

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2020, AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS

Members Present

Cllr. Daryl Barron
Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Brigid Manton
Cllr. Niamh Souhan

Cllr. Séamus Coyle
Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Gillian Toole

Cllr. Kieran Dennison
Cllr. Howard Mahony
Cllr. Darren O'Rourke

Apologies

Cllr. Christy Burke
Cllr. Colm O'Rourke

Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cllr. John Sheridan

Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Not in Attendance

Cllr. Tom Behan
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
Cllr. Patricia Roe

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

Cllr. Michelle Hall
Cllr. Ray McAdam
Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien
Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Officials Present

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County
Ms. Elaine Scanlon, Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office, Department of Health
Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office, Department of Health
Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services
Ms. Fiona Murphy, Head of Health & Wellbeing, Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

Cllr. Adrian Henchy, Chairperson, chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 25th November, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25th November, 2019 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Séamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Adrian Henchy.

2. Health Service Executive Updates

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County, gave a report to the meeting which dealt with the following:-

- HSE publishes National Service Plan 2020;
- Minister for Health welcomes record number of Lung Transplants in 2019;
- Minister for Health reduces Injury Unit charge to €75;
- Launch of Pieta House Outreach Service in Cavan and Monaghan;
- Taoiseach and Ministers Launch Your Mental Health Information Line;
- Struggling with your New Year's Resolution to reduce your alcohol intake?;
- QUIT campaign calls out smoking harms and highlights reasons to quit;
- Sort that cough without an antibiotic;
- Cappagh Nurse Named INMO Nurse of the Year;
- Drogheda Physiotherapists Offer Ireland's First Live Virtual Home Based; Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme for COPD Patients;
- Healthy Ireland Calendar.

Members raised the following queries and concerns:-

- i. Clarification on allocation of €50m;
- ii. Concerns in relation to possible duplication or dilution of mental health services and funding – possibility of an audit of services, particularly information lines;
- iii. Opening hours of Alcohol and Drugs Helpline – reasons for restriction of operating hours during what would be quite often times of need;
- iv. QUIT Smoking campaign – plans to including vaping / e-cigarettes in future;
- v. Virtual home based Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme for COPD patients – plans to roll out nationally;
- vi. Funding for homelessness and addiction services – lack of funding and resources for County Meath;
- vii. Personalised budgets for adults with disabilities;
- viii. Mental health community services – reason why new National Forensic Mental Health facility is included;
- ix. Lack of funding for new high tech drugs - clarification on process and criteria for assessment.

Ms. Mellany McLoone and senior management responded to the queries as follows:-

- i. The €50m allocation is additional funding which generally earmarked for identified specific services to meet demands within a given year. It is once off funding and not recurring;
- ii. The National Mental Health Information Line is designed to encompass all mental health services with a national directory of all mental health services across the country. The Information Line directs callers to the appropriate service – it is not a clinical line. In relation to an audit, HSE mental health services in Ireland are regulated by the Mental Health Commission and legislation. Voluntary and charitable services are provided throughout the country, but are often targeted towards specific ages or services. However, it is acknowledged that there may be a slight overlap in certain areas. There are no immediate plans for an audit;
- iii. The opening hours of the Alcohol and Drugs Helpline are predominately based on working hours of staff, 8:00am–6:00pm, model. It is very expensive to run these services out-of-hours and based on previous experience people do not generally use the service during this time. The HSE will monitor and undertake a review in 12 – 18 months;
- iv. The Tobacco policy is being refreshed and vaping / e-cigarettes will be included in this. In the meantime, vaping is not permitted in HSE premises and work is ongoing to ensure that all campuses are tobacco free in an effort to dernormalise tobacco use;
- v. The mPower initiative for COPD patients is an EU funded cross-border project which is focussed on the use of digital health interventions to enhance health and wellbeing. This initiative links the client with the clinician and avoids hospital attendance, making consultations more user friendly. Depending on the success of the project, there should be opportunities to increase the spread of this initiative;
- vi. It is agreed that very little funding has been made available for homeless services;
- vii. In respect of personalised budgets, 180 is the national figure. It has been challenging to get to this point and there still remain some concerns regarding the governance and regulation of these funds. The HSE also have an obligation to maximise this new money in terms of the existing cohort of clients and their needs;
- viii. The National Forensic Mental Health facility comes under governance of community services. All mental health acute beds come under community services, not hospitals;
- ix. Some improvements have been made in the area of high tech drugs with a new committee of clinical staff to access the effectiveness of a given drug. An update will be provided on the process.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. Presentations on Sláintecare

Ms. Elaine Scanlon, Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office, Department of Health, gave a presentation to members on Sláintecare (copy appended to the official minute).

