



# ERHA TIMES

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## Regional Chief Executive to Retire in December

The Chief Executive of the Eastern Regional Health Authority, Donal O Shea is to retire from his post at the end of December.

Mr. O Shea said that despite personal feelings of regret he would be leaving when his term of office as Chief Executive expired in December 2002.

He said the Chairman of the Authority, Ald. Joe Doyle agreed that he should ask the Board to agree that in the interests of continuity he should

without delay ask the Local Appointments Commission to carry out the process for the selection of his successor.

The Board has agreed to this and the Chairman has asked the Local Appointments Commission to commence the process.

Mr. O Shea said: "During the last two and a half years I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of working with our own corporate staff, Board Members and all our providers throughout the

region to establish the work of our Authority on a firm footing. With their help and that of the Department of Health & Children, the period has been one of enormous growth and development for health and personal social services and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved for their hard work, commitment and dedication".

*The Regional Chief Executive, Mr. Donal O Shea, who is to retire at the end of the year.*



## On the move



The Director of Planning and Commissioning, Mr. Pat McLoughlin, (left) who left the ERHA last month to take up the post of Chief Executive with the South Eastern Health Board, seen here with the Minister for Children, Mr. Brian Lenihan, TD, at a function in Stewart's Hospital marking his departure. In the background is the mural of the Hospital in the newly refurbished conference room. **For a full report of the function and more pictures, see page 3.**

## ERHA's new Director of Planning and Commissioning

Jim Breslin, (right) who has been appointed as the ERHA's Director of Planning and Commissioning, has been Senior Commissioner with the Authority for the past two years. He was responsible for managing the Authority's relationship with providers in the South Western area. Other responsibilities included primary care, services for older people,

national strategies and health promotion care groups. He also chaired the region's Accident and Emergency Services Steering Group. Jim was previously with the Department of Health and Children, where he was Assistant Principal in the Finance Unit. He holds an M. Sc. in Policy Studies and a B.A. in Economics and Politics.



## Major Increase in Number of Patients Treated in the East

An additional 17,000 patients were treated in the acute general hospitals in the eastern region in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year, according to a review carried out by the Eastern Regional Health Authority. The numbers treated in the paediatric & maternity hospitals increased by 900 in the same period.

An additional 335 acute hospital beds will be provided in the region this year, according to the review presented to the Board of the Authority.

To date 54 of these beds have been opened. Most of the remainder is scheduled to open towards the end of the year, with the exception of Beaumont Hospital where the additional beds are scheduled for delivery early next year, in line with agreed timetables.

The ERHA has additional capital and revenue funding of over €30 million to fund the additional beds. A total of 5,711 additional procedures was commissioned by the ERHA under Phase One of the Waiting List Initiative. To date under Phase 2 an additional 1,346 procedures have been commissioned.

**(For further details, please see page 6)**

## Inside this issue...



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## The Derek Dockery Annual Awards for Innovation in Health and Personal Social Services in the Eastern Region

**The ERHA has decided to establish an annual awards scheme to encourage innovative ideas to improve health and personal social services in Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare.**



*The late Derek Dockery, in whose honour the awards have been established.*

The awards have been established by the Eastern Regional Health Authority in memory of the contribution to the Health Services of the late Derek Dockery. Derek was a member of the Task Force which established the ERHA, and previously worked in a number of voluntary hospitals as well as contributing extensively to the on-going education and development of staff in the health services.

The awards are for people involved in health and personal social services in the region.

They will be made for initiatives which have resulted in improving the quality of services, either through innovation or enhancement.

There are four categories:

- Hospital Services
- Community services
- Residential Services
- Personal Services.

A winner will be chosen in each category and from these an overall winner will be selected.

The awards will be made on the basis of written submissions which may include pictures, videos, or electronic presentations. The closing date for the awards is 5p.m. on Friday, May 30, 2003.

The judging panel is chaired by Ms. Justice Catherine McGuinness, and the other members include solicitor and former chair of the Hospice Movement, Dr. Mary Redmond; and Mr. Donal O Shea, Chief Executive of the Eastern Regional Health Authority.

The awards will be presented by the Minister for Health and Children, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children.

Entry forms and a brochure outlining the rules and regulations of the awards in greater detail will be available in the spring of 2003. The ERHA Times will carry further information on the awards in the winter edition, which will be published in January.



At the special Board Meeting in Dr. Steeven's Hospital were Mrs. Anne McLoughlin, Mr. Pat McLoughlin and the Chairman of the Board, Ald. Joe Doyle.

A native of Arigna in Co. Roscommon, Pat has been Director of Planning & Commissioning and Deputy Chief Executive with the Eastern Regional Health Authority since its establishment in March 2000 and was previously Chief Executive of the former Eastern Health Board.

Speaking at a function held in Mr. McLoughlin's

## Pat McLoughlin Heads for the South East

After six years in the Eastern Region, Mr. Pat McLoughlin left in September to take up his new position as CEO of the South Eastern Health Board.

honour before his departure, the Regional Chief Executive of the ERHA, Mr. Donal O Shea, paid tribute to the work done by Pat McLoughlin since he came to work in the health services in the eastern region.

"For the last two years he has been Director of Planning & Commissioning with the ERHA and during this time he established the principle of planning and commissioning in the region and was also instrumental in setting up a wide ranging network of consultation and collaboration among our service providers" said Mr. O Shea.

"Prior to that, as CEO of the former Eastern Health Board, he not only managed to keep the

services functioning well in a time of transition and change but to support staff and at the same time work on the Task Force which established the new structures.

"Pat first came to the east as Programme Manager for Addiction Services at a time when treatment clinics were few and far between and there was widespread opposition to their establishment. Two years later he had succeeded in opening clinics throughout the region and he has continued this interest as a member of the Board of the International Association of Drug Court Professionals, said Mr. O Shea.

Mr McLoughlin is a member of the Board of

Comhairle na nOspideal, of the Steering Committee of the New National Treatment Purchase Fund, of the Board of the International Association of Drug Court Professionals, of a group established by the Department of Health & Children to examine the potential for North/South co-operation on health issues and of the National Health Information Strategy Steering Group.

He chairs an implementation group to reform healthcare in prisons and is Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Homeless Agency in Dublin.

Mr. McLoughlin, who is married with three sons, lives in Kilkenny with his wife, Anne.



