

8th April, 2002

Do gach Comhalta den mBord

A Chara,

The monthly meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in **The Boardroom, Northern Area Health Board Headquarters, Unit B, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin on Thursday 18th April, 2002, at 5.00pm.** Tea is arranged for 4.30 pm.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

PRIOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. Chairmans Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of
 - (i) Monthly Board Meeting held on 21st March, 2002 (copy herewith)
 - (a) Matters arising
 - (ii) Special Board Meeting held on 28th March, 2002 (copy herewith)
 - (a) Matters arising
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report
5. Review of the Management and Operation of Refuges in the Eastern Region
- *A Space to Grow*
(Report No 14/2002 attached)
6. Progress Report on St. Joseph's Hospital, Raheny,
(Report No 15/2002 attached)
7. Progress Report on Counselling Services
(Report No 16/2002 attached)
(Presentation by Ms Isolde Blau, Director of Services on Counselling Services for Victims of Abuse)

8. Progress Report from Standing Committees

(a) Community Services and Continuing Care

(b) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Cllr D Murray

“That this Committee recommends to the Chief Executive of the Northern Area Health Board that additional social workers be contracted in order to reduce the back-log of assessments for Inter Country adoptions and that priority be given to childless couples who are awaiting assessment”.

9.2 Cllr G McGuire

“That this Board ensure that staff retiring from the Health Service will not be financially compromised and will continue without interruption to have half their salary paid whilst their right entitlements are being processed, and further that this Board resolves as a matter of urgency to introduce a fast tracking mechanism whereby staff retiring from the service will receive their lump sum and pension payments within one month on leaving the service”.

9.3 Cllr M O’Donovan

“That the Chief Executive arrange for the Board’s property on Church Ave, Blanchardstown to be secured and kept tidy while our plans to make use of the house are being finalised”.

10. Matters for Mention

11. Correspondence

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of monthly Board Meeting
of the Northern Area Health Board held in the
Boardroom NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin
On Thursday, 18th April, 2002, at 5.00pm**

Members in Attendance

Cllr. C. Burke
Cllr I Callely
Mr M Cowley
Cllr L Creaven
Ms N Harvey
Cllr G McGuire
Cllr D Murray
Cllr E O'Brien
Cllr M O'Donovan
Mr L Tuomey

Non-Voting Participants

Dr B Murphy

In the Chair

Cllr. Anne Devitt

Apologies

Mr J Fallon
Cllr Sen Dr D Fitzpatrick
Dr J Reilly

Officers in Attendance

Ms M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr M. Walsh, Asst, Chief Executive
Mr J. Cahill, Asst Chief Executive
Mr P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive
Ms M. Kelly, Director of Human Resources
Ms L. McGuinness, Director of Finance
Ms K Fagan, Secretariat
Mr G Hanley, Operations
Ms J Ebbs, Operations
Mr S McGrath, Communications
Ms Orla Treacy, Director Acute Hospitals & Primary Care
Ms M O'Sullivan, Secretariat.
Mr J. Brosnan, Secretariat.

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CHAIRMANS BUSINESS

1. Condolences

I am sure members will join with me in expressing sincere sympathy with those whose names have been included on the list of condolences, which has been circulated to members.

I would like to make special mention of Mr Philip Doyle, (RIP) and offer our Board's condolences to his family. Mr Doyle gave many years of service as the Estate Manager for the former E H B and more recently the E R H A and our Board.

Also on a personal note I would like to offer our condolences to Mr Jim Murphy, Board Secretary on the recent death of his Mother-in-law (Sabina Boland) RIP.

Mr Gerry McGuire requested that the families of the following persons be added to the list of condolences :-

Mr Pat O'Connor, Clinical Nurse Manager, St. Ita's Hospital (R.I.P)

Ms Valerie Neary, Staff Nurse, St. Ita's Hospital (R.I.P)

Mr Bartley McGowan, Former Staff Nurse, St. Ita's Hospital (R.I.P.)

2. Schedule of Meetings/Visits

A copy of schedule of forthcoming meetings/visits has been circulated to all members.

