



ENTRIES FOR NEW ERHA AWARDS SCHEME INVITED

In the last issue of ERHA Times we announced the establishment of the Derek Dockery Awards for Innovation in the Health Services. The Eastern Regional Health Authority is now inviting applications for the awards for innovations, which have resulted in improvements in health services, their delivery, or in health outcomes in the eastern region.



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

Awards will be presented in 4 categories:

- Care provided to clients in health facilities
- Care provided to clients in the community
- Innovations in improving services for marginalized groups
- Innovations in management and administration of services/support

Mr. Michael Lyons, Regional Chief Executive, Eastern Regional Health Authority says: "It gives me great pleasure to announce the Derek Dockery Innovation Awards 2003. 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.

"Derek Dockery was a member of the Task Force which established the Eastern Regional Health Authority, 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.

"At a time when the focus is on delivering a quality health service within tight financial constraints, it is important to realise that there are ongoing positive initiatives taking place in health. The "good news" stories often go unreported and are overshadowed by the latest crisis in the headlines. The introduction of this award is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of dedicated people involved in making a difference in their area of service" said Mr. Lyons.

The judging panel will be chaired by Ms Justice Catherine McGuinness, and the other members include solicitor and former Chair of the Hospice Movement, Dr. Mary Redmond; broadcaster and writer Mr. John Quinn, and former Regional Chief Executive of the ERHA, Mr. Donal O Shea.

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

For details of how to enter, please see the advertisement on page 8.

NEW ERHA CEO PLANS TO DEVELOP ADVOCACY ROLE OF AUTHORITY

Michael Lyons, the new Chief Executive of the ERHA, believes that one of his most important tasks is to develop the advocacy role of the Authority – on behalf of clients, patients and service providers in the east.



Michael Lyons, Regional Chief Executive, Eastern Regional Health Authority.

"I want to work with consumer groups and our 39 provider agencies in a planned, structured and consultative way to secure the funding necessary to respond to the health needs of the region," he says

"Our Authority is in a unique position as unlike any other health structure in the country we have the dual role of advocate and manager.

"Our managerial role is more reflected in legislation and we must of course ensure that services are planned and commissioned within financial ceilings and work in partnership with agencies to obtain value for money within available resources.

"However, I believe that we also need to ensure that our advocacy role is more focused and integrated. If necessary we may need to consider some structural re-organisation within the Authority to reflect this."

The new Chief Executive believes that Ireland's spending on health at 6.7 per cent of GDP is not high by international standards. It compares with 12.9 per cent in the United States, 10.5 per cent in Germany and 9.3 per cent for the European area generally.

"In the eastern region the increased funding we receive goes to provide greatly improved and high tech services for a spiraling population with the result that they have much better outcomes – they are healthier and living longer. The record shows that hospitals in the east have become more efficient and are treating more people more effectively."

(Full Interview on page 3)

€2.9 BILLION BUDGET FOR 2003 WILL 'CONTINUE SERVICES AT 2002 APPROVED LEVELS'

A €2.9 billion plan for the provision of health and personal social services for the 1.4 million people living in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow and those from outside the eastern region who come to Dublin for treatment has been approved by the Board of the Eastern Regional Health Authority.

This year's funding represents a 7% increase on the allocation for 2002.

Presenting the report to the Board, the Regional Chief Executive, Mr. Michael Lyons, said that significant growth in population – through

increased births, migration, and ageing – have all boosted demand for services. The region has the highest birth rate in the EU, migration from within the country and abroad has been at record levels, and over the past six years the population of the region has increased by over 10,000 people.

This year's funding will go toward the continuation of services at the 2002 approved levels and some additional monies will go toward developing services.

The Authority has received additional funding of

€93.853m in 2003 for acute hospital services. Almost €40m in the total funding available is for the cost in 2003 of the 335 additional acute beds brought on stream within the region in late 2002 and 2003.

As additional resources and the overall funding environment are more limited this year it is necessary for the Authority to target resources at sustaining existing core service provision at 2002 approved levels and making provision for contingencies.

Full details on page 4 and 5

83% OF PEOPLE IN FINGLAS ARE SATISFIED WITH GP SERVICES - SURVEY

Overall results of a survey of the health of people living in Finglas, commissioned by the Northern Area Health Board, show that 83% were satisfied with services provided by their general practitioners

- 58% of the household members had attended their general practitioner in the last year,
- 84% of children aged between two and five years residing in their households had completed the routine childhood vaccines,
- 82% of children aged between two and five years had received the meningitis C vaccine,
- 28% of household members, 18 years or over, smoked,
- 1% of household individuals, over 18 years old, had a problem with either alcohol or drugs.
- 29% of the 963 household members had a chronic illness,
- Overall, 4% of household members had a disability (either mental or physical),
- 33% of household members used a hospital service in the 12 months prior to the survey. Of these;

See page 7 for further pictures from the launch of the report.



Attending the launch of the report "People Living in Finglas and their Health" were Derek Griffin Mental Health Services, Noel Mulvihill, General Manager (CCA 6), Martin Farrell, Mental Health Services.

FIRST PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO THE CENTRAL MENTAL HOSPITAL



Ald. Joe Doyle Chairman of ERHA and Cllr Andrew Doyle Chairman of ECAHB With President Mary McAleese.

The President, Mrs. Mary McAleese, visited the Central Mental Hospital at Dundrum, Co. Dublin, recently. This was the first presidential visit to the Hospital since it was founded in 1850.

The President met with staff and residents of the Hospital, visited the Male Hostel, the Female Unit and viewed an exhibition of patient art and woodwork.

Mrs. McAleese said that she welcomed the opportunity to visit the facility particularly at a time when the hospital is undergoing a great degree of change and redevelopment. She wished the organisation every success with its redevelopment, anticipating that it will bring great fulfilment to both staff and patients.

President McAleese paid tribute to the efforts of the staff of the hospital, who have been instrumental in the rehabilitation of many patients, and in particular she praised an exhibition of patients' Arts and Crafts.

Cllr Andrew Doyle, Chairman of the East Coast Area Health Board thanked the President. He said: "It is apt that the President chose to visit the Hospital in Spring, a time of rebirth, as the Central Mental Hospital itself is currently in the process of redevelopment. The development of a national forensic psychiatric service is a key concern needing careful attention.

