

Memorandum of Understanding

Between/

Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital (the Coombe)

And

The Health Service Executive (the HSE)

1. Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding relates to the shared intention of the parties that the Coombe will assume responsibility for the governance, management and delivery of women and infants' services at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise (MRHP) that reflects a single service on two sites to commence on an agreed date.

2. General Context

- (i) Current Government policy is to establish seven hospital groups for the delivery of acute hospital services and the enactment of legislation providing for each group to be granted legal status as a Hospital Trust under the governance of a Hospital Trust Board.
- (ii) Pending the enactment of such legislation the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group (DMHG) has been established as an administrative entity within the HSE comprising the following hospitals
 - Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise
 - Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore
 - Naas General Hospital
 - St. James's Hospital
 - The Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Dublin, incorporating the National Children's Hospital
 - The Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital
 - St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network
- (iii) It is the intention that the DMHG in its current role as an administrative entity and in due course as a legal entity would be

funded by the HSE to deliver networked services currently delivered individually by its component hospitals.

- (iv) It is recognised that the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital will lead the delivery of a networked women and infants' services within the DMHG.
- (v) The delivery of women and infants' services in DMHG will be informed by a number of reports relating to MRHP and the development of a maternity strategy nationally.

3. Scope of Agreement

In March 2014, at the request of the HSE the Coombe agreed to examine the feasibility of assuming responsibility for governance, management and delivery of women and infants' services at the MRHP on behalf of HSE and that the women and infants' services at the MRHP should become part of a managed clinical network under a singular governance model with the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital. This due diligence exercise was completed in May 2014 and the Coombe presented its findings and proposals to the HSE on the 24th day of September 2014 which included the following;

- Effective single governance structure for maternity services
- Requisite resources
- Formal secondment of staff with clear reporting lines and responsibility assignment
- Capital Investment in facilities, equipment and ICT
- Appropriate budget
- Service Level Agreements for shared services

At a subsequent meeting on the 21st day of October 2014 the Coombe presented the HSE with a draft costing and schedule of services (hereafter called the Schedule of Services and Costings) in respect of its proposal for the management and delivery of women and infants' services across both sites. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this MOU.

The HSE has reviewed and agreed the Schedule of Services and Costings made by the Coombe for the delivery of women and infants' services at the MRHP.

The Schedule of Services and Costings does not include those capital costs associated with infrastructural or ICT investment required for the delivery of the service. The parties recognise the need for this investment

and agree that they will be addressed as a discrete item in the course of the Implementation.

4. Implementation

- (i) The parties recognise and acknowledge that before the Coombe assumes responsibility for the governance, management and delivery of women and infants' services at the MRHP there are complex service modelling, resourcing, funding and clinical and corporate governance issues to be addressed and agreed between them. The parties have agreed to an Implementation Plan to address these issues and this is set out in Appendix 2.
- (ii) The parties further acknowledge and agree that the infrastructural investment outlined in Section 3 above required for the effective delivery of the proposed services will be discussed and agreed as part of the Implementation. An outline of the proposed infrastructural investment is set out in Appendix 3. Both parties recognise that this may be amended as part of the execution of the Implementation Plan.
- (iii) The parties also acknowledge and agree that investment in ICT is an essential part of the Implementation. The HSE agrees to provide funding for the necessary investment subject to agreement on the scope thereof. As an early part of the Implementation Plan, the scope of the ICT investment will be agreed between the parties.
- (iv) The parties also recognise and acknowledge that the reports referred to in Section 2 (v) above may have a significant bearing on future delivery of women and infants' services in MRHP and inform the scope of the proposed agreement between the parties.

5. Funding

The HSE recognises:

- (i) The importance of adequate and secure funding for the delivery by the Coombe of women and infants' services at the MRHP is acknowledged by the HSE and in particular funding requirements for the service in its development. While the HSE operates within

an annual funding cycle, it is acknowledged that the development of safe effective maternity services is one of the top priorities for the HSE and the Department of Health. Accordingly, the HSE will seek to ensure that agreed resource requirements for the maternity network between Coombe and Portlaoise are planned for and addressed over the next three years within the overall resources available to the HSE. The parties agree that an annual plan should be drawn up based on known or anticipated requirements to ensure that the Estimate process can include these items.

- (ii) The reports referred to in 2 (v) above may impact on the funding required for the delivery of maternity services in the Coombe, MRHP and maternity services nationally.
- (iii) The need for funding for integration and reconfiguration of maternity services within the Hospital Group.

6. Proposed Legal Agreement

It is understood between the parties that should the Coombe assume responsibility for the governance, management and delivery of women and infants' services at the MRHP that the terms upon which they will do so will be incorporated into a legal agreement which would inter alia include provision for the following;

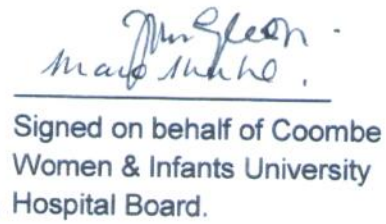
- Scope and extent of the women and infants' services to be provided;
- Security of funding;
- Clinical governance arrangements including management of cross-site clinical appointments;
- Corporate governance arrangements including the reporting arrangements between the maternity unit at MRHP and the Coombe, the governance arrangements between the Executive Management at MRHP and the Coombe, DMHG and the HSE;
- The contractual arrangements for the provision of clinical and non-clinical supports required for the delivery of women and infants' services in MRHP by the Coombe;
- The contractual and reporting arrangements of personnel engaged in the delivery of women and infants' services in MRHP;
- Liability in respect of the historical activities at MRHP;
- Transitional Arrangements.

The proposed contractual arrangements are likely to take the form of an addendum to the service level agreement between the Coombe and the HSE.

7. Status of Memorandum

This Memorandum does not represent a legal commitment by either of the parties nor is it a legally enforceable agreement.


Signed on behalf of the
Health Services Executive


Signed on behalf of Coombe
Women & Infants University
Hospital Board.

Dated 26.3.15