

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS

Members Present

Cllr. Christy Burke
Cllr. William Carey
Cllr. Pat Crimmins
Cllr. Kieran Dennison
Cllr. Ann Dillon-Gallagher
Cllr. Anthony Donohoe

Cllr. Nick Killian
Cllr. Eithne Loftus
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Gerry McGuire
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Gerry Murray

Cllr. Mags Murray
Cllr. Michael O'Dowd
Cllr. Patrick O'Reilly
Cllr. Bill Tormey

Not in Attendance

Cllr. Tommy Byrne
Cllr. Anne Devitt
Cllr. Oliver Fox

Cllr. Colm Markey
Cllr. May McKeon
Cllr. Larry O'Toole

Cllr. Joe Reilly

Apologies

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher
Cllr. Paddy McDonald

Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
Cllr. Lucy McRoberts

Cllr. John Redmond

Officials Present

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office - HSE DNE
Ms. Angela Fitzgerald, Regional Director for Performance and Integration, HSE DNE
Ms. Kate O'Flaherty, Director, Health & Wellbeing Programme, Department of Health
Mr. Ronan Toomey, Asst. Principal Officer, Health & Wellbeing Programme, DoH
Dr. Nazih Eldin, Head of Health Promotion - HSE DNE
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office - HSE DNE
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office - HSE DNE
Ms. Ann Martin, Press Officer, Communications - HSE DNE

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 27th May, 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 22nd July, 2013 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Nick Killian and seconded by Cllr. Gerry Murray.

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

- Request for future presentation on HSE DNE property portfolio in relation to rented and leased buildings;
- Request for update on suspension of respite day services at Lisdarn, Cavan and alternative arrangements in place;
- Issues concerning antisocial behaviour, security and residents concerns in relation to proposed HSE plans to relocate the Addiction Clinic from Amiens Street to Parkgate Street;
- Ambulance service in County Meath, including a case where a lady was waiting 50 minutes for an ambulance to arrive, incident of an ambulance breakdown due to running out of fuel, little and sometimes no ambulance coverage on certain days and general dissatisfaction and lack of confidence among the population and some ambulance service staff in the county with the present service;
- Dissatisfaction with the loss of the Chronic Pain Clinic from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda and the requirement for such a clinic in the region;
- Update on forthcoming hospital groupings plan;
- Medical Cards for under five year olds and for children with cancer.

Senior management responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- Information on HSE DNE property portfolio to be organised for a future Forum meeting;
- Update in relation to respite services at Lisdarn to be issued to members;
- Response in relation to relocation of Amiens Street clinic to be sent to members;
- The Chronic Pain Clinic at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital was provided by a Consultant Anaesthetist who had a special interest in this area. However, the Consultant has now ceased employment with the hospital. The hospital has endeavoured to source a clinician with the same expertise in this area but has unfortunately been unsuccessful to date. Therefore, the service is not available at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital at present. At the moment, DNE patients are being redirected to either Beaumont Hospital's clinic or Dublin Mid-Leinster's clinics. There is a need for examination of this matter at national level to determine requirements for each area;
- Plans for the hospital groupings are underway although no dates have been set for the recruitment process yet. However, the actual configuration of hospitals has been determined;
- Free medical treatment for under five year olds is included in the Programme for Government. Specific provision is available for cancer patients and discretionary Medical Cards may be issued in certain circumstances.

2. Health Service Executive Updates

A report was circulated to the meeting which dealt with the following:-

- Welcome Ms. Angela Fitzgerald;
- New Governance arrangements announced for Health Services;
- New Emergency Department, Our Lady's Hospital, Navan;
- 7% increase in Elder Abuse referrals received by the HSE in 2012;
- NOSP and the NSRF Annual Reports for 2012;
- Strong uptake of HPV cervical cancer vaccine exceeds targets;
- World Hepatitis Day – HSE urges at risk persons to get tested as thousands unaware that they are infected;
- Alcohol and pregnancy – ‘Think before you Drink’ First all island guide on alcohol and pregnancy;
- Preferred Drugs: The Right Choice, Right Now;
- Stop Sepsis, Save Lives;
- Holly's Horse Haven - a haven for people with disabilities;
- Foster carer from Baldoyle wins Dublin Mum of the Year 2013.

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

- Possibility of a Wifi connection in the Boardroom for Forum meetings in order that items on the agenda may be accessed electronically;
- Congratulations to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in relation to marking of World Sepsis Day on Friday, 13th September, 2013.

Senior management responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- Agreed to examine the possibility of providing Wifi for Forum meetings;
- Notice of congratulations to be sent to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for World Sepsis Day.

3. Presentation on ‘Health Ireland’

Ms. Kate O’Flaherty, Director, Health and Wellbeing Programme, Department of Health, made a presentation to members on ‘Healthy Ireland (copy appended to the official minute).