May I draw members particular attention to the following :-

- Special Board Meeting arranged for Monday 22nd April, 2002 at 9.30 am.
- Finance & Property Committee Meeting
(Letter of Allocation) on Tuesday 30th April, 2002 at 10.00am
- Presentation of Prizes for "Non-Smoking Competition" for Staff of NAHB - organised by Health Promotion Unit on Thursday 16th May, 2002 at 4.30pm

Cllr Devitt requested all in attendance to stand for reflection/ prayer for the late Mr Philip Doyle and his family.

Two media students from Dublin City University attended the meeting and were welcomed by Cllr Devitt.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

held on 21st March, 2002

On a proposal by Cllr A Devitt and seconded by Cllr D Murray, the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 21st March, 2002 were agreed.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

held on 28th March, 2002

On a proposal by Cllr E. O'Brien and seconded by Mr G. McGuire, the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 28th March, 2002 were agreed

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Mr G McGuire and seconded by Cllr C. Burke, it was agreed to answer the questions lodged.

1. Cllr D Murray

“To ask the Chief Executive of the NAHB to report on the number of Social Workers within the Northern Area Health Board who are processing couples who wish to be considered for Inter Country adoptions, in reporting will the Chief Executive also clarify following points

- (a) The number of couples within the NAHB administrative area who are waiting assessment.
- (b) The period of time it takes to process an application from initial enquiry to placement
- (c) A breakdown of the number of placements for each of the Health Boards within ERHA in the past two years.

Reply

The South Western Area Health Board currently processes all applications for Inter-country adoption assessment in the ERHA region. This service has the following complement of social work staff:

- Principal Social Worker x 1
- Social Work Team Leader x 2
- Social Workers x 18

The number of Social Workers undertaking the assessments as of 31st March 2002 was 9.5 (wte) A recent recruitment drive in Australia has

met with success and it is anticipated that allowing for clearance procedures, validation and induction etc. that the service will have an additional four Social Workers within a number of months.

In addition, the current service is appointing a dedicated customer services officer. This person will deal with all customer queries and follow them through. It is hoped that this will offer continuity to those seeking clarification on the inter country adoption process.

- (a) As of 31st March 2002 there are 154 couples within the Northern Area Health Board awaiting first assessment and 26 for second assessment.
- (b) At present the waiting period between receipt of application and the request for documentation in preparation for assessment, is between 20 to 22 months. The period of time it takes to process an application from initial enquiry to placement is not possible to define as the procedure may vary from couple to couple i.e. documentation, the child's country of origin, personal issues etc.

The Standardised Framework for Inter County Adoption sets out the method to be used for processing inter-country adoption applications, from the enquiry stage to the final decision. This process must be adhered to by all Health Boards to ensure 'best practice'. One of the key objectives of the Framework is to streamline assessment processes for 1st and 2nd assessments so that resources are used effectively and to provide a transparent system that can be understood by all the parties.

After an initial application is made the assessment process continues with a preparation stage that is followed by a Home Study. When the Home Study is completed, a report is prepared and forwarded to the placement committee.

The Preparation Stage is carried out in the format of group courses of 6 sessions each with 6 – 8 applicants involved. These sessions are normally one morning/afternoon at two-week intervals. Applicants for 2nd assessment do not have to undertake preparation and proceed directly into the Home Study.

The Home Study is comprised to 6 – 7 interviews with the applicant, plus 1 interview with a referee. This process (preparation and home study for 1st assessments) currently takes 8 –9 months for 1st assessments and 3 – 4 months for 2nd assessments.

A decision to decentralise this service to the NAHB and ECAHB has been taken. A restructuring proposal from the Area Health Boards is being considered. A decision on the exact structure will be finalised in the very near future.

Following the decision to re-structure this service in late 2001, a letter was issued to all applicants notifying them of the proposed changes to the current service, including their current place on the waiting list. This was aimed at giving maximum available information on the proposed changes while emphasising that existing arrangements would apply until further notice. The Area Health Boards have confirmed that a further letter will be issued as soon as it is appropriate.

- (c) The Adoption Board makes an entry in the Register of Foreign Adoptions, in respect of adoptions properly effected overseas, on application by the adoptive parents. In this regard, the Adoption Board can provide placement statistics on a national basis only. It cannot provide a breakdown of notified placements by Health Board/Area Health Board. There is no current legal requirement for adoptive parents to notify the Adoptions Board of an adoption effected overseas.

2. Cllr D Murray

“To ask the Chief Executive of the NAHB for a progress report in relation to the procurement of a site for Health Care facilities in Balbriggan.

