

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2023 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE OFFICES, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS, CO. MEATH  
& VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

**Members Present (*in person*)**

Cllr. Séamus Coyle  
Cllr. Gillian Toole

Cllr. Michael Gallagher

Cllr. Adrian Henchy

**Members Present (*online*)**

Cllr. Daryl Barron  
Cllr. Kieran Dennison  
Cllr. Conor Keelan  
Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Tom Behan  
Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Trevor Smith

Cllr. Mary Callaghan  
Cllr. Michelle Hall  
Cllr. Ray McAdam  
Cllr. Emer Tóibín

**Apologies**

Cllr. Christy Burke

Cllr. Howard Mahony

Cllr. Brigid Manton

**Not in attendance**

Cllr. Deirdre Heney  
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan  
Cllr. Colm O'Rourke  
Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Sean Kelly  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
Cllr. Patricia Roe

Cllr. Craig Lovett  
Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien  
Cllr. Niamh Souhan

**HSE Representatives Present (*in person*)**

Mr. Liam McHale, Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, CHO Dublin North City & County  
Ms. Martina O'Byrne – Head of HR, Midlands Louth Meath CHO  
Mr. Gearóid Rennicks, Communications & Press Officer, Ireland East Hospital Group  
Ms. Rosaleen Dolan, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention - Louth/Meath  
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE  
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

**HSE Representatives Present (*online*)**

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County  
Fergal Fox, General Manager, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Communications, Health and Wellbeing  
Mr. Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo  
Ms. Denise Roxburgh, Unscheduled Care Performance and Improvement Lead, Ireland East Hospital Group

Cllr. Adrian Henchy chaired the meeting.

**1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Michelle Hall and seconded by Cllr. Adrian Henchy.

**2. Health Service Executive Updates**

Mr. Liam McHale, Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, CHO Dublin North City & County, gave a report to the meeting which dealt with the following:

- Winter vaccinations
- Bernard Gloster appointed as new CEO of the HSE
- Ballymun Sláintecare Healthy Communities launched
- Minister Butler Officially Opens Blackwater House & launches SCAN Service
- Publicjobs.ie launch Medical Consultant Recruitment Hub in partnership with HSE
- HSE and Cara Sport Inclusion Ireland launch 'Active Healthy Me'
- Organ Donation End of Year Statement 2022
- HSE urges smokers to take back control this January

The following outlines comments and queries raised by members and responses from HSE representatives:

Lack of communication in relation to Boyne PCC vaccination centre and request for additional clinics.

Comments will be brought back to Communications colleagues and work will continue to promote through additional stakeholders.

Request for information on any reviews of vaccine safety data.

Decisions on the administration of vaccines is the responsibility of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC). The HSE takes guidance and judgement from NIAC in this regard.

Concerns in relation to inaccurate information concerning vaccines on social media - need for HSE campaign on benefits, effectiveness and safety of vaccination.

Comments and suggestions will be relayed to Public Health and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HSPC).

Need for accurate information on vaccines, including side effects. Also, lack of information on benefits of Vitamin D to people with Covid-19.

The HSE has a responsibility to be extremely careful in relation to any data it publishes. However, suggestions and comments will be relayed to Public Health and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HSPC).

Request for update on ambulance bypass protocol concerning Our Lady's Hospital, Navan.

The hospital bypass extension was implemented from 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 meaning that persons critically ill or suffering with acute surgical problems are brought to the most appropriate closest hospital, i.e. Our Lady's Hospital, Drogheda, Regional Hospital, Mullingar, or Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown. This is an extension to what is already in place for paediatrics, obstetrics, major trauma, cardiac arrest and stroke. Extensive communication has taken place with key stakeholders since the extension.

Information on patients brought to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, and sent back to Our Lady's Hospital, Navan.

A response will be provided.

Reports of staff at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, sometimes not having enough work to do because of bypass.

Comments will be relayed back to hospital management.

Cigarette litter outside businesses and retail unit - request that HSE provide information to local businesses to encourage employees to quit smoking.

Comments will be relayed to service.

Extension of Quit campaign to include vaping.

Legislation is underway to help discourage the uptake of vaping, particularly in the younger age cohort.

Children's Disability Network Team for County Meath – request for update on vacancies and positions filled.

There have been significant challenges across all care groups and disciplines in relation to recruitment of staff. A response will be provided.

Request for copy of Mental Health Commission interim report on CAMHS.

The three Community Healthcare Organisations represented on the Regional Health Forum – Dublin North East do not form part of the interim report. A report will issue on the remaining four CHOs later this year. The report is available online from the Mental Health Commission website.

The report was noted by the Forum.

### **3. Presentation on Health & Wellbeing**

Fergal Fox, General Manager, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Communications, Health and Wellbeing, gave a presentation to members on Health & Wellbeing.

The following outlines comments and queries raised by members and responses from Mr. Fox.

Need for Health & Wellbeing messages to have a further reach.

It was agreed that this is a challenge. However, Health & Wellbeing work with community partners, local authorities, Family Resource Centres, etc. in trying to embed initiatives in communities, especially those most at risk.

Importance of healthy eating and the role of vitamins, awareness of additives in foods, ingredients in household products and possibility of providing free fruit and vegetables in areas with socio economic problems.

Comments noted.

Concerns in relation to local authority Healthy Ireland plan in County Louth – lack of consultation, funding, lack of resources in schools.

Agreement on comments. However, this is outside the scope of the HSE.

Obesity prevalence in Ireland – marketing and promotion of confectionery in shops and supermarkets compared to Europe and the need for legislation in this regard

Childhood obesity is a real challenge in terms of accessibility and below cost selling of products.

Further publicity of YouTube channel to promote Health & Wellbeing initiatives.  
Comments noted.

Request that Quit campaign include vaping in signage.  
New signage, which includes vaping, has recently been developed and placed in Tobacco Free Campus sites.

Lack of information on drugs in presentation.  
Drugs and substance misuse are outside the remit of Health & Wellbeing; Social Inclusion, Drugs & Alcohol Services and Drugs Task Forces are services that deal with these issues.

Request that Living Well programme sessions are also available in the evening.  
To be explored.

#### **4. Motions**

There was no business under this item.

#### **5. Questions**

The responses to the Questions were noted.

#### **6. Chairperson's Correspondence**

Cllr. Adrian Henchy updated the meeting on the recent appointments of Cllr. Conor Keelan from Louth County Council and Cllr. Michael Gallagher – Meath County Council and welcomed both members to 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, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

#### **Presentation on Connecting for Life – Louth Meath**

Ms. Rosaleen Dolan, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention - Louth/Meath, gave a presentation to members on Connecting for Life – Louth Meath.

The following outlines comments and queries raised by members and responses from Ms. Dolan.

Clarification on whether there is a rural / urban divide in relation to suicide cases.

It is important to note that anyone can be suicidal. Cases are often related to adverse life events, rather than geographically based. However, it is known that suicide is more prevalent in certain priority groups, such as the travelling community and young people aged 15-24.

Clarification on whether suicide prevention training highlights the role of alcohol in self-harm.

Health care professionals are trained to recognise and address presentations with alcohol related injuries. Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training also includes a module on alcohol and it is highlighted that people with alcohol are more likely to participate in risky behaviour.

Role of drugs in suicides.

One goal outlined is drug and alcohol abuse and work will take place over the next number of months with groups, services and community policing units in the community to tackle issues.

Request that PCRS allow Owings functionality on paracetamol.

PRCS to be informed of request.

**Signed:**

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