"I am sure all who visit here, or simply pass by, are very struck by the fact that this hospital is surrounded by very high walls. The whole issue of mental illness is also surrounded by unseen and unspoken high walls. President, your visit here today is equally welcome as another ongoing part of the battle to break down the walls of ignorance and fear which surround the issue of mental illness".

DISPROPORTIONATE USE OF HOSPITAL SERVICES IN THE EAST BY PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE.

Mr. Michael Lyons, the new regional CEO, sees the disproportionate use of hospital services in the east by patients from outside the region as one of the major challenges facing the Authority.



Michael Lyons, Regional Chief Executive, Eastern Regional Health Authority.

"I believe that if people from the east are not to continue to be severely disadvantaged when seeking elective treatment we need to start thinking of referral protocols for GPs and hospitals from outside the region."

Another challenge facing the ERHA is the need to balance the cost of new high technology treatments and very expensive medicines against the legitimate needs of other sectors such as mental health. He believes there has been an imbalance in the investment in psychiatry, which needs to be redressed.

Michael Lyons sees mental health as a priority area for development and says that the Mental Health Strategy, which the ERHA is at present drawing up and which will concentrate on building on existing services, is the starting point.

He would like to see consultants take responsibility for managing their own budgets within agreed limits.

"A key issue of reform in the context of the consultants' contract is the need for greater accountability by consultants over the resources they use. This would empower consultants through participation in the running of the hospital. It's a much more integrated model, a partnership approach.

"Another imperative is the development of integrated care paths through the system for all client and patient groups. We want to integrate all levels of care so that the interdependency in the system is recognized and there are structures and arrangements to ensure that they complement each other. The need for this is very obvious, for example, in the care of the elderly."

In providing services to older people, the ERHA emphasis is on home care, supporting people within their own homes, which is where they wish to be. This may involve round-the-clock packages of care, assistive technology or funding relatives to put care packages in place.

"Our emphasis will be on the social model of care as against the medical model of care. We will be spending over €50 million this year in partially or fully funding over 3,000 private nursing home beds in addition to the 2,200 extended care places in health board and voluntary homes.

However, this is just part of the continuum of care for older people. He believes that one of the keys to the shift to home and community care would be to have a discharge plan ready before the patient goes into hospital. The GP

would be involved and the discharge plan could include step-down facilities or home care.

Michael Lyons believes that despite individual difficulties people may encounter they are generally pleased with the health services they receive.

"I think this is a tribute to the dedicated and committed staff which we have delivering and managing our health services. Our staff are our greatest asset and one of the greatest risks which we face is that they may feel demoralised by a constant emphasis on shortcomings in the services. Of course there are shortcomings but it is easy to concentrate on these and forget the really wonderful work being done both in the areas of health and personal social services.

"A recent survey of users of health services in the east carried out by a professional independent company, Research & Evaluation Services, showed that 95 per cent were satisfied with general practice, 90 per cent with hospital in-patient services, 93 per cent with outpatient hospital services and 74 per cent with A & E services.

"Similar findings emerged from a survey of patients' experiences of hospital care carried out by the Irish Society for Quality and Safety in Healthcare

"Our objective is to constantly improve services but we must remember that within current financial constraints a very high level of patient care is being delivered."

Inside this issue...



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WHERE TO FIND US

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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 AGREES €2.9 BILLION PLAN FOR HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

The ERHA is spending €2.9 billion on funding a large range of health and personal social services this year.



The 2003 priorities in heroin treatment services include expanding the number and range of services for persons under the age of 18. There are 68 treatment clinics within the eastern region. Among existing services is Hyper, a dedicated programme for young people, aged 18-25, who have an established drug dependency but who are now drug free. It is an integral part of Soilse, the Northern Area Health Board's Addiction, Rehabilitation and Training Centre. The Hyper programme includes modules in addiction recovery, personal development, computer and recreational skills, career guidance, art and journalism, including the production of the magazine Hyper. Pictured are, left to right, Paul Colman, Hyper Project Worker, Sandra Burke, Editor, Hyper magazine, Roy Henry, Chairman, National Drug Strategy Team, Cllr. Christy Burke, NAHB and Maureen Windle, Chief Executive, NAHB, at the launch of Hyper Magazine.



The country's longest surviving single lung transplant recipient Brendan Mc Loughlin returned briefly to James Connolly Memorial Hospital in Blanchardstown this year to celebrate the tenth anniversary of his new lease of life with the medical team who made it possible. Brendan, who's 35 and from Stranorlar in County Donegal, presented Dr. Conor Burke and his team with a piece of Waterford Crystal as a token of his appreciation of their work. Brendan is not only the longest surviving Irish single lung transplant recipient, he is one of the world's longest surviving. Speaking at the presentation in JCMH Mr. Mc Loughlin said " I want to say thank you to the team for all their work and to give something back. They worked above and beyond the call of duty and I was given a new life by the operation. Life is 100% better. Now I have options where I didn't have any before".



The new asylum seekers' reception centre at Baleskin. During 2003, there will be ongoing consolidation and evaluation of existing programmes for asylum seekers.



Lusk Community Unit - an allocation of €2.738m has been made for the provision of service within the community nursing units in the region under this year's service plan. This allocation will be used to meet the costs of the unit in Lusk, as well as another in Maynooth and to facilitate the full opening of the new unit in Leopardstown Park Hospital.

(Continued from page 1)

Acute hospitals

There were over 1.45 million patients treated in the acute hospitals in the east in 2002. The Authority has received a total of €9.450m to support the consolidation of these acute hospitals services.

This funding will be divided between agencies to assist them in meeting the increased costs of current levels of activity and to fund service developments agreed in 2002.

Included within this funding is €1.4m in respect of the continued provision of designated national specialty services and €0.05m in support of services for Children in Hospital Care.

Additional funding of €0.732m has been provided to the Authority to meet the full year costs associated with the recruitment in 2002 of additional consultants in emergency medicine and consultant anaesthetists under the Winter Initiative established in 2000/01.

Additional funding of €0.740m has been made available in 2003 as part of a structured programme of investment in the development of renal dialysis services nationally in line with increasing demand for these services.

