

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT 2:00PM

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

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

Cllr. Gillian Toole

**Members Present (*online*)**

Cllr. Daryl Barron  
Cllr. Mary Callaghan  
Cllr. Deirdre Heney  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Trevor Smith

Cllr. Tom Behan  
Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick  
Cllr. Sean Kelly  
Cllr. Ray McAdam  
Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Cllr. Christy Burke  
Cllr. Adrian Henchy  
Cllr. Brigid Manton  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan

**Apologies**

Cllr. Michelle Hall

Cllr. Howard Mahony

**Not in attendance**

Cllr. Séamus Coyle  
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan  
Cllr. Aisling O'Neill  
Cllr. Niamh Souhan

Cllr. Kieran Dennison  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Colm O'Rourke  
Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Craig Lovett  
Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien  
Cllr. Patricia Roe

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

Mr. Liam McHale, Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, CHO Dublin North City & County  
Mr. Gearóid Rennicks, Communications & Press Officer, Ireland East Hospital Group  
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE  
Ms. Ursula Mannix, Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, CHO Dublin North City & County

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

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County  
Mr. Michael Redmond, Chief Operating Officer - eHealth  
Ms. Fiona Murphy, Head of Health & Wellbeing, Midlands Louth Meath CHO  
Mr. Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo  
Ms. Denise Roxburgh, Unscheduled Care Performance & Improvement Lead, Ireland East Hospital Group  
Ms. Carol McCann, Digital Health Manager, Midlands Louth Meath CHO  
Ms. Aislinn Gannon, Digital Health Manager, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

Cllr. Adrian Henchy and Cllr. Gillian Toole chaired the meeting.

**1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Christy Burke 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:

- Annual Health Service Excellence Awards;
- HSE shines a light on [community supports](#) available this World Alzheimer's Month;
- HSE urges parents to protect their children by registering for school vaccinations;
- HSE Marks World Suicide Prevention Day;
- HSE announces free prescription and emergency contraception for 17 to 25-year-old women and people;
- Ask.... "Could it be Sepsis?";
- HSE publishes first report into the implementation of the Structured Chronic Disease Management programme in General Practice since it began in 2020;
- The HSE aims to engage with festivals and nightlife providers over the next year to expand service provision;
- National Maternity Bereavement Experience Survey;
- Mater Performs Major Medical Breakthrough.

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

**Clarification on role of Ana Liffey Drug Project in homeless services**

The HSE worked closely with the Ana Liffey Drug Project in delivering social inclusion services to the homeless population during the Covid-19 pandemic. Collaboration also takes place with the organisation in relation to drug addiction services.

**Details on whether GPs and Pharmacies have the option to participate or not in new prescription and emergency contraception scheme**

An expression of interest was issued to Pharmacies with a deadline in mid-September. Further details will be provided.

**Numbers of GPs and Pharmacies participating in scheme**

Details to be provided for numbers at present, and updated figures to be provided again in early 2023.

**Reimbursement details for GPs and Pharmacies participating in scheme**

Details to be provided.

**Concerns in relation to preparedness and rollout of scheme and also ongoing software issues**

A response will be provided.

**Plans to address current difficulties in accessing a GP in North Dublin**

There is a significant shortage of GPs nationally, due to factors including the GP training scheme and numbers graduated annually. It was agreed that a presentation on Primary Care / GPs would be progressed.

Rollout of Integrated Student Sexual Health Contraception & Health Promotion Service to third level students and PLCs nationally

Details to be provided.

Details on provision of Memory Technology Resource Rooms (MTRR)

Details to be provided.

Clarification on mandatory vaccinations of medical students

Member requested to submit details for examination.

The report was noted by the Forum.

### 3. Presentation on eHealth

Mr. Michael Redmond, Chief Operating Officer - eHealth, gave a presentation to members on eHealth.

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

Clarification on national rollout of Electronic Health Records (EHR) system

The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy identified eHealth as one of key critical enablers central to the successful implementation of the Strategy and actioned the implementation of the HER system, with immediate priority for the rollout of the system in the new Children's Hospital.

eHealth funding of €86m has been approved for the Children's Health Ireland (CHI) EHR project and the procurement process has been completed with the contract awarded to a world leader in this field.

Following implementation, a review of the system in CHI will take place and subsequently, ERH can be expanded in acute care and the community. It is expected that full national implementation across the health service will take approximately ten years.

Inclusion of new Children's Hospital satellite centres at Connolly and Tallaght hospitals

The EHR will also include the satellite centres.

Access to EHR system at the new Children's Hospital by GPs

GPs will not have direct access to the EHR system. However, GPs may refer patients through the electronic GP referral platform which is integrated with CHI.

Integration of systems - new and legacy

Rollout of the Individual Health Identifier (IHI) has commenced in the acute sector within hospital patient management systems. These are master systems, connected to various downstream systems, enabling a 'waterfall' effect throughout all systems. The first acute IHI went live in Letterkenny Hospital recently and it is expected national acute rollout will be complete within 6-9 months.

Likewise, the IHI will be embedded within PCRS within the next number of months, and subsequently GP lists will incorporate patients IHIs.

Some HSE ICT systems are 30 years old with limited integration across community and acute care. Data systems and infrastructure have been underdeveloped and under resourced and many legacy challenges still exist.

Integration of many fragmented systems across such a huge IT environment requires large investment and the cyber investment case has advocated to eliminate legacy issues.

Within the overall €656m investment case, approximately €230m is being sought specifically to address legacy problems.

#### Involvement of outside bodies following cyber-attack

The HSE employed the assistance of An Garda Síochána, the National Cyber Security Centre, Interpol and the Irish Defence Forces.

#### Severity of threat and measures to avoid reoccurrence

This was a serious criminal cyberattack, performed through the infiltration of IT systems using Conti Ransomware. Over 80% of IT infrastructure was impacted along with the temporary loss of key patient information and diagnostics, resulting in severe impacts on the health service and the provision of care.

Interim measures, pre cyber investment case funding, included a series of technology processes designed to strengthen the ICT environment including limiting access to partner and voluntary agencies – new rules and regulations have now been developed for partner organisations. Also, work to eliminate legacy systems, such as Windows 7, is almost complete.

An implementation plan and business case for investment was subsequently progressed in order to strengthen resilience and responsiveness in this area. The Indicative Investment Case for eHealth & Cyber Remediation was finalised in August and the investment case specifically focuses on cyber recommendations relating to the Post Incident Review (PIR). The ICT & Cyber programme requires investment of €656m over a period of seven years.

#### 4. Briefing on Winter Plan

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO DNCC, Ms. Denise Roxburgh, Unscheduled Care Performance and Improvement Lead, Ireland East Hospital Group, Mr. Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo and Ms. Fiona Murphy, Head of Health & Wellbeing, Midlands Louth Meath CHO, gave verbal updates on winter planning in their respective areas.

Members were requested by HSE representatives, that where they can, in their dealings with constituents and local newsletters, to actively encourage people to avail of both the Covid and Flu vaccines this Winter.

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

#### Covid and Flu vaccinations - request for materials in order to promote uptake by social media

The Flu Campaign is being worked on nationally and locally and will include messaging around both vaccines. The official launch is due to take place in early October together with press, digital and radio advertising.

Contact will be made with Communications and the partner pack will be shared with members.

Studies of co-administration of both vaccines

To be examined.

**5. Motions**

There was no business under this item.

**6. Questions**

There was no business under this item.

**7. Chairperson's Correspondence**

There was no business 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, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

**Signed:**

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