Reply

The Northern Area Health Board currently provides health services in Balbriggan from an old dispensary on Hampton Street. Due to the population growth of Balbriggan, this Health Centre is not capable of accommodating the full range of services required.

The Board has identified Balbriggan as a suitable location for the construction of a Primary Care Unit that will offer a wide range of health services. Officers from the Board have inspected a number of suitable sites in the Balbriggan area. These include private sites and lands in the ownership of Fingal County Council. This Board has a close working relationship with Fingal County Council and discussions regarding future planning are held on a regular basis. Fingal County Council are prepared to offer this Board two sites in the Balbriggan area for health care facilities, one to the north of the town and one to the south east, adjacent to the Pinewood estate.

It would be the Boards intention to retain and further develop our Board's existing facility in the Town Centre. We envisage the facility at Pinewood being the major centre (Polyclinic) operating as a core and cluster with the other two centres in line with the Primary Care Strategy. Discussions are also taking place with the General Practitioners in Balbriggan with a view to them participating in these developments.

As this Board will receive these sites from Fingal Council at the cost of acquisition plus ancillary costs, it will ensure the Board is availing of value for money and save the Board having to compete on the open market against private developers for the private lands inspected.

These sites are deemed to be highly suitable with good access and location. There will also be the potential for the development of other healthcare facilities including sheltered housing / Day Activity Centre and services for intellectual disability.

3 Cllr M O'Donovan

“Will the Chief Executive outline the procedures by which people can apply for funding for house alterations/extensions to the benefit of people with disabilities; and will the Chief Executive state the roles of the Health Board and the County Council respectively in this matter?”

Reply

Applications for assistance with alterations/extensions for persons with disabilities are made directly to the appropriate Local Authority under the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme. The Local Authority examines the application, e.g. planning, suitability for the person and the costs of the project. The Local Authority normally seeks the advice of an Occupational Therapist on the suitability of the alterations/extension related to the needs of the applicant. In most cases in Fingal County, the Board's Occupational Therapists provide this advice. If the Local Authority agrees to assist with the funding, they will pay a maximum of 90% of the approved costs i.e. the figure that they consider appropriate for the necessary work, subject to a maximum amount of €20,320.

The following is the position in our Board's area. Where the person cannot meet the balance of the approved costs without undue hardship, they may apply to the Board for a top-up grant. The person completes an application form for the top-up grant and supplies copies of the approval from the Local Authority for their grant and the contractor's estimate. Our Board assesses what contribution, if any, it will make based on a number of criteria, including the income of the household and the approved costs detailed by the Local Authority. Where we decide to make a contribution, a payment of up to 90% of the difference between the Local Authority grant and the approved costs, up to a maximum of €6,773, is paid. Payment is made subsequent to confirmation from the Local Authority that the works have been completed to the required standard and that they have paid their grant.

Grants are paid by the Board subject to the availability of funds which are charged to The Home Improvement Grant Scheme for the Elderly.

The level of funding providing in 2001 was £1,280,000 for the 3 Area Boards. This funding was provided by Lottery Grant. In 2001 funding was lodged to an account in the South Western Area Health Board and was drawn down by Eastern Health Works on behalf of each board as work was being carried out.

The level of funding for 2002 is €1,625,264 (£1,280,000) (3 area boards). It has been allocated to each area board according to the population holding a

medical card and who are over 65. This figure is 37% for the Northern Area Health Board.

The gross funding for 2002 for the Northern Area Board is €575,350. €171,580 of this is for salaries, 15% is held for central heating schemes and a further 15% is held for top up grants. The net remaining funding is €282,639.

The number of top up grants approved in 2001 are as follows :-

COMMUNITY CARE AREA	NUMBER OF TOP UP GRANTS (2001)	COST IN 2001
Area 6	22	€8,603.49
Area 7	7	€24,099.00
Area 8	7	€ 9,937.09

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
SERVICE MATTERS**

Ageing with Confidence

I have circulated with agenda papers, copy of letter from Ms Catherine Rose, Age & Opportunity, Marino Institute of Education congratulating the Northside Counselling Centre on the highly innovative "Ageing with Confidence" Programme.

Letter of Allocation

On Friday afternoon of 12th April, 2002 our Board received an indicative revenue allocation from the Eastern Regional Health Authority for 2002. The analysis of allocation by Care Group is currently being prepared and will be brought for discussion to the Finance and Property Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 30th April, 2002 at 10.00 am.

