Minutes of Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster Meeting held on Tuesday 21st September 2010 at the Boardroom HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster Offices, Block 4, Central Business Park, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Present:

Cllr. S. Harris (Chairperson)    Cllr. W. Aird
Cllr. M. Bailey                  Cllr. P. Belton
Cllr. G. Brady                   Cllr. J. Dillon Bynre
Cllr. S. Crowe                   Cllr. M. Dollard
Cllr. M. Duff                    Cllr. J. Foley
Cllr. M. Freehill                Cllr. P. Hand
Cllr. G. Horkan                  Cllr. K. Humphreys
Cllr. P. Kennedy                 Cllr. C. King
Cllr. S. Langan                  Cllr. T. McKeigue
Cllr. R. Moynihan                Cllr. C. NiDhalaigh
Cllr. K. OBrien                  Cllr. G. O’Connell
Cllr. P.J. Reilly                Cllr. J. Ryan
Cllr. E. Walsh

Apologies

Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. C. Devlin

In attendance:

Mr. John Cregan, Director, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster
Mr. Gerry O’Neill, A/Regional Director of Operations, Dublin – Mid Leinster
Mr. David Walsh, Local Health Manager, HSE, Kildare/West Wicklow
Mr. Kevin Brady, Senior Manager, Services for Older Persons, Dublin – Mid Leinster
Ms. Arlene Crean, Communications Dept., HSE, Dublin – Mid Leisnter
Ms. Eileen Brophy, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leisnter

10:05:01 Adoption of minutes of fifth annual meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on Tuesday, 6th July 2010

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Aird, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th July 2010 were adopted.

10:05:02 Chairperson’s Correspondence

No items for consideration by the meeting were received.

10:05:03 HSE Update: “The Nursing Homes Support Scheme – A Fair Deal”.

Mr. Kevin Brady, Senior Manager, Services for Older Persons made a presentation on The Nursing Homes Support Scheme – A Fair Deal.
Following the presentation, members raised the following issues:

- Number of applications received;
- Contact details for the Nursing Home Support Offices in each local area within the Dublin – Mid Leinster region;
- Contact details of Appeals Officers in each local area within the Dublin Mid-Leinster region;
- Cost of public vs private nursing homes;
- Availability of funds for the loan scheme;
- Longstay care options;
- Collection of debt
- Impact of scheme on delayed discharges in acute hospitals

In response to query regarding number of applications received to date Mr. Brady stated that 14,914 applications had been received as at 31/08/10 and the number of loan applications was 2,146.

In response to request for contact details of nursing home support offices and appeals offices in each local area, Mr. Brady stated that he would arrange for this information to be emailed directly to each Forum member.

In response to query regarding difference in cost between private and public nursing home care, Mr. David Walsh confirmed that public care cost more because of higher staffing levels and, in some cases a greater range of services was provided.

In response to query regarding funding, Mr. Brady stated that the 2010 budget would meet the mends of the loan scheme.

In response to query regarding funding options for longstay care, Mr. Brady stated that the Fair Deal Scheme is now the only scheme available to patients requiring longstay care. Mr. Brady, also, stated that Public Health Nurses liaise with families, provide details regarding the Nursing Home Support Scheme and assist in locating nursing homes to suit the needs of the person requiring longstay care.

In response to query regarding the collection of debt in relation to property, Mr. Brady confirmed that the debt becomes due when the property is sold.

In response to query regarding the impact of the Fair Deal scheme on delayed discharges in acute hospitals, Mr. Walsh stated that the Scheme has already had a positive effect in acute hospitals. In particular, St. James’ Hospital, St. Vincents Hospital and St. Colmcille’s Hospital, Loughlinstown experienced a reduction in the numbers of inappropriately placed patients.
Any Other Business

Cllr. P. J. Reilly requested details regarding the waiting list for orthodontic services in the Longford area, details regarding age of children eligible for this scheme. This information will be forwarded to Cllr. P.J. Reilly.

Cllr. W. Aird extended congratulations to the staff of St. Brigid’s Hospital, Shaen on their success in obtaining a gold medal award for institutional catering. It was agreed that a congratulatory letter would be issued on behalf of Forum members.

Cllr. P. Doran extended congratulations to Ms. Katie Taylor on her winning the gold medal for boxing.

The Chairperson stated that he had attended the HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster Regional Recognition Event for the Achievement Awards 2010 and wished to extend his good wishes to all the participants.

Motions

Motion 1.

That the HSE would indicate the number of children in overall foster care in County Westmeath.

Cllr. M. Dollard

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

Motion 2.

That the Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum expresses it most serious concern at the impact of cutbacks and the embargo on recruitment of staff on residential facilities caring for people with intellectual disability and calls on the HSE and the Minister for Health to protect such services and to make amends as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. S. Harris

The response in reply to this motion, which was prepared by Mr. Gerry O’Neill, A/Regional Director of Operations was noted by the meeting. Following further discussion, Cllr. Harris asked if it was possible that a derogation for disability services could be issued. Mr. O’Neill agreed to provide further information on this issue.
Motion 3.

That there should be an integrated approach in the Dublin area for GP referred patients to access the shortest wait time list for CAT scans and ultrasounds. For example, currently wait times for Ultrasounds in St Colmcilles Hospital is on average 4 weeks whereas wait times in St. Vincents is 10-12 weeks. Patients/GP's should have access to a centralised system of appointment making that allows them access the shortest list.

Cllr. J. Ryan

The response in reply to this motion by Mr. Gerry O’Neill, A/Regional Director of Operations was noted by the meeting. Other current developments were also discussed.

Motion 4.

That the HSE outline when they last tendered for taxi providers contracts both nationally and in Kildare and how often that tender process takes place.

Cllr. M. Heydon

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

Motion 5.

That the HSE reverse their proposal to close the Inchicore Methadone Clinic in October 2010. This clinic has operated in agreement with the host Community for 24 clients since it was established without any major problem.

Cllr. C. NiDhalaigh

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. Gerry O’Neill, A/Regional Director of Operations. Following discussion Mr. Gerry O’Neill agreed to clarify details of services to be provided for the 24 clients and is to reply to Cllr. NiDhalaigh directly on this matter.

Motion 6.

That this Forum supports The Neurological Alliance of Ireland campaign, “Thinking Ahead,” and calls for the HSE to establish a National Programme for Neurological Care. This will require, in the first place, that the HSE publish and implement its own recommendations for investing in and improving services for people with neurological conditions. And that this Forum be kept informed of progress.

Cllr. G. O’Connell
A report in response to this motion was prepared by Dr. David Weakliam, A/Director of Public Health. Further discussion took place and Mr. Gerry O’Neill agreed to provide an update on Neurological Services at a future Forum meeting.

Motion 7.

That the HSE prepare a progress report regarding the proposed sale of Shankill Health Centre and lands.

Cllr. D. O’Callaghan

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. Gerry O’Neill, A/Regional Director of Operations. This report was noted by the Forum.

10:05:05 Questions

Responses to question submitted were circulated to members.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Cllr. Simon Harris
Chairperson