



## NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Bord Sláinte an Limistéir Thuaidh**

15<sup>th</sup> September 2000

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> September 2000 at 5.00p.m.** Tea is arranged for 4.30pm.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

**M. Windle**

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### **PRÍOMH FEIDHMEANNACH**

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#### **CLAR**

1. Chairpersons Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000 [copy herewith]
  - (a) Matters arising from minutes
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report
5. Report of Finance & Property Committee – Report No. F2/2000 [copy herewith]
6. Report of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board for 1999 – Report No. 30/2000 [copy herewith]

7. Report of the Inspector of Mental Hospitals for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 – Report No. 31/2000 [to be circulated]
8. Association of Health Boards in Ireland – membership – Report No. 32/2000 [copy herewith]
9. Progress Report from Standing Committees
  - (a) Community Services and Continuing Care Committee
  - (b) Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee
10. Notices of Motion

**10.1 Cllr. Christy Burke**

“That this Board agrees that the Chief Executive makes a report as to why there are no respite services for old age pensioners in Area 6/7.”

**10.2 Cllr. Christy Burke**

“That this Board agrees to increase from 65p per meal for Senior Citizens Re Meals on Wheels for the City and County of Dublin as this has not been increased since the 1980’s.”

11. Correspondence

## NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the Northern Area Health Board

held the Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus,  
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2000 at 5.00p.m.

### *Present*

Cllr. C. Burke  
Cllr. L. Creaven  
Cllr. A. Devitt  
Mr. J. Fallon  
Sen. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick  
Ms. N. Harvey  
Cllr. D. Heney  
Dr. M. Laffoy  
Mr. G. McGuire  
Cllr. D. Murray  
Cllr. E. O'Brien  
Dr. P. O'Connell  
Cllr. M. O'Donovan  
Mrs. C. Quinn  
Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.  
Mr. L. Tuomey

### *In the Chair*

Cllr. A. Devitt

### *Apologies*

Ald. I. Callely, T.D.  
Mr. M. Cowley  
Dr. J. Reilly

### *Officers in Attendance*

Ms. M. Windle, Chief Executive  
Mr. M. Walsh, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. J. Lamont, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. J. Cahill, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. P. Dunne, Assistant Chief Executive  
Ms. M. Kelly, Director Human Resources  
Ms. L. McGuinness, Director of Finance  
Ms. N. Byrne, Communications Manager  
Ms. O. Treacy, Board Secretary  
Ms. M. Halpin, Secretariat  
Ms. K. Fagan, Secretariat

56/2000

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman read the following report.

**1. *Condolences***

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

**2. *Special Board meeting***

I would like advise members that there will be a special meeting of our Board on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2000 at 5.30p.m. in The Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords.

**3. *Monthly Board meeting***

The monthly meeting of our Board in October will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2000 at 5.00p.m. in The Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords.

**4. *National Car Free Day***

I would like to remind members that National Car Free Day is tomorrow, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2000. A number of initiatives have been arranged throughout our Board to mark this occasion.

**5. *James Connolly Memorial Hospital***

I would like to ask the Chief Executive to convey the appreciation of our members to the management and staff of James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown for their valiant commitment to work while dealing with horrific accident which was documented in the national news earlier this week.

In relation to item 5 Cllr. M. O'Donovan and Mr. G. McGuire also thanked staff at James Connolly Memorial Hospital for their professionalism in handling the accident.

57/2000

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000**

Mr. McGuire's request at the July meeting of our Board to review the Patient Comforts System had been noted but not included in the minute of the meeting and it was therefore agreed to document this request.

Taking cognisance of this matter and on a proposal by Cllr. M. O'Donovan, seconded by Cllr. C. Burke, the minutes of the proceedings of monthly meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000 were agreed.

58/2000

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

On a proposal by Cllr. A. Devitt, seconded by Cllr. C. Burke, it was agreed to answer the questions that had been lodged.

**1. Cllr. Christy Burke**

“To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown as to how outreach workers for the homeless operate in order to make available services for young homeless personnel.”

**Reply**

The Crisis Intervention Service provides a range of services in partnership with the voluntary sector, to children and young people between the ages of 12 and 17 inclusive, who are out of home. The range of services provided includes: - out of hours social work service; outreach child care service; short-term emergency residential care; supported lodgings and primary care services.

The Crisis Intervention Service includes a team of Social Workers providing the Out of Hours Service and a day service team. Accommodation is provided in two Health Board residential units, four voluntary sector residential units, and supported lodgings. There are two new Health Board residential centres due to open this year. The total number of beds currently within the service is 55, 8 are specifically for the under 12 years and currently 15 are ring-fenced for the Out of Hours Service. There is also a day centre - the loft - and the Nightlight reception centre.

