

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TOIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 2019 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS

Members Present

Cllr. Christy Burke
Cllr. Mark Dearey
Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Darren O'Rourke

Cllr. Anne Campbell
Cllr. Kieran Dennison
Cllr. Teresa Keegan
Cllr. Mary McCamley
Cllr. Lorna Nolan

Cllr. Séamus Coyle
Cllr. Wayne Forde
Cllr. Eithne Loftus
Cllr. Paddy McDonald
Cllr. Ciaran O'Moore

Apologies

Cllr. Philip Brady

Cllr. Mags Murray

Cllr. Gillian Toole

Not in Attendance

Cllr. David Costello
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll

Cllr. Maria Doyle
Cllr. Peter McVitty

Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Cllr. Paddy Meade

Officials Present

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office – Dublin North East
Ms. Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds, National Lead for Palliative Care, HSE Strategy and Planning
Ms. Mary Walshe, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County
Ms. Briege Byrne, Disability Manager, Cavan Monaghan HSE
Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services
Ms. Dervila Eyres, Head of Mental Health, Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 26th November, 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 26th November, 2018 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Kieran Dennison and seconded by Cllr. Christy Burke.

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:-

- HSE publishes National Service Plan 2019;
- Delays in screening test results;
- My Options: new HSE unplanned pregnancy support service;
- HSE National Intercultural Health Strategy 2018 – 2023;
- HSE launches mychild.ie and new pregnancy and child health information resources;
- The Mental Health Services: Family, Carer and Supporter Guide;
- Another strong year for Organ Donation and Transplant Surgery in Ireland;
- You can now apply online for a Drugs Payment Scheme card;
- Increase in meningococcal disease;
- CHO 1 launch Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2018 – 2023;
- Introduction of a trauma system for Ireland.

Members raised the following queries and issues:-

- Clarification on disruption to services and cancellation of appointments as a consequence of the Nurses Strike;
- Request for presentation on National Children's Hospital and implications of overrun;
- Clarification on CervicalCheck issues including length of time from when GP takes smear test to when it arrives at lab, whether some GPs wait until they have a certain number of tests before sending to lab and where tests are carried out;
- Service Plan - request for details of services and funding provided in 2018;
- Clarity on the future of the Fora, as a result of Sláintecare;
- Queries on new pregnancy and child health information resources including clarification on ages, whether information is available in other languages and request for samples;
- Concerns in relation to home help allocations in County Monaghan.

Senior management responded to the queries from the members as follows:-

- Community services are less impacted as a result of the Strike than hospital services. Derogation has also been received in respect of residential units. Community Intervention Teams may continue at weekend levels. However, some levels of services will be affected, for example, an overtime ban has been negotiated between the PNA and IMO;
- The Regional Health Office will organise a presentation on National Estates to include the National Children's Hospital;
- A response will issue on CervicalCheck queries and the Regional Health Office will request CervicalCheck to present to the Forum;
- Presentations on CHO Operational Plans will be organised for the March meeting;
- Clarification will be sought on the future role of the Fora;
- Responses will be provided in relation to mychild.ie;

- The Local Operational Plan for Monaghan has not been signed off as yet so it is impossible to say what funding is available for home help in 2019. However, a reduction is not envisaged.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. Presentation on Palliative Care

Ms. Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds, National Lead for Palliative Care, HSE Strategy and Planning, gave a presentation to members on Palliative Care (copy appended to the official minute).

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

- Comparison on cost between acute hospital bed and palliative care bed;
- Concerns in relation to staff numbers as a result of forthcoming HIQA regulations;
- Lack of a palliative care in-patient hospice service in County Meath – criteria that applies;
- Quantify ranking of Ireland as fourth in World re palliative care;
- Criteria involved to site unit in specific location.
- Perception that palliative care units are only for cancer patients.

