

**Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 at the Boardroom,
HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

Present:

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| 1. Cllr. W. Aird | 14. Cllr. V. Jackson |
| 2. Cllr. V. Blake | 15. Cllr. F. Keena |
| 3. Cllr. P. Brady | 16. Cllr. P. Hand |
| 4. Cllr. T. Cullen | 17. Cllr. G. Kelly |
| 5. Cllr. M. Dalton | 18. Cllr. C. King |
| 6. Cllr. C. Devlin | 19. Cllr. J. King |
| 7. Cllr. M. Dollard | 20. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 8. Cllr. K. Daly | 21. Cllr. C. O'Connor |
| 9. Cllr. M. Duff | 22. Cllr. D. O'Donovan |
| 10. Cllr. P. Doran | 23. Cllr. G. O'Neill |
| 11. Cllr. A. Duncan | 24. Cllr. P. O'Toole |
| 12. Cllr E. Fitzpatrick (Vice Chair) | 25. Cllr. P.J. Reilly |
| 13. Cllr. P. Fleming | 26. Cllr. T.Redmond |
| | 27. Cllr. O. Smyth |
| | 28. Cllr. M. Ward |

Apologies:

Cllr. Vicki Casserly (Chair)

Cllr. Alex White

Cllr. P.Gogarty

Cllr. A. Larkin

Cllr. Mary Freehill

Cllr. B. Weld

Cllr. Paul Ward

Ms. Eilish Hardiman, CEO, The National Children's Hospital Group

Ms. Paula Lawler, Chief Operations Officer, IEHG

Mr. Joseph Ruane, Interim Lead, HSE Regional Health Forum DML

Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, CHO, South Dublin/Kildare/West Wicklow, Health Service Executive

Ms Mary Day, CEO, Ireland East Hospital Group

In attendance:

Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, CHO, Midlands/Louth/Meath

Ms. Brena Dempsey, CHO, South Dublin, Kildare, West Wicklow

Ms Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO 6

Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, CEO Dublin Midland Hospital Group

Ms. Frances McNamara, General Manager, The National Children's Hospital Group

Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, CHO, Midlands/Louth/Meath

Ms. Sharon Whelehan, Regional Health Forum Office

Dr Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

Cllrs suspended standing orders to address the issue regarding the Cervical Screening controversy.

Cllrs. spoke about the system failures that have affected all women in this country but specifically their own particular worried constituents.

It was raised that members of the public are waiting 15+ days for a call back from the dedicated helpline.

Cllr. C King proposed that a meeting be held with his constituent member and senior management from the Dublin, Midlands Hospital Group regarding a particular breakdown in communication. Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, CEO Dublin Midland Hospital Group agreed to arrange this with Cllr. King.

Cllrs asked for a special meeting to update the forum members on Cervical Check.

The HSE thanked members for raising the motion. Members of senior management spoke about responsibility and accountability and apologised profusely on behalf of the HSE. They reassured members that plans were currently in place to address the issues and provide support to the families affected.

The HSE are currently compiling a list (by county) to contact the affected individuals.

At the time of the meeting it was advised that there were 5000 outstanding calls to the dedicated helpline and they are doing their utmost to clear these.

It was agreed to hold a special meeting with Screening Services.

18:03:01 Adoption of minutes of the meetings of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on 17th April 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. Cullen the minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster held on Tuesday 17th April 2018 were adopted.

18:01:02 HSE Update – Meningitis- Dr Abigail Collins

Cllr. Vicki Casserly (Chairperson) introduced Dr Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine to the forum members. Dr Collins gave a detailed presentation explaining the dangers of meningitis, its symptoms and the importance of vaccinations.

Members thanked Dr Abigail Collins for a very informative presentation.

Members asked questions following the presentation and the below points were discussed.

There are 2 types of meningitis – bacterial and viral.

The symptoms of viral and bacterial meningitis are similar so hospital tests may be needed to tell the difference.

Dr. Collins spoke about recognition (of the symptoms) and speed (of reacting to the symptoms) to beat this rapid killer.

The early symptoms of meningitis are similar to those of many other conditions and so can go untreated until it's too late. These include:

- a severe headache
- fever
- nausea and vomiting

As the condition gets worse, there may be additional symptoms such as-

- drowsiness
- confusion
- seizures
- being unable to tolerate bright lights
- a stiff neck
- rapid breathing
- Dr Collins informed us that when a blotchy red rash appears (that does not fade or change colour when you place a glass against it) - the disease becomes deadly and time limited.

Dr Collins spoke about the importance of vaccinations. Since the introduction of the MenC vaccine in 2000 there has been a dramatic reduction in Group C disease in Ireland. Public confidence in these vaccinations is vital.

A vaccine is available in the Childhood Immunisation Programme. The vaccine is available free of charge to all up to the age of 23 years of age.

As there is no vaccine to protect against all types of meningitis it is still very important to be aware of, and alert to, the symptoms and signs of meningitis and septicaemia.

Research to develop vaccines against more strains is on-going.

18:03:03 Motions

Motion 1

That we make contraception free in local health centres?

Cllr. Thomas Redmond

This motion was seconded by Cllr. O. Smyth and Cllr. G Kelly. A response on this motion was provided by Helen Deely, Head of the Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme.

Motion 2

That the HSE taking cognisance of the most recent census figures and would indicate what plans it has to provide services (additional) for Co Westmeath?

Cllr. Michael Dollard

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, CHO, Midlands/Louth/Meath. Members noted the report.

Motion 3

That this Regional Health Forum asks the HSE to resource the provision of Occupational Therapist Reports for residents living in LHO area Dublin West who are applying for the adaptations to their home through the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme.

Cllr. Mark Ward

A report on this motion was prepared by Ms. Ann O' Shea, Acting Chief Officer, South Dublin, Kildare, West Wicklow CHO. Cllrs sought more information and Ms. Brena Dempsey (representative from CHO7 attending the meeting) advised that she would follow up with South Dublin County Council today re: DPG grants

Motion 4

That this Regional Health Forum calls on the HSE to re-examine and in the absence of a reasonable explanation abolish the loco parentis clause in homecare nursing contracts for sick children.

Cllr. Mark Dalton
Cllr. Paul Ward

This was seconded by Cllr. Redmond. A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Head of Operations, Primary Care. Members noted the report.

Motion 5

That this Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster, calls for additional resources to be made available to Tallaght University Hospital to allow the board take effective action in respect of serious concerns which arose from reports that 984 people over 75 years of age were left waiting in the hospital's ED for longer than 24 hours in the first 3 months of this year; will the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group also give comparable figures for all of the other hospitals in our Region in respect of the same matter and can the RHF have a full statement.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Dalton. A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, CEO Dublin Midland Hospital Group. Members noted the report

18:03:04 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Question 1- Can we get an update of the Monasterevin Day Care Centre?

Question 2- How many nursing agencies are used by the Mental Health Services and how much was each paid last year?

Cllr. Thomas Redmond

Both responses were queried and Ms Brena Dempsey agreed to follow up on this with Ms Ann O'Shea for further information.

AOB

Cllr Keena thanked Pat Bennett and Trevor O'Callaghan for their responses to the cervical screening issue.

Cllrs. sent best wishes to their chair Cllr. Vicki Casserly.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum is 19th June 2018