

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 27TH MARCH, 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. Adrian Henchy

Cllr. Gillian Toole

Members Present (*online*)

Cllr. Daryl Barron

Cllr. Christy Burke

Cllr. Mary Callaghan

Cllr. Kieran Dennison

Cllr. Michelle Hall

Cllr. Sean Kelly

Cllr. Howard Mahony

Cllr. Brigid Manton

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Ray McAdam

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Cllr. Trevor Smith

Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Apologies

Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick

Cllr. Deirdre Heney

Cllr. Conor Keelan

Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Not in attendance

Cllr. Tom Behan

Cllr. Michael Gallagher

Cllr. Patricia Roe

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. Mary Dowling, Quality, Risk & Patient Safety Manager, Ireland East Hospital Group

Ms. Geraldine Farren, Principal Social Worker, RCSI Hospital Group

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

Ms. Caoimhe Gleeson, General Manager - Human Rights and Equality Policy

Ms. Jacqueline Grogan, Project Manager, National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy

Ms. Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

Mr. Pascal Keeve, Communications Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

Mr. Gerry Clerkin, Head of Service, QSSI and Chairperson of ADM Charing Committee, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

Ms. Aoife Lenihan, Head of QSSI, CHO Dublin North City & County

Ms. Niamh McGoldrick, Assisted Decision Making Project Manager, Midlands Louth Meath CHO

Cllr. Adrian Henchy chaired the meeting.

1. **Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 23rd January, 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23rd January were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Gillian Toole and seconded by Cllr. Kieran Dennison.

Cllr. Gillian Toole outlined clarification on her request made at the January meeting concerning pharmacy Owings functionality on paracetamol.

2. **Health Service Executive Updates**

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

- Cancer patients' attendance at Emergency Departments reduced due to new National Acute Oncology Nursing Service
- HSE drugs.ie webinar series to promote information about substance prevention in adolescents and education for parents
- Social Prescribing: How community connections can combat loneliness and lead to better health
- HSE publishes reports on Women's Experiences of Mental Health Services on International Women's Day
- HSE raises awareness on World Kidney Day 2023

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

Clarification on whether Acute Oncology Nursing Service information has been provided to GPs

It was confirmed that information has been provided to GPs.

Clarification on the rollout of the drugs.ie webinar series across the country

The webinar is part of a series which will be rolled out over the coming months. Details will be provided once available.

Confirmation that report on The Mental Health Impact of Menopause and Perimenopause may be shared

It was confirmed that any information shared in the HSE updates may be circulated.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. **Presentation on Assisted Decision Making**

Ms. Jacqueline Grogan, Project Manager, National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy, gave a presentation to members on Assisted Decision Making.

The following outlines comments and queries raised by members and responses from Ms. Grogan and Ms. Caoimhe Gleeson.

Options available to family if not satisfied with Decision-Making Representative (DMR) appointed by the Court

If a family feel that the DMR is not acting in the best interests of the relevant person, they can contact the Decision Support Service (DSS). Under the new law, the DSS

will be able to review and investigate complaints about decision supporters and decision support arrangements. Concerns may be raised directly and confidentially.

Role of Assisted Decision Making in under 16s who have been diagnosed at school with a disability - receipt of social welfare benefits

This matter does not fall under the remit of the Assisted Decision Making service.

Location of Assisted Decision Making Service office

The Decision Support Service is set up within the Mental Health Commission, and while a separate body, they have some joint responsibilities. The address is Waterloo Exchange, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4, D04 E5W7.

Need for service involvement in new rental plans for nursing home residents

There will certainly need to be some level of oversight in this regard. At present, a number of people can make a Nursing Home Support Scheme application on behalf of a relevant person. The new Act will end the role of 'Care Representative' and a Decision-Making Representative will need to be applied for. Any interested person may make representations to the Decision Support Service in confidence.

Clarification on the transition from wardship to Assisted Decision Making

When the new law comes into effect, people will no longer be able to be made a Ward of Court. An application for a person to be made a Ward of Court was made to the High Court; Applications for a Decision Making Representation Order will be made to the Circuit Court.

When a person was made a Ward of Court, it meant that they are no longer legally allowed to make decisions about their lives. This could include everyday decisions. The new decision support framework recognises that, as far as possible, all adults have the right to play an active role in decisions that affect them.