Medical Cards over 70's

A number of issues have arisen in relation to medical cards recently. Some of these issues were highlighted as a result of the introduction of automatic medical card eligibility for persons aged 70 years and over with effect from 1st July 2001.

Automatic Eligibility – Over 70 Years & Over:

The General Medical Services (Payments) Board have advised that the number of persons aged 70 years and over who have registered under the GMS Scheme nationally is 30,000 over and above original estimates i.e.: 39,000.

The number of automatic medical cards issued by our Board to date is as follows:

C.C.A.6.	2,861
C.C.A.7.	3,724
C.C.A.8.	<u>5,680</u>
Total	12,265

We have commenced a validation exercise against the CSO's over 70 population estimates vis a vis number of cards issued locally.

Members have raised the issue to insure individuals are not discriminated against and the Minister has confirmed again that increases in Social Welfare Payments do not lead to (a) medical card holders losing their entitlement or (b) new applicants who are entirely dependent on social welfare payments, not qualifying for a medical card. Our three community services areas have been advised to ensure the social welfare recipients and existing medical cardholders are not disadvantaged by virtue of increases in social welfare payments announced in Budget 2002.

Crannog Nua - Regional High Support Service

Crannog Nua is scheduled for completion by the developers this week and handed over to our Board. The facility will be opened on a phased basis. Fit-out will take 4-6 weeks and sufficient staff have been recruited to enable the provision of service for the first intake of 5 children. I am circulating an interim report outlining the high support services to be provided at Crannog Nua.

Safety/Security Pilot Programme for Staff "Guardian Angel"

The practical application of an innovative technological idea has been designed to help reduce risk by enabling mobile staff to keep in close contact with their base. The Pilot went live one month ago and is a breakthrough mobile commerce.

Providing safety and security for staff that work alone on community visits is of paramount importance to the employer. Employers have responsibilities for the Health, Safety and Welfare at work of their employees.

The system works via a series of steps designed to monitor staff "in the field" to see they remain safe, these include:

- Contact with the Social Worker and base using a mobile telephone
- Checks that the Social Worker has contacted base on completion of a task
- Raises the alarm if the Social Worker fails to contact base after a prearranged time
- Assistance can then be summoned as required.

We recognise the ever-growing need to deliver care in the most appropriate setting for our clients and many services need to be out of office hours and in community settings. Guardian Angel can integrate easily with a diverse range of working practices.

Guardian Angel is flexible, easy to use and is cost effective. The system is designed to be as simple as possible to minimise training and documentation overheads. The

current system can handle numerous simultaneous users and is capable of supporting hundreds of thousands of users. From a technical perspective calls are currently monitored through a centre in Belfast and the server is located here in Dublin. A centre will be established in Dublin after the pilot phase.

This pilot, which is a partnership with Eastern Health Shared Service I.C.T. department and the Social Workers in the Northern Area Health Board, has been operations for just over a month. It is planned that Guardian Angel will be fully functional and “go live” in Spring.

The initiative has been welcomed by the Child Protection Intake Team in Community Care Area 6

Burial Ground, St. Ita's

The St. Ita's cemetery was in use from 1908 until 1989. Burials ceased at the cemetery in 1989.

In early 2001 the management of St. Ita's Hospital following discussions with the Catholic Health Care Commission invited a small group of interested people to a meeting to discuss the upgrading of the cemetery. The group was made up of representatives from St. Ita's Parents and Friends Group, Seaview Park Residents Association, Allied Staff Association of St. Ita's, the local Board of the Chamber of Commerce and the Intellectual Disability Service.

A number of meetings were held throughout 2001. In September, 2001, the group proposed a plan for the up-grading of the Cemetery which included the following:

- New gates should be erected and a cross of some cruciform should be included in the makeup of the gates.
- Piers and stonework within the vicinity of the entranceway should be reappointed and set.
- The curved wall immediate to the gateway should have a plaque fixed to it.
- The main pathways should be restored.
- The private memorial in the cemetery should remain in situ. The large memorial in the centre of the graveyard should be maintained but its presence should be enhanced.
- Landscaping should be appropriate to the location and easily maintained.
- Responsibility for the maintenance of the grounds should rest with St. Ita's management.

