

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TOIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 2020, AT 2:00PM

By Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Cllr. Tom Behan
Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cllr. Brigid Manton
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Trevor Smith
Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Christy Burke
Cllr. Michelle Hall
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Patricia Roe
Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Cllr. Kieran Dennison
Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Cllr. Howard Mahony
Cllr. Ray McAdam
Cllr. John Sheridan
Cllr. Gillian Toole

Not in Attendance

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

Cllr. Mary Callaghan
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
Cllr. Aisling O'Neill

Cllr. Séamus Coyle
Cllr. Ruairi Ó Murchu
Cllr. Colm O'Rourke

Officials Present

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County
Ms. Aoife O'Sullivan, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office
Ms. Fiona Murphy, Head of Health & Wellbeing, Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Mr. John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO 1
Ms. Paula Lawler, Group Director of Human Resources, Ireland East Hospital Group
Mr. Shaun Flanagan, Assistant National Director, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Mr. Ciaran Brennan, Communications Manager, Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Ms. Elaine McGuinness, Service Feedback Manager, CHO Dublin North City & County
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

Cllr. Adrian Henchy, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the Forum, which was being held through Microsoft Teams, and outlined the process in terms of making contributions throughout the meeting.

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 28th September, 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28th September, 2020 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Howard Mahony and seconded by Cllr. Christy Burke.

2. Health Service Executive Updates

Ms. Aoife O'Sullivan, Communications Manager, Regional Health Office, gave a report to the meeting which dealt with the following:-

- HSE National Safeguarding Office 2019 Annual Report and Explainer Video;
- New HSE mental health resource 'Minding Your Wellbeing';
- European Antibiotics Awareness Day;
- START campaign encourages parents to add a healthy habit to family time;
- Face coverings;
- Talking about sex and sexual behaviour of young people in Ireland;
- Schedule of Meetings 2021;
- Christmas Message.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. Presentation on Winter Planning

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County, Ms. Fiona Murphy, Head of Health & Wellbeing, Midlands Louth Meath CHO, Mr. John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO 1, and Ms. Paula Lawler, Group Director of Human Resources, Ireland East Hospital Group, gave a presentation to members on Winter Planning.

Members raised the following issues:-

- i. Discussion around increased rehabilitation provision at St. Mary's Hospital, more detail sought about this;
- ii. Clarification on Patient Experience Times (PET) and impact of lockdowns;
- iii. Update on waiting times for elective procedures;
- iv. Ability to engage with the Treatment Abroad Scheme;
- v. Psychiatric presentations to Emergency Departments (ED);
- vi. Request for update on screening programmes – BreastCheck, CervicalCheck, BowelScreen and Diabetic RetinaScreen;
- vii. Clarification on additional beds for mental health in Louth Meath;
- viii. Expected timeline for new Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) programme and how referral will work;
- ix. Request for future presentation on the long term effects of Covid-19;
- x. Total allocated Winter Plan funding for Midlands Louth Meath (MLM) Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO);
- xi. Accessibility of Chronic Disease Programmes to other CHO areas;
- xii. Recruitment for home support workers MLM CHO;
- xiii. Additional funding for respite for young adults with intellectual disabilities in Meath;
- xiv. Details on medication management as part of Sláintecare initiative;
- xv. Request for updated Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG) statistics on Covid-19;
- xvi. Funding for CHO 1 and proportion allocated to Cavan Monaghan;

- xvii. Request for update on 23 additional beds for Monaghan General Hospital;
- xviii. Access to early intervention, speech & language and assessments;
- xix. Numbers able to access Pulmonary Rehabilitation courses;
- xx. Detail requested on additional home support hours for Meath;
- xxi. Clarification whether Public Health Nurses can administer the flu vaccine;
- xxii. Thank all staff working in residential settings, particular mention of St. Mary's Hospital;
- xxiii. Query raised in relation to access to St. Vincent's Psychiatric Unit, Fairview;
- xxiv. Provision of flu vaccine to the homeless and other key populations;
- xxv. Services available in Smithfield Rapid Action Clinic;
- xxvi. Number of extra home support hours being made available in Dublin North City;
- xxvii. Impact Covid-19 has had on wait periods in IEHG;
- xxviii. Clarification on direct access to GP diagnostics;
- xxix. In relation to CHO Dublin North City and County (DNCC), update in relation to aids and appliances;
- xxx. Update requested around recruitment of dementia advisors;
- xxxi. Update requested for waiting times for disability and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) assessments in Meath;
- xxxii. Update requested on waiting list for home help hours in Meath;
- xxxiii. Update requested on waiting list times for disability and mental health services in Meath;
- xxxiv. Clarity sought on the timeframe for Winter Plan funding;
- xxxv. Number of applications for Fair Deal;
- xxxvi. Plans to establish day care and respite services.

