Regional Health Forum - Dublin Mid Leinster

Fóram Réigiúnach Sláinte - Baile Átha Cliath – Lar Laighean

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th february, 2019 at 2:30pm

in the Boardroom, HSE, Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

**Members Present**

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| Cllr. Frankie Keena | Cllr. Padraig Fleming | Cllr. Charlie O’Connor |
| Cllr. Paraic Brady | Cllr. Mary Freehill | Cllr. Deirdre O’Donovan |
| Cllr. Tom Cullen | Cllr. Paul Gogarty | Cllr. Gerry O’Neill |
| Cllr. Michael Dollard | Cllr. Frankie Keena | Cllr. Andrew Duncan |
| Cllr. Mick Duff  Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick (Chair)  Cllr. John King  Cllr. Ossian Smyth  Cllr. Vincent Jackson | Cllr. Pat Hand  Cllr. Greg Kelly  Cllr. Cathal King  Cllr. Tommy McKeigue | Cllr. P.J Reilly  Cllr. Carrie Smyth  Cllr. Alex White |

**Apologies**

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| Trevor O’Callaghan,  CEO, Dublin Midland Hospital Group  Eilish Hardiman,  CEO, Children’s Hospital Group  Martina Queally,  Chief Officer, CHO6  Paula Lawler,  Ireland East Hospital Group | Cllr. Anthony Larkin  Cllr. William Aird  Cllr. Ray McHugh |  |

**Not in Attendance**

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| Cllr. Vincent Blake | Cllr. Andrew Duncan | Cllr. Tom Murphy |
| Cllr. Vicki Casserly | Cllr. Louise Dunne | Cllr. Thomas Redmond |
| Cllr. Brendan Weld  Cllr. Daithi de Roiste  Cllr. Pat Doran  Cllr. Ray McHugh | Cllr. Brendan Killeavy  Cllr. John King  Cllr. Pat O’Toole  Cllr. Anne Feeney | Cllr. Paul Ward  Cllr. Cormac Devlin  Cllr. Mark Ward  Cllr. Kevin Daly |
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**Officials Present**

Mr Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, CHO, Midlands Louth Meath

Mr Joseph Ruane, Head of Primary Care, Midlands Louth Meath

Ms. Ann O’Shea, Chief Officer, CHO7

Ms Siobhan Fitzpatrick, CHO6

Orlagh Claffey, Dublin Midland Hospital Group

Mr Ciarán Brennan, Communications Manager, Midlands Louth Meath

Ms. Anne Marie Hoey, PCRS

Ms. Kate Halliwell, PCRS

1. **Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 19th November, 2019**

Minutes of the Regional Health Forum’s meeting held in Tullamore on 19th November, 2019 were adopted.

1. **Health Service Executive Updates**

**HSE Service Executive Updates were circulated and noted by Members which included:**

* HSE publishes National Service Plan 2019
* Introduction to Abortion Services in Ireland – My options: new unplanned pregnancy support service
* Double your chances of quitting smoking for good this year with support from the HSE’s QUIT service
* HSE provides Flu update
* HSE warns of increase meningococcal disease
* HSE ODTI records another strong year for Organ Donation and Transplant Surgery in Ireland
* HSE and Tusla launch new ‘Hidden Harm’ initiative to support children whose parents misuse alcohol and other drugs
* Launch of HSE National Intercultural Health Strategy 2018-2023
* Update on Cervical Check tests
* HSE and USI ask students to think about drug safety measures as part of a new campaign called #SaferStudentsNights

1. **Presentation on the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement/National Medical Card Unit.**

Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick (Chairperson) introduced Ms Anne Marie Hoey, Assistant National Director Primary Care Schemes and Eligibility and Ms. Kate Halliwell, Head of Operations, National Medical Card Unit to Forum members. Ms Anne Marie Hoey gave a detailed presentation on PCRS/MMCU background; the medical card process (15 day turnaround applications fully completed); the National Medical Card Online system and Discretionary Assessment. Ms Kate Halliwell provided information on the most recent customer survey and new developments 2018 and 2019 including contact details.

Developments for 2019 included a reduction in the drugs payment scheme threshold form €134 per month from 1.4.2019. Prescription charges for over 70’s and their dependants reduced to €1.50 per month up to a max of €15.00 per month from 1.4.2019 and GP Visit Card threshold increase on 1.4.2019.