The Group agreed the priorities for a programme of work, which the management supported. The first phase of work resulted in :-

- New entrance gates were erected to the cemetery with a cross included in the make-up of each gate.
- The old plaque at the entrance was replaced by a new one. The Memorial Cross was re-located from the back of the cemetery and

now stands at the bottom of the entrance walkway.

- The lawn is kept neat and tidy and is cut at regular intervals.
- In the current year the cemetery will be enhanced by the provision of new kerbing and additional shrubberies.

The current schedule of work being considered by the Committee is that the hospital mortuary records should be the subject of a Heritage Project.

Hospital management is liasing with Dublin Corporation's Public Libraries Information and Cultural Heritage Services with a view to developing a computerised database of the hospital mortuary records and our Board is fully supportive of all these and continued programme of improvement.

The cemetery is private but relatives or friends of those buried who wish to visit are very welcome to do so. Every effort is made by management to provide them with as much information as possible including facilitating visits to the cemetery. A "visiting of the graves day" is held every year in July and a Religious Service is celebrated in remembrance of the deceased each November. These occasions are attended by the close community of patients and staff at St. Ita's and by members of the public.

Today the majority of patients who die at St. Ita's Hospital are buried by their families.

If this is not possible alternative arrangements for burial are made by the hospital, which acquires plots in the public cemetery at Donabate. Each grave is marked with a headstone indicating the name of the deceased and the date of death.

PRESS RELEASES

Curfews, Fines and Parental Accountability for Children in trouble as Children Act, 2001 is to be commenced.

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copy of press release by Ms Mary Hanafin, T.D., Minister for Children dated 27th March, 2002, announcing the Cabinet Committee on Children's approval to proposals to commence the implementation of the Children Act, 2001.

Establishment of Primary Care Task Force

I have circulated with agenda papers copy of announcement by the Minister for Health and Children, Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D., dated 1st April 2002, regarding the establishment of the Primary Care Task Force. This Body will drive the implementation of Primary Care: A New Direction; the primary care strategy which the Minister launched as part of the Health Strategy.

First Major Study of Growing-up in Ireland

I have circulated with agenda papers, copy of press release by the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern, T.D. and the Minister for Children,

Mary Hanafin, T.D. dated 5th April, 2002, in which they jointly announced the decision of the Government to establish Ireland's first long-term study of children growing up in this country.

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Following discussion to which Cllr Devitt, Mr McGuire and Ms Harvey contributed and to which the Chief Executive responded, the report was noted.

The Chief Executive agreed to come back to the Members with regard to an Open Day for the local Community in respect of the facility at Crannog Nua.

It was agreed that a Board Visit should be arranged to the St. Ita's Cemetery.

44/2002

Review of the Management and Operation of Refuges in the Eastern Region – A Space to Grow Report No 14/2002

It was agreed to refer report No 14/2002 Review of the Management and Operation of Refuges in the Eastern Region to the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee

45/2002

Progress Report on St. Joseph's Hospital, Raheny Report No 15/2002

The report was presented by the Chief Executive. Following discussion to which Cllr Devitt, Cllr O'Donovan, Mr B Murphy, Ald I Callely and Mr M Cowley contributed and to which the Chief Executive and Asst Chief Executive, Operations responded, the report was noted.

It was agreed that an interim plan along with the Architect's report will be presented to Members at the monthly meeting on 16th May, 2002. A final plan for the overall development of the St. Joseph's site will be presented at the Board Meeting on 20th June, 2002.

46/2002

Progress Report on Counselling Services Report No 16/2002

A detailed report on Counselling Services (Report No 17/2002) was circulated to the Members.

Ms Isolde Blau, Director of Services, Laragh Counselling Service gave a brief presentation in relation to Counselling Services for Victims of Abuse. Following discussion to which Cllr Burke, Ms Harvey, Mr Cowley and Cllr O'Brien contributed and to which Ms Blau and the Chief Executive responded, Cllr Devitt requested that Ms Blau convey to her staff the Members' appreciation for the huge effort they put into the provision of the service. Cllr Devitt thanked Ms Blau for her presentation.

It was agreed to refer Report No 17/2002 Counselling Services in the Northern Area Health Board to the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee. Cllr O'Brien requested that regular reports on Counselling Services progress be brought to the Board.

