Members Present

Cllr. Christy Burke    Cllr. Oliver Fox    Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. William Carey    Cllr. Robbie Gallagher  Cllr. Lucy McRoberts
Cllr. Kieran Dennison  Cllr. Eithne Loftus  Cllr. Mags Murray
Cllr. Anne Devitt     Cllr. David Maxwell    Cllr. Patrick O’Reilly

Not in Attendance

Cllr. Colm Markey    Cllr. Larry O’Toole

Apologies

Cllr. Gerry McGuire    Cllr. May McKeon

Officials Present

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE
Mr. Leo Kinsella, Regional Director of Operations
Mr. Martin Dunne, Area Operations Manager, National Ambulance Service - North Leinster
Mr. Sean Brady, Operations Performance Manager, National Ambulance Service - North Leinster
Ms. Rosarii Mannion, Assistant National Director of Human Resources – Dublin North East
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – Dublin North East
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – Dublin North East
Ms. Ann Martin, Press Officer, Communications – Dublin North East
1. **Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 25th March, 2013.**
   The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25th March, 2013 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Anthony Donohoe and seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell.

2. **Presentation on Ambulance Services**
   Mr. Martin Dunne, Area Operations Manager, National Ambulance Service - North Leinster made a presentation to members on Ambulance Services (copy appended to the official minute).

   Members thanked Mr. Dunne for his presentation and a discussion took place where members raised the following issues:-

   - Clarification on number of people an ambulance can transport;
   - Condition of Patient Transport Service (PTS) vehicles and their purpose;
   - Availability of transport for female patients travelling to Dublin hospitals for cancer care;
   - Overlap of ambulance services between National Ambulance Service (NAS) and Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB);
   - Clarification on navigation equipment used by ambulances;
   - Clarification sought in relation to an elderly man’s family being asked to bring the patient to another hospital for examination;
   - Availability of Rapid Response Vehicles (RRV) for County Monaghan;
   - Procedure for RRV cover on Thursday nights from Ardee;
   - Number of vehicles allocated to Ardee;
   - Transport of ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) patients from North County Monaghan to hospital within 90 minutes timeframe;
   - Case of a sporting injury at St. Anne’s Park, Bailieboro and ambulance response;
   - Clarification on Dunshaughlin ambulance cover for Tuesdays;
   - Clarification on monies owed from HSE to Dublin City Council;
   - Helicopter landing facilities at hospitals;
   - Questions asked by ambulance control centre call takers;
   - Policy in relation to transport of dead bodies;
   - No ambulance cover from Virginia on Saturdays;
   - Request for Motion to be submitted to Minister for Health in relation to access to hospital services in Northern Ireland for the border counties.

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

   - Each ambulance is designed to European standards incorporating a single stretcher and two seats. A clinical decision is made by the paramedic on site regarding the number of patients to be transported. Depending on the severity of the condition, and in the best interests of the patient, it is often not appropriate for more than one patient to be transported as it is not possible to treat more than one sick person at any one time;
   - The NAS are replacing Intensive Care Vehicles (ICV) through their fleet replacement process. These vehicles mostly transport patients between units only;
   - Transport for out-patient clinics is not an ambulance service function;
   - DFB ambulance services are paid for by the NAS. The NAS Control Centre is shared with DFB. There is cross cooperation between the two services although the present situation is not ideal. It is hoped to review the situation following recent HIQA clinical governance;
All ambulance service vehicles are fitted with Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL). When a call is made to the ambulance service, the control centre gets a ‘hit’ on the address. The call taker obtains the address and the clinical status of the patient and inputs the information while the dispatcher allocates an ambulance to the location. Where an ambulance cannot locate the exact house it is usually because the map information is not totally accurate. In this instance, the original caller is called back by the control centre to determine the location. However, instances such as these very rarely occur;

- A clinical decision would have been made in relation to the transport arrangements for the patient;
- A RRV was placed in Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan and activity was analysed on a weekly basis. Following analysis of data, it was decided that there was not sufficient activity to warrant a RRV so it was decided to place staff on front line ambulances instead;
- Rosters were examined recently in relation to activity levels with a view to improving efficiencies. However, it is not possible to allocate extra staff;
- Ardee has four RRVs on roster at present;
- Clinicians make the decision in relation to a STEMI call. The patients will be brought to the appropriate PCI hospital in Dublin;
- A response will issue on the case of the injury at St. Anne’s Park, Bailieboro;
- As part of the activity review, a decision was taken to realign the roster in Dunshaughlin which will have one shift uncovered on a Tuesday at Dunshaughlin base;
- The HSE pay Dublin City Council €9.25 million per annum. At present, there are no monies owing. A full response will issue on the matter;
- An identified landing point is now in place for Beaumont Hospital;
- This question, “is the patient breathing”, is the most important one as it determines the remainder of the conversation, e.g. if it is a cardiac arrest, an ambulance will be immediately dispatched. The question is necessary and will continue to the asked;
- It is ambulance service protocol not to transport dead bodies. If, however, resources permitted, the ambulance may be in a position to transport the body. Bodies will not be removed from the scene in relation to crime scenes or where the Gardai or Coroners are involved;
- One shift in Virginia not covered. Interim cover is provided from Cavan, Navan and Ardee.

3. Motions  
The responses to the Motions were circulated and noted.

4. Questions  
The responses to the Questions were circulated and noted.

5. Report by Chairperson of Committee  
The report was noted.
6. **Health Service Executive Updates**
Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office, gave a report to the meeting which dealt with the following:-

- Minister Announces Hospital groups and Publishes the Framework for Smaller Hospitals;
- Health Service Completes the Recruitment of National Directors and CFO;
- Key Step in Health Reform Programme;
- Advanced radiotherapy treatment targeting brain tumours at Beaumont Hospital;
- Quality and Patient Safety Directorate - New Guidance Documents;
- Congratulations to all the Crystal Clear Award Winners;
- New Fostering Awareness Campaign;
- ‘Loose Women’ from Finglas create inspirational art with chairs;
- EU funded social inclusion project celebrates achievements in Monaghan and Dundalk;
- A Practical New Course to Tackle Stress;
- Move to Bective Street.

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

- Request for further details on national appointments;
- Update on new ED, Our Lady’s Hospital, Navan;
- Request for map of new premises in Bective Street, Kells;
- Request for parking details at Bective Street, Kells.

The questions and comments from members were responded to as follows:-

- Further details on national appointments to be provided to members;
- Update on new ED, Our Lady’s Hospital, Navan to be provided to members;
- Map of new premises in Bective Street, Kells to be provided to members;
- Parking details at Bective Street, Kells to be provided to members.

The report was noted by the members.

7. **Chairperson’s Correspondence**
There was no correspondence under this item.

8. **Date and time of next meeting**
The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 22nd July, 2013 at 2:00pm.

Signed:  

Bill Tormey,  
Chairperson.