Some of the guests at the function in Stewart's Hospital marking Mr. McLoughlin's departure.



At the reception to bid farewell to Pat McLoughlin were: Ms. Maura Donovan, Chief Executive, Stewart's Hospital; Mr. Jimmy Duggan, Principal Officer, Department of Health and Children; Mr. McLoughlin; the Minister for Children, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D.; Ms. Valerie Judge, Chief Officer, Eastern Health Shared Services; Mr. Michael Lyons, Chief Executive, East Coast Area Health Board; Mr. Jim Breslin, who succeeds Mr. McLoughlin as Director of Planning and Commissioning, ERHA; and the Regional Chief Executive, Mr. Donal O Shea.

## New Programme To Improve Diabetes Care in Eastern Region

Proposals to improve the delivery of Diabetes care and outcomes for patients with this long-term disease in the eastern region were approved at the September board meeting of the Eastern Regional Health Authority.



Mr. Tom Finn, Senior Commissioner with the Eastern Regional Health Authority, who presented the Diabetes review to the Board.

The proposals arose from a review by a multi-disciplinary working group of services for patients with diabetes mellitus within the region. They represent a unique agreement between all key providers.

The working group recommends a phased approach to

improving diabetes care in the region, focusing initially on two main areas:

- A programme of shared care of diabetes patients between GPs and hospitals.
- A retinal examination to prevent blindness in diabetic patients.

Diabetes affects 30,000 people in the eastern region of Dublin Wicklow and Kildare, with some estimates putting the figure at 75,000 due to under-detection. Diabetes is increasing at an alarming rate due to a number of factors,



Ms. Karen Bourke, Service Planner for Primary Care in the Eastern Regional Health Authority, who was a member of the multidisciplinary group which produced the review.

including the increased population of over-65s.

Each year the ERHA spends approximately €175 million, (6.5% of expenditure) buying diabetes care, with more than half of these costs due to hospitalisation.

Early detection and effective

management are the keys to diabetes control.

The proposals for shared care will offer a comprehensive regional programme involving structured, co-ordinated shared care to all adult patients with Type 2 diabetes in the region.

The proposals build on existing shared care schemes, one based in the north of Dublin in conjunction with Beaumont Hospital, and the

other in the South Inner City with St. James's and Tallaght (AMNCH) hospitals.

GPs from the East Coast Area Health Board and St. Vincent's Hospital are currently working towards implementing a shared care programme for their area, while the Mater Hospital and the North Inner City Partnership are also in the process of implementing a shared care programme in that locality.

These existing schemes will form the basis for implementing shared diabetes care on a regional basis. They will be built upon and supported by the ERHA and serve as a template for extending such a service within the region over a one to two year period.

Shared care is structured, co-ordinated team care, which includes:

- A systematic approach to all persons with diabetes in the region
- Regular annual invitation to a full hospital clinic-based review examination,
- Recall of those who do not attend
- A uniform examination applied to all
- A quality-control system and continuous



Ms. Valerie Nagle, Economist with the ERHA, who was a member of the multidisciplinary group which produced the review.

evaluation

- Continuing education for all diabetes patients
- Professional links and referral policies to provide relevant other necessary services for patients.
- An up to date register of all patients with diabetes

The retinopathy proposals will provide retinal examination as part of a co-ordinated regional programme. The examination, via digital photography, will aim to reduce the incidence of blindness as a result of diabetes and which can also be used pinpoint any changes in the patients' metabolic state which would indicate the need for greater control and compliance.

It is planned to establish a review group of all interested parties to undertake a feasibility study on the best way to develop a retinopathy examination process for the eastern area.

## National Lung Transplant Programme gets Go-Ahead

The Eastern Regional Health Authority has reached agreement with the Mater Hospital for the establishment of a national lung transplant programme to be based at the Dublin Hospital.

This follows a review carried out by the ERHA to ensure the quality and best value for money of the Mater's proposal.

The ERHA has submitted finalised costings for

approval to the Department of Health & Children.

The ERHA at present arranges for lung transplant patients from the Republic to have their transplants carried out in the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

It is planned to repatriate the service from Newcastle to Dublin on a phased basis eventually building up to 10 - 15 transplants per year in Ireland.

# The ERHA: Buying and assuring best health for you

## 'This is the Best Thing Ever to Get Started Here': Keeping People Well in Carnew

There is a photomontage in Public Health Nurse Josephine Bolger's Home First office in Carnew in which photographs and images of young people and old people mingle. They are all participating in an ERHA pilot project, in association with the East Coast Area Health Board. The project, *Keeping Older People Well*, is now well under way, and is part of Josephine's workload as PHN in the area.



The Community Village in Carnew, Co. Wicklow, where the project is based.

The project is being piloted at the moment and will be assessed fully at the end of the year, but what is already evident from these photographs is that it must be working: everyone pictured is smiling, is actively doing something and the older people look as vital as their younger counterparts.

Keeping People Well aims to do exactly what it says, but it does so in a way which may be unique in the health services at the moment. Because the project is very much the brainchild of those at whom it is aimed.

In line with ERHA policy of maintaining older people in dignity, independence and good health in their own homes as long as possible, the project began by involving older people in the area in the choice of activities which they believed would keep them fit. At a workshop, they were asked what they felt was important to maintain their health. The five functions they came up with were:

- Activity with a purpose
- Socialising
- Appearance
- Exercise
- Healthy Eating.

The project team, on which the older people were represented, also felt it important to involve all the community. The involvement included transition year students at the local school, Colaiste Bhríde. Teachers Margaret Byrne and Pat Brennan, (who is also Secretary of Community Care in Carnew), explain that the

students came on board initially as part of their input into the Gaisce Awards with a limited one hour a week.

"However, the project extended itself and now far more is involved, with the younger people partnering their elders in activities like swimming, table quizzes, dancing, and nights out in the local House of Stories, where traditional music, reminiscence and story-telling take place" Pat explains.

The transition year of 22, including a Japanese exchange student, found themselves getting a great deal out of these activities: Anne Marie Osborne, one of the class, told me: "I learned to waltz and to jive – all the older people seem to be full of energy. I have got many friends now among the older people. Before this, I might have seen them on the street and not known who they were, but now I stop to talk because they are friends. They are as young at heart as we are." Anne Marie says the project has also made her think about getting older herself some



Mr. Dan Nolan with local headmaster Mr. Pat Brennan.

day: "I sometimes catch myself thinking about things I would like to tell my own grandchildren."