Young people access the service by presenting at gardai stations, and since December 1999, at Nightlight, the reception centre grand aided by the Health Board and run by the Salvation Army. Social Workers in the community care areas may fax the day team to inform them that they have instructed a young person or that a young person is likely to present themselves that evening to access the Out of Hours Service.

Nightlight is open each night from 8.00pm until 2.00 am, although staff are present until the following morning and will accept late arrivals. While the young people wait to be assessed or allocated a bed, they may have a meal and take part in activities.

The gardai or Nightlight staff contact the Out of Hours Social Work Service, which comprises of a Team Leader and two Social Workers. The Social Worker meets the young person to assess their needs. The primary objective of the Out of Hours Service is to return the young person home. Where it is not safe or practicable, they have access to 15 specifically ring-fenced beds. Each time a young person presents to the Out of Hours Service, their Social Worker or local area social work team is informed the following morning.

The day service comprises of a team of Social Workers and Child Care Workers who follow up on the young people who presented the night before.

Short-term accommodation is currently provided in one of the six residential centres. The residential staff liaise with the young person's Social Worker if they have one. The young people are encouraged to remain in school or attend a course. Activities are provided in the centre, especially at the weekends.

The loft daytime service run by Focus Ireland, is open every day from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm. It provides food and the young people can take part in activities and use the facilities, which include washing facilities.

Focus Ireland provides a comprehensive outreach service which includes seeking out young homeless persons who have not presented themselves to the services. Areas targeted include cafes, amusement arcades, bridges, and public toilets. It should be noted that while every effort is made to give advice and encouragement to avail of services, the right of homeless persons not to avail of services must be respected.

The Crisis Intervention Service is currently engaged in an external review of its services. A database has been established to provide more comprehensive information on homeless young people. The Crisis Intervention Service using information technology, is developing a bed management system and service agreement with centres providing services for homeless young people.

Our Board is currently carrying out a total review of child care services in the context of the Minister's announcement on additional funding; a review of the Crisis Intervention/Out of Hours Services is included in the overall review.

We have identified as part of our Boards strategic plan to meet the needs of homeless youths a range of additional measures which will be required to enhance and develop new services.

These include project workers, outreach workers, childcare workers and family support workers. Over 320 people attended a one-day information seminar held on behalf of the three Area Health Boards on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2000. A major interview process is now being arranged to interview candidates over a period of days. The majority of the staff will be recruited this year.

The additional staff resources combined with the additional reception centres which are coming on stream will permit a substantial improvement in this service by year end.

## 2. Cllr. Christy Burke

"To ask the Chief Executive if replacement hostels are in place for men due to the closure of two hostels since April/October and for what reason did the two hostels close as I understand men are being refused places as Charles Street, Dublin 7 because of no services at hostels."

## Reply

Emergency accommodation for homeless persons in the greater Dublin area is provided in hostels, which are managed by either the voluntary sector or Dublin

Corporation, and in private sector accommodation (usually B&Bs). The responsibility for sourcing private sector accommodation rests with the local authorities, who are also responsible for ensuring that this accommodation meets the requisite standard in relation to fire and safety, planning etc. There are good working relationships between all of the agencies involved, both statutory and voluntary, under the aegis of the Homeless Initiative.

Hostel accommodation is available on a year-round basis with the exception of a premises in Longford Lane. This is managed by Crosscare and operates as part of the Cold Weather Strategy between October and April. It accommodates 22 men on mattresses on the floor. Efforts were made to continue the operation of this beyond April this year but the owners of the property had reached agreement with difficulty with the local community and were unwilling to re-open negotiations. Dublin Corporation are actively seeking an alternative premises with the aim of having year-round access.

In November 1999, Dublin Corporation entered into an arrangement with the proprietors of a tourist hostel in Temple Bar called Strollers. This accommodated approximately 40 homeless people. In April the proprietors gave two weeks notice of closure. On the date the hostel closed there were approximately 20 people still residing. These were accommodated elsewhere on the day.

At present there are a total of 975 beds of B&B type accommodation in use as emergency accommodation. Of these, 522 are provided on a self-catering basis where the residents have either sole or shared access to cooking facilities. The numbers in B&B accommodation have remained fairly constant over the past few months although there has been changes in the composition of this accommodation. Dublin Corporation conduct regular inspections. As a result the following properties are no longer used as emergency accommodation for homeless persons:

- 126-128 North King St.
- 1 and 2 Nelson Street.
- 1, St Laurence's Street.
- 61 Amien's Street.
- 61, Adelaide Road
- 97, NC Road. (This has been refurbished and has re-opened)

In all cases the residents were accommodated in other accommodation which met the required standards. No homeless person was rendered roofless as a result of these closures.

