

Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 21st February 2018 at the Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Present:

1. Cllr. W. Aird
2. Cllr. V. Blake
3. Cllr. P. Brady
4. Cllr. T. Cullen
5. Cllr. V. Casserly (Chair)
6. Cllr. M. Dalton
7. Cllr. C. Devlin
8. Cllr. M. Dollard
9. Cllr. K. Daly
10. Cllr. M. Duff
11. Cllr. A. Duncan
12. Cllr E. Fitzpatrick
13. Cllr. P. Fleming
14. Cllr. P. Hand
15. Cllr. V. Jackson
16. Cllr. F. Keena
17. Cllr. G. Kelly
18. Cllr. C. King
19. Cllr. J. King
20. Cllr. A. Larkin
21. Cllr. R. McHugh
22. Cllr. C. O'Connor
23. Cllr. D. O'Donovan
24. Cllr. G. O'Neill
25. Cllr. P. O'Toole
26. Cllr. P.J. Reilly
27. Cllr C. Smyth
28. Cllr. O. Smyth
29. Cllr. A. White
30. Cllr. Brendan Weld
31. Cllr. M. Ward

Apologies:

Ms. Eilish Hardiman, CEO, The National Children's Hospital Group
Ms Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO 6
Ms Mary Day, CEO, Ireland East Hospital Group
Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Tommy McKeigue
Cllr. Anne Feeney

In attendance:

Mr. Joseph Ruane, Interim Lead, HSE Regional Health Forum DML
Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, CHO, South Dublin/Kildare/West Wicklow, Health Service Executive
Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, CHO, Midlands/Louth/Meath
Ms. Ann Marie Donohue, CHO 6
Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, Dublin Midland Hospital Group
Ms. Paula Lawler, Chief Operations Officer, IEHG
Ms Arlene Crean, Communications Manager, Dublin Midland Hospital Group
Ms. Sharon Whelehan, Regional Health Forum Office
Ms. Ann Marie Hoey, PCRS
Ms. Kate Haliwell, PCRS

18:01:01 Chairperson's Correspondence

Correspondence was received from the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris in relation to the Forum's representations regarding the Long Term Illness Scheme. Cllr. Casserly read out the response and agreed to circulate it to members.

Cllr. Vicki Casserly advised members that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr. Louise Dunne. Cllr. Casserly thanked Cllr. Louise Dunne for her contribution to the forum and welcomed Cllr. Mark Ward.

Cllr. O'Connor congratulated Mr Trevor O'Callaghan on his new position as the CEO of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. Cllr Fleming seconded this.

18:01:02 Adoption of minutes of the meetings of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on 21st November 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Casserly and seconded by Cllr. Reilly the minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster held on Tuesday 21st November 2017 were adopted.

18:01:02 HSE Update – PCRS - Ms. Anne Marie Hoey and Ms. Kate Haliwell

Cllr. Vicki Casserly (Chairperson) introduced Ms. Anne Marie Hoey and Ms. Kate Haliwell from the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) to the forum members. They gave a detailed presentation explaining the medical card application process, the new Medical Card Online system, and outlined discretionary assessment.

Members thanked both for a very informative presentation.

Members asked questions following the presentation and the below issues were raised.

Online Application Process

Members had positive and negative feedback regarding the online system. As broadband is not in all areas of Ireland and some people are not equipped to apply online, it segregates people.

Members queried the cost of investing in the new system, and how it would save HSE finances. Ms Hoey advised members that savings will be tracked as time progresses, but further advised them that there would be definite savings as PCRS receives 10 to 15 thousand applications a week via post so the online system would cut down on staff logging these applications.

Income Threshold

Members queried the income threshold and advised Ms Hoey and Ms Haliwell that the figure was unclear on the application form and thus put people off applying for a medical/gp visit card.

Assessment times

Cllrs queried the length of time that you may hold a medical card before it needs to be renewed. Ms Hoey advised the following:

Average -3 years

Over 70- 4 years

Certain Circumstances- max 6 years

At any time, PCRS may carry out random checks for auditing purposes.

Emergency Cases

Ms Hoey assured members in the case of emergencies, the Children's Hospital can apply for a medical card on behalf of the parent/child.

Centralisation

The centralisation to PCRS away from the local health boards have caused many issues for cllrs applying on behalf of local individuals. Ms Hoey assured members that PCRS has a dedicated email and telephone contact number especially for Regional Health Forum Members so they can make enquiries on behalf of individuals regarding applications.

Phone: 1890 252 929

Email: www.regionalhealthforum.pcrs@hse.ie

18:01:03 Motions

Motion 1

Can the CEO please look into the possible replacement of the Old Health Centre on Curley Road Drimmagh Dublin 12 with a modern facility to incorporate services needed for both an older community and children as the area regenerates all too often the people of Drimmagh feel left out as other area receive these new facilities whilst they are bypassed, can the CEO please give me an update on the possible re-development / services offered at the existing Health Centre.

Cllr. Vincent Jackson

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr David Walsh, Chief Officer for Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow CHO. Members noted the report.

Motion 2

That the HSE would actively pursue the concept of social housing provision on the site it currently owns at Canal Ave, Mullingar?

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr Brian O'Connell, Estates Manager for the Midlands. Members noted the report.

Motion 3

We call on the HSE to seek funding to locate a Day Care Centre for people in Longford who suffer with Dementia. There are over 1,000 people in Longford/Westmeath who suffer from this illness.

**Cllr P.J. Reilly
Cllr Padraig Brady
Cllr Pat O'Toole**

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr Pat Bennet, Chief Officer for Midlands, Louth, Meath CHO. Members noted the report.

Motion 4

That this Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster, welcomes the progress being made in respect of the development of Primary Care facilities and services in the Tallaght area and will the report give details in that regard and make a statement.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr David Walsh, Chief Officer for Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow CHO. Members noted the report.

18:01:04 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Cllr. Casserly thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.