Ms. Reaper-Reynolds responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- The cost of a hospice bed is approximately €750 per night, whereas, the cost of an acute hospital bed per night is in the region of €1,000;
- HIQA is not as yet carrying out inspections in palliative care units and has not set standards on required staffing levels – these are determined by national policy;
- The funding model to date has been that local hospice groups /communities provide the capital funding for a new building and the State cover the running costs. The State may also contribute towards the fit-out of the unit. It is planned to open a new hospice in Drogheda in 2021/2 which will serve County Meath. There are ongoing challenges in raising the capital in the Midlands but the HSE is continuing to work with local groups on this. In the Quality of Death Index, published in 2015, the United Kingdom is ranked number 1 in the World, with Australia ranking number 2 and Ireland is fourth. 20 different parameters are involved in the ranking process and Ireland's ranking fell because of the lack of evidence on quality criteria;
- If possible, the most desirable outcome is to co-locate new units with major acute hospitals. This is to facilitate emergency treatment if required and it may also provide access to diagnostic facilities and experienced health professionals;
- Palliative care is for people with chronic disease, not just cancer. Approximately 70% of palliative care patients suffer from cancer, with the remaining 30% from non-cancer conditions.

4. Motions

As suicide rates are rising in counties Louth and Meath, can I call on the HSE to ensure that steps are being taken to address this worrying trend.

Cllr. Wayne Forde

Ms. Dervilla Eyres, Head of Mental Health, Midlands Louth Meath CHO, informed members that copies of the Midlands Louth Meath CHO 'Connecting for Life' Strategy were available at the meeting.

Given the huge demand for respite services for children with disabilities in the Cavan/Monaghan area, that this Forum calls on the HSE and Minister Finian McGrath, T.D., with special responsibility for disabilities, to ensure that the necessary funding is provided that will allow respite centres for children with disabilities as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. McKenna stated that his Motion is specific to children. He outlined that he had recently attended a meeting with 60 parents of children with a disability in Cavan where they stated they received no respite services. Cllr. McKenna requested that the Motion be forwarded to Minister Finian McGrath for response. He stressed that a specific allocation was needed from Government.

Ms. Briege Byrne, Disability Manager, Cavan Monaghan HSE, informed Cllr. McKenna that Annalee Respite Centre also caters for children and a meeting was held prior to Christmas to deal with an emergency situation that arose. Ms. Byrne stated that the centre is due to reopen soon and should be up to full capacity by March.

Ms. Mary Walshe, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County, informed the meeting that additional funding had been allocated for disability services recently. She stated that it was unfortunate that the service had to close due to an emergency but that the managers involved were doing their best. Ms. Walshe outlined that 25% of the current population are now under 18, with a significant number of disabilities.

Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services, outlined the complexity of disabilities and pressures being put on the family home. He also stated that there are now a higher number of children surviving with complex needs which results in more demand for services, including respite services.

It was agreed that the Motion would be forwarded to Minister McGrath for response.

5. Questions

The responses to the Questions were noted.

6. Chairperson's Correspondence

Retirement of Chief Officer, CHO DNCC

Cllr. Eithne Loftus, Chairperson, informed the Forum of the forthcoming retirement of Ms. Mary Walshe.

Ms. Walshe outlined that she has worked 36 years in the health service and thoroughly enjoyed it, working with the best of people. She spoke of her appreciation of the support from the Forum and stated that she will be in attendance for the February Committee meeting and will finish in mid-March.

Cllr. Loftus thanked Ms. Walshe for all her work with the Forum and wished her very good health and a very happy retirement.

Members joined the Chairperson in wishing Ms. Walshe well for her retirement.

Resignation

Cllr. Loftus informed the Forum of that Cllr. Tommy Byrne has advised that he wishes to step down as a Louth representative on the Regional Health Forum. The Regional Health Office has written to Louth County Council to seek a replacement for Cllr. Byrne on the Forum.

Louth County Council members present wished Cllr. Byrne well for the future.

Vacancies

Cllr. Loftus also outlined that Dublin City Council has two vacancies at present on the Forum and that these vacancies have been listed on the Council agenda on a number of occasions. The Chairperson stated that she has been informed by Dublin City Council that due to the proximity of the Local Elections in May, the Council is unable to nominate to fill these vacancies for the short period involved. Cllr. Loftus stated that the Council regrets any inconvenience caused and will fill these vacancies as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting in June 2019.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 25th March, 2019.

Signed:

Chairperson