An additional €4.544m has been provided for the lung transplant programme in the Mater and St. Vincent's Hospitals. This will allow for the further roll out of this programme to include transplantation as well as pre- and post-operative care. Funding has also been included to meet the costs of developing the cystic fibrosis register and agreed work undertaken by the Alpha 1 Foundation towards lung disease research.

Additional funding of €1.4m has also been provided to support the work of the other national specialist services located with the region. Funding will be used to further support and consolidate the work of these programmes in line with priority commitments.

An additional allocation of €1.150m will go towards funding for six additional consultant cardiologists appointed last year and the implementation phase of the National Programme in General Practice for Secondary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease.

A key development to be commenced in 2003 is the preparation of an acute hospital strategy for the region. This task will be carried out in association with the providers and will in the first instance concentrate on detailed mapping of the services and resources currently in place within the region.

Cancer services

Cancer services will be greatly enhanced with the provision of an additional €9.78m.

- A sum of €2.65m has been provided to ensure adherence to quality standards as set out in the Report for the Sub-Group of the National Cancer Forum on the Development of Services for Symptomatic Breast Disease.
- A sum of €0.750m will be allocated to Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, to support their work as the national centre for paediatric oncology and also to support the National Centre for Medical Genetics for the development of a nationwide cytogenetic service for people with leukaemia and funding of the hereditary breast and ovarian cancer services.

In keeping with the Comhairle na nOspidéal report on haematology, an additional consultant haematologist will be appointed in 2003 between St. Vincent's Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital and St. Columcille's as well as a post between AMNCH and Naas General Hospital. To reflect the increasing demands and changes in the management of lung cancer, an additional post in St. James's Hospital has been identified.

Maternity services

The Authority is commissioning regional, tertiary and national specialist services from the three maternity hospitals in the region.

A sum of €0.026m has been provided to facilitate the upgrade of the Domino Home Birth Service in the National Maternity Hospital.

The Authority will seek to establish closer liaison between the intellectual disability agencies and the maternity hospitals in order to give greater support to families who have a child born with an intellectual disability.

Palliative care

Palliative care services are commissioned from specialist palliative care units, acute hospitals and home care teams.

The priority for the Authority in the area of palliative care in 2003 will be funding for the Louis and Zelig Martin Hospice in Blackrock. The Authority has received an allocation of €0.701m towards the development. Discussions will begin between the Authority and the hospices concerning a gradual expansion of the home care service to those with non-malignant conditions.

An amount of €0.580m will be provided to hospitals providing cytology and colposcopy services. This relates to additional costs associated with the introduction of liquid based cytology (LBC).

Health promotion

Most of the health promotion funding centres on the cardiovascular strategy. Other health promotion initiatives this year include:

- A pilot project for pregnant women who smoke is planned for this year to assist them to quit smoking.

- The extension to other hospital emergency departments of the alcohol-screening programme currently taking place at the Mater Hospital which identifies and offers interventions to heavy drinkers presenting to hospital emergency departments.

- An intervention programme will be developed to increase awareness and factual knowledge about alcohol related harm in pregnancy.
- Interventions to address the increasingly serious problem of underage drinking are also being developed.

- A national injury prevention strategy to co-ordinate action on injury prevention.

The health needs of asylum seekers/refugees will be addressed

Measures will be taken to promote sexual health and safer sexual practices and a sexual health strategy for the region will be developed.

A sum of €0.150m has been allocated for the development of suicide prevention strategies in 2003.

Primary care

The Authority will allocate an additional €14.684 million for service developments in primary care in 2003. The range of primary health care services provided in 2003 includes health promotion, disease prevention and acute episodic care, continuing care of chronic conditions, education and advocacy provided among others by 734 GPs, 427 public health nurses, 186 practice nurses and 402 community pharmacists. This year funding will allow for the following:

- The costs of existing levels of service.
- The enhancement of out of hours GP cooperatives.
- Implementation of the three Primary Care Teams
- The enhancement of community based services of patients with Hepatitis C
- Enhancement of oral surgery and restorative services
- Improved immunisation uptake in areas of low uptake
- Development of a retinopathy service for diabetic patients.

Children and families

In addition to commissioning the wide range of existing services for children and families, the Authority will spend an additional €3.392m for service developments in 2003. This will fund:

- €0.600m for the full year costs of the Youth Advocacy Project commissioned last year and running in the Northern Area Health Board.

Mental Health

One of the key priorities for the Authority in 2003 will be to produce a Mental Health strategy. This will outline key developments and strategies to improve the mental health status of the population covering the spectrum of preventative, primary care responses, treatment and rehabilitation options for persons with mental illness.

In addition to the existing range of services in acute units, day hospitals, long stay care and community accommodation, an additional €1.645 million is being spent in 2003 on:

- Support to voluntary organisations
- Suicide prevention strategies
- Enhancing community development.



In addition to funding existing day services for 8,964 persons with intellectual disability, residential services for 2,798 persons and respite care for 1,548 persons an additional €4.277m will be spent on developing services this year. The Brambles, a new respite service for persons with Intellectual Disability in Newcastle Co Wicklow, opened last year - here, Cllr. Andrew Doyle of the ECAHB attends the opening with Mr. Harry Cullen, Chairman of the Co. Wicklow Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

- €0.804m towards the cost of the implementation of the Youth Homelessness Strategy, including the provision of aftercare services. This funding will be used towards two priority initiatives for 2003, including:
 - Part funding of the Caretakers Project, to be run by Focus Ireland, providing emergency accommodation to young people with addiction problems.
 - Part funding of a Through Care Service to be provided in Lefroy House by the Salvation Army.
 - €0.060m for the prevention of violence against women.
 - €0.590m for child and adolescent psychiatry, including
 - €0.300m towards a Consultant Led Team
 - €0.200m towards the development of Core Team in Children's Hospitals
 - €0.090m Enhancement of Existing Teams
- €1.200m has been provided to develop services for children with Autism.

Older persons

Services for older persons in the region are provided by the three Area Health Boards, voluntary hospitals, agencies and community groups. An allocation of €2.738m has been made for the provision of service within the community nursing units in the region. This allocation will be used to meet the costs of the units in Lusk, Maynooth and to facilitate the full opening of the new unit in Leopardstown Park Hospital.

