

Minutes of the Meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 16th September 2014 at the Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Present:

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| 1. Cllr. W. Aird | 16. Cllr. A. Larkin |
| 2. Cllr. V. Blake | 17. Cllr. C. Martin |
| 3. Cllr. P. Brady | 18. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 4. Cllr. V. Casserly | 19. Cllr. K. O'Connell |
| 5. Cllr. J. Cuffe | 20. Cllr. C. O'Connor (Chairperson) |
| 6. Cllr. T. Cullen | 21. Cllr. D. O'Donovan |
| 7. Cllr. M. Dalton | 22. Cllr. P. O'Toole |
| 8. Cllr. M. Dollard | 23. Cllr. T. Redmond |
| 9. Cllr. P. Doran | 24. Cllr. P.J. Reilly |
| 10. Cllr. P. Fleming | 25. Cllr. P. Ward |
| 11. Cllr. P. Hand | 26. Cllr. B. Weld |
| 12. Cllr. V. Jackson | |
| 13. Cllr. F. Keena | |
| 14. Cllr. B. Killeavy | |
| 15. Cllr. D. Lacey | |

Apologies:

Cllr. Ray McHugh
Cllr. Kate Feeney
Cllr. Máire Devine
Cllr. Mary Sweeney
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick
Cllr Paul Gogarty
Cllr. Peter Burke

Dr. Phil Jennings, Director of Public Health, Dublin Mid-Leinster
Ms Mary Gorry, Assistant National Director of Human Resources- Dublin Mid Leinster

In attendance:

Mr. Joseph Ruane, Area Manager, Midlands
Mr. David Tully, Area Manager, Dublin South Central
Ms. Carol Cuffe, Area Manager, Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow
Mr. James Conway, Assistant National Director, Midland Hospitals
Mr Maurice Farnan, Acting Area Manager, Dublin South East/Wicklow
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications, Dublin Mid-Leinster
Ms. Susan Temple, Secretary to the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster
Mr. Gerry Raleigh, Director of National Office for Suicide Prevention

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular any new members to the Forum. Cllr. O'Connor then called on Mr. Joseph Ruane, Area Manager, Midlands to speak. Mr. Ruane advised the Forum that he was the new interim HSE Lead for the Dublin Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum and that he along with his HSE colleagues was looking forward to working with the members.

14:04:01 Adoption of Minutes of the Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid Leinster Annual Meeting held on 29th of July 2014

On the proposal of Cllr PJ Reilly, seconded by Cllr Pat Hand the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 16th of July 2014 were adopted.

14:04:02 Chairperson's Correspondence

Cllr. O'Connor read an email which was received from Cllr. Mary Sweeney in which she tendered her resignation from the Regional Health Forum due to work commitments. Her email was noted. It was agreed that the Forum would acknowledge receipt of Cllr Sweeney's resignation and wish her well in the future.

Cllr. Lacey requested that questions and motions be circulated in order to afford the members the opportunity to read the responses. Cllr. O'Connor asked the Forum Secretary to check if this was in keeping with standing orders. It was noted that motions could only be tabled if the member tabling the motion was present. The questions were then circulated.

14:04:03 Presentation by Gerry Raleigh, Director of National Office for Suicide Prevention

Mr. Gerry Raleigh, Director of the National Office for Suicide Prevention made a presentation to the Forum. Members thanked Mr Raleigh for his presentation and the sensitive manner in which he delivered it. The following issues were then raised by members:

- **Members enquired about the change in the age profile for men and if there was any particular reason for this?**

Mr Raleigh advised that the overall numbers of deaths by suicide is similar or lower than other countries; however Ireland has the 4th highest rate of death by suicide in young men. Men aged between 25 and 40 years account for the highest numbers of these deaths, previously late teens accounted for the highest proportion. There is no definitive reason for the change, however, the downturn in the economy; societal changes such as the erosion of the traditional roles of the working man and high rates of unemployment are all likely to be contributory factors.

- **Members highlighted the importance of the role of the many youth organisations that provide services to vulnerable young people**

Mr Raleigh advised that the National Suicide Prevention Office fund 30 organisations that provide a broad spectrum of services to support vulnerable young people. He acknowledged the important role played by these organisations. The office works in partnership with organisations such as the National Youth Federation of Ireland and

funds initiatives such as Young Social Innovators. Assist and Safetalk training is provided free of charge to youth workers. The Healthy Club initiative facilitates training of coaches. The Jigsaw programme is in place throughout the country providing friendly support in a non judgemental way.

