

Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 15th November 2016 at the Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Present:

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| 1. Cllr. W. Aird | 16. Cllr. F. Keena |
| 2. Cllr. P. Brady | 17. Cllr. G. Kelly |
| 3. Cllr. T. Cullen | 18. Cllr. C. King |
| 4. Cllr. Andrew Duncan | 19. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 5. Cllr. M. Dalton | 20. Cllr. C McKinney |
| 6. Cllr. M. Dollard | 21. Cllr. C. O'Connor |
| 7. Cllr. P. Doran | 22. Cllr. D. O'Donovan |
| 8. Cllr. M. Duff | 23. Cllr. P. O'Toole |
| 9. Cllr. C Devlin | 24. Cllr. G. O'Neill |
| 10. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick | 25. Cllr. T. Redmond |
| 11. Cllr. P. Fleming | 26. Cllr. P.J. Reilly (Chairperson) |
| 12. Cllr. A. Feeney | 27. Cllr. O. Smyth |
| 13. Cllr. Paul Gogarty | 28. Cllr. B. Weld |
| 14. Cllr. P. Hand | 29. Cllr. J. King |
| 15. Cllr. Vincent Jackson | |

Apologies –

Cllr. Vicki Casserly
Cllr Ray Mc Hugh
Cllr. Jennifer Cuffe
Cllr. Louise Dunne
Cllr. Mary Freehill
Ms. Mary Day, CEO, Ireland East Hospital Group
Ms. Eilish Hardiman, CEO, Children's Hospital Group

In attendance:

Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group
Mr. Kilian McGrane, Deputy Group CEO, Ireland East Hospital Group
Mr. Joseph Ruane, Interim Lead, HSE Regional Health Forum DML
Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 7, South Dublin/Kildare/West Wicklow, Health Service Executive
Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 8, Longford / Westmeath/Laois/Offaly/Louth/Meath
Ms. Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO Area 6, Dublin South East / Wicklow
Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, Dublin Midland Hospital Group
Ms. Frances McNamara, General Manager, Children's Hospital Group.
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, CHO8
Ms. Sharon Whelehan, Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster
Dr. Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Dept. of Public Health HSE-DML

16:06:Adoption of minutes of the meetings of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on 13th September 2016.

On proposal of Cllr. McKeigue seconded by Cllr. Brady the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th September were adopted.

HSE Update – “The Influenza Vaccine”

Dr. Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Dublin Mid Leinster updated members on the importance of the Influenza Vaccine.

Following the presentation, Chairman Cllr. P.J Reilly thanked Dr. Collins for her very informative presentation and the following issues were discussed.

The project specifically targets 40% of the population- the over 66 age group but only seems to reach just over half at 22.5%.

There was also a list of others in the at-risk group including:

- Those with a long term medical condition such as diabetes, heart, kidney, lung or neurological disease
- People whose immune system is impaired due to disease or treatment
- Persons with a Body Mass Index (BMI) over 40
- Pregnant women (at any stage in pregnancy)
- Residents of nursing homes and other long stay institutions
- People with regular close contact with poultry, water fowl or pigs
- Health care workers
- Carers

Members queried the cost of the vaccine- private distributors/different charges/medical card holders.

Dr. Collins advised that the vaccine is free for all those in the recommended groups (as above).

The vaccine and consultation are free to those within the recommended groups who have a Medical Card or Doctor Only Card.

For those without a Medical Card or Doctor Only Card, the price can vary as private distributors such as family doctors and pharmacists charge a consultation fee for seasonal flu vaccine.

Members queried if the seasonal flu vaccine was safe? Dr. Collins advised that the vaccine has been given for more than 60 years to millions of people worldwide with reactions generally being mild and serious side effects being very rare. She reiterated that the seasonal flu vaccine does not give you the flu as so widely believed.

How do we compare to the UK? – Dr Collins advised that we are actually more proficient than our neighbours with a “stronger push” to vaccinate more people.

16:06:03 Motions

Motion 1

That the HSE DML would provide details of the new service provision for Longford and Westmeath as set out in the National Service Plan?

Cllr. Michael Dollard

A response on this motion was prepared by Mr Pat Bennett, Chief Officer of Community Healthcare Organisation 8. Members noted the report

Motion 2

That this Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid-Leinster notes the recent announcement at the IHCA (Irish Hospital Consultants Association) AGM, that the lack of ICU beds and staff in Ireland are contributing to over 300 deaths a year, seeks confirmation of what measures are being taken by DML to ensure capacity will be expanded this winter to meet demands and in reporting will the HSE specifically state what actions are being taken to ensure the proposed expansion of the ICU in Tallaght Hospital.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

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

Motion 3

That the HSE organise a Regional Health Forum meeting with the Minister for Health as well as the Minister for Older People and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the Portlaoise Hospital report that is left unpublished and in limbo.

Cllr. Thomas Redmond

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

Motion 4

Can an update be given on the implications on the delivery of an effective ambulance service for South Kildare brought about by the closure of the ambulance station in Carlow Town?

Cllr. Mark Dalton

A response on this motion was prepared by Mr. Martin Dunne, Director of the National Ambulance Service. Members noted the report.

Motion 5

That the Manager engages with Dublin Bus to provide adequate public transport access to the proposed Primary Care Centre in Ballyboden, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan

A response on this motion was prepared by Mr David Walsh, Chief Officer of Community Healthcare Organisation 7 stating that HSE will engage with the Regional Manager in Dublin Bus to ensure that there is adequate public transport access to the proposed Primary Care Centre.

16:06:04 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

AOB-

Cllr. T Redmond queried the referral system to the assessment unit in Portlaoise as no GPs work weekends in the Athy area. Does a patient present themselves in Portlaoise without a referral or would a referral from K Doc suffice? Dr Susan O'Reilly referred this question back to Mr David Walsh.

Members queried the lack of Meals on Wheels service provided in Monasterevin Co Kildare. Mr. David Walsh advised that the HSE does not provide this service but will support any local group willing to provide the service.

Members raised concerns regarding the Mental Health Commission Inspection carried out in 46 bedded unit in Portlaoise. There were a number of resource issues and practice matters that need to be resolved. This was raised by numerous councillors as patients from Laois, Offaly and Kildare attend the unit.

Cllr. John King sought an update on the Primary Care Centre in Borris in Ossory. Mr. Pat Bennett advised that they are currently looking at alternative options for services and will keep members updated.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Cllr. P.J Reilly
Chairperson
Regional Health Forum
Dublin – Mid Leinster