

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster meeting held on
Tuesday 19th June 2012, at the Boardroom, HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster
Offices, Block 4, Central Business Park, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

Present:

Cllr. D. O’Callaghan (Chairperson)	Cllr. W. Aird
Cllr. M. Bailey	Cllr. P. Belton
Cllr. V. Blake	Cllr. B. Brennan
Cllr. C. Byrne	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen	Cllr. A. Davitt
Cllr. M. Devine	Cllr. M. Dollard
Cllr. M. Duff	Cllr. T. Fox
Cllr. P. Hand	Cllr. G. Horkan
Cllr. C. King	Cllr. S. Langan
Cllr. B. Lawlor	Cllr. T. McKeigue
Cllr. D. Mitchell	Cllr. K. O’Brien
Cllr. G. O’Connell	Cllr. P. Ormond
Cllr. P.J. Reilly	

Apologies

Cllr. G. Brady
Cllr. F. Browne
Cllr. P. Doran

In attendance

Mr. Gerry O’Neill, Integrated Services Area Manager
Mr. David Walsh, Area Manager, HSE Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, Dublin-Mid Leinster

12:03:01 Adoption of minutes of meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin
- Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 17th April 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. C. King, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 17th April 2012 were adopted.

12:03:02 Chairperson’s Correspondence

No items for consideration by the meeting were received.

12:03:03 Noting of report of Joint Committee Chairperson for the Acute Hospital Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Committees.

Members noted the above report.

12:03:04 HSE Update: National Patient Charter

Ms. June Boulger, National Lead for Involvement in Public Healthcare Services made a presentation on the National Patient Charter. Following the presentation members raised the following issues:

- Comparison between Irish and International Standards

Ms. Boulger stated that while it is difficult to compare standards, the 90% + patient satisfaction rate recorded from users of the Irish health system is consistent with International results.

- Patient Feedback

Ms. Boulger stated that work is currently ongoing by the HSE regarding patient feedback and the systems used in other countries are being considered in order to implement the most efficient system to record patient feedback.

- Communication

Ms. Boulger stated that the HSE have recently completed a survey of families and carers of patients using emergency services requesting comments on their experiences with communicating with HSE staff regarding patients care. This information is being reviewed by the National Emergency Medicine Programme.

- Waiting times at Out-Patient Clinics

Mr. Gerry O'Neill stated that substantial work on reducing out-patient clinic waiting time is currently being carried out by the Special Delivery Unit (SDU). This work should be completed shortly and systems to reduce waiting times will be implemented.

- Waiting lists

Mr. Gerry O'Neill stated that the SDU have set the targets to be achieved and that reducing lists of patients waiting to access services is within their plan.

- Out of hours use of diagnostic equipment.

Mr. David Walsh stated that providing access to diagnostic equipment on a 24 hour basis is restricted due to lack of staff.

- Survey of services in Paediatric and Maternity Hospitals

Ms. June Boulger stated that patient satisfaction surveys have not been undertaken in paediatric and maternity hospitals. However, Ms. Bulger stated it is planned to complete a national survey of paediatric and maternity hospitals.

Any other Business

Cllr. C. King expressed appreciation regarding the decision not to close to St. Brigid's Hospital, Crooksling.

Cllr. P. Belton requested an update on Midoc Services in Longford.

Mr. David Walsh stated that a national review of out of hours services is currently being carried out, but there are no plans to change Midoc services at present.

Cllr. S. Langan expressed concerns regarding Carbury Day Care Service.

Following discussion, Cllr. Langan agreed to table a motion for the next meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster.

Cllr. P. J. Reilly expressed concerns regarding reduction of bed numbers in St. Joseph's Longford.

Mr. David Walsh stated that work is currently being undertaken at St. Joseph's Hospital, Longford in order to comply with current HIQA standards.

Cllr. P.J. Reilly welcomed the recent opening of the 100 bedded unit in St. Mary's Hospital, Mullingar and also stated that local representatives should be invited to the official opening.

12:03:05

Motions

Motion 1:

That the HSE would indicate what role (if any) it has in the context of Homelessness.

Cllr. M. Dollard

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Area Manager. Cllr. M. Dollard requested a breakdown by HSE area of the

£33M national budget allocated to homelessness. Mr. Gerry O'Neill stated that he would request Mr. Joe Ruane to provide this information to Cllr. Dollard. Following further discussion it was agreed that Social Inclusion will be placed on the agenda of a future Forum meeting. Members noted the report.

Motion 2.

That Dr. James Reilly, Minister for Health, following the consultation process with residents and all relevant groups of Abbeyleigh Hospital and Shaheen Hospital decide to keep open both Hospitals in the interests of the residents and community in surrounding areas.

Cllr. K. O'Brien

In response to the motion a copy of press release issued by the HSE in this regard was circulated to members. Following discussion, members noted that this motion would be forwarded to Dr. James Reilly, Minister for Health.

Motion 3.

That the HSE consider prioritising the provision of a Women's Refuge in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council area as a matter of some urgency as this need was identified as an action to assessing its feasibility in the Homeless Action Plan in Dublin 2007-2010 and that a full updated report be provided.

Cllr. D. O'Callaghan

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Area Manager, HSE Dublin South Central. Members noted the report.

Motion 4.

That the HSE make a clear statement on the amount the Dublin-Mid Leinster region is eligible for from the €35M earmarked to develop Community Mental Health Teams and Services as outlined in Vision for Change 2006 – indicating the number of Teams planned and the predicted dates for their full implementation.

Cllr. M. Devine

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr Jim Ryan, Lead Mental Health, HSE. Members noted the report.

12:03:06 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan
Chairperson
Regional Health Forum
Dublin – Mid Leisnter

Date: _____