A discussion took place after the presentation whereby a number of members queried the survey and the operation of the system. Ms. Anne Marie Hoey explained how the survey was conducted, noting that each year 470,000 applications are assessed and that the people chosen for the survey are randomly selected. Community services available to the over 70s with the GP card was queried, it was agreed that members should write to the Minister for more information with the assistance of Ann O’Shea. Some members highlighted individual cases in their areas, Ms. Hoey agreed to discuss individual cases separately with Councillors. Ms. Hoey and Ms. Halliwell were thanked for their presentation.

1. **Motions**

That the HSE reports on the number and percentage of accident and emergency cases at each hospital with an A&E unit within its region that involved alcohol (and drug) consumption in the most recent available 12 month period and investigates through requests to central government if necessary the possibility of:

a) segregated waiting rooms to enable sober patients, often elderly people and others left sitting for hours to be able to wait in peace and sometimes in pain without being disturbed by people pestering, abusing and vomiting on them;

b) penalties for those not clearly diagnosed with mental health issues, or alcoholism for taking up and often wasting the extremely busy time of hardworking frontline staff, by their selfishness and lack of consideration, including increased fees, fines, deductions from welfare or income tax and anything else that may help modify behaviour; alongside alerts to GPs and co-ordinated treatment plans for repeat offenders who may have real issues as yet undiagnosed; and if a statement can be made on the matter.

*Cllr Paul Gogarty*

The motion was noted and passed.

That the Manager presents a report on the possible use of St. Brigid’s Nursing Home, Crooksling as a hospice facility to help relieve the pressure caused by the lack of hospice care beds nationally, but also within the DML area.

*Cllr Deirdre O’Donovan*

*Cllr. Gerry O’Neill*

This motion was discussed and passed.

Recognising that Rathmines has a high elderly population and  which will increase considerably when the “step down” accommodation is built on the Gulistan Site next to the proposed Primary Care Centre.  Concerned that older people in  Rathmines are deprived of day centre services,  recognising that the best location for this service would be in the Primary Care Centre.

It is agreed that the HSE and DCC  prepare a partnership brief for a multi-purpose functional space of around 120 sq  mt with Fire Safety and Disability access cert  that would serve as a Day Centre and community meeting space/Lecture hall at night and weekends, similar to Fr Kitt Court in Crumlin.   It is agreed that both the HSE and DCC would jointly fund the cost of construction and have common use of the space.

*Cllr. Mary Freehill*

This motion was noted and passed. Ann O’Shea agreed to discuss further with Cllr. Freehill.

In view of the reported substantial increase in Crack Cocaine in the Tallaght area and acknowledging the work of three Tallaght Projects, JADD, New Hope and CARP, who have operated a pilot Crack Cocaine response programme, over the past six months, targeting, women, families and young men in residential treatment, through once off funding from Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, that this Regional Health Forum calls on the HSE to provide funding, through the Addiction Services Budget,  to allow these Projects to continue with this important work.”

*Cllr Mick Duff & Cllr Charlie O’Connor*

This motion was noted and passed.

That this Regional Health Forum calls on the HSE to advise their property management at St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown,  to co-operate with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in the construction of a Greenway.   
    
The council wishes to construct a greenway from the Brides Glen Luas stop in Cherrywood to Shankill via St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown. This development will greatly improve the possibilities for walking and cycling for staff and patients and visitors to the hospital. This would help meet the aims of the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland, "Get Ireland Active!". It will improve public health and the amenity value of the hospital itself.   
    
For the project to proceed, co-operation is sought from the property management authorities in agreeing a suitable route for a pathway across the hospital's grounds."

*Cllr Ossian Smyth*

It was noted that this motion was in the name of Cllr. Ossian Smyth and Cllr. Carrie Smyth originally. This motion was discussed and passed.

1. **Questions**

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

1. **Chairperson’s Correspondence**

A response letter from Simon Harris T.D., Minister for Health regarding Miracle Mineral was circulated.

It was agreed that there would a presentation from Estates at the next joint meeting of the Acute Hospital Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Joint Committee in Naas, on Tuesday, 19th March 2019.

1. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum – Mid Leinster will take place on Tuesday, 16th April, 2019.

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

**Chairperson**