

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Boardroom HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster Offices, Block 4, Central Business Park, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

**Present:**

Cllr. S. Harris (Chairperson)  
Cllr. P. Belton  
Cllr. F. Browne  
Cllr. S. Crowe  
Cllr. A. Davitt  
Cllr. P. Doran  
Cllr. G. Horkan  
Cllr. P. Hand  
Cllr. C. King  
Cllr. S. Langan  
Cllr. L. Minihan  
Cllr. K. O'Brien  
Cllr. G. O'Connell  
Cllr. E. Walsh

Cllr. W. Aird  
Cllr. G. Brady  
Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne  
Cllr. T. Cullen  
Cllr. M. Dollard  
Cllr. M. Duff  
Cllr. K. Humphreys  
Cllr. P. Kennedy  
Cllr. B. Lawlor  
Cllr. T. McKeigue  
Cllr. R. Moynihan  
Cllr. D. O'Callaghan  
Cllr. P.J. Reilly

**Apologies:**

Cllr. M. Bailey  
Cllr. J. Foley  
Cllr. C. NiDhalaigh  
Cllr. T. Delaney  
Cllr. C. Devlin  
Cllr. M. Heydon

**In attendance:**

Mr. John Cregan, Director, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster  
Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations, Dublin – Mid Leinster  
Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Assistant National Director, HSE  
Dr. Maria Fleming, National Planning Specialist, HSE  
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Area Communications Manager, HSE, Dublin – Mid Leinster  
Ms. Eileen Brophy, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster

**10:06:01 Adoption of minutes of meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin - Mid Leinster held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne seconded by Cllr. D. O'Callaghan, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 were adopted.

**10:06:02      Chairperson's Correspondence**

Cllr. Simon Harris, Chairperson stated that he had received a number of requests from Forum members to reschedule the next meeting of Joint Committee for the Acute Hospitals Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care due to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> December; 2010.

Following discussion, the meeting agreed to reschedule the meeting to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

Cllr. S. Crowe requested that an update on Hayes Report be provided at the next committee meeting. Mr. G. O'Dwyer agreed to provide the update.

Following a number of requests from members, the Chairperson agreed to suspend standing orders to allow discussion on the form of protest used by one of the Forum members against Minister M. Harney at a public function. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairperson would convey, in writing, to the Minister the Forum's decision to disassociate itself from the protest and its disapproval of the form of protest.

**10:06:03      Noting of report of Joint Committee Chairperson for the Acute Hospital Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Committees.**

The Chairperson's Report was noted.

Cllr. M. Dollard requested that the future operation of Forum committees be placed on agenda for next committee meeting.

**10:06:04      HSE Update - Maternity and Gynaecology Services in the Greater Dublin Area.**

**Dr. Maria Fleming, National Planning Specialist, HSR made a presentation on Maternity and Gynaecology Services in the Greater Dublin Area.**

Following the presentation, members raised the following issues:

- Maternity services at Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar and Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise.
- Relocation of Coombe Hospital to Tallaght Hospital site.

In response to query regarding services at Midland Regional Hospitals at Mullingar and Portlaoise, Dr. Fleming stated that the HSE will work with all units nationally to deliver an efficient service and there are no plans to reduce services at these hospitals.

Mr. G. O'Dwyer stated that work is already being carried out to strengthen links between Mullingar, Portlaoise, the Coombe and Holles Street Hospitals to provide an efficient service.

In response to query regarding relocation of the Coombe Hospital Services to Tallaght Hospital sites, Mr. G. O'Dwyer stated that discussions are underway and that facilities adjacent to the hospital will be considered.

#### Any Other Business

Following a request from the Chairperson, it was agreed to place report on Elder Abuse on agenda for a future Forum meeting.

Cllr. K. O'Brien and Cllr. W. Aird expressed concerns regarding closure of services at Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Aird and O'Brien will consider placing a motion on the agenda for next meeting in this regard.

10:06:05: Motions

#### **Motion 1.**

That the HSE would indicate the number of reported cases of diabetes mellitus in Co. Westmeath.

**Cllr. M. Dollard**

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Dr. Phil Jennings, Director of Public Health. This report was noted by the Forum.

#### **Motion 2.**

That the HSE consider the requests from residents and families to provide proper shelter for smokers at Cherry Orchard Hospital. The designated smoking area in Aspen Unit is wholly inadequate. As we enter another winter there is no protection from the elements for people going smoking. The shelter itself provides no cover and is not practical after dark.

Though smoking is correctly discouraged at the unit, it is still unbefitting to drive elderly residents into the wind and rain for a cigarette. I am asking that you look into providing a better designated smoking area and possibly reposition it to offer smokers some natural shelter. There are lots of different and more appropriate types of smoking shelters on the market and I would be grateful if you could

explore these options. I understand that some of the families have been advocating the provision of such a shelter for quite a long time and I think this request should be supported.

**Cllr. C. NiDhalaigh**

Standing Orders were suspended to allow, in the absence of Cllr. C. NiDhalaigh, Cllr. S. Crowe to present this motion.

The response in reply to this motion, prepared by Mr. G. O'Neill, Assistant National Director, was noted by the Forum.

**Motion 3.**

That the H.S.E. gives a comprehensive report regarding its role in relation to Private Health Care Agencies offering services to the elderly in the remit area of this Forum with particular regard to the following.

- (a) What measures the H.S.E has in place to monitor and veto the operations of these agencies?
- (b) Who is responsible for ensuring that all care assistants working in these agencies have obtained Garda Clearance for working with elderly patients in their own homes?
- (c) What action the HSE takes when concerns are expressed by care assistants who report that a patient is in need of medical attention?
- (d) Is the HSE satisfied with the checks and balances it has in place for Care Agencies on their lists given to families in their support package?

**Cllr. D. O'Callaghan**

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. G. O'Neill, Assistant National Director. Following further discussion, Mr. G. O'Neill stated that any specific complaints would be investigated and details of such complaints should be submitted to the HSE. Members noted the report.

**Motion 4.**

That the HSE outline the present number of patients in St. Vincent's Hospital Athy, if that figure is expected to change into the future and if it is, what the projected number of respite care beds are to be in the long term.

**Cllr. M. Heydon**

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

**10:06:06      Questions**

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr. Simon Harris  
Chairperson.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_