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

- i. CHO DNCC will increase the short stay rehabilitation care on the St. Mary's Campus in line with the HSE Winter Plan 2020/2021. Additional staffing will be provided. A response will follow;
- ii. At present, Beaumont, Connolly and the Mater hospitals have seen lower admissions since the Summer. At a community level, initiatives such as GP access to diagnostics, additional home support are being put in place as part of the HSE Winter Plans;
- iii. Many services continued and resumption of paused elective procedures were prioritised as practicable, utilising available resources;
- iv. Further information will be sought from the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF);
- v. In the main, mental health services continued throughout Covid-19 in terms of outpatients, CAMHS. A response on presentations to EDs will be sought;
- vi. An update on the four Screening Programmes will be requested;
- vii. A Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in a liaison post in acute services in Meath to assist mental health. Further information may be supplied following the meeting;
- viii. It is intended that the COPD programme will commence in Q1 2021;
- ix. It is too early to determine long term implications of Covid-19. The request will be noted for a presentation in the future;
- x. The funding for MLM CHO was approximately €20m;
- xi. The Chronic Disease Programme can only be accessed by people residing in Dublin North City and County;
- xii. There are significant challenges in recruiting carers and a HR workforce plan will be developed to progress recruitment of additional staff. The substantial investment of €11m for the MLM CHO will equate to over 400k additional home support hours for the six counties in the CHO, including Louth and Meath. As part

- of the HSE Winter Plan, 409,000 additional home care hours will be provided in the MLM CHO;
- xiii. A response in relation to intellectual disability respite services in Meath will be provided;
 - xiv. 'Living Well' is an evidence based programme. Details will be shared;
 - xv. Covid-19 statistics are provided daily on a national basis, and information would not be available in respect of individual hospital groups;
 - xvi. There is €17m allocated across the five counties covered by CHO 1. Targeted home support in Cavan Monahan should result in 109k hours. A review on home support is currently underway. There will be additional intermediate care beds and posts for the Community Intervention Team in Lisdarn, with allied health professionals in the community;
 - xvii. An update will be provided in relation to Monaghan General Hospital;
 - xviii. Within CHO DNCC, there is a delay in the Assessment of Need (AON) process due to the ongoing increasing number of referrals. There are a growing number of local factors driving this demand, namely the increasing child population and growth in terms of children presenting with complex needs. CHO DNCC has received a significant funding allocation targeting the elimination of waiting lists for AON by the end of Quarter 1 2021. The service is actively engaging with a number of Agency Providers and is successfully progressing this initiative. A key element is the reconfiguration of children's disability services during 2021 in line with the Progressing Disability Services (PDS) which involves reconfiguration of existing services to create local Children's Disability Network Teams. Under the programme, we will roll out a new model of service provision with particular focus on family centred practice. A future presentation to the Forum will be arranged on this;
 - xix. During 2021, it is expected to run a minimum of five pulmonary rehabilitation online courses;
 - xx. In Meath, as part of the HSE Winter Plan, 409,000 additional home care hours will be provided;
 - xxi. Further information will be provided;
 - xxii. The Chairperson agreed to write a letter to St. Mary's Hospital on behalf of the Forum;
 - xxiii. Further information will be requested from St. Vincent's Fairview;
 - xxiv. Regarding the issue of the administration of the flu vaccine to the homeless and other key populations, great work has been done by HSE and partner organisations as part of the Covid-19 response;
 - xxv. A response in relation to Smithfield Rapid Access Clinic will be provided;
 - xxvi. A response will be provided in relation to home support in Dublin North City;
 - xxvii. Hospitals within the IEHG have seen a significant decrease in ED attendances and a decrease on admissions. Virtual consultations are working well;
 - xxviii. GPs located in CHO DNCC are referring GMS and Doctor Visit Card (DVC) patients directly for MRI, CT, Ultrasound, X-ray and Dexa scans to providers other than the local acute hospitals, for urgent and routine diagnostics. This approach, which was also provided as part of 2019/2020 HSE Winter Plan, improves services provided for patients and reduces pressure on local acute hospitals and it is anticipated that this will also help to reduce the waitlist for existing referrals in the hospitals. Ultrasound is being provided by Affidea and all other diagnostic services are provided through Alliance Medical;
 - xxix. CHO DNCC are providing additional funding for aids and appliances;
 - xxx. All CHOs received approval for a dementia Advisor (1 WTE) as part of National Dementia Strategy;
 - xxxi. A response on disability and CAMHS assessments for Meath will be provided;
 - xxxii. A response on home help hours for Meath will be provided;

- xxxiii. Information on waiting times for disability and mental health services for Meath will be considered;
- xxxiv. The window for funding is for six months this year, beginning in November;
- xxxv. The majority of applications are received between October and March. Further information may be circulated;
- xxxvi. All disability and mental health services have put measures in place to retain some level of service. Provision is currently impacted by public health measures.

4. Motions

That all staff and persons residing in residential care settings including young person care homes, are tested for coronavirus on a weekly basis. This will help prevent the widespread infection of Covid-19, as has already occurred in some care settings and lessen the implications to all involved.

Cllr. Michelle Hall

Cllr. Hall briefed the members on her Motion, welcomed the response issued in advance of the meeting, which outlined that responsibility on these matters rests with the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE).

The Motion was noted.

That the HSE / Department of Health extend to all Type 1 Diabetics, under the Longterm Illness Scheme (LTI), the opportunity to avail of The Freestyle Libre System, where deemed necessary by their Diabetics Team, due to unhygienic working conditions, i.e. construction, mechanical, etc. and who have concerns as to conducting the Finger Prick, while working in these unsafe conditions in the interests of their health and safety and of their work colleagues.

Cllr. Séamus Coyle

Cllr. Gillian Toole gave an explanation to the Forum on the Freestyle Libre System and Mr. Shaun Flanagan, Assistant National Director, Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS), gave a comprehensive response to the Motion.

As Cllr. Coyle was absent for the meeting, this motion was not moved and is subject to Section 23.4 of the Standing Orders, where it shall be declared lost and shall not be reactivated without fresh notice.

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, 25th January, 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson