

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS

**Members Present**

Cllr. Daryl Barron  
Cllr. Mary Callaghan  
Cllr. Sean Kelly  
Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien  
Cllr. Niamh Souhan  
Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Tom Behan  
Cllr. Séamus Coyle  
Cllr. Brigid Manton  
Cllr. Patricia Roe  
Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Cllr. Christy Burke  
Cllr. Adrian Henchy  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. John Sheridan  
Cllr. Gillian Toole

**Apologies**

Cllr. Michelle Hall  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey

Cllr. Deirdre Heney  
Cllr. Colm O'Rourke  
Cllr. Trevor Smith

Cllr. Craig Lovett  
Cllr. Darren O'Rourke

**Not in Attendance**

Cllr. Kieran Dennison  
Cllr. Mary McCamley

Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick  
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan

Cllr. Declan Flanagan

**Officials Present**

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office – Dublin North East  
Ms. Eilísh Hardiman, Chief Executive, Children's Health Ireland  
Dr. Ciara Martin, Clinical Director & Paediatric Executive Lead  
Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer – CHO DNCC  
Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services  
Mr. Joe Ruane, Head of Primary Care, Midlands Louth Meath CHO  
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE  
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office opened the first meeting of the newly elected Forum by congratulating members on their recent election success and welcoming both new and previous members.

Sympathy was extended to the family of former Forum member, Cllr. Tommy Byrne, who recently passed away.

Ms. Harlin introduced senior management present and staff of the Regional Health Office and asked that each Forum member introduce themselves for the benefit of the meeting.

#### **1. Election of Chairperson**

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office, sought nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum.

Cllr. Adrian Henchy was nominated for the position on the proposal of Cllr. Séamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Sean Kelly.

As there were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson, Cllr. Henchy was declared elected as Chairperson.

Cllr. Henchy then took the Chair and thanked the members for electing him.

#### **2. Election of Vice Chairperson**

Cllr. Adrian Henchy, Chairperson, sought nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Forum.

Cllr. David Maxwell was nominated for the position on the proposal of Cllr. Christy Burke and seconded by Cllr. Séamus Coyle.

As there were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson, Cllr. Maxwell was declared elected as Vice Chairperson.

#### **3. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell and seconded by Cllr. Christy Burke.

#### **4. Health Service Executive Updates**

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office, gave a report to the meeting which dealt with the following:-

- New Health Regions;
- Appointment of new HSE Director General;
- First meeting of the new HSE Board takes place;
- Men's Health Week 2019;

- HSE Launches Men on the Move Evaluation Report;
- Launch of HSE's mychild.ie;
- HSE Know, Check, Ask campaign - safermeds.ie;
- HSE Linn Dara Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service Approved Centre launches HSE Rainbow Badge;
- HSE welcomes extra €1,000,000 in funding grants to support older people;
- Working in the great outdoors? Protect your skin this summer;
- Reduce your risks of drug use at musical festivals this summer;
- Safeguarding Ireland calls for State Scheme to help more Adults 'Think Ahead';
- Minister for Health marks World Blood Donor Day & encourages individuals to give Blood;
- Decrease in number of Women giving Irish addresses at abortion clinics in England and Wales in 2018;
- Taoiseach and Ministers for Health announce €450K funding to boost response to HIV;
- HSE Launches National Model of Care for Early Intervention in Psychosis;
- HSE publishes the Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service (PCERS) Strategic Plan 2019-2021;
- Health Matters.

Cllr. Christy Burke raised concerns in relation to the increase in cocaine use and asked has the HSE put in place, or made preparations for, additional cocaine counsellors given the amount of users who are presenting. He also queried if there are any specific additional beds for the addiction service given the fact that there is an increase in the use of cocaine.

Ms. Mellany McLoone responded outlining the huge amount of work being undertaken in the city between the HSE drug addiction service and the North East Inner City Partnership. She also stated that since the opening of Summerhill Primary Care Centre, services have been developed to work with clients and their families in relation to addiction. A proposal is also being progressed in terms of specifically targeting people with a mental health illness who are homeless and suffering with addiction. However, it was pointed out that there are no immediate plans to open specific beds as experience has found that it is more effective to work with people in the community. It was agreed that further information would be provided, together with details on numbers of counsellors.

Cllr. Burke stated that drug dealing is taking place outside the new Primary Care Centre from morning until night and that both the Gardaí and residents are aware. He outlined that the area has been badly affected by the persecution of heroin deaths.

Cllr. Gillian Toole raised concerns in relation to schemes where certain medicines are supplied free of charge - medical card scheme, long term illness scheme. She stated that pharmacists are finding huge variances where products are covered for a couple of months and then the payment is rejected. She outlined that pharmacies are having to use their emergency supplies in

some cases as patients cannot do without their oral medicines. Cllr. Toole requested that this issue be flagged with PCRS and where patients are authorised for certain medications, this would continue.

The report was noted by the Forum.

**5. Presentation on Regional Health Forum Legal Framework**

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office, gave a presentation to members on Regional Health Forum Legal Framework (copy appended to the official minute).