Provision where a person may temporarily lose capacity

The Act relates to all decisions taken on behalf of people who lack capacity. Capacity ranges from full to impaired to absent and may vary depending on the issue and / or context. It can also be short term or temporary. A person may need to put a formal arrangement in place if they temporarily lose capacity e.g. following a head injury. The Act allows for this. When the person regains decision-making capacity, they can seek to have that arrangement ceased.

Clarification on who assesses capacity

A capacity assessment is only undertaken when there is a specific decision to be made and there is valid trigger that indicates the person may not be able to make the decision without support. The healthcare worker who requires the decision to be made will often be the most appropriate person to do the capacity assessment, e.g. doctor or other healthcare worker. Under the new law, there are also specific circumstances where a capacity assessment is required to be undertaken by healthcare professionals which includes nurses and midwives, social workers, occupational therapists, speech and language therapist and psychologists. This is where a person wished to put in place an enduring power of attorney and a co-decision making arrangement.

Guidance from Attorney General or legal professionals

The Act was led by the Departments of Justice, Department of Health and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The 2015 Act and amending bill passed through all stages of the houses of the Oireachtas with oversight from the Office of Parliamentary council (OPC) and the Office of the Attorney General. The HSE has

received extensive advice in the development of training and information resources to support staff.

Clarification on the future of the 'committee'

The 'Committee' is the person(s) appointed by Wardship Court to work in conjunction with the Office of the Wards of Court Office to deal with the affairs of the Ward. Once a person is discharged from wardship, the committee will cease to exist and a new arrangement may be put in place under the new regime. All current Wards of Court will be reviewed and discharged from wardship within three years of the commencement of the Act on the 26th April, 2023. The wardship court will decide whether or not a current Ward of Court needs a decision supporter.

Ms. Aoife Lenihan, Head of QSSI, CHO Dublin North City and County, Mr. Gerry Clerkin, Head of Service, QSSI and Chairperson of ADM Committee, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo and Ms. Niamh McGoldrick, Assisted Decision Making Project Manager, Midlands Louth Meath CHO, gave brief outlines on the Assisted Decision Making process in their respective CHOs.

Ms. Mary Dowling, Quality, Risk and Patient Safety Manager, Ireland East Hospital Group and Ms. Geraldine Farren, Principal Social Worker, RCSI Hospital Group, gave brief outlines on the Assisted Decision Making process in their respective Hospital Groups.

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, Chairperson, updated members in relation to attendance at meetings and outlined that following examination of the record of attendance, it was noted that five members have missed three or more consecutive meetings of the Forum. He stated that these members were written to and to date, the following councillors have advised of their resignation:

- Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
- Cllr. Colm O'Rourke
- Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien
- Cllr. Craig Lovett

7. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 22nd May, 2023.

During the meeting, the following issues were also raised:

- Cllr. Ray McAdam referred to the November Forum meeting where he requested details on the provision of Primary Care Centres, particularly in respect of East Wall and North Wall.

Mr. Liam McHale, Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, CHO Dublin North City and County responded informing Cllr. McAdam that CHOs will present on Primary Care Centres at the forthcoming April Committee meeting. A response will be provided in respect of East Wall and North Wall in the interim.

- Cllr. Brian McKenna sought clarification on a response to an issue he raised at the February Committee meeting concerning difficulties for people in North Monaghan obtaining private GP services. Mr. Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo, agreed to provide further detail.
- Cllr. Séamus Coyle sought clarification on initiatives to recruit further GPs.

Mr. Dermot Monaghan outlined initiatives including increasing the number of GP trainees, long-term investment in terms of additionality with colleges and universities, changing the points level for access to medicine, sponsorship to learning and incentives for professionals to relocate to Ireland. He stated that there is a real challenge at present to recruit all healthcare professions.

- Cllr. Gillian Toole referred to the retention of staff stating that in County Meath, there is a 46% vacancy rate. She spoke about pay parity between Section 38, Section 39 and HSE staff and practical initiatives implemented in Northern Ireland, Scotland and New Zealand which could be implemented here quite quickly.

Mr. Dermot Monaghan noted these comments. Pay of Section 38 and Section 39 agencies is outside of the remit of the HSE.

Signed:

Chairperson