### **3. Cllr. Roisin Shortall**

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on the social work service in Area 6 in respect of the following:

- (a) number of posts and their grades
- (b) number of posts currently vacant
- (c) number of social workers who have resigned or transferred from the service over the past two years

and will the Chief Executive report on the current accommodation for the service with her views of its adequacy; will the Chief Executive further outline the proposals for the provision of adequate accommodation for the service and the timescale involved; finally, will the Chief Executive indicate her intentions in relation to the provision of mobile phones to social work staff in the area."

### Reply

**(a) Number of posts and their grades:**

29 Social Workers  
4 Team Leaders  
1 Head Social Worker  
3 Social Workers (for drug users)

**(b) Number of posts currently vacant:**

5 Social Worker posts vacant  
1 Head Social Worker post vacant

**(c) Number of social workers that have resigned or transferred from the service over the past two years:**

24 Social Workers have either resigned or transferred since September 98.  
15 Social Workers have left since January 2000  
5 Team Leaders have either resigned or transferred  
2 Head Social Workers left - 1 resigned and 1 got promotion

Of the 24 that left the service since September 1998, 9 have transferred within the Area Health Boards and 15 left our employment for the following reasons:

6	-	Personal reasons
2	-	Travel
5	-	Other employment with the Area Health Boards
2	-	Promotions within the Area Health Boards

There are plans for increased accommodation in Finglas and Blanchardstown Health Centres. Currently there is a serious shortage of accommodation. There should be a change within the next three months.

An overall review of child care services is currently being carried out following the Minister's announcement. The review includes staffing across all disciplines including the voluntary sector, and management arrangements. The review encompasses access to services which will determine the deployment of staff and also the facilities that will be needed to meet the needs of clients and staff, as appropriate.

Approval has been given to Area 6 for the provision of mobile phones to all Social Workers in the areas.



59/2000

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive introduced the new Assistant Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Dunne and the Director of Finance, Ms. Laverne McGuinness.

Following discussion on items 12, 14, 15, 19 and 20 the report from the Chief Executive was noted:

*1. Aids & Appliances to Older Person residing in their homes*

Copies of letters dated 26<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2000 from the Department of Health and Children and Eastern Regional Health Authority together with press release dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2000 from Dr. Tom Moffat, T.D., Minister of State regarding the provision of an amount of £0.6m in respect of aids and appliances for older persons residing in their own homes, £200,000 of which has been allocated for our Board's region.

*2. European Communities (Cosmetic Products) (Amendment No. 2 & 4) Regulations, 2000*

Copies of letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2000 from the Department of Health and Children concerning the European Communities (Cosmetic Products) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 2000 and European Communities (Cosmetic Products) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations, 2000.

*3. Dental Services*

Copies of letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2000 from the Department of Health and Children advising of the extension, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2000, of eligibility for dental services to children up to age 16 years.

*4. Retention of Secondary Benefits by Participants of the new Pilot Scheme for the very long term unemployed*

Copies of notification dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2000 from the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs in relation to a special pilot scheme for the very long term unemployed.

*5. Circular 8/00*

Copies of Circular 8/00 dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2000 from the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs which relates to the retention of rent/mortgage interest supplement by persons taking up full employment following a period of at least twelve months unemployment.

6. *James Connolly Memorial Hospital*

Copies of press release dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin gives the go ahead for the acceptance of the lowest tender for the major capital development at the hospital at a cost of £75m.

7. *National Health Promotion Strategy 2000-05*

Copies of press release dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2000 from the Department of Health and Children which marks the launch of the National Health Promotion Strategy by the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin.

8. *Investment in Cardiac Services*

Copies of press release dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin announces further funding for cardiac services totaling £1.8m under the 2000 Cardiac Surgery Waiting List Initiative.

9. *Intercounty Adoptions Services*

Copies of press release dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in relation to the launch by the Minister of State, Mary Hanafin T.D., of new information booklets for prospective adoptive parents.

Press release dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2000 issued by the Minister on the occasion of the launch of the new *Guide for Practitioners* which is being issued to health board social work adoption teams.

10. *IMO Ballot Results*

Copies of press release dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin welcomes the result of the IMO Ballot to accept the package of proposals recently negotiated with the assistance of the Labour Relations Commission.