Another student, Blain Newsome, found himself learning about the past from the older people: "For example, I found out that in their day, cycling was a way of life. I learned more and now understand more about what things used to be like. We get on very well with them and they are more like friends than anything else now." Nor are they cushioned from the inevitable loss of their older friends. One of the older people, Matt O Hara, who was a wonderful traditional musician, died earlier this year and was greatly mourned by young and old alike.

The richness of what older people have to offer is as much a part of the project as the more practical aspects such as the Healthy Eating programme, organised by Josephine, which gently steers participants (the young as well as the older) in the direction of a balanced diet. "They taught each other to share information about a balanced diet which was good for both groups" says Josephine. "We are very positive about this project" she adds. "The link between the younger and the older people was always there. But this project helps them to bond more closely together. It helps us to make use of the talents and experiences of the older generations."

"This is the best thing ever to get started here" says Dan Nolan, one of the older participants. A retired truck-driver, he has discovered a way of passing on his talent for dancing as a result of the project, in which he is now teaching the other participants. "This gets us out of the house and out of ourselves. I've never had a greater social life, with outings and such like. It's great crack."



PHN Josephine Bolger with Mr. Joseph Dowse.

Nor is it all socialising: Joseph Dowse, a retired local businessman, who completed a degree in Economics and Politics as a mature student, is now, with help and technical advice from his younger friends, editing and publishing from his desktop computer, a newsletter detailing the aims and activities of the project. "This project encourages us all to try things we might not have tried before" he says. The kind of confidence and enthusiasm this promotes is worth a lot, he feels. "If you think of the cost of one acute bed, the health services are saving so much more than they are spending on our projects by keeping us healthy. Instead of sitting at home, we are out telling stories and singing songs. It gets us out of ourselves."



School Students Blain Newsome and Anne Marie Osborne, with their teacher Ms. Margaret Byrne (centre)

## New Youth Advocacy Programme Will Offer Community-Based Services

While great reliance had been placed on the provision of residential care for troubled young people, the Eastern Regional Health Authority also recognised the need for the development of early problem detection and prevention programmes, and particularly on the need for the development of services which are based in the community, the Regional Chief Executive of the ERHA, Mr. Donal O Shea said at the recent launch of the Youth Advocacy Programme in the Northern Area Health Board.



The Chief Executive of the Northern Area Health Board Ms. Maureen Windle, was at the launch of the new Youth Advocacy Programme.

"This Youth Advocacy Programme is very much in line with our strategy and our service programme" he said.

"The Eastern Regional Health Authority and the three Area Health Boards have been working together to design and implement a Regional Childcare Framework, and great emphasis has been placed on the need for the development of early problem detection and prevention programmes.

The Programme is about providing support and

direction to young people within their homes and local communities in a way which acknowledges their strengths and offers unconditional care.

The Minister for Children, Mr Brian Lenihan, TD, said that he was particularly pleased to provide financial support to the Eastern Regional Health Authority for the National Youth Advocacy Pilot Programme in the Northern Area Health Board. "The direct annual cost of the National Pilot Programme is €600,000. It is envisaged that places will be available for 50 individual clients

and their families in any one calendar year of the programme. There will be access for 25 clients and their families at any one time," said the Minister.

The National Pilot in North Dublin will run for three years initially. It will be managed by the Northern Area Health Board in partnership with the Eastern Regional Health Authority, the Youth Advocacy Programme organisation and Extern, a charitable, not-for-profit organisation from Northern Ireland with the support of the Department of Health and Children.

## Banking on the Future: How Freezing Sperm Can Offer Hope to Male Cancer Patients

Jack had only been married for a few months when he was diagnosed with cancer. Speed was essential to treat him, but another consideration was his fertility – there was a possibility that the treatment he needed would leave him sterile. He was asked if he wanted to consider having his sperm frozen before his cancer treatment began.



Embryologist Declan Keane in the HARI unit in the Rotunda Hospital

"To be honest" he says now "it was something I might not have thought about, left to myself. I heard the consultant say the word 'cancer' and I just wanted to have the treatment and get better. When they brought up the fertility issue with me, it seemed almost like a distraction from the main problem. But when I thought about it and discussed it with my wife, I realised that it was an important factor and I was very glad to be given the opportunity to bank my sperm".

As things turned out, Jack's successful treatment had only a temporary effect on his fertility: his sperm count and motility eventually returned to normal and today he is a father twice over. The frozen sperm were eventually discarded. However, he feels that being given that opportunity also gave him an important psychological boost that was tantamount to making an investment in his future.

"It made getting through the treatment itself

easier. You don't mind losing your hair, which will likely grow back anyway. But at that stage of my life and being newly married, losing the chance to have a family would have been a major trauma. Knowing that the sperm were there in the bank for later gave me hope. And I really believe that hope is as powerful as any other medicine."

(As patient confidentiality is an important factor in this treatment, Jack's name and personal details have been changed for the purposes of this article.)

Jack was lucky in every sense – his treatment was successful, his fertility was not permanently impaired, and he and his wife went on to produce their longed-for children. Not everyone is so fortunate, but giving male cancer patients the best possible chance of having a family is something Embryologist Declan Keane believes is a basic human right. With funding from the ERHA, he runs a semen cryopreservation project at Dublin's Rotunda Hospital. Set up four years ago, the sperm bank is part of the Human Assisted Reproduction Ireland (HARI) unit under the clinical directorship of Professor Robert Harrison. Put simply, the sperm bank freezes the sperm of men with cancer who may be rendered

sterile by their disease or the treatment.

Initially, Declan Keane thought there might be a handful of patients every year who would need the service. "But in the four years we have been running, we have treated over 350 men. In fact, we have had referrals from every county in Ireland and I believe from every hospital in the country, and the majority of consultants now know that the service exists."

The fact that the service is available in Dublin has possibly been one of the contributing factors to its success: previously male cancer patients who wanted sperm banked would have had to travel to Belfast or the UK. "When people are ill they often are not able to travel long distances" says Declan Keane. "It's great that it's available here now."