- **Members raised concerns about the use of Facebook and social media.**

Mr Raleigh acknowledged the significant impact of social media and advised that Spun Out is engaged with the big internet providers to send out positive messages and use Facebook as a medium for good.

- **Members queried if there was information available regarding the numbers of persons who died by suicide following discharge from psychiatric services and also the numbers of non nationals who died by suicide.**

Mr Raleigh did not have the information requested, however, he advised that that all deaths that take place in the mental health service are reported.

- **Members asked about the triggers for suicide.**

Mr Raleigh acknowledged that loneliness is a huge issue; however he stated that it is not always possible to see the signs at the time, but they may be identified later. He emphasised the need to educate the community and raise awareness. Mr Raleigh highlighted the importance of initiatives that de-stigmatise mental illness. He informed the meeting that 16 Suicidal Crisis Assessment Nurses (SCAN) have been recruited to work with primary care services. The nurses will provide services in the following areas:

- North Dublin
 - Tallaght
 - Waterford
 - North Cork
 - Laois Offaly
 - Donegal
 - Sligo Leitrim
- **Members highlighted the important role of the Garda Siochana and queried how the members themselves could assist.**

Mr Raleigh acknowledged the role of the Gardai who are often the first responders when somebody dies. Training is provided in Templemore for all new recruits. As community representatives he encouraged members to look out for neighbours and to consider participating in the Safe Talk and the Assist Programmes.

- **Members queried the role of the Community Pharmacist**

Mr Raleigh stated that a programme called DUMP involving the community pharmacists a number of years, whereby unused medicines were removed from circulation was successful and perhaps a similar programme could be considered.

14:04:04 Motions

Motion 1

That the Health Service Executive would indicate if there has been a noticeable increase in attendances at the Accident & Emergency Services Department attached to the Mullingar Regional Hospital, following recent changes at MIDOC Mullingar and Roscommon Hospital?

Cllr. M. Dollard

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. James Conway, Assistant National Director, Midland Hospitals. Members noted the report.

Motion 2:

To ask for a report on what measures the HSE has in place to deal with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Spectrum?

Cllr. Dermot Lacey

A report on this motion was prepared by Dr John Murphy and Prof Michael Turner, National Clinical Care Programmes. Members noted the report.

Motion 3

That the Regional Health Forum call on the HSE in consultation with county fire officers work together in trying to develop an integrated emergency service where fire stations with appropriate training answer calls which traditionally ambulance crews only attended.

Cllr. Thomas Redmond

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. William Merriman, Area Operations Manager, NAS North Leinster & NAS South. Members noted the report.

Motion 4

I call on HSE management to fully staff and re open the Hydrotherapy Pool at the Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore.

Cllr. Brendan Killeavy

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. James Conway, Assistant National Director, Midland Hospitals. Members noted the report. Following discussion Cllr. Killeavy stated that he was disappointed with the response and asked management to reconsider opening the pool. Mr James Conway agreed to keep the matter under review.

Motion 5

That this Forum calls on the Minister for Health and the Government to go back to a Local Health Board system as the present H.S.E. system has done nothing to improve the service. And also to provide Medical Cards at a local level.

Cllr. Tommy McKeigue

Cllr. McKeigue spoke to the motion and Cllr Cullen seconded the motion which was then adopted by the Forum.

Motion 6

That the Manager please give me an update on the obstacles progressing the new National Children's Hospital in St James Hospital Dublin 8 and can he indicate when we should see the commencement of this capital project of national importance.

Cllr. Vincent Jackson

A report on this motion was prepared by Ms Eilísh Hardiman, Chief Executive Officer, and Children's Hospital Group. Members noted the report.

Motion 7

That the Regional Health Forum Dublin/Mid-Leinster, in congratulating Leo Varadkar TD the new Minister for Health in his appointment, calls on the Minister to provide additional resources to Tallaght Drugs & Alcohol Task Force, and indeed other Task Forces, to allow for alcohol to be included in the remit of their work as announced by Alex White TD the then Minister for State with responsibility for the Drugs Programme.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

Cllr O Connor spoke to the motion and both Cllr Cuffe and Cllr Lacey seconded the motion which was then adopted by the Forum.

14:04:05 Questions:

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.
Cllr. Cullen proposed that Prof Greene make a presentation to the next meeting of the Forum in relation to the work of the National Centre for Medical Genetics. Cllr McKeigue seconded the proposal and it was agreed that a presentation would be requested.

Signed: _____

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor
Chairperson
Regional Health Forum
Dublin – Mid Leinster

Date: _____