

Minutes of Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2011 at the Boardroom, HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster Offices, Block 4, Central Business Park, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Present:

Cllr. D. O’Callaghan (Vice-Chairperson)	Cllr. W. Aird
Cllr. M. Bailey	Cllr. P. Belton
Cllr. G. Brady	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. M. Dollard	Cllr. P. Doran
Cllr. M. Duff	Cllr. T. Fox
Cllr. G. Horkan	Cllr. P. Hand
Cllr. C. King	Cllr. S. Langan
Cllr. T. McKeigue	Cllr. C. NiDhalaigh
Cllr. G. O’Connell	Cllr. F. O’Loughlin
Cllr. P.J. Reilly	Cllr. J. Ryan
Cllr. E. Walsh	

Apologies:

Cllr. K. O’Brien

In Attendance:

Mr. John Cregan, Director, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster
Mr. Gerry O’Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations, Dublin – Mid Leinster,
Mr. Declan Lyons, Assistant National Director of Finance, HSE
Ms. Mary Gorry, Assistant National Director of Human Resources, HSE
Mr. Jim Curran, Assistant National Director of Estates, HSE
Mr. Kevin Cleary, Head of Business Unit, HSE
Mr. Gerry O’Neill, Integrated Service Area Manager
Mr. David Walsh, Integrated Services Area Manager
Ms. Martina Quealy, Integrated Services Area Manager
Mr. Joe Ruane, Integrated Service Area Manager
Mr. Gerard McKiernan, Integrated Service Area Manager
Ms. Arlene Creane, Communications Officer,
Ms. Eileen Brophy, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster

11:01:01 Adoption of minutes of meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on Tuesday, 16th November 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Belton seconded by Cllr. W. Aird, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th November 2010 were adopted.

11:01:02 Chairperson's Correspondence

Cllr. D. O'Callaghan, Vice-Chairperson informed the meeting that he had been advised by Dun Laoighaire-Rathdown County Council that Cllr. Tony Fox had replaced Cllr. Cormac Devlin on the Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum. Cllr. O'Callaghan welcomed Cllr. Fox to the meeting

Cllr. O'Callaghan extended congratulations on behalf of Forum members to the following members on their election to Dail Eirean:

- Cllr. Simon Harris, (Former Chairperson of the Forum)
- Cllr. Sean Crowe,
- Cllr. Martin Heydon,
- Cllr. Kevin Humphreys.

Cllr. O'Callaghan advised the meeting that the nominating committees had not yet advised the Forum of replacements.

Members noted that Cllr. O'Callaghan would, as the elected Vice-Chairperson act as Chair until the Forum AGM in July, 2011.

Forum members observed a minute's silence to express solidarity with the Japanese people and show their sympathy for the many victims of earthquake and tsunami. The Chairman is also to convey the Forum's sympathy to the Japanese people through its ambassador.

11:01:03 Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster Annual Report 2010.

Members welcomed publication of the report and noted its contents.

11:01:04 Noting of Report of Joint Committee Chairperson for the Acute Hospital Services and population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Committees.

Members noted the above report.

11:01:05 HSE Update: Service Plan 2011

The Integrated Services Area Managers presented reports on various aspects of the Service Plan 2011 as follows:

Mr. Gerry, O'Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations – Overview

Ms. Mary Gorry, Assistant National Director of HR – Human Resources

Mr. Joe Ruane, Integrated Service Area Manager – DML Quality and Safety 2011

Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Integrated Service Area Manager – DML Acute Services and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care 2011, DML Children and Families, Mental Health, Disability Services, Older Persons Services, Palliative Care Services and Social Inclusion Services 2011

Mr. Jim Curran, Assistant National Director Estates – Dublin – Mid Leinster Proposed Capital Programme 2011.

Following the above presentations members raised the following issues:

- **Development of 150 Primary Care Teams in 2011**

Mr. Gerry O'Neill informed that meeting that it is intended to roll out, as planned, 36 Health and Social networks and continue developing 150 Primary Care Teams.

- **Services at Bru Caoimhin**

Mr. O'Neill stated that day services at Bru Caoimhin, including mental health services, would continue to be provided on the site. The long term suitability of the building for residential accommodation is subject to ongoing review and consideration

- **Appointment of Hospital Manager at Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore**

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer confirmed that DML Human Resources staff are currently reviewing the vacancy for a Hospital Manager at the Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore with a view to resolving this situation in the near future.

- **Orthopaedic Surgery at Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore**

Mr. G. O'Dwyer stated that it was necessary to cancel some elective admissions due to pressure on beds from the Emergency Department. Mr. G. O'Dwyer also indicated that the hospital is engaging with the National Treatment Purchase Fund with regard to those patients who are waiting the longest for orthopaedic surgery.