"I think what is important about this work is that it ties in with the whole concept behind the cancer strategy that there is a life after cancer treatment and that it can be as full as you want to make it. It gives people hope and a sense of empowerment. It allows them to plan for the future and therefore to feel subconsciously perhaps that they do have a future. It lets them feel that they have come through a trauma and are out on the other side" he says.

## How a Hospital Team Is Getting Patients Safely Through Their Chest Infections – at Home

Last November, Georgina Keogh found she was short of breath. She was coughing and wheezing. She had a pain in her chest. She couldn't walk very far. "I felt panicky and the chest pain was so bad I wondered if I was having a heart attack," she recalls.



Mrs. Georgina Keogh

However, she recognized the symptoms of the respiratory disease she has had for the past 30 years, and reckoned she was in for another lengthy stay in hospital. Hospitalisation had become a feature of her life, sometimes three or four times a year.

To her surprise (and delight), this time she was home after three days, and became part of a new programme, which lets selected respiratory patients be discharged home under the care of the COPD Outreach team at Beaumont Hospital.

"I found this brilliant. It's much easier to get better when you are at home in your own surroundings. And I am much better since the team took me over" she says.

Now in her early 70s, Georgina suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, (a group of respiratory diseases which includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma). There are about 400 admissions annually at Beaumont Hospital of patients suffering from the COPD and

they would usually have to stay in hospital for between 8 and 10 days with infections called 'exacerbations' of their condition. Some patients like Georgina can have three or four of these per year. The average age of COPD patients is about 69, because the disease is one of later life, and it is the fourth leading cause of mortality in this country.

However, through the work of the COPD Outreach Team, patients with this condition are able to have much shorter hospital stays – averaging 2.6 days – and can go home to their own surroundings, secure in the knowledge that they will continue to be helped by the Team, who will go on monitoring them directly every day for three days, then at regular intervals as needed.

Physiotherapist Niamh Murphy, a member of the Team, explains that previous UK studies have shown that early supported discharge with health-care professionals visiting the patients in their homes is a well-tolerated, safe alternative to hospital admission for a proportion of COPD patients after thorough assessment by the hospital doctors.

In September 2001, following Winter Initiative funding from the ERHA, Beaumont began an early supported discharge programme – the first of its kind in Ireland – for certain patients with COPD who otherwise would have needed a stay in hospital.

"The Outreach programme provides a high-quality patient-friendly alternative to hospital care," she explains. The team, under the direction of the Hospital's Consultant Respiratory Physician, Dr. Richard Costello, helps to support patients who, following close medical assessment of their condition, and even though

they may still be quite ill, are deemed stable enough for discharge to home.

Patients are visited by a member of the team in their home, if possible on the day of discharge, and daily for the first three days. Visits and daily phone calls continue after that as necessary. The team assesses the patient's blood pressure, heart and chest each day, and provide education on lifestyle changes, on the disease, and on medication. They can also give advice on exercises, chest clearance, smoking cessation, coping mechanisms and self-management plans.

"I am much better now: I am not afraid to go out in case I have an attack, like I was before. I have the confidence to go to the shops now" says Georgina. She is even planning a trip to Spain. "I can take my nebuliser with me, so I know I'll be all right."

The Outreach team can also access community services such as home helps and meals on wheels, and the whole care package.

"The COPD Outreach Programme bridges the gap between hospital and community by providing a safe transition home. This allows us to develop a greater understand of the patient's physical and psychosocial needs in their own home" says Claire Byrne, COPD Outreach Respiratory Nurse.

**Mr. Patrick Byrne has been in hospital with COPD ten times in the past ten years, so when he got a bad chest infection last August, he expected he would be hospitalised as usual.**

Instead, after a visit to A&E and being tested, he was discharged home in the care of the COPD team without even having to overnight in the hospital. "I was delighted. I feel better off at



Mr. Patrick Byrne

home, and I feel that I recover quicker. My wife Anne feels the same – having to visit the hospital every day is very disruptive, and of course bus fares and things like that all cost money too, and then when you are in hospital you worry about how they all are at home and how they are getting on" he says. In addition being on the programme allows him to keep up with one of the great pleasures of his life – seeing his four grandchildren every day.

Mr. Byrne, who formerly worked on the docks in Dublin, is only 56, and was never a smoker, but he has been prone to chest infections since a bad bout of pneumonia 30 years ago. The programme has improved his stamina: "I am much better at walking now," he says, and he has been able to reduce his use of the nebuliser from four times a day to just once.

"I think it is a great programme because you are not taking up a hospital bed and the home environment gets you better faster," he says.

# Review details Enhancement & Development of many Services

## Increase in number of community nursing units for older persons

A number of new units for older people have been opened this year in the Eastern Region. These and other developments include:



At Cuan Ros Art in Health Project, Mr Jim Fenton & Sister Lena John

Nursing Homes with funding of €3.65 million to meet contract bed costs in 2002.

- A 26 bed step-up Rehabilitation Unit is being developed jointly between the South Western Area Health Board, Our Lady's Hospice and St. James's Hospital.
- 36 day-care services will be expanded or developed across the three Area Health Boards, which includes weekend day-care in Leopardstown Park from September.
- Specialist clinics for falls and osteoporosis have been instituted in several centres.
- Pilot Projects under the "Home First" initiative in the Northern Area Health Board and Beaumont Hospital, and in the South Western Area Health Board are in the process of being mainstreamed and expanded

- The evaluation of the Carnew Project "Keeping People Well" will be completed this year and will inform future planning and commissioning decisions (see page 4)
- The Authority is funding the introduction of key workers in the community and is in discussions with the National Council on Ageing and Older People and the area health boards about the introduction of case management within the region.
- Stroke (acute and rehabilitation) services are to be developed. Six stroke beds are to be developed in the James Connolly Memorial Hospital while stroke rehabilitation beds are to be in place by the end of the year at St. Mary's Hospital and the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook.