An allocation of €0.225m has been provided to commence the development of the programme to prevent elder abuse in 2003.

An allocation of €3.823m has been made to address service pressures and maximise rehabilitation services for older people and to improve community support structures specifically geared towards the support of older people in their homes. To achieve this the Authority will fund the following programmes:

- Home First - Programme to develop Home-based packages of care.

These packages enable older people to return home following discharge from hospital. The package of care is agreed with the older person and their family after a comprehensive assessment of their need. The package of care is regularly reviewed to ensure it is meeting the current needs. Home First is now developing a seamless and integrated partnership between the primary care team, other agencies and the acute hospital to ensure the delivery of quality

care for older people. The Authority intends to fully implement the Home First projects in the Northern Area Health Board and the East Coast Area Health Board in 2003.

• Home First

Programme to develop Assistive Technology for older people at home. Assistive Technology is very effective in supporting the independence of the vulnerable older people living at home. It is proposed to expand this service to support a further number of older people in 2003.

• Community Reablement Unit

The Authority will meet the full year costs of this unit, work on which commenced in 2002. The unit provides a 26 bed step-up facility in south west Dublin. The key aim of this service is to provide a rehabilitation service for older people without necessitating an acute hospital admission. Access is through out-patient clinics, community services and primary care.

• Stroke Care

The Authority will meet the full year costs of the new stroke beds put in place in James Connolly Memorial Hospital and St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park. A registrar to work specifically on stroke services between St Vincent's University Hospital and the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook will be funded.

• Specialist Clinics

The Authority will meet the full year costs of the falls and osteoporosis clinics opened in St James's Hospital in 2002.

Psychiatry of old age

A sum of €0.300m is available to meet the full cost of additional residential services for the psychiatry of old age.

Intellectual disability

In addition to funding existing day services for 8,964 persons with intellectual disability, residential services for 2,798 persons and respite care for 1,548 persons an additional €4.277m will be spent on developing services this year.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

The Authority will establish an Implementation Committee to review Services for Persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The enhancement of services to this client group based on the review will involve working with intellectual disability agencies across the region to improved planning, co-ordination and delivery of autism specific services for children, adults and their families.



President McAleese at the opening of Woodlands Park Gardens at James Connolly Memorial Hospital - the gardens are designed for the hospital's elderly patients. Under this year's service plan, an allocation of €3.823m has been made to address service pressures and maximise rehabilitation services for older people and to improve community support structures specifically geared towards the support of older people in their homes.

Physical and Sensory Disability

An additional amount of €6.775 million has been provided for services for persons with Physical and Sensory Disability 2003.

Addiction

The 2003 priorities in heroin treatment services include expanding the number and range of services for persons under the age of 18. There are 68 treatment clinics within the eastern region.

This is an increase of 11 clinics (19%) for 2002, compared to 2001, and 14 clinics, (25%) compared to 2000. At the beginning of this year, there were 6,449 people on the Central Treatment List; this represents an overall increase of 831 nationally (15% increase on 2001) and 23.5% since 2000

In 2003 the priorities will be to:

Asylum seekers

During 2003, there will be ongoing consolidation and evaluation of existing programmes for asylum seekers, as well as towards addressing means of establishing stronger links with primary health care, mental health and other relevant services, and working towards enhancing services for asylum seekers

Traveller

An amount of €0.221m was allocated to fund further developments under the Traveller Health Strategy.

An additional once off €0.200m was allocated towards Pavee Point Traveller Centre for the purpose of training and capacity building in relation to the replication of Primary Health Care Traveller projects.

Adult homelessness

€0.923m has been made available in 2003 for adult homelessness. During 2002 there has been considerable development of services within adult homelessness and in 2003 these will be consolidated, expanded and monitored with an emphases on the following:

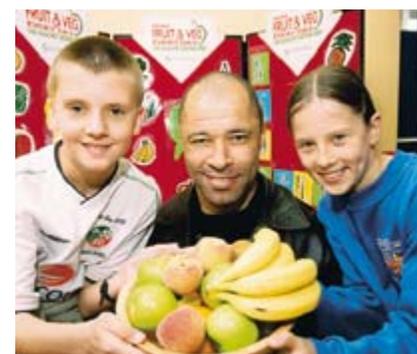
- A community detoxification service will be funded on a pilot basis initially within an existing homeless service and evaluated.
- Mental health services will be forthcoming to address the needs of homeless people across the region within each Area Health Board.



International soccer star Niall Quinn presented over €700,000 to our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, after his benefit match last year. A sum of €0.750m will be allocated to the Hospital under this year's service plan to support their work as the national centre for paediatric oncology and also to support the National Centre for Medical Genetics for the development of a nationwide cytogenetic service for people with leukaemia and funding of the hereditary breast and ovarian cancer services.



The Authority's Cardiovascular Hospital working group has identified chest pain assessment as a key objective for the Regional Action Plan. Here Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, opens the Chest Pain Clinic in St. James's Hospital, with left, Ms. Geraldine McMahon, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, and Ms. Míryam Dufly, Cardiology Nurse Manager. Under this year's service plan, an additional allocation of €1.150m will go towards funding the implementation phase of the National Programme in General Practice for Secondary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease.



Most of the health promotion funding centres on the cardiovascular strategy. Healthy eating is part of the health promotion message in the region. Here Irish soccer legend Paul McGrath and two young friends help to get the message across during National Healthy Eating Week

MINISTER LAUNCHES CLINICIANS' GUIDE TO ANGINA

Cardiovascular disease is the single largest cause of death in Ireland, leading to almost a quarter of all deaths at all ages. For men under 65 it is the main cause of death, while for women under 65 it is the second highest cause of death after cancer.



Pictured at the launch of the Clinician's Guide to Angina at St. James's Hospital were Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, second from left, and the co-editors of the Guide, (from left to right) Dr. Ross T. Murphy, /Department of Cardiological Sciences, St. George's Medical School, London, Dr. Emer Shelley, National Heart Health Advisor, and Prof. Michael Walsh, Consultant Cardiologist at St. James's Hospital.

Of the many Irish people affected by cardiovascular disease, half suffer from angina - severe chest pain caused by the narrowing of coronary arteries. In recent years angina has become an increasingly common diagnosis in patients being admitted to coronary care units (CCUs) and medical wards in Ireland.