- **Planning application and future plans for St. Loman's Hospital**

Mr. Joe Ruane stated that planning permission is expected to be granted in the near future.

He, also, stated that services at St. Brigid's are being transferred to St. Mary's Hospital and target date for completion of the transfer is first quarter of 2012.

Mr. Ruane further stated that St. Edna's Block will accommodate 24/25 bed unit and provide services for Longford/Westmeath, Laois/Offaly, Kildare and West Wicklow catchment area. The target date for completion of this building is August 2012.

- **Expansion of Maternity Services at Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar**

Mr. O'Dwyer stated that links between Mullingar Portlaoise and the Coombe Hospital are currently being developed and services are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

- **HSE Staff Accountability**

Mr. G. O'Dwyer stated that HSE staff are committed to providing services in the DML area, even under difficult circumstances e.g. during the recent adverse weather conditions. Staff are accountable at all times to their local management and under the relevant legislation/regulations.

Mr. Gerry O'Neill stated that while the moratorium presents challenges, staff continue to provide services, often in demanding circumstances and a changing environment.

On a separate matter, it was agreed that a presentation on Genetic Services would be considered for a future Forum Meeting.

- **Health Centre, Johnstownbridge**

Mr. J. Curran agreed to review this matter and revert to Cllr. S. Langan.

- **Ambulance Service in Wicklow**

Mr. O'Dwyer confirmed that these services are currently being re-organised and centralised.

- **Provision of HPV Vaccination**

Mr. G. McKiernan stated that this programme started in 2010; 60,000 girls were eligible for vaccination and there has been a 90% uptake. Mr. McKiernan, also, stated that the HSE contacted all schools through the Department of Education.

▪ **Bru Caoimhin Project**

Mr. Gerry O'Neill agreed to update Cllr. Claire Byrne in this regard.

▪ **Availability of Agency Nurses**

Ms. M. Gorry confirmed that a contract has been awarded to *Nurse on Call* and that under this contract agency staff would be available to provide services as required. Ms. Gorry also confirmed that currently redeployment of staff is also considered as vacancies arise in various areas.

▪ **Children in Care – Ryan Report**

Mr. G. McKiernan stated that work is ongoing in relation to the implementation of recommendations contained in the *Ryan Report*. He confirmed that Social Worker posts (52) allocated to DML under *Ryan Report* developments have been filled in 2010. Mr. McKiernan agreed to update the Forum on the numbers employed in childcare services at a future meeting.

▪ **Alvernia House**

Mr. J. Ruane stated that plans are being reviewed to identify staff to provide care for patients being transferred to houses from Alvernia House.

Any Other Business:

Cllr. T. McKeigue requested that the HSE would, in reviewing the overall cost of health care, include the charges by G.P.s and or clinical staff for services to private patients and he noted that these charges do not appear to have fallen in this recession.

Cllr. M. Dollard requested that a presentation, at a future meeting, on 'Vision for Change'.

Cllr. W. Aird requested that a Forum deputation meet with the new Minister for Health and Children. Cllr. Aird stated that, in his view, Regional Health Forums were not working. Following discussion Cllr. Aird agreed to submit a motion to the next Forum meeting on 19th April 2011 seeking the agreement of the Forum to send a deputation to the new Minister for Health and Children to discuss the introduction of new arrangements for Health Forums.

11:01:06

Motions

Motion1.

That the HSE would indicate what capital projects have been put on hold/deferred due to budgetary constraints within the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster region.

Cllr. Michael Dollard

A response to this motion was prepared by Mr. Jim Curran, Assistant National Director, Estates. Following discussion, Mr. Curran agreed to provide an update on the Capital Plan for 2011 when approval is received from the Minister for Health and Children. Members noted the report.

Motion 2

That during a period of very bad weather the HSE:

- (a) Provide a map of Areas 2 and 3 (including Harold's Cross) indicating the Meals on Wheels districts and indicate funding, no. of staff, volunteers, number of meals delivered and days of delivery.
- (b) Establish contact between Meals on Wheels organisers in Areas 2 and 3 and the Army to discuss modus operandi in the event of their services being needed during exceptionally bad weather"

Cllr. Mary Freehill

This motion was not moved as Cllr. Freehill was not present.

Motion 3

That the HSE reverse the decision taken to close Mullingar's post-mortem facility.

Cllr. Aidan Davitt

This motion was not moved as Cllr. Davitt was not present.

Motion 4

That the HSE provide an up-date on the decline of numbers of patients in care at St. Josephs Hospital, Longford and what future plans the HSE. have for this Care Centre.

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. J. Ruane, Integrated Service Area Manager, Midlands Area. Following discussion, Mr. Ruane agreed to update the Longford. members regarding staffing levels. Members noted the report.

11:01:07 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan
Vice-Chairperson

Date: _____