

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS

Members Present

Cllr. Christy Burke
Cllr. Kieran Dennison
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Patricia Roe
Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Mary Callaghan
Cllr. Declan Flanagan
Cllr. Brigid Manton
Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien
Cllr. John Sheridan

Cllr. Séamus Coyle
Cllr. Michelle Hall
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Darren O'Rourke
Cllr. Trevor Smith

Apologies

Cllr. Tom Behan
Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Cllr. Gillian Toole

Cllr. Colm O'Rourke

Not in Attendance

Cllr. Daryl Barron
Cllr. Craig Lovett
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey

Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Mary McCamley
Cllr. Niamh Souhan

Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan

Officials Present

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County
Mr. Joe Ruane, Head of Primary Care, Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services
Mr. Ken Fitzgibbon, Hospital Manager, Our Lady's Hospital Navan
Mr. Ben Cloney, Acting Head of Digital, Communications Division
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

Cllr. David Maxwell, Vice Chairperson, chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 23rd September, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23rd September, 2019 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Christy Burke and seconded by Cllr. Michelle Hall.

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:-

- Sláintecare Integration Fund Projects;
- Launch of Specialist Geriatric Services Model of Care - Mental Health Provision;
- Thrombosis Ireland VTE Roadshow - 12th September – 11th October;
- Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm;
- European Antibiotic Awareness Day 18th November 2019;
- START campaign says that parents who say no to treats are heroes;
- Minister Harris launches national condom distribution service in third level colleges;
- Schedule of Meetings 2020;
- Christmas Message.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. Presentations on Winter Planning

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County, Mr. Joe Ruane, Head of Primary Care, Midlands Louth Meath CHO and Mr. Cathal Hand, Network Manager, Monaghan Primary Care Services, gave presentations to members on Winter Planning (copies appended to the official minute).

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

- i. Clarification on development of older persons hubs, particularly in relation to St. Mary's Castleblaney;
- ii. Clarification on decision to refer clients to St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblaney;
- iii. Concerns in relation to home care packages not being in place on discharge from hospital;
- iv. Lack of nursing home beds available in Louth and Meath;
- v. Clarification on recent embargo on additional hours;
- vi. Details of €885k spend;
- vii. Staffing of Winter Action Teams;
- viii. Patients from Cavan and Monaghan at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda;
- ix. Confirmation in relation to directive that additional funding be allocated to hospitals only to support discharge;

- x. Attendances at hospital Emergency Departments over Christmas period due to closure of home support offices at this time;
- xi. Synopsis of Winter Planning outcomes for future meeting;
- xii. Update on flu in comparison to previous years;
- xiii. Variances in geographical areas with regards to home help hours for the elderly;
- xiv. Beaumont Hospital's ability to discharge within the Fair Deal scheme - difficulties with getting funding through;
- xv. Smoking by severely ill patients at Eccles Street and North Circular Road entrances of Mater Hospital – plans to address the addiction;
- xvi. Number of beds available for step down in Lusk Community Nursing Unit at any given time;
- xvii. Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital – 32 beds available to the HSE for step down or 32 beds if one becomes available;

Ms. McLoone, Mr. Ruane and Mr. Hand responded to the questions and comments from the members as follows:-

- i. This refers to an outpatient service and is not in terms of beds. Older people who are still living at home in the community can avail of an assessment centre at St. Mary's where they can have a full assessment completed by the advanced nurse practitioners who will link in directly with the hospitals;
- ii. It is the GP of the client who would make a decision in relation to referral. The service provides an enhanced assessment superior to that which would be available from their GP or a typical primary care setting in the hope of avoiding the need to attend an emergency department. The service is provided on an elective and planned basis;
- iii. It is acknowledged that home care packages are not always in place when an individual is discharged from hospital and not every discharge requires a package. However, where a patient is due to be discharged home, an assessment takes place in advance of the discharge and where it is deemed to be required, appropriate hours are put in place. Priority is always given in terms of allocated home support hours to people being discharged from hospital;
- iv. Sufficient nursing home beds are available in Louth and Meath. In terms of nursing home beds, there are the clinical requirements of the individual and the financial requirements - both take place simultaneously. The funding approval process currently stands at approximately four weeks. Meanwhile, the family examine potential locations, either in a private or public setting. In both settings, there are local implementation teams which endeavour to advise on the best location for each specific individual. Generally speaking, the more complex cases are referred to public units and the less complex to private settings. The HSE is not aware of any delays concerning Louth or Meath. It may be a case where the chosen nursing home has no availability;
- v. There is no embargo in place. Services have been mandated to work within their allocated funding and in recent weeks, an additional 27 hours per week has been received on a recurrent basis and is being targeted towards Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. There are currently 680 clients approved for home support hours in Louth and Meath,