It is against this background that a new Clinicians' Guide to Angina has been created by a group of clinicians in Ireland and the UK, including medical experts from St. James's Hospital, Dublin. The guide is the first comprehensive manual of its type, pulling together opinions and analyses from different disciplines in order to inform and advise a broad range of clinicians.

Professor Michael Walsh, Consultant Cardiologist at St. James's Hospital, and co-editor of the guide said: "The aim of the Clinicians' Guide is to contribute to the educational needs of a broad range of health professionals involved in the management of patients with cardiovascular disease, such as physicians with an interest in cardiology, general internal medical physicians, doctors in training and staff involved in the management of patients in coronary care units and intensive care units (ICUs)."

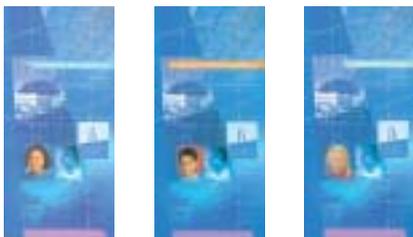
Speaking at the launch of the guide at St. James's Hospital, the Minister for Health and Children, Micheál Martin, T.D., said that since 1999, when the Government launched its Cardiovascular Health Strategy, it has allocated €54 million towards the implementation of the Strategy,

which aims to prevent and effectively treat cardiovascular disease.

"The rising prevalence of angina is in part due to availability of effective treatments. The Clinicians' Guide to Angina provides a consistent and evidence based approach to addressing the appropriate care for angina patients. The editorial team has produced a very clear and concise document which I am sure will prove to be a very valuable tool to all medical personnel in the future."

The editors of the Clinicians Guide to Angina are Prof. Michael Walsh, Dr. Emer Shelley, National Heart Health Advisor, and Dr. Ross T. Murphy, Department of Cardiological Sciences, St. George's Medical School, London.

NEW INFORMATION LEAFLETS FROM THE DUBLIN DENTAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL



The Dublin Dental School and Hospital has introduced a series of information leaflets for orthodontic patients.

The four leaflets are:

- Orthodontic functional appliances;
- Orthodontic headgear;
- Orthodontic retainers and
- Orthodontic fixed appliances.

The leaflets advise the orthodontic patient on what type of appliances they are wearing, the purpose of the appliance, and its aftercare.

A Patient Information Booklet is also available. This booklet details everything a patient needs to

know about their hospital stay. It accompanies all new patient appointments and is available at each reception area throughout the School and Hospital.

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NUMBER OF RADIOTHERAPY TREATMENTS AT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL INCREASED BY OVER 6,000 IN 2002



The number of radiotherapy treatments at St. Luke's Hospital has increased by 6,136, from 70,262 patients in 2001, to 76,398 in 2002, according to Mr. Padraic White, Chairman of the hospital, at the launch of its Annual Report 2002 recently.

The figure represents a seven-fold increase when compared with a similar growth in numbers between 2000 and 2001. Furthermore, the proportion of clinically appropriate patients benefiting from complex cancer treatment, which involves detailed imaging of the cancer site and complex planning of radiation doses, has also been increased from 5% in 1997 to 35% in 2002.

Referring to the soon-to-be-published report of Minister Michéal Martin's Expert Group on Radiotherapy Services, the Chairman also expressed the hospital's desire to play its part in a network of regional centres of radiotherapy excellence and offered to make the specialist experience at St. Luke's available for the benefit of such centres of excellence around the country.

Pictured, left, at the launch of the annual report for St. Luke's Hospital, were Mr. Padraic White, Chairman, and Prof Donal Hollywood, Medical Director, St. Luke's, visiting one of the hospital's linear accelerator machines with radiation therapist Jane McCartan.

TWO HOSPITALS CURTAIL SMOKING



Tom Gorey, Hospital Manager, JCMH received the Silver Award for Tobacco control on behalf of the hospital from Professor Luke Clancy, Chairman, Irish Health Promoting Hospitals.



Maureen Bates, Nurse Out Patients, Kay Mulligan, Secretary, Health Promotion, Marie Carroll Browne, Secretary, National Network Health Promoting Hospitals.



Jo O'Rourke & Jean Molloy, Health Promotion and Theresa Olphert, Bed Manager, James Connolly Memorial Hospital.



Tom Gorey, Hospital Manager, JCMH and Mary Smyth, Smoking Cessation Officer, JCMH.

Two hospitals in the east have moved to ban or restrict smoking within their premises.

The Mater Hospital has introduced a total ban on smoking within all hospital buildings on the campus. Up to now, small annexes to day rooms were designated as smoking rooms, but in effect this meant that the day rooms themselves were used as smoking facilities, which prompted the hospital management to introduce a total ban in the interests of the health and wellbeing of staff, patients and visitors.

Meanwhile, the James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, has received a Silver Award for its tobacco control procedures from the European Network for Smokefree Hospitals. The hospital has indicated its commitment to creating a smoke-free environment by participating and registering with the European Network.

Smoking is now restricted to designated areas and the new hospital building will be smoke free. The award from the European Network was presented to Mr. Tom Gorey, Hospital Manager by Professor Luke Clancy, Chairman of the Irish National Health Promoting Hospitals Network.

Accepting the award Mr. Gorey said: "We are delighted to achieve this recognition and now in line with European guidelines and following consultation with staff and patients we have made the decision to go completely smoke free in our new hospital building. "

LAUNCH OF REPORT ON HEALTH OF FINGLAS PEOPLE



Above: Mr. Brian Lenihan, Minister of State, DOHC; Mr. Dermot Lacey, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. John Stafford, Northern Area Health Board, and Maureen Windle, Chief Executive, Northern Area Health Board, attending the launch of "People Living in Finglas and their Health".

Above right: Attending the launch of "People Living in Finglas and their Health" were, Orla Treacy, Planning and Development; Jim Murphy, Secretary; Jim O' Sullivan; Mike Eagen, Information Officer; Paul Harrison, Planning and Development and Gerry Hanley, Operations, all of the Northern Area Health Board.

Right: Attending the launch of the report on Fingals health needs were, Tom O'Dowd and Jillian Deady of Trinity College Dublin who co-authored the report, with James Gilleran and Phyllis Sheill.



