

**Minutes of Special Meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin- Mid Leinster Meeting held On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at the Boardroom, HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster Offices, Block 4, Central Business Park, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

**Present:**

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Peter Burke (Chairperson) | Cllr. Gerry Horkan     |
| Cllr. William Aird              | Cllr. Pat Hand         |
| Cllr. Paddy Belton              | Cllr. Mathew McDonagh  |
| Cllr. Marie Devine              | Cllr. Seamus Langan    |
| Cllr. Tom Cullen                | Cllr. Tommy McKeigue   |
| Cllr. Aidan Davitt              | Cllr. Gus O'Connell    |
| Cllr. Eamon Tuffy               | Cllr. Peter Ormond     |
| Cllr. Tony Fox                  | Cllr. P.J. Reilly      |
| Cllr. Michael Dollard           | Cllr. Derek Mitchell   |
| Cllr. Pat Doran                 | Cllr. Gerry Brady      |
| Cllr. Mick Duff                 | Cllr. Francis Browne   |
| Cllr. Danny Owens               | Cllr. Kathleen O'Brien |
| Cllr. Vincent Blake             |                        |

**Apologies**

Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne  
Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan  
Cllr. Vincent Jackson  
Cllr. Criona Ni Dhalaigh

**In attendance:**

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations, Dublin – Mid Leinster.  
Ms. Mary Gorry, Assistant National Director of Human Resources.  
Mr. Declan Lyons, Assistant National Director of Finance.  
Mr. Gerry O' Neill, Area Manager, Dublin South Central.  
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, Dublin – Mid Leinster.  
Mr. Kevin Cleary, Head of Business Unit DML

**13:02:01** Cllr. Peter Burke, Chairperson on behalf of the members of the Forum extended sympathy to the family and colleagues of the late Mr. Declan McCormack, Finance Manager, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore who died suddenly. Members, as a mark of respect, observed a minutes silence.

The Chairperson expressed his concerns regarding the motorised transport grant and mobility allowance. He proposed that the Forum would write to the Minister for Health requesting that all monies

relating to the motorised transport grant and mobility allowance are ring-fenced to meet the needs of the persons who have been in receipt of these payments. Cllr. Davitt seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Cullen expressed his concerns regarding the completion date of the review. It was agreed that the Forum would also request that the Minister for Health set an early date for the completion of the review being chaired by Ms Sylva Langford.

**13:02:02** Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, welcomed all present and acknowledged the hard work of staff in 2012, it was a significant challenge to deliver services with reduced budgets in 2012. He also acknowledged staff contribution in relation to the preparation of the 2013 Service Plan. Mr. O'Dwyer thanked the Chairperson and the Forum for their condolences in relation to the sudden death of the late Mr. Declan McCormack.

**13:02:03** HSE Update: Briefing on Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Service Plan 2013

The Regional Director of Operations and the Area Mangers presented reports on various aspects of the Service Plan 2013 as follows:

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations – Overview and Acute Hospital Services

Mr. Declan Lyons, Assistant National Director of Finance – Finance

Ms. Mary Gorry, Assistant National Director of HR – Human Resources

Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Area Manager, Dublin South Central – Primary Care/Mental Health/Disability and Older Persons Services.

Following the above presentations members raised the following issues:

- Update on New Structures

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer stated that there was no update on the new structures at present however he advised that a public launch was expected shortly. Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer agreed to keep the Chairperson and the Forum informed of any developments in this regard.

- De-designation of Beds in Public Hospitals

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer advised that the proposed legislation in relation to de-designation of beds in public hospitals is listed for discussion in the Dáil at Easter. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to ensure that private patients using public beds in public hospitals will be charged. It is anticipated that this will generate additional income for hospitals.

- Frontline Staff

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer stated that the Incentivised Schemes to be introduced in 2013 will be targeted. He also advised that the HSE will make every effort to maintain frontline staff.

- Croke Park Savings

Ms. Mary Gorry advised that savings of €350m were to be achieved nationally from the Croke Park Agreement.

- Drug Cost Savings

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer stated that targeted savings of €120m were to be achieved nationally in relation to pharmaceutical costs.

- Accommodation Savings

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer stated that all accommodation is currently being reviewed by HSE Estates to maximise the use of existing resources and reduce costs.

- Mental Health Services (Eating Disorders)

Mr. Gerry O'Neill advised that the provision of inpatients beds for patients with eating disorders was a priority of the National Clinical Care Programmes. He advised that an additional 3-5 beds are planned for DML however the location has not been agreed.

- Mental Health Services (St. Loman's, Palmerstown)

Mr. Gerry O'Neill briefed the Forum regarding the CAMHS Unit. In the next 18 months it is planned that there will be a 22 bedded Inpatient Unit operational in Cherry Orchard.

- Financial Challenges in 2013

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer stated the he will work closely with the Assistant National Director Finance and the hospitals to ensure that appropriate plans are in place to manage the budgetary position in 2013.

The Chairperson Mr Peter Burke thanked Mr Gerry O'Dwyer and his colleagues for their presentations and requested that the Forum be kept informed in relation to the new structures. Mr O' Dwyer agreed to keep the Chairperson and the Forum informed in this regard.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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