47/2002

PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

(i) Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee

On a proposal by Cllr A Devitt, seconded by Mr G McGuire the report from the standing Committee on Community Services and Continuing Care, was agreed. The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

SUMMARY REPORT

1. *Report - Suicide in Ireland - A National Study - 2001*

Members recommended the report to the Board for adoption.

2. *Report on Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, St. Joseph's, Portrane*

Members expressed concern with regard to the fact that:

- the 1998 commitment of £13m, which included anticipated funds from sale of lands, had been seriously eroded by inflation;
- there was no commitment for increased funding arising from inflation nor a commitment to funding for the further redevelopment of the service;
- capital funding is not being provided to maintain standards in the existing units in St. Ita's;
- St. Joseph's Service is being severely disadvantaged in relation to general development funding, both capital and revenue, as against the voluntary sector.

Members recommended that the Board pursue these matters urgently with the Authority.

Members recommended the report to the Board for adoption.

3. *Progress Report on Immunisation Services*

Members recommended the report to the Board for adoption subject to a small number of factual amendments being made (amended report attached with Board documentation).

(ii) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee

On a proposal by Cllr O'Donovan, seconded by Cllr Murray, the report from the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee was agreed. The following matters were dealt with in the report :-

**1. *Report on Review of the Cancer Nurse Co-ordinator Role in the Eastern Region*
*Report No. 5/2002***

Ms. Kerrigan gave an overview of the above report to members of the Committee.

After a discussion of the report, Members thanked Ms. Kerrigan for the report.

2. *Report on Dental Services at James Connolly Memorial Hospital*

Ms. Kerrigan presented report to Members of the Committee.

Members thanked Ms. Kerrigan for the report.

A letter regarding the issue of increasing the four places one day per week in the day surgery will be sent to Mr. Tom Gorey, Hospital Manager, James Connolly Memorial Hospital

48/2002

MOTIONS

- 9.1** On a proposal by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Devitt, the following motion was noted.

Cllr D Murray

“That this Committee recommends to the Chief Executive of the Northern Area Health Board that additional social workers be contracted in order to reduce the back-log of assessments for Inter Country adoptions and that priority be given to childless couples who are awaiting assessment”.

Reply

By agreement, the South Western Area Health Board, on behalf of the three Area Boards, handle all assessments for Inter Country Adoption.

An ongoing recruitment campaign to employ Social Workers continues. Arising from a recent overseas recruitment campaign the Area Health Boards have identified 4 additional Social Workers that have indicated a

willingness to commence work in this service during or before June 2002. The new appointments depend on the provision of work permits, the location of the service and the possibility that successful candidates might subsequently decide not to re-locate to Ireland.

In the interest of equity all applicants are taken on a first come first served basis.

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Following a discussion to which Cllr Murray, Cllr Devitt and Cllr O'Donovan contributed the Chief Executive agreed to bring back to Members a special report on Inter-Country Adoption to the next Board Meeting on 16th May, 2002.

9.2 Cllr G McGuire

“That this Board ensure that staff retiring from the Health Service will not be financially compromised and will continue without interruption to have half their salary paid whilst their right entitlements are being processed, and further that this Board resolves as a matter of urgency to introduce a fast tracking mechanism whereby staff retiring from the service will receive their lump sum and pension payments within one month on leaving the service”.

Reply

Matters relating to staff pay and conditions are matters that are dealt with on an ongoing basis between our Board's Management and Staff Unions / Associations. We have already received representations from the Psychiatric Nurses Association on the matter.

The Eastern Health Shared Services provides support services for our Board (i.e. Wages/Accounts/Procurement, etc.) and I understand that a report on this matter has been made by the Chief Executive of the East Coast Area Health Board to all the members at the last Board Meeting.

* * * * *

The Chairman advised Mr McGuire that there are Staff Representative Bodies that deal comprehensively with all staff issues including pensions ,and that issues such as this are not within the reserved functions of the Board. The Chairman agreed to have the motion noted but would not allow a vote on the matter.

Mr Murphy requested that his support on the issue outlined by Mr McGuire be noted.

9.3 Meeting concluded at 7.10pm which did not allow for Cllr O'Donovan's motion to be heard. Accordingly, motion is automatically deferred until the next monthly meeting on 16th May, 2002.

49/2002

Matters for Mention

No time to deal with this item on Agenda

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

M. WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18th April, 2002

CHAIRMAN