NORTH-SOUTH NURSING CONFERENCE: 'FROM VISION TO ACTION'



The Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D., with the authors of the report "From Vision to Action", Chief Nursing Officer, Ms. Mary Mc Carthy, Department of Health and Children, (left) and Ms. Judith Hill, Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety, Northern Ireland, far right. With them is keynote speaker Ms Marla E Salmon, Dean and Professor, Emory University, Atlanta

A North-South Nursing Conference 'From Vision to Action: Strengthening the Nursing Contribution to Public Health' was held in Dublin recently. The conference was opened by the Minister for Children, Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D., who also hosted a reception in Dublin Castle for the participants.

The reception also marked the launch of the report 'From Vision to Action' by the Chief Nursing Officer Mary McCarthy, Department of Health and Children, and Judith Hill, Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety, Northern Ireland. The report is the product of an 18-month North-South Nursing project that provides a nursing perspective on public health and identifies measures to enable nurses to work more effectively for public health.

The Minister congratulated both Chief Nursing Officers for their timely vision and action in establishing a North-South Nursing Group in accordance with the terms of Good Friday Agreement. The group previously published A Nursing Vision of Public Health, an all-Ireland statement on public health and nursing in 2001. The Minister said the conference not only celebrated the nursing contribution to public health but was also significantly symbolic of the new relations between the governments of the

North and South of Ireland.

The Minister praised nurses and midwives for their professional care-based client relationship. He said nurses and midwives are uniquely placed to ensure that the health services take on a more people-centred approach and went on to describe the challenges facing the Irish healthcare services since the publication of the health strategy Quality and Fairness.

He said that this was a time of unlimited potential for nurses and midwives, who must be "opportunistic". Increased nursing specialisation and the attendant opportunity for nurses to expand their scope of practice, the implication of nurse prescribing, and the training and wider deployment of health care assistants presented a unique challenge for nurses and midwives to re-define their roles and, in the process, to re-define healthcare delivery.

Senior leaders, policymakers, educationalists and practitioners in public health on the island of Ireland addressed the conference in Dublin Castle, which attracted in excess of 300 nurses and midwives from all parts of Ireland. The main theme of the conference From Vision to Action describes the movement from strategy development to implementation of contemporary nursing policy.

MINISTER OF STATE ADDRESSES MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children Mr. Tim O'Malley, has addressed a meeting of the Mental Health Commission at which he paid tribute to the members and congratulated Ms Brid Clarke, former Assistant Chief Executive of the South Western Area Health Board, on her recent appointment as Chief Executive Officer. He wished her well in her new post.



Ms Brid Clarke

The Mental Health Commission was established with effect from 5th April 2002 under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 2001.

"The provisions Act bring Irish legislation in relation to the detention of mentally disordered patients into conformity with the European Convention for Human Rights and puts in place mechanisms by which the standards of care and treatment in our mental health services can be monitored, inspected and regulated", said Minister O'Malley.

The main vehicle for implementing the provisions of the new legislation is the Mental Health Commission, which is an independent statutory body. It is chaired by Dr John Owens, Consultant Psychiatrist and former Clinical Director of the Cavan/Monaghan Mental Health Service. Dr Owens has been to the forefront of innovation in mental health service delivery in recent years with the development, under his leadership, of the home-based treatment model in Cavan-Monaghan. Other members of the Commission include representatives of the medical, nursing and paramedical professions, voluntary bodies and mental health users.

"The primary functions of the Commission are to promote and foster high standards and good practices in the delivery of mental health services and to ensure that the interests of detained persons are protected", said the Minister.

Each decision by a consultant psychiatrist to detain a patient for psychiatric care and treatment on an involuntary basis and each decision to extend the duration of such detention will have to be referred to the Commission.

The Commission will then arrange for an independent review of all such decisions by one or more Mental Health Tribunals, which will operate under its aegis. The review will focus on two issues - firstly, whether the person concerned is mentally disordered and, secondly whether the correct procedures were carried out in detaining him/her.

The Mental Health Tribunal will arrange, on behalf of the detained person, for an independent assessment by a consultant psychiatrist and will operate a legal aid scheme for patients whose detention is being reviewed. A tribunal will be empowered to order the release of a patient if it considers that he/she does not require to be detained involuntarily. The review of the Mental Health Tribunal will be independent, automatic and must be completed within 21 days of the detention/extension order being signed.

The Commission will be the registration authority for all hospitals and in-patient facilities providing psychiatric care and treatment. The existing office of the Inspector of Mental Hospitals will be replaced with the office of the Inspector of Mental Health Services. The Inspector will be required to visit and inspect all approved centres at least once a year. The Minister will be empowered to make regulations specifying the standards to be maintained in all approved centres and these will be enforced by the Inspector. The Inspector's annual report and review of the mental health services will be published along with the Commission's annual report.

Derek Dockery Innovation Awards 2003

Entries are invited for the 1st Derek Dockery Innovation Awards

The awards are designed to celebrate any innovation which has had an influence and delivered a positive outcome and has contributed to an improvement in health services.

The awards will be presented by Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, on 23rd September 2003 in Dublin Castle.

Application forms and further details are available from:

Ciara Norton,
Corporate Services,
Eastern Regional Health Authority,
Mill Lane,
Palmerstown,
Dublin 20,
tel. 6201686,
email ciara.norton@erha.ie.

Full details and updates are on display on our website www.erha.ie

Last date for receipt of entries: Friday 6th June 2003



MINISTER LAUNCHES EXHIBITION OF RETIREES' ART

Enabling older people to participate to the maximum extent possible in all facets of life could improve their feelings of well-being and thereby contribute to their good health, Mr. Ivor Callely, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Services for Older People, said when he opened the Federation of Active Retirement Associations' Annual Nationwide Art Exhibition, recently.

The Minister expressed his admiration for the work of the various voluntary organisations, including the Federation of Active Retirement Associations, whose activities promote positive ageing in many different ways.

"My priority as Minister for Services for Older People is to ensure that all the issues facing

older people are addressed with a view to providing improved services befitting the older population whose contribution to society is fully acknowledged," said the Minister.

