

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TOIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2021 AT 2:00PM

By Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Cllr. Daryl Barron
Cllr. Mary Callaghan
Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Howard Mahony
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Gillian Toole

Cllr. Tom Behan
Cllr. Séamus Coyle
Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Cllr. Brigid Manton
Cllr. Patricia Roe

Cllr. Christy Burke
Cllr. Kieran Dennison
Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. John Sheridan

Not in Attendance

Cllr. Michelle Hall
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
Cllr. Aisling O'Neill
Cllr. Niamh Souhan

Cllr. Sean Kelly
Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien
Cllr. Colm O'Rourke
Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Craig Lovett
Cllr. Ruairi Ó Murchu
Cllr. Trevor Smith

Apologies

Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Cllr. Ray McAdam

Officials Present

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County
Ms. Aoife O'Sullivan, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office
Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services, CHO 1
Ms. Mairead Lyons, Head of Disability Services, Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Ms. Edel Quinn, Head of Primary Care (Disability Services), CHO 1
Ms. Ann Bourke, National Disability Specialist, Community Operations – Disabilities
Ms. Maebh Reynolds, Children's Disabilities Services Manager, CHO DNCC
Ms. Elaine McGuinness, Service Feedback Manager, CHO DNCC
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE Dublin North East

Cllr. Adrian Henchy, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the Forum, which was held through Microsoft Teams.

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 25th January, 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25th January, 2021 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Brian McKenna and seconded by Cllr. Christy Burke.

2. Health Service Executive Updates

Ms. Aoife O'Sullivan, Communications Manager, Regional Health Office, gave a report to the meeting which dealt with the following:-

- HSE three year Corporate Plan
- National Lottery Funding Grants – application process now open
- HSE Health Matters Newsletter

The report was noted by the Forum.

Updates on Covid-19

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County, Cathal Hand & Mairead Lyons, Head of Disability Services – Midlands, Louth Meath gave verbal updates on Covid-19, testing and vaccinations in their respective CHO area.

There was discussions on the following matters:

(a) National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme, including:

- Vaccination and uptake of Covid-19 amongst healthcare workers
- Prioritisation of vaccination for voluntary (unpaid) carers
- Reporting of vaccination side-effects
- Public health measures in place in vaccination centres
- Locations of community vaccination centres

(b) Provision of home support hours and respite services for young people and adults with intellectual disabilities.

(c) Obtaining repeat prescriptions for medical card holders, especially out of hours.

(d) Public health measures in place to assist schools.

Responses from Management:

(a) The way the vaccine has been administered is that we have prioritised all of those who are working in frontline services.

- Within CHO DNCC over 10,000 workers have been vaccinated overall and the majority of these are frontline workers.
- The HSE does not decide on who is prioritised for vaccination. The process for deciding prioritisation is that it is considered by NIAC (National Immunisation Advisory Committee), who then make a recommendation to NPHET, which is then ultimately approved by the Cabinet. The decisions made are in the best interests of public health and to concentrate on those who would suffer most if they contracted Covid-19. All home support agencies or anybody which is funded by the HSE to provide home support will have been identified and included in the

prioritisation for the vaccine. CHO DNCC have vaccinated between 3,000 and 4,000 staff who work in these services. It was agreed by Forum members to write to NPHET to raise the issue of prioritising vaccination of voluntary (unpaid) carers.

- Side effects from the vaccines are reported through Occupational Health for frontline healthcare workers. For staff working in residential care units, they have been given very clear guidance.
 - All Covid-19 outbreaks are managed by public health regardless of the setting. Vaccination Centres are managed in the same way as any other work environment.
 - The Helix is the main vaccination centre for CHO Dublin North City and County. Work is at an advanced stage for a second vaccination centre in the city centre. There are other locations in reserve in other parts of the city centre but this will largely be dependent on vaccine supply and staffing.
- (b) Home support and respite for younger adults is based on risk assessment. CHO Midlands Louth Meath are currently working on Priority 1 and 2 for both children's and adult's respite. Capacity has been reduced due to public health guidance around Covid-19. Home support has been used as well and day care respite – both of which have been evaluated very positively by service users. Home support for Older Persons is also risk assessed.
- (c) It was agreed that specific contact details for PCRS would be re-circulated to Forum members so they could contact them directly.
- (d) Last September the HSE put in additional staff to help schools, including a number of retired Inspectors and former Directors of public health nursing who returned to assist. A huge amount of work has been done since last September, such as educating schools, fast-tracking of testing pupils and providing named contacts of people within the HSE who work with schools on an individual basis.

3. Presentation on Screening Programmes

Ms. Ann Bourke, National Disability Specialist, HSE Community Operations – Disabilities gave a presentation to members on Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS).

Members thanked Ms. Bourke for her presentation and the following summarises the discussion.

- The importance of adequate staffing to support the implementation of this national programme of reform to children's disability services. There will be a streamlined pathway to the service. The children will be clearly mapped under the national access program progressing disability services for children and young adult's policy to the Children's Disability Network Team.
- Increasing numbers of children presenting with complex needs.
- Autism diagnoses and service provision.
- Inclusion of education providers in the implementation of Progressing Disability Services Policy. Education is a huge part of a child's life. An Educational Health Forum is being set up and will be implemented around the country.

- This aims to involve the family of a child as soon as possible in the process and at the time when the individual family service plan is being developed. It is important that they continue to be involved because the plan will change as the Child's needs change.
- All CHO areas are on target to achieve full reconfiguration this year. The majority will achieve reconfiguration, the setting up of their Teams and commencement of services within the Children's Disability Network Team by the end of June.

4. Motions

There was no business under this item.

5. Questions

The responses to the questions were noted.

6. Chairperson's Correspondence

Cllr. Henchy informed the meeting that a response received from the Minister for Health was circulated to members for their information, in relation to a Motion submitted by Cllr. Behan regarding e-Cigarettes at the Regional Health Forum meeting held on the 28th September, 2020.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 24th May, 2021 at 2:00pm.

Signed:

Chairperson