**Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday, 20th November 2018 at Boardroom, HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co Offaly.**

**Present:**

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| 1. Cllr. W. Aird 2. Cllr. P. Brady 3. Cllr. T. Cullen 4. Cllr. M. Dollard 5. Cllr. K. Daly 6. Cllr. C. Devlin 7. Cllr. M. Duff 8. Cllr. P. Doran 9. Cllr E. Fitzpatrick(Chair) 10. Cllr. P. Fleming 11. Cllr. M. Freehill 12. Cllr. P.Gogarty 13. Cllr. F. Keena 14. Cllr. P. Hand | 1. Cllr. G. Kelly 2. Cllr. C. King 3. Cllr. A. Larkin 4. Cllr. T. McKeigue 5. Cllr. C. O’Connor 6. Cllr. D. O’Donovan 7. Cllr. G. O’Neill 8. Cllr. P. O’Toole 9. Cllr. P.J. Reilly 10. Cllr. C. Smyth 11. Cllr. M. Ward 12. Cllr. B. Weld 13. Cllr. A. White |

**Apologies:**

1. Cllr A. Feeney
2. Cllr V. Jackson
3. Cllr R. McHugh
4. Cllr O. Smyth

**In attendance:**

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

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

Ms Eilish Hardiman, CEO, Children’s Hospital Group,

Ms Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO6

Ms Ann O’Shea, Chief Officer, CHO7

Mr Trevor O’Callaghan, CEO Dublin Midland Hospital Group

Ms Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds, HSE National Lead for Palliative Care, Primary Care Division

Mr Ciarán Brennan, Communications Manager, Midlands Louth Meath

**Item 1: Chairman’s correspondence**

A letter outlining a motion which was proposed by Cllr Pat O’Toole and seconded by Cllr. Paraic Brady at the Forum on 23rd October was sent to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD.

Proposed dates for the meeting of the Forum in 2019 were circulated to Cllrs. It was agreed to change the meeting of 21st May 2019 to 14th May 2019 to avoid clashing with local elections.

Cllrs agreed to visit to the site of the new Children’s Hospital on 24th January 2019.

It was agreed that there would a presentation on mental health at the Forum meeting on 11th December 2018 and PCRS meeting on 26th February.

**Item 2: Adoption of previous minutes**

Minutes of the Regional Health Forum’s meeting held in Tullamore on September 11th 2018 were adopted.

**Item 3: Presentation**

Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick (Chairperson) introduced Ms Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds, HSE National Lead for Palliative Care, Primary Care Division to Forum members. Ms Reaper-Reynolds gave a wide-ranging and informative presentation on the nature and scope of palliative care including details of specialist palliative care services in Dublin Mid-Leinster. She highlighted the fact that the lack of a palliative care centre for the Midlands to be based in Tullamore was an issue to be addressed. Ms Reaper-Reynolds also outlined the challenges facing palliative care, including equity of access, duration and complexity of care, the shift from hospitals to communities, the reliance on voluntaries and carers and the need to improve ICT capability. Members thanked Ms Reaper-Reynolds for her presentation and acknowledged the work she does. A number of issues were raised including:

The location of the proposed palliative care centre - Ms Reaper-Reynolds stressed that the proposed palliative care centre was designed to cater for all in the Midlands and not just Offaly.

Who would lead the project – Ms Reaper-Reynolds pointed to the involvement of Mr Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, CHO, Midlands Louth Meath; Mr Joseph Ruane, Head of Primary Care, Midlands Louth Meath and herself.

Staffing of the proposed palliative care centre in Tullamore – Ms Reaper-Reynolds said there would be 1.5-2 consultants who would work in the community as well as in the IPU.

Outcomes - Ms Reaper-Reynolds said that they were using a model from Australia which they hoped to roll out to all units. She stressed that outcomes measured what palliative care services were doing that was best for the patient and if the quality of care was the best that could be provided. Ms Reaper-Reynolds also highlighted access to an extensive data set which included how quickly a person can access the service, how quickly they are triaged and how quickly a patient plan is put in place.

**Item 4: Motions**

**Motion 1**

*With the current review in Europe and the fact the Chief Medical Officer has paused the use of synthetic Mesh for the treatment of Stress Urinary Incontinence SUI and Pelvic Organ Prolapse POP, we call on the HSE to start the process of allowing patients who have experienced adverse incidents relating to synthetic mesh to be tested with in our hospitals.  
The testing currently happens in the UK but Irish women should be afforded this service here*

*Cllr. Greg Kelly*

A report on this motion was prepared by the Press Office. The response was queried and Mr Joseph Ruane, Head of Primary Care, Midlands Louth Meath CHO, advised that he would follow up with Kilian McGrane, National Programme Director National Women & Infants Health Programme

**Motion 2**

*That the DML HSE group give a breakdown on the shortfalls of numbers of Junior Doctors, SHOs, Registrars and Consultants working in each of its hospitals and to clarify how this issue will be addressed in the interest of the patient.*

*Cllr. Frankie Keena*

A response on this motion was prepared by Trevor O Callaghan, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. Members noted the report.

**Motion 3**

*Due to the shortage of available beds in our hospitals I am calling on this DML HSE group to provide a step down facility in Athlone to cater for the midland region.*

*Cllr Frankie Keena*

A report on this motion was prepared byDonal Fitzsimons, General Manager Older Person Services. Members noted the report.

**Motion 4**

*That the DML HSE group give a full update on the present status of the ambulance service in Athlone covering the number of ambulances available, staffing levels, etc.*

*Cllr Frankie Keena*

A report on this motion was prepared by William Merriman Chief Ambulance Officer North Leinster. Members noted the report.

**Motion 5**

*“To get a clear out line of the vocational rehabilitation services available to people with disabilities, the referral service*

*a) For people with congenital conditions and may be referred from schools*

*b) For people who have acquired disabilities*

*c) List the contact details for people who want to access the service in the south Dublin area and , dedicated vocational rehabilitation offices and officers, hours and days of service and assessment services available*

*To outline the co-operation that exists between HSE and Dept. of Social & Family Affairs in relation to assessment for rehabilitation activation for people who are in receipt of Invalidity.*

*Cllr. Mary Freehill*

A report on this motion was prepared by Anne O Shea, Chief Officer CHO 7. Members noted the report.

**Motion 6**

*That the Manager brings the meeting up to date on negotiations and plans for a Primary Care Centre on the Rathmines Gulistan site.*

*Cllr. Mary Freehill*

A report on this motion was prepared by Anne O Shea, Chief Officer CHO 7. Members noted the report.

**Item 5: Questions**

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

**AOB**

Next meeting to take place in Naas on 11th December 2018