

Minutes of the Meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 18th November 2014 at the Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Present:

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| 1. Cllr. W. Aird | 18. Cllr. C. King |
| 2. Cllr. V. Blake | 19. Cllr. J. King |
| 3. Cllr. P. Brady | 20. Cllr. D. Lacey |
| 4. Cllr. V. Casserly | 21. Cllr. A. Larkin |
| 5. Cllr. J. Cuffe | 22. Cllr. C. Martin |
| 6. Cllr. T. Cullen | 23. Cllr. R McHugh |
| 7. Cllr. M. Devine | 24. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 8. Cllr. M. Dollard | 25. Cllr. S. O'Brien |
| 9. Cllr. P. Doran | 26. Cllr. C. O'Connor (Chairperson) |
| 10. Cllr. K. Feeney | 27. Cllr. D. O'Donovan |
| 11. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick | 28. Cllr. G. O'Neill |
| 12. Cllr. P. Fleming | 29. Cllr. P. O'Toole |
| 13. Cllr. P. Gogarty | 30. Cllr. T. Redmond |
| 14. Cllr. P. Hand | 31. Cllr. P.J. Reilly |
| 15. Cllr. F. Keena | 32. Cllr. P. Ward |
| 16. Cllr G. Kelly | 33. Cllr. B. Weld |
| 17. Cllr. B. Killeavy | |

Apologies:

Cllr. Vincent Jackson
Cllr. Peter Burke
Cllr. Mick Duff

Mr. Bernard Pierce, Estates Manager
Dr. Phil Jennings, Director of Public Health, Dublin Mid-Leinster
Ms Mary Gorry, Assistant National Director of Human Resources- Dublin Mid Leinster
Ms Martina Queally, Area Manager, ISA DSE/Wicklow
Ms Carol Cuffe, Area Manager, Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow
Ms Susan Temple, Secretary to the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster

In attendance:

Mr. Joseph Ruane, Area Manager, Midlands
Mr. David Tully, Area Manager, Dublin South Central
Mr. David Walsh, Regional Director of Performance and Integration, Dublin Mid-Leinster
Ms. Ann O'Shea, HSE Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow
Mr. James Conway, Assistant National Director, Midland Hospitals
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications, Dublin Mid-Leinster
Ms. Miriam Gunning, Senior HPO for Tobacco, HSE Dublin North East

Cllr. O'Connor, Chairperson agreed to suspend Standing Orders to discuss three urgent issues at the request of the members.

Suspension of Standing Orders 1 – St Christophers Service, Longford

Cllr. Brady proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to discuss the financial challenges being experienced by St Christophers Service, Longford and sought support from the HSE to address these challenges. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. P. J. Reilly.

Mr. Joseph Ruane in response advised that there had been a long and productive relationship between St Christophers and the HSE. He indicated that he was aware of the challenges and they were currently engaged with St Christophers as to the exploring of options to address their concerns. Mr. Ruane agreed to refer the matters raised to Marion Meaney, Assistant National Director of Disability Services and Pat Healy, National Director, Social Care.

Suspension of Standing Orders 2 – HIQA Regulations on Physical Infrastructure

Cllr. O'Donovan proposed that Standing Orders be suspended, to discuss the impact of HIQA requirements for nursing homes, for physical infrastructure in particular in the Dublin Mid Leinster region. She referred to the recent media coverage highlighting potential bed closures arising from these new standards and non-compliance regarding same.

A number of members also voiced their concerns at potential bed closure/closure of units arising from these standards, and it was noted that the 2013 Forum, passed a resolution calling on HIQA to defer the need for compliance with the standards until 2018.

Mr. Joseph Ruane in response advised that he was aware from discussions with Michael Fitzgerald (AND Older Person Services) that the HSE have 129 community nursing homes, 50 of which are fully compliant. There are 79 homes which have challenges. The chief challenge being single or multi-occupancy room requirements outlined in HIQA's physical standard requirements. The National Social Care Directorate, HSE Estates and the Department of Health are aware of these challenges and discussions continue regarding same and the funding requirements. Discussion is also ongoing with HIQA. Mr. Ruane agreed to refer the matters raised to Michael Fitzgerald, Head of Operations and Service Improvement Services for Older People and Pat Healy, National Director, Social Care.

Suspension of Standing Orders 3 – Staff shortages Naas hospital

Cllr. Thomas Redmond proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to discuss staff shortages at Naas Hospital and its impact on services including the Emergency Department (ED). This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Anthony Larkin.

A number of members voiced their concerns regarding staffing levels at Naas General Hospital and in relation to pressure on the ED in that hospital. In response, Mr David Walsh confirmed that the number of attendances at the ED in Naas General Hospital had increased and that there is a significant increase in the numbers of older patients (80 – 85 years) attending the hospital. This group have complex care needs. He briefed the meeting in relation to staff recruitment and transitional care arrangements.

14:05:01 Adoption of Minutes of the Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid Leinster Annual Meeting held on 16th September 2014.

Cllr. Cullen proposed that the Minutes to be amended as follows. *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.* This was seconded by Cllr. Devine.

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael Dollard, seconded by Cllr. Pat Doran, the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th of September 2014 were then adopted.

