

Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 at the Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Present:

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| 1. Cllr. A. Duncan | 14. Cllr. C. King |
| 2. Cllr. P. Brady | 15. Cllr. A. Larkin |
| 3. Cllr. V. Blake | 16. Cllr. A. Feeney |
| 4. Cllr V. Casserly | 17. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 5. Cllr. T. Cullen | 18. Cllr. C. O'Connor |
| 6. Cllr. M. Dalton | 19. Cllr. D. O'Donovan |
| 7. Cllr. C.Devlin | 20. Cllr. G. O'Neill |
| 8. Cllr. M. Dollard | 21. Cllr. P. O'Toole |
| 9. Cllr. P. Doran | 22. Cllr. T. Redmond |
| 10. Cllr L.Dunne | 23. Cllr. P.J. Reilly |
| 11. Cllr. P. Fleming | 24. Cllr. O. Smyth |
| 12. Cllr. P. Hand | 25. Cllr. J.King |
| 13. Cllr. B. Killeavy | |

Apologies:

Cllr. Greg Kelly

Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick

Cllr. Vincent Jackson

Cllr. Mick Duff

Cllr. Mary Freehill

Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group

Ms. Eilish Hardiman, CEO, The National Children's Hospital Group

In attendance:

Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 8, Longford/Westmeath/Laois/Offaly/Louth/Meath

Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 7, South Dublin/Kildare/West Wicklow, Health Service Executive

Mr. Joseph Ruane, Interim Lead, HSE Regional Health Forum DML

Ms Martina Queally, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, 6

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. Nicola Gregg, Communications, CHO7

Ms. Carol McCann, Business Manager, CHO8

Ms. Sharon Whelehan, Regional Health Forum Coordinator

17:01:01 Adoption of minutes of the meetings of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on 15th November 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr. Brady and seconded by Cllr. O Smyth the Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster held on Tuesday 15th November 2016 were adopted.

17:01:02 Chairpersons Correspondence

Cllr. Reilly acknowledged correspondence received from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council regarding the nomination of Cllr. Carrie Smyth to replace Cllr. Shane O'Brien on the Regional Health Forum. Cllr. Reilly thanked Cllr. O'Brien for his service and he also welcomed Cllr. Smyth to the meeting.

Cllr. Reilly acknowledged correspondence received from Wicklow County Council regarding the nomination of Cllr. Vincent Blake to replace Cllr. Irene Winters on the Regional Health Forum. Cllr. Reilly thanked Cllr. Winters for her service and he also welcomed Cllr. Blake to the meeting.

17:01:03 HSE Update –Safe Guarding Awareness- Mr. Frank McHugh

Cllr. PJ Reilly (Chairperson) introduced Mr. Frank McHugh, Principal Social Worker, Adult Safeguarding and Protection Team for CHO 8

Mr. McHugh gave a detailed presentation to the Forum explaining that HSE Safeguarding and Protection Teams are in place all over the country, to take reports of Elder Abuse and provide help. The Chairperson and the members thanked Mr McHugh for his presentation.

The Safeguarding Policy main objective is that all adults have the right to be safe and to live a life free from abuse. All persons are entitled to this right, regardless of their circumstances. It is the responsibility of all service providers, statutory and non-statutory, to ensure that, service users are treated with respect and dignity, have their welfare promoted and receive support in an environment in which every effort is made to promote welfare and to prevent abuse.

How and when was the service established?

Safeguarding awareness is relatively new, beginning in the summer of 2015, to cover all people within the HSE service setting and older people over 65.

Helpline

Mr McHugh provided the forum members with contact details for the HSE Safeguarding Helpline to pass on to any members of the public who may need assistance (listed below).

Tel: 061 461 165 (9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday) or the HSE Information Line on 1850 24 1850 (8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Saturday).

Email: safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie

Issues incurred

Cllrs sought advice regarding fictitious accusations from jealous family members. It was explained that these cases are generally very easy to identify but it is often the case that family members aren't equipped with the right knowledge and skills to look after older family members and so this sometimes leads to neglect.

Foreign People living in Ireland

Mr. McHugh and David Walsh both agreed that foreign nationalities are often isolated and so are sometimes the most vulnerable individuals within our society. Right across the health system, there is issues to be dealt with multicultural systems.

What is normal procedure- how quickly are the accused notified?

This is an issue for HR- but generally the complaint is dealt with within 3 working days.

Training

As a fetac level 5 is currently the level of training given to those working as care givers, cllrs sought reassurance that safeguarding training be given as part of these courses down the line. David Walsh advised that SG training will be provided by the HSE for HSE staff- he will further investigate if this is the case if the HSE is in contract with private agencies to ensure standard operational procedures across the board.

17:01:04 Motions

Motion 1

That the HSE DML region would indicate the magnitude of funding it will be providing in 2017 for homelessness in counties Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly?

Cllr. Michael Dollard

Response:

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

Motion 2

That this Health Forum holds all meetings in public- both Naas and Tullamore should be in Public as absolutely nothing controversial or person's names have been used in the time of this latest forum.

Cllr. Thomas Redmond

Response:

A response to this motion was prepared by Dymphna Bracken, Head of Communications in CHO8 stating that as per standing orders, meetings of committee are held in camera. Members expressed dissatisfaction with this and Mr Joesph Ruane advised that members could put forward a motion to amend standing orders as appropriate.