An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, TD, opens the the Community Day Care Centre, Clareville Court

- The 50-bed Lusk Community Nursing unit is now fully operational
- The 50-bed Maynooth Community Nursing Unit will have a phased opening over the next couple of months
- The 50-bed Leopardstown Park new unit will be available from November.
- There has been a 19% increase since June 2001 in the number of Contract Beds in Private

## Increased Funding for Home Support and Respite for Persons with Physical and Sensory Disabilities

Services for Persons with Physical & Sensory Disabilities are being further development in the Eastern region this year. These development include:

- €451,000 has been allocated towards the further development and enhancement of home support such as respite and support services, additional home nursing, and additional staffing at various agencies
- €906,000 has been allocated towards the expansion of therapy services
- 12 beds for young chronic disabled clients have been developed, and 4 respite beds. A range of further support measures to facilitate quality service delivery and support for these

clients is also ready for commissioning

- The Authority provided the National Rehabilitation Hospital with €190,000 to tackle its waiting list.
- €2.6 million has been allocated towards the provision of Aids and appliances

Beds for young chronic disabled clients are being developed in several locations including at the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook, where the Chairman of the Eastern Regional Health Authority, Ald Joe Doyle, recently visited to see the work in progress.



Above: Assistive technology can aid access to PCs for people with physical disabilities



Left: Ald. Joe Doyle, Chairman of the Eastern Regional Health Authority, seen here, third from right, with members of the Board of the Royal Hospital, from left, Ms. Anne Healy, Human Resources Manager; Mr. John Lindsay, CEO; Dr. M. Deane, Medical Director; Mr. M.J. O'Connor, Chairman; Mr. Jerry J. Kelly, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Donal O Shea, Regional Chief Executive, ERHA. The hospital is currently undergoing a major redevelopment with the support of the ERHA and the ECAHB. These new developments include an increase in geriatric rehabilitation beds from 28 to 40; provision of 12 new places for Young Chronic Disabled; and the development of an outreach service.

## More Children Fostered by Relatives

Approximately 40% of the overall development money for children and families was targeted towards prevention and early intervention. There was an increase of 10.3% in the number of children admitted to foster care since 2000. Of that there was a significant increase of 21.5% in the number of children placed with relatives, with only a 4.3% increase in the numbers placed in general foster care.

There was also an increase of 11.7% in the number of children in residential care since 2000. This figure includes a 10.5% increase of those in general residential care and a 20.5% increase in special residential care. This poses a key challenge to the Authority to address.

## Mental Health Services: Substantial Increase in New Development Resources

The Authority has received a substantial increase of €7.7 million in new development resources for Mental Health for this year. This funding is being directly targeted at improving the capacity and quality of services in the areas of child and adolescent psychiatry, services for autism, adult mental health and Psychiatry of Old Age services.

The Authority has, during 2001 and 2002, continued the expansion of the psychiatric services following a major increase in funding for mental health from the Department of Health and Children.

## Numbers of Treatment for Addiction Increase

The Authority received €5 million for addiction services this year and is continuing to successfully implement all relevant actions of the National Drug Strategy.

- The numbers in methadone treatment have increased by 568 since January this year, an increase of 9%
- There are currently 6,168 in treatment across the eastern region, and the Authority is continuing to expand the provision of treatment places in key areas
- The Authority is currently reviewing and developing the provision of drug treatment and infectious diseases services in the prisons.

## More Residential, Respite & Day places for persons with Intellectual Disability.

- €2.54 million has been allocated this year to create a further 50 residential places. An additional 144 residential places were created over the period 2000-2001, bringing the total number of clients in receipt of such services to 2,822. Over the past two years there has been an increase of 9% in the total number of residential places.
- The number of clients in receipt of both day and residential service has increased by 248 over 2001 levels, bringing the total number to 2,641
- €1.780 million was allocated to provide a further 35 respite places
- €3.615 million was allocated to provide a further 244 day places this year. In 2001, there were 7,096 clients in receipt of day services, an increase of 281 over 2000 levels.
- €635 million was allocated for specialist support services
- €0.952 million was allocated for health-related support services for children with intellectual disability,
- €0.953 million was allocated for health-related support services for children with autism.

## Prisoners & Prison Officers Build Garden for Elderly Patients at James Connolly Memorial Hospital



The President, Mrs. McAleese, speaks to Mrs. Lil Curran, a patient, at the opening of Woodlands Park gardens at James Connolly Memorial Hospital.

Woodlands Park, a landscaped garden built by prisoners and prison officers from Mountjoy Jail for the enjoyment of elderly patients at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, has been officially opened by the President, Mrs. Mary McAleese.

The Woodlands Park garden overlooks Woodlands Extended Care Unit which provides care for 30 older female patients. The Unit is supported by a team of nursing, medical, household and catering attendants. Addressing 200 guests at the Unit in the grounds of the hospital President McAleese said she was delighted to be able to officially declare the garden open.

The garden was created as a result of a partnership composed of residents of Woodlands Extended Care Unit, staff, families and friends, sponsors, Mountjoy Prison Officers and Prisoners, James Connolly Memorial Hospital and the Northern Area Health Board.

Welcoming President McAleese, the Assistant Chief Executive of the Northern Area Health Board, Laverne McGuinness, said the garden was an excellent amenity for the residents of Woodlands Extended Care Unit, their relatives and friends and the entire campus of James Connolly Memorial Hospital.

"The staff here at James Connolly Memorial Hospital have worked very hard to prepare for this occasion. We are especially grateful to the Prison Service, the Governor of Mountjoy Prison, Mr. John Lonergan, the Prison Officer team and the prisoners who have worked tirelessly to create this wonderful garden here at Woodlands," said Ms. McGuinness.

"I think it is obvious to everyone here that they have done a very fine job indeed. The creation of this garden is a testament to the organisational skills of those who run our Prison Service and to the many talents and abilities of the prisoners themselves."

Features of the garden include a wheelchair pathway, garden seating, a pergola, a pond, a water feature, sunshades and picnic areas.

"This development is a great investment in the hospital's efforts to provide quality holistic care for people in their older years. It is envisaged that any individual receiving extended care in the hospital and their families and visitors can use and enjoy this garden," Ms. McGuinness said.

The garden development comes in addition to interior work, which has already taken place to enhance the living environment of the Woodlands Unit as part of the overall effort involved in a Holistic Care Approach to the residents.



The President, Mrs. McAleese, visiting James Connolly Memorial Hospital staff after the official opening of the Woodlands Park gardens, with, on her left, Ms. Laverne McGuinness, Director of Finance, Northern Area Health Board and Dr. Patricia McCormack, Geriatrician, JCMH.