**6. Presentation on Children's Health Ireland at Connolly in Blanchardstown – Paediatric Outpatient and Urgent Care Centre**

Ms. Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive, Children's Health Ireland and Dr. Ciara Martin, Clinical Director & Paediatric Executive Lead gave a presentation to members on Children's Health Ireland at Connolly in Blanchardstown – Paediatric Outpatient and Urgent Care Centre (copy appended to the official minute).

A discussion took place where members raised the following issues:-

- i. Psychological assessment waiting list for children – request that a grant for private assessment be offered;
- ii. Plans for Temple Street Hospital once the patients and staff leave;
- iii. Proactive measures in place for parents of children on waiting lists, e.g. information issued in advance;
- iv. How to determine which hospital to go to when all operational;
- v. Visuals to prepare children in advance of attending emergency department;
- vi. Plans for infant mental health strategy;
- vii. Situation for Cavan and Monaghan hospitals when Connolly becomes operational;
- viii. Situation where parents present to Connolly with an emergency;
- ix. 85% of cases are discharged on the same day – these cases should be attending GP or perhaps cannot access a GP;
- x. Position where Centre may become a 'victim of its own success', e.g. Louth parents present at the Centre instead of attending local hospitals;
- xi. Staffing – taken from existing or new entrants;
- xii. Rollout to other hospitals and links to local hospitals.

Ms. Hardiman, Dr. Martin and senior management responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- i. There is a significant challenge in the area of North County Dublin in terms of Assessment of Need and early intervention, with substantially higher waiting lists than other areas. CHO DNCC are in the process of recruiting 16 additional staff, the majority of which will be posted in North County Dublin. However, it will be 2020 by the time any positive impact will be seen. Other factors which will benefit this area include the establishment of the Children's Disability

Network in partnership with St. Michael's House, the Daughters of Charity and the CRC, and a new Standard Operating Tool in respect of streamlining Assessment of Need. The suggestion of a grant has been noted and will be examined;

- ii. Staff will not vacate Temple Street Hospital until 2023. There is no definitive plan for the future of the hospital at present. The Board of the hospital never owned the building and it has been leased from the Mater Hospital. The HSE acknowledge the contribution that the building has made to the Inner City and hope to provide some health service from the location in future;
- iii. The three hospitals have only become a joined-up entity since January and work has commenced on the collation of information and validation of waiting lists. Families are being called to determine requirements and a lot of diagnostics can be performed prior to admission. This avoids delays in diagnosis and treatment plan. An information pack is issued with the appointment and includes advice on the specific illness;
- iv. The Connolly Centre should be used for urgent cases and Temple Street for emergencies;
- v. An app is being explored, where families can orientate through the hospital and familiarise themselves prior to attending. There will also be a quiet area in the hospital for children with special needs;
- vi. There will be 20 new mental health beds in the children's hospitals which will be under the governance of HSE mental health services. The hospital is also working with the Women and Children's Infants Programme on post maternal services;
- vii. The Paediatric Outpatient and Urgent Care Centre at Connolly will serve the greater Dublin area. It is planned to embed the new ways of working and then implement similar models nationally including areas such as the North East. CHI at Connolly team will work with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda and Cavan Hospital. New models of care and new ways of working will deliver better services;
- viii. It is recognised that parents may find it difficult to know where to attend when a child is very sick. Any situation that presents itself at the Centre can be dealt with. Where a child presents that is too sick to be managed at the Centre, there are various ways to transfer; If the child is deemed safe to travel by car, Patient Flow Managers will work in conjunction across the sites to determine a suitable bed and will direct and assist to the destination; If the child is unable to travel by car, an intermediate care vehicle will be available; In some situations where the child is very sick, contact will be made with the Irish Paediatric Transport Service or a critical care 999 ambulance. There is sufficient staff at the Centre to stabilise the child until transportation to the appropriate unit;
- ix. 85% of cases go home but this is not because they are in the wrong place. They have had their care completed. It is not a failure of the GP service;
- x. Attendances will be managed and patients will not be turned away. The Centre will work closely with local hospitals to ensure that care is available locally everywhere in line with the national model of care;
- xi. CHI have been quite successful in obtaining some new staff internationally, but acknowledge difficulties with some specialties such as Paediatric Radiology which has impacted the ability to open for 7 days a week. Experienced nursing staff have come from the other hospital sites and this has been achieved through the ability to backfill posts at the base hospital;

- xii. CHI are trying to demonstrate a new way of delivering services to children and believe this can be rolled out across the system. The process needs to be validated and embedded, and collaboration with community services is extremely important. A Paediatric Network Lead has been employed and will meet with the regional hospitals. Together, a plan will be rolled out with posts being delivered between hospitals to facilitate surgeries being carried out locally. This paediatric network is in line with international practices. Planning will take place with regional care services to determine what should and should not be carried out locally and what needs to be carried out in the hospital and how to transfer the patient back locally as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the forthcoming suite of public awareness campaign material would be circulated to the Forum.

It was also agreed that an invitation would be issued to members to visit the new building at Connolly.

**7. Regional Health Forum – Annual Report 2018/2019**

The report was noted by the members.

**8. Consideration of Committee(s) of Forum**

It was agreed that the Forum would continue with one Committee.

**9. Chairperson’s Correspondence**

There was no business under this item.

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

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019.

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**