

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS

**Members Present**

Cllr. Philip Brady  
Cllr. Wayne Forde  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Paddy Meade  
Cllr. Gillian Toole

Cllr. Séamus Coyle  
Cllr. Teresa Keegan  
Cllr. Paddy McDonald  
Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll

Cllr. Kieran Dennison  
Cllr. Eithne Loftus  
Cllr. Peter McVitty  
Cllr. Darren O'Rourke

**Apologies**

Cllr. Christy Burke  
Cllr. Adrian Henchy

Cllr. Emma Coffey  
Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Mark Dearey  
Cllr. Mags Murray

**Not in Attendance**

Cllr. Anne Campbell  
Cllr. Deirdre Heney  
Cllr. Lorna Nolan

Cllr. David Costello  
Cllr. Mary McCamley  
Cllr. Ciaran O'Moore

Cllr. Maria Doyle  
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan

**Officials Present**

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office – Dublin North East  
Mr. Brendan Lawlor, Chief Emergency Management Officer  
Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer – CHO DNCC  
Mr. Joe Ruane, Head of Primary Care, Midlands Louth Meath CHO  
Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services  
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE  
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

As both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson were absent for the commencement of the meeting, members nominated Cllr. Paddy Meade to act as Chairperson for the meeting.

1. **Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Wayne Forde and seconded by Cllr. Peter McVitty.

2. **Health Service Executive Updates**

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

- Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D., opens Portmarnock Primary Care Centre;
- Death of Patient Advocate – Laura Brennan;
- Dublin Measles Update;
- Irish Hospice Foundation welcomes further HSE support for end-of-life care in hospitals;
- Official launch of the Tovertafel in Teach Iosa, Phoenix Park Community Nursing Home, St Mary's Campus;
- National Brain Awareness Week – 11<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> March;
- HSE and An Post launch national awareness campaign to encourage Organ Donation;
- Organ Donor Awareness Week 2019;
- Sort that cough without an antibiotic;
- PiLaR Programme supporting families of a loved one with an eating disorder.

Ms. Harlin also introduced Ms. Mellany McLoone as the new Chief Officer for CHO Dublin North City & County. Members congratulated Ms. McLoone and wished her well in her new role.

Members queried when presentations on the CHO Delivery Plans would be given to members. Ms. Harlin outlined that all three Delivery Plans in respect of the Dublin North East area have not been signed off as yet. It is hoped to present on Plans at the April Committee meeting.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. **Presentation on Emergency Management**

Mr. Brendan Lawlor, Chief Emergency Management Officer, gave a presentation to members on Emergency Management (copy appended to the official minute).

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

- Clarification on emergency management protocols in hospitals regarding overcrowding;
- Emergency paradigm - frequency of reviews;
- Activation of the Regional Crisis Management Team – functionality and attendance;
- Who makes final decision where there is a difference of opinion re strategy;
- Comparison to other countries;
- Most likely scenarios for next 5/10 years.

Mr. Lawlor responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- Activity in hospitals is not within the remit of the Emergency Management Office. However, the office may provide assistance and advice to hospitals, e.g. Winter Plan;
- In line with structures, reviews are undertaken on an annual basis, regardless of whether an incident has taken place or not. A review is also always undertaken following a change in structure or personnel and immediately after an incident or exercise;
- The activation of the Regional Crisis Management Team works very well and is tested regularly - it can have this team together on a teleconference within 15 minutes. A major emergency does not have to happen for the teleconference to be activated, e.g. it may be utilised in the event of severe weather. In relation to attendance, three representatives from each service are invited to participate in the teleconference, with the aim of at least one representative joining the call;
- Where there is a dispute regarding the strategy to be undertaken, the lead service will have the final decision, e.g. RTA – Gardaí, Fire – Local Authority. In the event that consensus cannot be agreed, the decision is brought to the next higher level. However, this would be a rare occurrence and the aim is for co-ordination rather than direction;
- The model in practise in Ireland involves co-ordination from various departments. In the United States, there is a group set up with the specific role of Emergency Management;
- The most likely scenarios are surge in demand, inability to respond, health hazards, transport incidents, severe weather, mass casualty. Each department identify a range of risks and all are examined by the group.

#### 4. **Motions**

There was no business under this item.

#### 5. **Questions**

The responses to the Questions were noted.

Members expressed disappointment in the lack of responses forthcoming from the National Ambulance Service in recent times. An example was outlined where one councillor in County Monaghan was waiting 18 months for a response. It was agreed that the Regional Health Office would forward

concerns to the National Ambulance Service and a response on the outstanding Question would be provided at soon as possible.

**6. Chairperson's Correspondence**

There was no business under this item.

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

Members discussed the scheduled date for the April Committee meeting and suggested that the date be altered as the original date would follow a Bank Holiday and would likely result in poor attendance. Members suggested that the date could be set to the following Monday.

In this regard, it was agreed that the next Health Services Committee meeting would be held on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chairperson**