## New Respite Service for Persons with an Intellectual Disability



**The Brambles, a new respite service, in Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, for persons with an intellectual disability, has been officially opened by Clr Andrew Doyle, Chairman of the East Coast Area Health Board. The new Service is being provided by The Co. Wicklow Association For The Mentally Handicapped Ltd., in partnership with the ECAHB.**

At the opening of The Brambles were Clr. Andrew Doyle, Chairman, East Coast Area Health Board, left, with Mr. Harry Cullen, Chairman of the Co. Wicklow Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

The service will provide a holistic comprehensive service to the needs of 250 children with an intellectual disability and their families in Co Wicklow.

These children have learning and associated difficulties across the spectrum of mild, moderate, severe and profound needs.

The Association aims at delivering a professional and dedicated service to the children and families in a manner that responds to the identified special need of each individual client.

The services provided in The Brambles include early intervention, pre-school, special national school, respite, residential and outreach home support. Services are provided by nurses, teachers, speech and language therapists,

physiotherapists, clinical psychologists and a full range of support staff.

The service also provides residential and crisis care for some children and is provided in the community in three centres, in Delgany, in Horsefield and now in the new unit in Newcastle.

The new state-of-the-art respite home is designed to meet the needs of children who require a high degree of constant support. The home will accommodate 8 to 9 children at any one time in a family setting.

Clr Doyle said he was especially pleased that the Health Board, which has funded the project by over €1 million, had remained committed to the project since planning commenced in 1998.

## Capital Development at Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital

Mr. Ivor Callely T.D., Minister for Older People, has announced approval for the establishment of a design team for Phase II of a major capital development at the Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital of Ireland.

Phase I of the development was completed in 1996 and consisted of two replacement wards of 64 places for the secondary rehabilitation of older persons.

The proposed Phase II development includes the

replacement of 32 orthopaedic rehabilitation beds and the relocation of paramedical services, outpatients department and associated clinical and non-clinical services.

Also included is the development of an additional 64-bed secondary rehabilitation unit for older persons. This development will increase the total bed complement of the hospital to 160 beds in line with the Government's health strategy to increase bed capacity.

The development will help ease pressures on the North Dublin acute beds in Beaumont, the Mater and James Connolly Memorial Hospitals and reflects the emphasis on the provision of a modern hospital facility to meet the needs of its catchment area.

"I have no doubt", the Minister said, "that this development will allow the Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital of Ireland to continue its important role in the provision of specialised hospital services in the Eastern Region".



Mr. Ivor Callely, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children.

## Opening of Lusk Community Nursing Unit

The Minister of State for Older People, Mr Ivor Callely T.D., has opened the new Community Nursing Unit at Lusk, Co Dublin. The Minister stated that he was delighted to have the opportunity to see the 50 bed Unit in person.

The Unit is in line with Government policy on providing services for older people, which is to maintain older people in dignity and independence at home and to provide a high quality of hospital and residential care for older people when this is no longer a viable option.

Minister Callely said "Lusk Community Unit enhances and complements the service provided by the Northern Area Health Board to older

people in North County Dublin and its environs. In addition to providing continuing care, respite care and day care facilities for patients, the Unit also provides assistance and relief to caring relatives thereby reducing the necessity for admission to extended care."

The Minister paid tribute to the staff, clients and everyone involved in the Unit and wished them every success in the future.



At the official launch of Lusk Community Unit for Older Persons were, from left, Mr. Trevor Sargent, T.D., Ms. Fiona Sheering, Director of Nursing; Dr. James O Reilly, Board Member, Northern Area Health Board, Cllr. Anne Devitt, then Chairman, NAHB; Mr. Gerry McGuire, Board Member, NAHB; Minister for Older Persons Ivor Callely, T.D., and Cllr. Tony Fox, Chairman, East Coast Area Health Board.

## Hospital Services for Breast Cancer

The Development of Symptomatic Breast Services in the Eastern Region is in accordance with the National Cancer Forum document, published in March 2000, the Regional Chief Executive, Mr. Donal O Shea, told the September Board meeting.

"There are five proposed units in the East, i.e. in St Vincent's, St James's, Tallaght, the Mater and Beaumont hospitals. Each hospital has submitted a plan and funding is being allocated based on each hospital's priorities and in accordance with the "evidenced based approach" set out in the Cancer Forum document. The development of symptomatic breast services has been documented in the ERHA Service Plan for both 2001 and 2002. Funding has been allocated for 2001 and 2002 to expand this service," he said.

"Each of the five units in the East meets the minimum requirement in relation to patient throughput. The priorities for development include:

- enhancing specialist personnel,

- acquiring specialist equipment and
- establishing an audit system.

Each unit has a medical oncology service and provides a multidisciplinary approach to the management of cancer.

"In the Eastern Region there have been very significant developments in the management of breast cancer, including the use of newer chemotherapeutic agents and the introduction of Breastcheck. The impact of these new developments has resulted in an increase in survival for breast cancer patients in the region. There have been significant increases in survival in both the under and over 65 year old population in the East" Mr. O Shea added.

## Beaumont Hospital – Acute Psychiatric Unit

Approval has been granted to proceed to the next stage of detailed design and costing for a 60 bed Acute Psychiatric Unit with Day Services at Beaumont Hospital. The estimated cost of this development is €8.8m. The development will result in the integration of community services provided by the NAHB with the Department of Psychiatry at Beaumont Hospital.



Mr. John Lamont, Chief Executive of Beaumont Hospital.

# Flexible health care benefits

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## Opening of new facilities at St. Francis's Hospice, Raheny

Speaking at the opening of a new Day Care Centre and Centre for Continuing Studies at St Francis's Hospice in Raheny the Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children with responsibility for services for older people, Mr. Ivor Callely said, "St Francis's Hospice has a long tradition of caring for the terminally ill and has done much to develop techniques and programmes of care which are specially tailored to meet their needs."

Also attending the opening was President Mary McAleese. The Minister said that he hoped that the future development of services on a partnership basis between the voluntary and public sectors would ensure that the challenges of the future will be met in an efficient and effective manner in an atmosphere of mutual support and understanding.

During his visit to the Hospice, the Minister paid particular tribute to the commitment and dedication of the staff, volunteers and the wider body of supporters associated with St Francis's, which he described as immeasurable.

St Francis's Hospice in Raheny, established in 1989, provides respite and palliative care to people in North Dublin in the advanced stages of cancer and motor neurone disease as well as providing support for their families and friends.