14:05:02 Chairperson's Correspondence

Cllr. C. O'Connor read out the response received from the Minister for Health in relation to the Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, acknowledging correspondence received and advising that it was receiving attention.

14:05:03 Noting of report of Joint Committee Chairperson for the Acute Hospital Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Committees.

Cllr. McKeigue proposed and Cllr. Redmond seconded the noting of the report.

14:05:04 Presentation by Miriam Gunning, Senior HPO for Tobacco HSE DNE on HSE Tobacco Free Campus Initiative HSE TCF 2010 – 2015.

Mr. Joseph Ruane introduced Ms. Miriam Gunning, Senior HPO for Tobacco HSE DNE to the Forum. Ms. Gunning made a presentation to the Forum. The Chairperson and the members thanked Ms. Gunning for her presentation. The following issues were then raised by members:

- **Members raised concerns regarding the availability of smoking shelters on hospital campuses.**

Ms Gunning stated that there is a huge number of smoking related hospital admissions each year which cost €7,700 each. She stated that hospitals can facilitate patients who need to smoke if necessary. Decisions are made on a case by case basis. She also highlighted the Blue Line Initiative which was welcomed by members.

- **Members asked if the increase in tax would help reduce smoking:**

Ms Miriam Gunning advised that price is the greatest single measure to reduce smoking.

- **Members asked if the removal of the packet of ten cigarettes had helped to reduce smoking.**

Ms Gunning advised that the reason the ten pack was increased to a twenty pack was to keep children from buying them. Unfortunately, it did not prove to be effective.

- **Members asked if there were any plans to bring e-cigarettes into the framework.**

Ms Gunning advised that e-cigarettes were viewed the same as cigarettes. The sale, advertising and use of e-cigarettes within the healthcare setting is banned. She advised that the use of e-cigarettes will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

- **Members raised their concerns about the number of young people smoking.**

Ms Gunning advised that the HSE and the Department of Health and Education have a module focussed on reduction and prevention of smoking in schools. She noted that the culture is changing in schools. Sometimes, smoking can be seen a status symbol by young adults. The HSE continues to review new initiatives to support children and young adolescents in this regard.

- **Members queried if an outright ban on smoking should be imposed given the serious harmful impact of smoking on people's health:**

Ms Gunning stated that the 12 year plan was an ambitious but fair plan. Smoking is an addiction and people need to be supported to quit smoking. Ms Gunning thanked the members for their suggestions and general engagement in relation to implementing the Tobacco Control Framework.

Cllr O'Connor thanked Ms Gunning again for an excellent session.

14:05:05

Motions

Motion 1

This Motion was not circulated as Cllr. Duff was not present.

Motion 2

This Motion was not discussed as Cllr. Dollard had earlier left the meeting.

Motion 3

That this Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster, calls on the HSE to confirm what additional resources will be made available to Tallaght Hospital to allow for effective action in respect of difficulties identified by the recent Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA) report following the unannounced inspections at the Hospital.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. David Slevin, CEO, Tallaght Hospital. Members noted the report.

Motion 4

That this Regional Health Forum call on the Health Service Executive to remove fluoride from the water in the Kildare county area.

Cllr. Thomas Redmond

A report on this motion was prepared by Dr. Dympna Kavanagh, Assistant National Director-Oral Health, HSE. The report was discussed and it was agreed that the HSE be asked to make a presentation on this issue at a future meeting of the Forum.

Motion 7

That the HSE immediately provide Dialectical Behavioural Therapy treatment for those people suffering from Borderline Personality Disorder within the Tallaght catchment area. It is utterly unacceptable that patients in this area are paying up to €280 per month for private care when patients in Dun Laoghaire and Blackrock receive the treatment under the public health system.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan

A response to this motion was prepared by David Tully, Area Manager, ISA Dublin South Central. Members noted the report following which a discussion took place. Mr Tully agreed to investigate the matter further and respond directly to the members.

Motion 5

That the HSE provide smoking shelters for patients at all HSE hospitals. At the moment there seems to be little consistency regarding these facilities.

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill

A response was prepared by the CEO's of the Hospital Groups in Dublin Mid Leinster. The report was noted and following discussion it was agreed to amend the Motion as follows: 'That the HSE provide smoking

shelters for exempted patients at all HSE hospitals. At the moment there seems to be little consistency regarding these facilities’.

Motion 6

That the HSE provides a detailed report on the proposed redeployment of nurses out of Cherry Orchard Hospital to another area; including details of what discussions have taken place with staff and the INMO; to outline whether an analysis of patient care has been carried out vis a vis proposals to alter the current 50:50 mix of nurses to carers; to clarify that the facility is not being downgraded; and to provide a commitment that any changes to the hospital staffing will only take place following detailed consultations with all stakeholders and guarantees that patient care will not become secondary to budgetary considerations.

Cllr Paul Gogarty

A response to this motion was prepared by David Tully, Area Manager, ISA Dublin South Central. Cllr. Gogarty spoke on the motion and following discussion the report was noted.

14:05:06 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members. On request Mr Ruane provided additional information regarding Question 8. Ms Ann O’Shea provided additional information regarding Question 4.

Cllr. O’Connor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Charlie O’Connor
Chairperson
Regional Health Forum
Dublin – Mid Leinster

Date: _____