11. *Boost for Midwifery*

Copies of press release dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin announces a £1m package for Student Midwives.

12. *Advisory Group for Symptomatic Breast Cancer Services*

Copies of press release dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2000 in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin announced that he was setting up an Advisory Group to consider the implementation of the recommendations of the National Council Forum Sub-Group on Services for Symptomatic Breast Cancer and the development of Breast Cancer Services throughout the country.

*13. Irish Blood Transfusion Service – Ministerial Appointments*

Copies of press release dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin rejected claims by Deputy Gay Mitchell that he had politicised appointments to the Board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service.

*14. Child Care Services*

Copies of press release dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which Ms. Mary Hanafin, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children with special responsibility for children, reiterated the Government's commitment to providing comprehensive and high quality services to children in need of care and protection.

*15. Hospital Waiting Lists*

Copies of press release dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin welcomes the continued reduction in hospital waiting lists.

*16. Relate Magazine*

Copies of the July issue to Relate Magazine for your information.

*17. Grant for Visually Impaired*

Copies of press release dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin, announces a grant of £1 million under the National Development Programme to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

*18. Motion on Nurse Training*

Copies of letters dated 28<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2000 from the EHB/NAHB to the Department of Health and Children together with a response from the Department in relation to the motion on nurse training passed by the members of the Eastern Health Board in February 2000.

*19. Influenza Immunisation Campaign*

Copies of press release dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children on the occasion of the launch of the Influenza Immunisation Campaign by Mr. Micheál Martin, Minister for Health and Children.

*20. Recruitment Drive in India and Pakistan*

Copies of press release dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr. Micheál Martin gives his

approval to a proposal for a high level recruitment delegation to visit India and Pakistan with the purpose of attracting non-consultant hospital doctors to Ireland.

I have attached a report which outlines the outcome of our recent nursing recruitment drive abroad, which was undertaken by Directors of Nursing in the three Area Health Boards.

21. *National Children's Strategy*

Copies of press release dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Children, Mary Hanafin T.D., launches the results of the public consultation process, which has been an integral part of the development of the Government's National Children's Strategy.

22. *New Health Strategy Plans and National Partnership Forum*

Copies of press release dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2000 from the Department of Health and Children in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr. Micheál Martin outlines a radical shift in the approach to planning the new Health Strategy. The Minister's address to the National Partnership Forum at the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2000 is also attached.

60/2000

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. Devitt, Seconded by Cllr. Burke Report No. F2/2000 (copy filed with official minute) was adopted.

Cllr. Shortall proposed that a protocol in relation to the acquisition of property be drawn up. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Burke.

61/2000

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD FOR 1999**

It was agreed to refer Report No. 30/2000 (copy filed with official minute) to the Acute Hospital's and Primary Care Committee.

62/2000

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF MENTAL HOSPITALS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 1999**

It was agreed to refer Report No. 31/2000 (copy filed with official minute) to the Community Services and Continuing Care Committee.

**63/2000****ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH BOARDS IN IRELAND**

The proposal from the Protocol & Procedures Committee to nominate the following eight members to the membership of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland was agreed unanimously.

- Cllr. A. Devitt
- Cllr. L. Creaven
- Cllr. D. Murray
- Cllr. M. O'Donovan
- Cllr. E. O'Brien
- Dr. P. O'Connell
- Mr. J. Fallon
- Mr. G. McGuire

The members further unanimously agreed to nominate Cllr. L. Creaven and Mr. G. McGuire to the executive of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland.

**64/2000****PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES****(a) Community Services and Continuing Care Committee**

The report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Committee was noted. The following matter was dealt with in the report.

- Report of the Forum on Youth Homelessness

**(b) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee**

On a proposal by Cllr. D. Heney, seconded by Cllr. D. Murray it was agreed to adopt the reports of the AGM and monthly meeting. The following matters were dealt with in the report.

- Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- Report of the Joint Committee on Vascular Surgery Services

**65/2000****NOTICES OF MOTION**

1. Cllr. Burke moved the motion in his name concerning respite services in Area 6/7 for report.

Following discussion on this matter to which Cllr. Burke and Cllr. Shortall contributed and to which the Chief Executive replied, it was agreed that a report would be presented to the Acute Hospital's and Primary Care Committee regarding the activities under the Services for the Elderly Service Plan.

2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Burke.

“That this Board agrees to increase from 65p per meal for Senior Citizens Re: Meals on Wheels for the City and County of Dublin as this has not being increased since the 1980’s.”

The Chief Executive circulated a report which was noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.15p.m.

**CORRECT:**

**M. WINDLE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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**CHAIRMAN**