## National Burns Unit Opens at Our Lady's Hospital, for Sick Children, Crumlin

The new Paediatric Burns Unit at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children Crumlin has been opened by the Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD. He also announced the setting up of a Project Team to examine the overall Hospital Development.

A child suffering from severe burns will need a lot of skilled care and attention, sometimes with long stays in hospital. The facilities for burns patients attending the hospital have been significantly upgraded at a cost of €650,000.

The improved facilities include 4-bed accommodation units especially designed for the care of burns patients, together with specialised bathing facilities and isolation rooms with dedicated air handling facilities delivering highly filtered air to the patients.

In addition specialised play equipment has been purchased for the treatment of these very ill children. It is the first unit in the State where the accommodation is specifically designed for paediatric burns patients.

## Official Opening of Clonmethan Lodge, Oldtown, Co Dublin

Mr Tim O'Malley, T.D., Minister of State for Food Safety, Mental Health and Disability Services at the Department of Health and Children has officially opened Clonmethan Lodge, Oldtown.



The new unit at Clonmethan Lodge

Clonmethan Lodge was built by the Northern Area Health Board as part of the ongoing programme to provide new and refurbished facilities for persons with an intellectual disability accommodated in St Joseph's Intellectual Disability Services, St Ita's Hospital, Portrane. It is a purpose built complex incorporating five bungalows and a day service facility for 30 persons.

Minister O'Malley announced that his Department had given approval to the Northern Area Board to proceed with the initial stages of the planning and design process in respect of a similar facility for a further 30 persons from St Joseph's Services in Lusk.

Following the official opening of Clonmethan Lodge, the Minister visited both the mental health and intellectual disability services on the St Ita's campus.

## Final Phase of €100 million New Naas Hospital Under Way

The first block for the final phase of Naas General Hospital has been laid by the Minister for Finance, Mr Charlie McCreevy, T.D. This final development includes the provision of two standard wards (62 beds), a department of physical medicine, hospital sterile services department, day surgery unit, a mortuary/post mortem facility, catering and maintenance departments.



The Minister for Finance, Mr. Charlie McCreevy, T.D., with the outgoing Chairman of the South Western Area Health Board Cllr. Charlie O'Connor, T.D. at the ceremony to lay the first block of the third and final phase of Naas Hospital

The new hospital when completed will cost around €100m and is being funded under the National Development Plan.

"The completion of the development will see the transformation of the original Naas Workhouse, opened to house the destitute in 1839, into a modern general hospital" said the Minister.

The current development phase is well advanced. At the moment, fitting-out works are being undertaken for the main ward block (4 x 31 beds), a day hospital, coronary care unit, staff changing facilities and medical records. These facilities are expected to be in operation next month (November).

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor, T.D., said: "I am delighted that our Board continues to work very closely with the management and staff of Tallaght Hospital and of St James's Hospital to ensure we develop the best possible acute hospital services for the population we serve."

The new hospital will have some of the most up-to-date health care services in the country including the Pictorial Archive and Communications System (PACS). This allows images in the radiology department including x-rays, cat scans, and ultrasounds to be digitally stored on a computer and transferred to radiologists' workstations.

When the new hospital is complete the bed capacity will increase from 138 to 279 inclusive of day beds.

## New Rest & Relaxation Room opened at St. Lukes

The Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D. officially opened a newly refurbished patient relaxation room St. Luke's Hospital recently. Funding for the refurbishment of the room came from the International Breast Cancer Foundation, National Lottery and donations from the public. This new facility offers patients an opportunity to relax in comfortable surroundings during their stay in the hospital. The Taoiseach is seen here with Mr. Padraig White, Chairperson of the Hospital, and Ms. Patricia Harty. The new room is named after Ms. Harty, the joint managing editor of the Irish Voice, New York and Managing Editor of The Irish American Top 100, as a tribute to her fund-raising efforts for St. Luke's.



## Sport: If You Weren't There, You Missed Two Great Days

In May, 2003, staff from the three regional health boards, EHSS and ERHA will descend on Sportslink in Santry for the second annual inter health board sports competition. If you are now saying to yourself "Why, when was the first one?" then you obviously missed two truly terrific days in August. Teams took to the lush pastures of Westmanstown Golf Club for a Ryder Cup style competition whilst Sportslink hosted soccer, gaelic football, hockey, rounders and tennis events. Pursuit of a healthy lifestyle was the catchphrase of the day and the encouragement

of active participation was the aim of both the organising committee and the health boards.

There was also a competitive side to the occasion with points being awarded to the different teams depending on their results in each sport. So, at the end of day, when all the totting up had been done, and with Sportslink awash with some very unlikely sporting heroes, the Northern Area Health Board stood proudly atop the overall league table. And below, are some of the day's lasting images

### A Golf Victory for the ERHA/EHSS Team

The golf team representing the combined forces of Eastern Health Shared Services and the Eastern Regional Health Authority strove to a majestic victory in the very first element of the inter health board sports competition, the golf event in Westmanstown. Pictured below are the EHSS/ERHA team along with the trophy presented to the winners.

### Don't Miss Next Year's Big Day

Next year's event promises to be even bigger and better. And you can help make it so simply by getting actively involved as a participant or supporter. Team sports, by their nature, are limited in the amount of people they can cater for so, if you wish to be part of next year's event, don't leave it until the last minute to declare an interest. Contact details for next year's sports day organisers will be circulated shortly.



## ERHA Football Team's European Victory Makes the Irish Two Time Winners



Back row l to r; Conrad Cooper, Gabriel Reilly, Paul Gorman, Colm Coffey, Tony McMahon, Joe Lawlor, Brian Callaghan, Gerry Reid, Adrian Charles, Dave O'Brien.  
Front row l to r; Brian O'Connor, Larry Bathe, Gerry Hilliard, Brendan Melia, Derek Bauer, Brian Morrisroe, Colin Daly, Adrian Donoghue

The Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) represented Ireland at the European Health Services Football Tournament in Belgium recently and came out victorious. This prestigious tournament has been running for the past 10 years with fifteen participating countries competing this year. The Irish team have now won on two occasions, the last being in 1996 when the Tournament was held in Dublin.