Members thanked Ms. O’Flaherty for her presentation and a discussion took place where members raised the following issues:-

- Concerns in relation to the rise of obesity in Ireland. Comparison to the US population and future trends for this country;
- Clarification on Healthy Ireland initiatives and actions planned to tackle obesity;
- Lack of physical activity facilities for the older population, particularly in rural areas. Need for closer collaborations with sporting organisations in relation to health and wellbeing. Option of liaising with GAA clubs to provide walking tracks. Need for insurance issues to be resolved in this area;
- Possible duplication of workload. Good facilities not being utilised, e.g. gyms in schools closed at 4:00pm, due to Health and Safety, insurance and local management issues;

- Link between obesity and genetics;
- Education and exercise programmes in schools and pre-schools. Some playgrounds in Dublin area are constrained and too small. Sedentary lifestyle of children today;
- Concern that the 'food pyramid' is still being promoted. Need for well informed mothers in relation to food choices and a healthy diet for their family. Disadvantaged persons, particularly those on a low income and the elderly;
- Details on possible specific programmes that could be organised and ran by a community group;
- Responsibility of medical profession and GPs, as the first point of contact in many cases of obesity, to advise patients in a direct manner;
- Request for a future review.

Ms. O'Flaherty, Mr. Ronan Toomey and Dr. Eldin responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- Obesity is a major clinical medical problem in Ireland at present with €1.3 billion being spent each year nationally. One quarter of all children in Ireland are either overweight or obese and two out of every three obese children become adult obese;
- It is beyond the capability of any one department or organisation to resolve health and wellbeing on its own. Healthy Ireland, through involvement and engagement with Government departments, local authorities and public bodies, businesses and employers, sports and voluntary groups, communities and families will address the determinants of health across all of the relevant domains in people's lives;
- The Department of Health and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have established a working group to develop a plan to promote increased physical activity levels across the population. The Department, the HSE and Safefood will shortly launch a campaign to raise awareness of childhood obesity. Guidelines are also being developed for hospital doctors, nurses and primary care teams;
- Local Authorities already play a critically important role in protecting and promoting health and wellbeing at local level, particularly in disadvantaged areas;
- Healthy Ireland have commenced working with local authorities, sporting organisations, local communities and schools to plan facilities that are appropriate to the needs of the community. A number of good practice initiatives already exist which help in creating 'activity friendly' environments such as cycle lanes, playgrounds, well-lit paths, etc. County Councils have installed exercise machines in some areas, although to date these are not always being fully utilised;
- Healthy Ireland will work with sports partnerships through the Irish Sports Council who provide funding for sports development officers. An examination into available facilities is taking place. An example of an initiative in this area is Tyrellstown where two schools share a sports facility which is also available until 10:00pm for the local community;
- It is acknowledged that a person's genes do have an influence on their weight. It is important that this is identified and dealt with at an early age through GPs, children's hospitals, etc. Subsequently, the problem then generally rests in the person's lifestyle;

- A Smart Start national programme, which is Fetac accredited, is available for all pre-schools. Primary school programmes include Active Life, Active School Flag, Active Transport, Busy Breaks, Breakfast Clubs, Healthy Food for All and Active After School programmes. A large number of schools participate in programmes such as these but more work is needed to evaluate and spread programmes nationally. It is planned to fully implement Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) in primary, post-primary and Youthreach settings, including implementation of the Physical Education programme and the Active Schools Flag initiative;
- It will be important to try and influence change in all sectors in relation to promotion and labelling of food products, however, minimal changes have been implemented in this area to date. Collaboration also exists with organisations such as the Irish Cancer Society and the Diabetes Society of Ireland in developing understanding and skills of the population and promoting informed health choices;
- Details of available programmes that could be organized and ran by a community group to be forwarded to member;
- The HSE and the Irish College of General Practitioners have issued guidelines in relation to obesity advice for medical practitioners. Issues such as this are sensitive and must be handled sensibly. It is acknowledged that the medical profession play an important role here, however, the support of all organisations and departments is needed;
- Agreed to review Healthy Ireland at a future meeting.

4. **Motions**

The response to the Motion was circulated and noted.

5. **Questions**

“Regarding the Health Centre in Enfield, how much money has the HSE spent on extensions and the new car park over the past three years, what is the cost of the present work taking place on the same building and was the purchase of a new building considered?”

Cllr. William Carey

Cllr. Carey expressed shock at the monies spent by the HSE on this project as outlined in the response provided and raised queries including whether consideration was given to alternative sites, whether a feasibility study had been completed and was car parking considered.

It was agreed that a response on these issues would be provided to Cllr. Carey.

“To ask the Manager to provide information on if there is support available for families who suffer a loss due to a relative committing suicide?”

Cllr. Pat Crimmins

Cllr. Crimmins stated that the link between the HSE and the family is broken in relation to bereavement counselling. He said that following an inquest there is no backup for the family from the HSE and stated that a simple phone call would suffice.

Cllr. Tormey expressed concern at the delay between the time of the event and when the inquest takes place.

Ms. Angela Fitzgerald stated that all hospitals in Dublin North have bereavement support services which are offered to families. This usually occurs when the event takes place. However, this may sometimes be too soon. The possibility of support being offered at later dates will be examined.

6. Chairperson's Correspondence

There was no business under this item.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 25th November, 2013 at 2:00pm.

Signed:

Bill Tormey,
Chairperson.