- however, funding is not available to provide the service. It is also important to note that the home support service spend is profiled on the time of greatest demand. Therefore, between October and February, more funding is spent on home support than between March and September. This may give an impression that an embargo is in place but there is actually not. Funding is consciously profiled to ensure there is adequate funding to meet the extra need in Winter;
- vi. The €885k is allocated between the five Winter Action Teams in Midlands Louth Meath;
 - vii. All the WATS have been allocated additional funding to support the implementation of Winter Action Plans;
 - viii. Patients from Cavan and Monaghan would be dealt with within any actions that take place within the hospital itself. If any of the actions regarding facilitating discharge are based within the client's own locality, then they will be catered for within Cavan Monaghan. Some actions in respect of improving processes are hospital based and they take place within the individual hospitals, and some are in respect of improving and increasing resources within the community; these take place where the client lives, not where the hospital is located. If you are a patient within Cavan Monaghan requiring home support, you would receive a referral from the discharge planner to the home support team in Cavan Monaghan;
 - ix. There has not been a directive, however, there is an understanding that the majority of Winter funding goes towards hospitals to avoid bed blockages;
 - x. One of the key aspects of all the Winter plans is to try to ensure that staff that do not work 24/7 do not book blocks of holidays over the Christmas period. While home support services within the community do not open during weekends and bank holidays, it is ensured that the service is running on all other occasions during the Christmas and New Year periods with a full staff capacity to meet demands and deal with new applications or designations of hours as they arise;
 - xi. Presentation to be arranged for March 2020 Forum meeting;
 - xii. The picture currently, in comparison to the same period last year, would be relatively favourable in respect of Cavan Monaghan. The service has been able to bring the number of people waiting on home support hours down slightly and there is still capacity within the region's residential care beds. However, there is always the possibility of individual exceptional cases arising. There are also no particularly long stays in any of the Cavan Monaghan hospitals as a result of a lack of resources within the community. However, there is a problem within the Mater hospital where recently they experience a huge surge in demand which significantly impacted on numbers. Beaumont, Connolly and the Mater are experiencing much higher attendees, much earlier on, than previous years. The situation is manageable at present but factors can influence at any time;
 - xiii. There are major variances in respect of the ages of population in Dublin regions. The March presentation will endeavour to cover where the profile of home support is being spent on older persons, and how this relates to the overall older persons population;

- xiv. The funding for nursing home support within the Ballymun office is generally four weeks. Delays in funding approved arise when clients who require a greater level of funding from the nursing home than that provided through the Fair Deal Scheme. Where a client requires additional funding above the Fair Deal reimbursement rate, there will certainly be a delay;
- xv. Issues in relation to smoking by patients at Mater Hospital entrances and assistance with the addiction during their hospital stay will be examined and a response issued to members;
- xvi. All of the 50 beds in Lusk Community Care Unit are nursing home support scheme beds so all are used to discharge from – these beds are all long stay rather than step down;
- xvii. The beds in Clontarf, Cappagh and Fairview are predominately used by the Mater Hospital and the patient flow through these beds is very high. Therefore, this would mean at the end of every month, this would show 32 different patients. Four to six weeks step down would be the average length of stay in these units. Following this, these individuals will either go home with a home care package or to a nursing home.

4. Motions

The Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East request that the HSE's website be updated regularly as many areas in 'Conditions and Treatments' haven't been updated since 2011. It is important to ensure that the public have trust in the HSE in delivering the most up-to-date medical information.

Cllr. Michelle Hall

Mr. Ben Cloney, Acting Head of Digital, Communications Division, gave a verbal update on the response provided and Cllr. Hall expressed satisfaction with the response.

5. Questions

The responses to the Questions were noted.

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, 27th January, 2020.

Signed:

Chairperson