The Irish were the only team of the 15 nations to gain maximum points at the group stage winning all their matches, defeating defending champions

San Marino 1-0 Austria 2-1, Portugal 2-0 and Sweden 2-1.

A semi-final win of 1-0 over the second Czech team from Pilsen ensured that the ERHA had qualified for their first final since 1996 and they faced a tough assignment against the Italian representatives from Prato..

At the final whistle the Irish were very popular and deserved winners of the 2002 Europital tournament. Team captain Tony McMahon, in his trophy acceptance speech, congratulated the Belgian organisers on a splendid tournament. He dedicated the win to the late Philip Doyle, who sadly passed away this year and had been a dedicated mentor to the ERHA football team.

The Irish are looking forward to trying to retain the trophy in Pilsen, Czech Republic in 2003.

## National Paediatric Conference in November

The National Paediatric Conference is to be held on Friday 8th November in The Education Centre, The Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Dublin incorporating The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

The Conferences is entitled "Changing Times"

and guest speakers include, Ms Ann Casey, editor of The Paediatric Nurse.

For more details please contact:  
The Matron, Maura Connolly, Tel: 4142000  
Email: rachel.howe@amrch.ie

## St. Michael's House course students graduate



The Chairman of the Eastern Regional Health Authority, Ald Joe Doyle, presenting certificates in Community Care Practice, specialising in disability students, to graduating course students of St. Michael's House. Left are graduates Ms Aishling Donnelly, and Ms. Mary McDonnell, and right, Ms Marjorie Soden, Chairperson, St. Michael's House, and graduates Ms. Breda O'Connor & Ms. Fiona Foley.

## New GP Out-of-Hours Medical Service for Dun Laoghaire

The start-up of D/L-doc, a new GP out-of-hours medical service for Dun Laoghaire, has been announced. D/L-doc is a co-operative arrangement whereby Dun Laoghaire-based GP's will form a rota of doctors on call for-out-of-hours services.

The service will operate from 6pm to 10pm on weekdays and from 10am to 6pm every Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday. Patients of

GPs who are participating in the scheme will be able to ring their own doctor to establish their out-of-hours arrangement and there will also be a special out-of-hours DL-doc contact number.

There are currently 35 GPs participating in DL-doc, and ECAHB anticipates that other local GPs will join the co-operative in the next few months.

## Announcements

### The Out and About Association

This support group for sufferers of Agoraphobia and other social phobias, Oanda, together with the Northern Area Health Board and St. Vincent's Hospital, Portmarnock, are hosting their second annual conference in the Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Club on November 13 2002. The theme of the conference is Aftermath of Loss: Anxiety and Depression - the Challenge.

For further information please contact the Association, 140 St. Laurence's Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3.

### New Contact Details for SWAHB Health Promotion Department

The SWAHB Health Promotion Department has moved from 15 City Gate, St. Augustine Street, Dublin 8. The new contact details are as follows:

South Western Area Health Board.  
Health Promotion Department  
3rd Floor, 52 Broomhill Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Telephone: 01-4632800  
Fax: 01-4632840

## Lily McGovern retires

Ms. Lily McGovern, who retired recently from the community psychiatric services of the Northern Area Health Board, seen here at her retirement party with colleague Mr. Gerry Devine, Assistant Manager, Community Psychiatric Services. Lily had previously had a long career in the personnel and training departments of the former Eastern Health Board.

## Where to Find Us

The ERHA Times is published quarterly by the Eastern Regional Health Authority, Mill Lane, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.

We can be contacted by phone at 01 620 1830 or email at ndowling@erha.ie

We are delighted to consider for publication photographs or other items of interest from any of our service providers. Please submit them to the address above. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee either to publish or to return submitted items, but we will do our best.

## ERHA Appointments



Mo Flynn, who has been appointed Senior Commissioner, has a professional background in social work working in disability, childcare and older peoples services. She worked in the NWHB, the National Rehabilitation Centre and the MHB before emigrating to Australia in 1986. Mo moved to London in 1987 and worked in a variety of health and social care settings. In 1991 she completed an MSc in Gerontology. She is experienced in both operational management and planning and commissioning of health and social care services.



Brian Kirwan, new Senior Human Resources Officer, has joined the ERHA from An Post where he held the position of Group HRD Manager. During his career he has worked in operations, administration and human resources. He is married to Jean and they have three children and live in Raheny. His hobbies include golf, tennis, walking and he is also an armchair footballer. He holds an M.Sc. in Organisational Behaviour, a B.A. in Management and a Diploma in Personnel Management.



Mr. Adrian Donoghue has been appointed to the new post of Regional Manager for the Physical and Sensory Disability Database with the ERHA. A native of Raheny, Co. Dublin, Adrian has been working in health services in the east for the past 11 years, and most recently in the Finance Directorate of the Eastern Regional Health Authority.

## General Appointments



Fintan Fagan



Teresa Ayres



Michael Redmond

Fintan Fagan, the new Secretary/General Manager at the Rotunda, worked with the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God as a Projects Manager and formerly as an Administrative Manager with St. John of God Cluain Mhuire Service. He has also worked in the St. Patrick's Hospital/Marymount Hospice, Cork, and with the Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Cancer Hospital, London. He holds an MBA Degree in Health Services Management from the RCSI and UCD.

Ms Teresa Ayres has been appointed Chief Executive Officer at the Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital, Clontarf. She has worked in the former Eastern Health Board, and later in the Northern Area Health Board and most recently was Hospital Manager in St. Brendan's Hospital and St. Joseph's in Raheny.

Mr. Michael F Redmond has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of St Vincent's Private Hospital Fairview.

Mr. Brendan Broderick has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary.

## Moving on...



Ciara Delaney, left, who left the ERHA in September. She had spent six years working with Pat McLoughlin, both in the former Eastern Health Board and then in the ERHA. Ciara has now taken up a new job in the Finance Department of Eastern Health Shared Services.

Michelle Burns, right, who also left the ERHA recently to take up a new post in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. Michelle worked with Bernadette Kiberd on the Cardiovascular Strategy and is now in the CEO's office in the Mater.

## New ICT Director, EHSS

Mr. Tony Carroll has been appointed Director of ICT Services, Eastern Health Shared Services. Tony worked in the voluntary hospital sector, most lately as Head of IT in the Rotunda, before joining EHSS in 20000. He holds a BSc (IT) from DCU and an MSc (Econ) from TCD.