr. Paul Gogarty

A response to this motion was prepared by Ms. Marion Rackard, Project Manager, HSE Alcohol Programme. The motion was seconded by a number of Cllrs. A copy of the motion was forwarded to the Department. Members noted the report.

Motion 3

To ask the Manager to explain the rationale for reducing Home Help hours for the elderly and state in which areas/CHO have these reductions been applied to?

Cllr. Cormac Devlin

This motion was seconded was Cllr. O'Toole. A response to this motion was prepared by the Chief Officer of CHO7 and CHO8. Members noted the report. Ms Niamh McAldin was representing CHO6 at the meeting and met with Cllr. Devlin afterwards advising that she will look into this particular case and provide an individual response.

Motion 4

That this Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster, calls for action following concerns expressed by the Board of Tallaght Hospital regarding increasing pressure on their Emergency Department arising from the number of elderly patients presenting in 2016 and in presenting a detailed report in the matter can we also have confirmation of plans for the provision of full time acute geriatric service at the Hospital and will management make a full statement.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Gogarty. A response to this motion was prepared by Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. Members noted the report.

Motion 5

That the HSE immediately give costs and confirmation of a budget to manage the works in the Health centre in Monasterevin that was closed down?

Cllr. Thomas Redmond

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Dalton. A response to this motion was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer of CHO7. He advised Cllrs that a meeting had been held regarding the services and he would have more information in the coming days. The design phase is currently with HSE estates. As soon as budget is made available, building will start straight away. Members noted the report.

17.05.04 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.