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

- i. Establishment of six new Regional Health Areas – concerns in relation to review of structure and future relationship with Regional Health Fora and possible removal of the public voice at a regional level;
- ii. Sláintecare goals for year one and progress on same;
- iii. Ten year plan – expectation that this may change;
- iv. How will the ten year plan address the issue of waiting times;
- v. Dynamic between HSE, Sláintecare and Department of Health;
- vi. Problems for carers with the allocation of home help hours – possibility of full time carer posts with each having a specific cohort of clients;

Ms. Scanlon and senior management responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- i. There will be no immediate change in the short term. Legislation will be required to form a new governance structure, which will take approximately 18 months to two years. A participated process will take place with an opportunity for the Forum to input. It is envisaged there will be decision on governance by this Summer;
- ii. Sláintecare are on track for year one. The 2019 Action Plan is available on the website and a link will be circulated. Deliverables and outcomes will be published within the next number of weeks;
- iii. Sláintecare has received all political party agreement and have been supported by all parties to date. The original document was developed and produced in conjunction with all parties;
- iv. 1,000 new staff will join community services over the next year, in respect of Community Healthcare Networks, Integrated Care Programmes of older persons and developing pilot sites for chronic disease management. These initiatives will have a positive impact on lowering community waiting lists. The process will take longer in respect of hospital waiting lists. The Capacity Plan / Waiting List Implementation Framework will help improve people's health in the first instance, and then to get out of hospital faster. The NTPF programme has also been validating waiting lists by removing clients from lists who are no longer waiting for treatment. This creates new appointments and is working well so far. The management of waiting lists is not only about additional staff, but about models of care and care pathways. Another key aspect is empowering individuals to maintain their own health and impacting beneficially on their own health if it deteriorates, along with equally empowering families and local communities to support these individuals;
- v. There is in place a joint implementation office. Sláintecare is part of the Department of Health and have a joint management team with the HSE so decisions are made in partnership;

- vi. There is a pilot running at present across the country examining how to best allocate home help resources. It is expected that the evidence from this programme will help to shape the future design of the service. However, it is important to note that the service provided by the HSE endeavours to meet the needs of the client, rather than the carer. There are also particular geographical issues in some parts of the country resulting in difficulties recruiting carers due to travel time, time allocated, etc. There are also rural and urban differences along with age profile variances. Evidence shows that clients require assistance first thing in the morning, at mealtimes and in the evenings, with a lesser demand midday and mid-afternoon. Any review of home support must be based on the needs of the client and the times the client wishes the service. The development of Community Healthcare Networks will also give opportunities and assist in looking at the needs of defined populations and there will be extra flexibilities within these budgets.

4. Motions

There was no business under this item.

5. Questions

To ask the HSE how many school age teams are there operating in the Fingal area for delivery of Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Psychological Services. How many children are on waiting lists for these services in Fingal? How many therapists are working with other services, e.g. St. Michael's House, and how many children are on their waiting list for services and for how long?

Cllr. Brigid Manton

Cllr. Manton sought further clarification on part of the response. It was agreed that a further response would be issue to Cllr. Manton.

The responses to the Questions were noted.

6. Chairperson's Correspondence

Resignations and Appointments

- (i) Cllr. Tomás Sharkey has resigned from the Regional Health Forum. Louth County Council has nominated Cllr. Ruairi Ó Murchu as a replacement for Cllr. Sharkey on the Forum.
- (ii) Cllr. Declan Flanagan has resigned from the Regional Health Forum. Dublin City Council has nominated Cllr. Ray McAdam as a replacement for Cllr. Flanagan on the Forum.

- (iii) Cllr. Mary McCamley has resigned from the Regional Health Forum. Fingal County Council has nominated Cllr. Howard Mahony as a replacement for Cllr. McCamley on the Forum.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 23rd March, 2020.

Signed:

Chairperson