He said it was important for older people to be able to participate to the maximum extent possible in all facets of life. Such activities served not only to provide engagement and inter-action between like-minded people, but also promote a sense of well-being that would be beneficial in reducing the effects of illness and loneliness. He said that the benefits of healthy ageing were accurately summed up by the words of one member who said: "I know I'm getting on, but I'm getting on with life".

Retired Staff Association

Right: Ms. Teresa Egan, of the Retired Staff Association, with her sculpture 'A Hill to Climb' which was part of an exhibition at the Royal Hospital, Kilmmainham, recently. Teresa is a member of the St. Michael's Art Group, which has been attending workshops in the Irish Museum of Modern Art and whose work has been exhibited there annually. The Retired Staff Association continues its programme of activities - a recent get-together featured afternoon tea at the Gresham Hotel.



€4 MILLION FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OUT-OF-HOURS CO-OPERATIVES

Mr. Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Health and Children has announced funding of €4 million for General Practice Out-of-Hours Co-operatives.

The money is being allocated to the Eastern Regional Health Authority and each of the health boards, with the exception of the North Eastern Health Board, which already has a region-wide GP out-of-hours co-operative. This funding brings the Government's spending on these co-operatives to almost €50 million since their introduction in 2000. The ERHA is receiving almost €500,000 of the funding.

"There is presently an out-of-hours co-operative operating in every health board area. The funding now being provided will see the development of new co-operatives in Westmeath, Longford, Limerick City and County, Sligo, Leitrim, Wexford and Cork City. The funding will also allow for the expansion of existing co-operatives in Dublin and Galway", Minister Martin said. "General practice out-of-hours co-operatives,

which are a central component of the Government's Primary Care Strategy, are state supported, GP-run organisations, aimed at the provision of a structured out-of-hours general practitioner service. The co-operatives allow for vastly improved public access to GP services, while at the same time allowing GPs to regularise their out-of-hours commitment," Minister Martin said.

"The development of the out-of-hours co-operatives also has the potential to positively affect attendance patterns in Accident & Emergency Units through the provision of a more appropriate, easy-to-access primary care service" he added.



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RESOURCE MANUAL FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES LAUNCHED

The national increase in youth suicides, particularly among young men, has prompted the publication of a resource manual for mental health promotion and suicide prevention in third level institutions. The manual has been launched as part of the Mental Health Initiative, a pilot research project based in Trinity College.

The project is a partnership initiative between Trinity College and the Northern Area Health Board. Although the incidence of suicide among Irish college students is not significantly different to that of non-students, the third level setting provides an ideal opportunity in which to promote the mental health of young people.

The manual, including a training module, was developed for staff members at third level institutions. The materials can be adapted for use in other institutions to evaluate and implement best-practice methods and policy.

The manual includes:

- An introduction to the issues of suicide prevention within the context of mental health;
- Findings from the project, including recommendations, success factors and difficulties;

- Templates for creating policies, protocols and training modules; and
- Resources and contact details for information support and research.

The information is intended for all staff members, including lecturers, administrators, counsellors, housekeepers, security guards, doctors, chaplains, etc. The publication advocates a multidisciplinary approach to mental health promotion to encourage the well being of both students and staff.

The research proposal was jointly developed and managed by Deirdre Flynn, Director, Student Counselling Service, Trinity College and Teresa Mason, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention, NAHB. The Northern Area Health Board and the National Suicide Review Group provided funding for the project. Additionally, the Department of Health and Children, and the Department of Education and Science funded the printing and distribution of the resource manual.

RESEARCH ON DISABLED SIBLING IMPACT

The Daughters of Charity Service has engaged with the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College, to conduct research on the impact on children of growing up with a sibling with a

disability. An agreement between the Service and Trinity College is being drawn up and the project is expected to take about six months.

ERHA REPORT FINDS HIGH LEVELS OF CLIENT SATISFACTION WITH COMMUNITY MIDWIFERY SCHEME

To date 800 babies have been born under the care of the Community Midwifery Scheme, 70 of them in their own homes, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children said, when he joined staff, parents and babies in celebrating the success of the Community Home Birth and DOMINO service in the National Maternity Hospital in Holles Street recently.



With the Minister for Health and Children, Mr. Micheál Martin, (second from right) are, from left, the Secretary Manager of the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Mr. Michael Lenihan, the Master of the Hospital, Dr. Declan Keane, and the Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Ms. Maeve Dwyer.

Four years after its inception this service is going from strength to strength, the Minister said. He pointed out that the project was developed by the hospital to test the feasibility of offering a safe hospital outreach Home Birth and DOMINO service to women with low risk pregnancies.

Dr. Harold Brenner, who was commissioned by the ERHA to carry out an independent evaluation of the project, stated in his report that, on the basis of the very high levels of client satisfaction and the excellent clinical outcomes, a strong case could be made for the development of a similar service within the catchment areas of other maternity hospitals and units throughout the country.

The Minister also drew attention to the fact that clients of the Community Maternity Service had an 85% breastfeeding rate compared with the national rate of 36.9%, as reported in the recently published Report on the Peri-natal Statistics for 1999.

Mr. Martin said he welcomed the opportunity to endorse the success of a service initiative that so closely mirrors the vision of the Health Strategy, in that it is family-centred, it offers an excellent quality of care, it is cost effective and it is linked to a continuous auditing process, which is in line with best evidence-based practice both nationally and internationally.

'STANDARDS IN CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTRES IMPROVING'

There are approximately 4,500 children in the care of the state last year, most lived in foster care, and about 13% lived in children's residential centres. The Annual Report 2002 of the Social Services Inspectorate published recently has concluded that standards in children's residential centres have improved. Day-to-day care in children's residential centres was good. Inspectors were impressed with the overall warmth and care shown by staff. Children had a high rate of attendance at school and had a choice of hobbies and recreational activities.

The Inspectorate examined 57 Health Board-run children's residential centres between its establishment in 1999 and July 2002. Overall, children were safe and well cared for and had contact with their families. Children told inspectors they felt cared for, and that they trusted the staff.

However the Inspectorate found that improvements were needed in planning what type of care was best for individual children and having those placements available. They had serious concerns about the young age of some of

the children in the centres – 43% of these were less than 12 years of age. The reason given for their being in residential care was that they were with their brothers and sisters or there was a lack of foster care.

