

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St Brendan's Hospital on Thursday 1st March, 1979 at 6 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Ms. N. Kearney
Dr. J. D. Behan	Mr. D. G. Kelly
Cllr. O. Browne	Cllr. D. Kinsella Deputy
Cllr. M. Carroll	Mrs. E. Lemass Deputy
Cllr. J. Connolly	Thos. Leonard
Cllr. H. P. Dockrell	Dr. P. McCarthy.
Ald. Alexis FitzGerald	Prof. J. McCormick
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Mr. M. Matthews
Cllr. A. Groome	Dr. Aidan Meade
Cllr. T. Hand	Deputy C. Murphy
Mr. K. Harrington	Cllr. John Sweeney
Cllr. P. Hickey P.C.,	Dr. J. Walker

APOLOGIES

Mr. H. Corrigan and Prof. J. S. Doyle

IN THE CHAIR

Alderman Alexis FitzGerald

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. J. J. Nolan	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. F. Donohue	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. T. Keyes	Mr. C. Mansfield
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. F. Elliot	Mr. E. Dunphy
Mr. J. Reynolds	Mr. M. Cummins
Mr. R. Lamb	Mr. T. Barry
Prof. 1. Browne	Mr. A. Duggan
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Miss E. Larkin
Mr. P. J. Swords	Miss B. Kelly
Mr. J. Clarke	
Mr. P. 1. Lyons	

34/79

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
OF MEETING 1st FEBRUARY 1979**

On a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn seconded by Cllr. Carroll the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 1st February 1979 were adopted.

35/79

MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Keyes informed Cllr. Connolly that a number of people had been selected for the six posts referred to on page 32: one was already on duty and one was employed as a locum. Mr. Elliott also informed him that posts in the James Connolly Memorial Hospital referred to on Page 35 had been filled during the year. In reply to Dr. Walker, Mr. Nolan said that the Department had been informed of the Board's views on the constitution of the Tallaght Hospital Board but a reply had not yet been received to the letter.

36/79 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn seconded by Cllr. Carroll it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow a discussion on payment of Social Welfare benefits. Cllr. Mrs. Glenn said that great hardship was being caused during the postal strike by recipients of Social Welfare benefits having to queue at the Department's premises in Pearse Street. She was supported by Cllr. Carroll and Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, who said that it was costly to travel to the centre City and that they understood that the cheque was often not available when the person reached the office.

Following discussion it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Department of Social Welfare asking that centres be opened throughout the area for the distribution of cheques and suggesting that facilities such as community halls and schools should be used.

37/79

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
OF SPECIAL MEETINGS**

It was agreed to take items (i) and (iii) on the Psychiatric Services together, items (ii) and (iv) on the Care of the Elderly together and items (v) and (vi) on the Financial Allocation together.

- (i) Development of Psychiatric Services — 22nd January, 1979.
- (iii) Development of Psychiatric Services — 1st February 1979.

On a proposal by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Cllr. Dock-rell the minutes were adopted.

Dr. Behan asked that motion quoted at item 14/79 be corrected by the substitution of the word "ratification" for "notification".

At the request of Dr. Behan the Minutes of the Meeting of 1/2/1979 were altered as follows:

Paragraph 3 Minute 18/79 "Dr. Behan welcomed the Chief Psychiatrist's intention to concentrate on his duties as R.M.S. St Brendan's" to read "Dr. Behan was glad to see that the Chief Psychiatrist would be personally supervising the administration of St. Brendan's", and in the first paragraph on page 23 of the minutes "he would move his office to St. Brendan's Hospital" to read "he would move an office to St Brendan's".

At this stage the Secretary read a report dated 1/3/1979 from Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, detailing the allocation he sought for special works in St. Brendan's Hospital in 1979 and the allocation made showing that a further allocation of £165,000 would be needed to bring the allocation up to the amount originally sought.

It was agreed to refer this report to the Ad Hoc Committee which the members at the request of Dr. Behan agreed should be reconvened to examine it and also the report, already submitted to members, on the meeting of the Board's deputation with the Minister for Health on the 19th February, 1979. It was agreed that the committee would be reconvened on Tuesday 6th March, 1979 at 6 p.m. The members also agreed on a proposal by Dr. Behan seconded by Cllr. Browne to the co-option of Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Mr. Matthews and Cllr. Browne to the committee. The Chairman said that the Department had agreed to a joint working party with the Board to work on this matter and that further reports would be submitted to the Board as necessary.

