

**Minutes of the seventh Annual Meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 at the Boardroom, HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster Offices, Block 4, Central Business Park, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

**Present:**

Cllr. D. O’Callaghan (Chairperson)	Cllr. P. Belton
Cllr. V. Blake	Cllr. G. Brady
Cllr. B. Brennan	Cllr. Peter Burke
Cllr. T. Cullen	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Cllr. A. Davitt	Cllr. M. Dollard
Cllr. P. Doran	Cllr. M. Duff
Cllr. T. Fox	Cllr. I. Keatley
Cllr. P. Hand	Cllr. G. Horkan
Cllr. C. King	Cllr. S. Langan
Cllr. T. McKeigue	Cllr. D. Mitchell
Cllr. K. O’Brien	Cllr. G. O’Connell
Cllr. F. O’Loughlin	Cllr. P. Ormond
Cllr. P. J. Reilly	Cllr. E. Walsh

**Apologies:**

Cllr. M. Freehill

**In attendance:**

Mr. John Cregan, Director, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster  
Mr. Gerry O’Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations, Dublin – Mid Leinster  
Mr. Gerry O’Neill, Integrated Services Area Manager,  
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, Dublin – Mid Leinster

With the agreement of the members present, agenda items 12.04.03 and 12.04.04 were first taken by the meeting.

12:04:03 Adoption of minutes of meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. M. Duff, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were adopted.

12:04:04 Chairperson’s Correspondence.

Cllr. Denis O’Callaghan advised members that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr. John Foley.

12:04:01 Election of Chairperson

In an address to members, Cllr. D. O'Callaghan, conveyed his thanks to all Forum members for their support and assistance during his term as Chairperson. Cllr. O'Callaghan also thanked HSE's management and staff, in particular the staff of the Regional Health Office, for their assistance. Cllr. O'Callaghan, stated that he looked forward to continuation of the consultation process between Forum Chairpersons and the Minister for Health regarding members input to the restructuring of the health system.

Cllr. D. O'Callaghan then invited nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum. In response, Cllr. P. Belton proposed Cllr. Peter Burke and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue. As no other candidate was nominated, Cllr. Peter Burke was deemed to be elected to the position of Chairperson and he assumed the chair. Cllr. Burke thanked Cllrs. Belton and McKeigue for nominating him and he stated that he looked forward to working with all members of the Forum and HSE staff. Cllr. Burke also stated that it was important that members place questions on agendas for meetings and bring their concerns to the attention of the HSE.

12:04:02 Election of Vice Chairperson

Vice Cllr. P. Burke, Chairperson invited nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum.

Cllr. Michael Dollard proposed Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan. As no other candidate was nominated, Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne was deemed to be elected as Vice Chairperson.

12:04:05 HSE Update: Specialist Rehabilitation Services in Ireland

Ms. Valerie Twomey, Programme Manager, National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) made a presentation on Specialist Rehabilitation Services in Ireland. Mr. Derek Greene, CEO, National Rehabilitation Hospital was also in attendance for this item. Following the presentation members raised the following issues:

- Levels of Care 1, 2 and 3

Ms. Twomey stated that the level of care is determined by the individual patient's needs. Ms. Twomey further stated that the overall plan was to bring services closer to home for patients where possible.

- Regional Rehabilitation Units

Mr. Derek Greene, stated that the NRH is currently consulting with the HSE regarding the provision of Regional Rehabilitation Units and that, depending on availability of funding, work should commence from 2013 onwards on the development of such units.

- Sites for Regional Rehabilitation Units.

Mr. Greene stated that sites for Regional Units had yet to be identified.

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations, HSE stated that significant work, at national HSE level, was being carried out in relation to rehabilitation services. Mr. O'Dwyer further stated that a report on Rehabilitation Services, including stroke programmes in the Dublin – Mid Leinster area, will be available by the end of 2012.

- Bed capacity National Rehabilitation Hospital.

Mr. Greene stated there were 109 beds in the National Rehabilitation Hospital and that the waiting time for beds varied according to demand.

- Effect of embargo

Mr. Greene stated that the embargo impacts on all services and it was an ongoing challenge for managers to work with the available staff.

Members thanked Ms. Valerie Twomey and Mr. Derek Greene for the excellent presentation.

12:04:06

Motions

**Motion 1:**

That this Forum accepts and supports the older and bolder expression that the wish to remain in their own homes be adhered to by the HSE on behalf of older persons. While acknowledging the highly valued homecare support service in achieving this situation, that the Government be advised that financial cuts in the health budget must not impinge on the existing service within this section of community care and that homecare entitlements should be clarified and put on a statutory footing.

**Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne**

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Area Manager, HSE Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow. Members noted the report.

**Motion 2.**

That the HSE would indicate what support it provides in the context of information to older persons regarding services available to them.

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Area Manager, HSE Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow. Members noted the report.

**Cllr. M. Dollard**

**Motion 3.**

That the HSE provide an update regarding cuts that are being made in some of Longford's services.

Longford's Women's Link Domestic Violence Services have received a 15% cut for 2012 retrospective to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Also St. Vincent de Paul homeless hostel had been informed they are to receive a 10% cut. Funding is allocated from the HSE Primary and Community Fund and is administrated locally by the local Community Services Manager in the Health centre Longford.

These cuts are disproportionate to cuts experienced by similar services in other regions; most services have received cuts of 5% and other hostel cuts of minimal cuts of 1 to 2%.

**Cllr. P.J. Reilly Cllr. P. Belton Cllr. G. Brady**

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. Joe Ruane, Area Manager, HSE Midlands. Members noted the report.

12:04:07

Questions.

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

In response to Cllr. Dollards request for further information in relation to the purchase of a house at Coralstown, Mullingar for the Disability Services, Mr. O'Dwyer informed Cllr. Dollard that he would request a report by Mr. Curran, Head of Estates on the matters raised by Cllr. Dollard and the report would be made available to Cllr. Dollard.

Signed; \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cllr. Peter Burke  
Chairperson  
Regional Health Forum  
Dublin – Mid Leinster