More children in this round of inspections had a care plan where key people, including the child, decided what type of care was best, but inspectors found that the quality of plans needed to improve, particularly in deciding if the child still needed to be in residential care and in preparing young people to leave care.

Health boards that had a range of placements to offer children in care, for example foster care placements, and community based and high support residential centres, were able to provide better care for the children who need it.

The Inspectorate is due to be established on a statutory basis this year.

The Annual Report is available on the Inspectorate's website at www.issi.ie.

APPOINTMENTS

Three new Assistant Chief Executives appointed to South Western Area Health Board



Martin Rogan
Martin Rogan has worked in the Health Services in Community Psychiatry and as a Nurse Manager and Nurse Teacher. He has been Director for Mental Health & Addiction in the SWAHB since 2000. In his new role Martin will be responsible for Mental Health, Addiction, Social Inclusion, Environmental Health, Inter-country Adoption and the Public Health Laboratory.



Regina Buckley
Assistant Chief Executive, South Western Area Health Board, Regina qualified as a General Nurse from St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, and as a Midwife from St James's Hospital. Following a wide range of nursing experience she was appointed Director of Public Health Nursing in the Eastern Health Board and subsequently as Director of Disability Services in the South Western Area Health Board. She has completed a BSc in Management and a MA from Trinity College.



Roy Mitchell
Roy, who previously worked with the North Eastern Health Board, has been Director of Communications with the SWAHB since its establishment in 2,000 and has played a significant role in developing the Board's image and the promotion of its services.

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Clr. Jim Daly has replaced Clr. Charlie O'Connor TD on the Board of the Eastern Regional Health Authority. His appointment follows Clr. O'Connor's resignation on his election to the Dail. Clr. Daly was nominated by South Dublin County Council.

SAYING GOODBYE...



Saying goodbye to Orlagh Devine, (centre), who worked in the Regional Chief Executive's office since the foundation of the ERHA, and also in Monitoring and Evaluation, were, from left, her colleagues Joanne Fitzpatrick, Nancy Connaughton, Helen Stokes and Trish Mannion. Orlagh is now working with the Engineering Department in Dundalk Institute of Technology and is greatly missed by her friends in ERHA Corporate.



Mr. Gerry Hackett (centre), at the party to mark his retirement as porter from Cuan Ros Community Unit for Older People, Navan Road, with Director of Nursing at Cuan Ros Ms. Betty Brady.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE CENTRAL REMEDIAL CLINIC



Soldiers of 7th Transport Company present cheque to CRC CEO, Mr Paul Kiely, for monies raised through boxing tournament while in Kosovo.



The Harley Riders of Ireland present cheque for €4,590.93 raised during Santa Bear Appeal 2002 to CRC CEO, Mr Paul Kiely (4th from left)

CONDOLENCES

It is with regret that we record the deaths of

- Mr. Tommy Farrell, Dublin, father-in-law of our Regional Chief Executive, Mr. Michael Lyons;
- Mrs. Catherine, (Kitty) Pierse, mother of Tom Pierse, Fixed Assets, Eastern Health Shared Services and
- Mr. Joe Peake, Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer, who died in January after an illness.

Our sympathies are extended to all their families and friends at this sad time.

CORRECTION

In our last issue on page 5 in the caption to the first image of Mr. Donal O Shea's retirement function, we mistakenly identified Sister Catherine Mulligan as Sister Maureen Mulherin. We apologise to both for the confusion.

New CEO-designate for East Coast Area Health Board.



Martin Gallagher, ECAHB presenting an Environmental Health Officers Association certificate to James Brady.

Mr. Martin Gallagher, Assistant Chief Executive - Operations, East Coast Area Health Board, has been offered the position of Chief Executive of the Board in succession to the former CEO Mr. Michael Lyons, who is now Regional Chief Executive of the ERHA.

NEW DAY CARE CENTRE FOR OLDER PEOPLE OPENS IN PEAMOUNT

Health and personal social services for older people have improved, both in hospitals and the community, with €284 million being provided for services for older people in between 1997 and 2003, the Minister for Services for Older People at the Department of Health and Children, Mr. Ivor Callely, T.D., said when he opened a new Day Care Centre in Peamount Hospital recently. The Raniskey Day Care centre was developed in partnership between the hospital, the ERHA, the SWAHB, and the local community.

The Minister said that the National Development Plan was providing capital funding of over €235 million to services for older people in the period 2,000 to 2006 inclusive. "On a national basis, this will enable a comprehensive infrastructure of community nursing units and day-care facilities to be put in place, as well as the refurbishment of existing extended-care facilities and the replacement of old accommodation. Older people deserve first-class facilities and we intend to provide such facilities in appropriate locations," he said.

The Minister was welcomed by Ms Ann Quinlan, Chair of the Board of Management, Peamount Hospital, and by its Chief Executive, Mr. Robin Mullan. During the opening ceremony, the day Care Centre was blessed by the Chaplains to the Hospital, Fr. Jim Byrnes, C.S.Sp., and Rev Anne Wooderson.

The Raniskey Day Care Centre provides respite care on a daily basis for people over 65 years of age living in the surrounding areas of Lucan, Clondalkin, Rathcoole, Celbridge, and Newcastle. It aims to promote social contact among clients, and facilities include physiotherapy, chiropody, and hairdressing, along with provision of a midday meal and personal care.

Speaking at the opening, the Chief Executive of Peamount, Mr. Robin Mullan, said: "This centre is Peamount responding to the needs of the local community with the aim of enabling older people to remain in their own homes with therapeutic support".



The Minister for Services for Older People at the Department of Health and Children, Mr. Ivor Callely, T.D., with Mrs. Rose Murphy, one of the people who attends the new Raniskey Day Care Centre at Peamount.



At the opening of the Day Care Centre were the Acting Director of Nursing at Peamount, Ms. Mary Walshe, Ms. Mo Flynn, Senior Commissioner, ERHA, the Minister for Services for Older People at the Department of Health and Children, Mr. Ivor Callely, T.D., Mr. Robin Mullan, CEO of Peamount Hospital; Ms. Brenda Hannon, Director of Services for Older People in the SWAHB, and Ms. Emer Ryan, Manager of Services for Older People in the SWAHB.