

**Minutes of the 12th Annual Meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster
held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at the Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

Present:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cllr. P. Brady | 16. Cllr. G. Kelly |
| 2. Cllr. T. Cullen | 17. Cllr. J. King |
| 3. Cllr. M. Dalton | 18. Cllr. C. King |
| 4. Cllr. M. Dollard | 19. Cllr. A. Larkin |
| 5. Cllr. P. Doran | 20. Cllr. R. McHugh |
| 6. Cllr. M. Duff | 21. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 7. Cllr. A. Duncan | 22. Cllr. C. O'Connor |
| 8. Cllr. C. Devlin | 23. Cllr. D O'Donovan |
| 9. Cllr. Louise Dunne | 24. Cllr. G. O'Neill |
| 10. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick | 25. Cllr. P. O'Toole |
| 11. Cllr. P. Fleming | 26. Cllr. P.J. Reilly |
| 12. Cllr. P. Gogarty | 27. Cllr. T. Redmond |
| 13. Cllr. P. Hand | 28. Cllr. O. Smyth |
| 14. Cllr. V. Jackson | 29. Cllr. B. Weld |
| 15. Cllr. F. Keena | 30. Cllr. Alex White |

Apologies

Cllr. Vicki Casserly

Ms. Frances McNamara, General Manager, Children's Hospital Group

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

Ms. Mary Day, CEO, Ireland East Hospital Group

Ms. Paula Lawler, Deputy CEO, Ireland East Hospital Group

In attendance

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

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

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

Ms. Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO Area 6, Dublin South East / Wicklow

Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, Dublin Midland Hospital Group

Ms. Arlene Crean Communications Advisor, Dublin Midland Hospital Group

Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, CHO8

Ms. Sharon Whelehan, Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster

17:04:01 Election of Chairperson

Cllr. P.J. Reilly invited nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum. In response, Cllr. McKeigue proposed Cllr. Vicki Casserly and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Duff and Cllr.Redmond. As only one member was nominated for the role of Chairperson, Cllr. Casserly was deemed to be elected to the position of Chairperson.

Cllr. Casserly was absent from the AGM and had previously sent her apologies.

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM, DUBLIN – MID LEINSTER

Venue: Boardroom, HSE, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Date: Tuesday 4th July 2017

| | Candidate | Proposed By | Seconded By |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Cllr. V. Casserly | Cllr. McKeigue | Cllr. Duff Cllr. Redmond |

17:04:02 Election of Vice Chairperson

Cllr. P.J. Reilly invited nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Cllr. O'Connor proposed Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Fleming. Following the proposal, Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick was deemed to be elected to the position of Vice Chairperson. Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked Cllrs. for nominating him and chaired the meeting in Cllr. Casserly absence.

| | Candidate | Proposed By | Seconded By |
|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick | Cllr. O'Connor | Cllr. Fleming |

17:04:03 Adoption of minutes of the meetings of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on 16th May 2017.

On proposal of Cllr. King seconded by Cllr. Keena the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 16th May were adopted.

17:04:04 Chairperson's Correspondence

Cllr. Fitzpatrick welcomed Cllr. Alex White to his first Regional Health Forum meeting.

17:04:05 Noting of report of Joint Committee Chairperson for the Acute Hospital Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Committees

The report was noted by members.

17:04:06 HSE Update – Social Inclusion and Addiction

Cllr. Fitzpatrick welcomed Dr. Eamon Kenna, the National Clinical Lead for HSE Addiction Services and Mr. Joseph Doyle, the National Planning Specialist for Social Inclusion to the Dublin Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum to present on Social Inclusion and Addiction giving the members a great insight to the issues facing us due to drug and alcohol problems in DML. Following the presentation members raised the following issues:

Creating Awareness from a young age

Members expressed their concerns that with drug use on the increase from a young age, what plans were in place nationally to target schools and educate children on the dangers of these drugs. Dr Keenan assured members that the curriculum needs to be updated by Health and Wellbeing. The junior cycle (SPHE) has been updated and the senior cycle will be updated in the coming year. The campaign is ongoing.

Members also suggested that parents should be educated on the new drugs available.

Students and Drug Use

According to the National Student Survey statistics, 80% of college students had tried drugs with both Tallaght and St James Hospitals being inundated with drug related illnesses during RAG (raise and give) week. This is a very serious issue as a “Drugs Kill” message does not work.

Dr Keenan assured members that they were taking a very practical approach to curb any devastating effects. Through the Student’s Union of Ireland- students are given pragmatic useful information when it comes to taking drugs.

- Do not take any type of legal or illegal drugs.
- If you decide to experiment with the above, ensure you are with someone sober.
- If adverse affects are experienced- call emergency services immediately- do not ignore the situation

Poly Drug Use

Poly drug use is very much the norm with people being addicted to a wide range of drugs. Poly drug use and alcohol contributes greatly to homelessness, self harm and suicides.

Drugs Task Force

Funding in the DATF areas have seen dramatic cuts of up to €100,000 during the recession years leaving them unable to deliver vital services. Tallaght has seen the devastating effects of drug related suicides with 7 female suicides in a concentrated area of Tallaght.

David Walsh advised that the HSE Suicide Officers and County Councils need to come together to tackle this issue as it was worrying that none of the 7 deceased were on the Mental Health services radar.

Dr Keenan is on the Connecting for Life board so this is very close to him and they intend to roll out STORM across all CHO areas.

STORM provides skills based training in suicide prevention, postvention and self-harm for mental health service staff. The training focuses on skills needed to help a person at risk of suicide or self-harm. The two day training course is delivered by trained staff from the Mental Health Service.

When asked about Drug Testing kits, he stressed that they would lack quality and there was no way of identifying other lethal substances in the drugs.

Prescription Drugs

When asked about prescription drugs such as Lyrica, Dr Keenan described it as a non addictive painkiller/anti anxiety medication. It was used widely around the country but the long term effects of the drug were not measured but there was a lot of information available online.

17:04:07 Motions

Motion 1

That this Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid Leinster welcomes the commencement of the building programme on the new Community Nursing Home Facility in Tymon North, Tallaght and seeks an update in respect of the matter including the schedule now being followed and will the report also detail contacts with the local community covering any concerns including those relating to security and related matters and can the Forum have a full statement.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Duff and was welcomed by all as a positive move for the Tallaght area. The response was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 7. Members noted the response.

Motion 2

That the epidemic of drug use in South Kildare is looked at seriously and a meeting be called by the HSE, and agencies offering help and housing to those suffering this plight. I would ask that this happen ASAP.

Cllr Thomas Redmond

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Dalton, stating that Athy has major issues with drugs and is in need of a treatment centre. Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, CHO7 advised that they have been seeking funding for the same for the last 2 years. He suggested that a public meeting be set up and LCDC, The HSE, The Drugs Task Force come together with public representatives to put a plan in place to tackle the issue.

Motion 3

That the HSE DML region would indicate if there any plans/proposals to improve the uptake of immunisation rates in the region?

Cllr. Michael Dollard

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Duncan. A report on the motion was prepared by Dr Brenda Corcoran, Consultant in Public Health Medicine in the National Immunisation Office. Members noted the response.

17:04:08 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Question 5- Awaiting response

Question 6- Missing figures for Athy & Castledermot- David Walsh to follow up

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick
Vice Chairperson
Regional Health Forum
Dublin – Mid Leinster