Motion 3

We call on the HSE to make the drug Orkambi freely available to Cystic Fibrosis sufferers.

Cllr. Pat O'Toole
Cllr. Pauric Brady

A response to this motion was prepared by HSE National Press Office advising that the HSE is currently in discussion with vertex. A decision will be made in the coming months. Members noted the report.

Motion 4

I call on the H.S.E. for a full report regards the overcrowding in the A & E. at Tullamore Regional Hospital in the period after Christmas. The I.M.N.O. and the Hospital Management gave different figures on the numbers at the A. & E.

What are the chances of some independent assessment being carried out in the future to establish the true numbers?

Cllr. Tommy McKeigue

A response to this motion was prepared by Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. It was discussed amongst the forum members and they noted the report.

Motion 5

What is the HSE policy on the use of cannabis based drugs for neurological seizures that occur in Dravet Syndrome? Note (It is legal in 23 States in America for the treatment of Dravet Syndrome)

Cllr. Padraig Fleming

Response:

A response to this motion was prepared by Ms Dymphna Bracken, Head of Communications in CHO8. The response was followed by a link to the full Department of Health statement. Members noted the report.

Motion 6

We wish to put a motion forward to the HSE Forum meeting that the Respite Beds in the Longford/Westmeath area be reviewed as plans are been made to reduce beds in this area.

Cllr. P J Reilly

Response:

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

Motion 7

That this Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid-Leinster supports the call by Tallaght Hospital Management for an increase of bed capacity at Tallaght Hospital, noting the recent statement from the Hospital, that a new 72 bed 5 storey unit on campus is required and appreciating that Tallaght Hospital has the biggest Emergency Department in the country and in reporting to the motion would the HSE confirm that the matter will receive priority attention and be the subject of discussions with Simon Harris TD, the Minister for Health and his senior officials and will the HSE make a statement in the matter.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

Response:

A response to this motion was prepared by Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. It was discussed amongst the forum members and they noted the report.

Motion 8

That the Forum invites Dr. Ronan Collins – Clinical Lead for age-related healthcare at Tallaght Hospital – to give his presentation to the Members outlining the action needed to be taken to deal with the massive increase in the numbers of elderly patients admitted to Hospitals through A&E Departments, placing enormous pressure on hospital resources.

Tallaght alone is set to see its over-75 population jump by 6,051 people by 2031, with Clondalkin, in the same time-frame, expected to experience a growth of 2,257 in its older population.

Hospital research has also shown that emergency department attendances by patients over 65 years increased by 539 (8.3 per cent) between 2010 and 2013.

The number of people over the age of 75 presenting to Tallaght Hospital's A&E department also jumped from 3,400 to 4,200 between 2011 and 2014.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan

Response:

A response to this motion was prepared by Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. It was agreed that Dr. Ronan Collins will attend the June Forum meeting to give a presentation.

Motion 9

To call on the HSE to liaise and work more effectively with South Dublin County Council in relation to DPG's and the issue of OT reports in the Lucan, Clondalkin area.

To date SDCC have been unable to get any traction from the HSE on this and even recently in view of the investment of €1M into this area in 2017, SDCC offered to pay 50% of cost of OT reports if HSE pay the other 50%. SDCC have had no response to this. This is an expense which requires a joint and shared input.

The Council's function towards its Tenants is to provide, to the best of its ability - suitable accommodation. The HSE's function is to decide how best a Patient can be assisted, in Hospital or similar, by recommendation of transfer to Specially Adapted Accommodation or in Standard Accommodation with aids. While a tenant might source Medical Reports for the purpose of substantiating their Application for Standard Disability Adaptions / Disability Grant for Adaptions to their home, substantiated Application doesn't guarantee success - either that his/her Application will qualify - nor that it can be accommodated.

If the Council is paying for OT reports, then needless Applications might be made. If the HSE is providing these reports, at least they, having professional knowledge, are in a position to stall those which are needless and highlight those which are urgent and prioritise. Once the HSE has made the decision on a Patient's needs the Council will attempt to accommodate under the scheme. SDCC are trying to meet halfway on this.

Again I reiterate that there is a substantial investment for works on DPGs in 2017.

Rather than SDCC providing OT reports for all identified 130 applicants with no OT reports, a compromise between the local authority and the HSE could be for SDCC to provide the HSE with a list of applications that they have ascertained qualify for works, have no rent arrears, family composition etc. checked and SDCC request the HSE to carry out these OT reports, with a commitment that SDCC will process their application.

Cllr Vicki Casserly

Response:

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation
7. Members noted the report.

17.01.05 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

AOB

Cllr Fleming referred to question 10 regarding the HSE's plans to implement text messaging system for Out of Hours GP Services for the Hard of Hearing- Mr. Joseph Ruane will follow up before 8th March.

Cllr King thanked Mr. Joseph Ruane for the recent appointment of new GP in Borris in Ossory.

Cllrs sought an update on Portlaoise Hospital. Dr. Susan O'Reilly advised that positive things were happening at the Midlands Regional Hospital in Portlaoise. The new Medical Assessment Unit & Day Services Building was successfully completed, but staffing issues will need to be addressed. This new unit will provide cover for people with less serious and minor injuries.