In relation to a report submitted by Mr. Keyes on the escape from the Central Mental Hospital Mr. Keyes said in reply to Cllr. Hickey that after a previous break-out he had met representatives of the local residents' Association and was aware that they were anxious that the Board would notify residents of the area when any outbreak occurred, which he agreed he would do. As the circumstances warranted it on this occasion, he had told Cllr. Hand at the meeting of the 22nd February 1979 that he would be available to meet residents on the following Saturday and nine members of the Association had come along with Cllr. Hand and had discussed the situation.

Cllr. Hickey said that as a representative of the area he would have liked to attend the meeting as there were two problems concerning him, the concern of the local residents and the worry among the staff of the Hospital about the position. He considered that in view of the special circumstances the staff should be represented on the Board and proposed the following resolution: —

"That the Minister for Health be requested to amend the Establishment Order to provide representation on the Eastern Health Board for the Attendants in Dundrum Central Mental Hospital".

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Nolan said that the provision of representation on the Board involved statutory procedures and any alteration thereof would require amending legislation. The immediate problem was to maintain security at the Hospital and to maintain Dundrum as a Hospital. This would need in fact non-admittance to the Hospital of the type of person who was involved in the recent breakout. It was agreed that Dundrum should not become a penal institution and while it might be necessary to increase surveillance and tighten up security the Board did not propose to introduce such high security measures as would militate against ordinary mental patient care.

The members were of the view that the high risk patient should be catered for in a hospital unit in high security prisons and that it was the responsibility of the Department of Justice to have this type of patient securely held. It was agreed that the Minister for Justice would be approached to ask him to arrange for the re-location and future custody of such patients, at locations other than Dundrum Hospital.

With regard to staff representation Cllr. Browne said he would like to see all health board staff represented on the Board. It was agreed that Mr. Keyes' report on the escape from Dundrum and the question of staff representation be referred to the Ad Hoc Committee and on this basis it was agreed that the proposal by Cllr. Hickey would be withdrawn.

(ii) Services for the Care of the Elderly — 25th January, 1979. (iv) Services for the Care of the Elderly — 8th February, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Dockrell seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow the minutes were adopted.

Dr. Behan asked that the Committee on the Services for the Elderly, established at the meeting of 8/2/79, should prepare and submit their report to the Board in the shortest possible time. The first meeting of the Committee was fixed for 3 p.m. on March 6th.

(v) Financial Allocation 1979 - 15th February, 1979. (vi) Financial Allocation 1979 - 22nd February, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow the minutes were adopted.

The following corrections were agreed to the Minute of 22nd February 1979 — Record apology for non attendance from Cllr. Groome. Paragraph one Page 54 to read "At the request of Cllr. Browne it was agreed that a progress report on the Wicklow area be submitted each month". It was further proposed by Cllr. Groome seconded by Cllr. Murphy that a capital programme progress report be submitted to the Board each three months. Mr. Nolan agreed to arrange for the submission of such reports.

38/79 PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

The reports of the following visiting committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows: —

- (a) No. 1. Visiting Committee meeting at Baltinglass District Hospital on 24th January, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney seconded by Cllr. Kinsella the report was noted.

Cllr. Sweeney drew attention to overcrowding at the Hospital indicated by the need for temporary beds to be provided. At the suggestion of Deputy Murphy it was agreed that the proposals about Long-Stay/Day Care facilities be referred to the committee on the Services for the Elderly.

Dr. Meade congratulated Mr. Swords on the establishment of a meals-on-wheels service in Baltinglass. In reply to Dr. Walker, Mr. Reynolds said that more informative ways of presenting bed statistics were being examined at present and will be put to the Board later.

- (b) No. 2. Visiting Committee meeting held at Bru Chaoimhin, Cork Street on 12th February, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow the report was noted.

Cllr. Connolly expressed concern that a number of patients in the oldest age group were accommodated on the top floor. In reply Mr. Swords said that there was a large lift for patient transport and fire precautions were adequate but that when work at present being done in other units was completed the Councillor's views would be taken into account in re-allocating patients.

- (c) No. 3. Visiting Committee meeting held at County Hospital, Naas, on Thursday 25th January, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Groome seconded by Cllr. Sweeney the report was noted.

- (d) Community Care Visiting Committee held at St. Brendan's Hospital on 17th January, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. Sweeney the report was noted.

**39/79 PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH
COMMITTEES**

- (a) Dublin City Local Health Committee - 13th December, 1978.

On proposal by Cllr. Barlow seconded by Cllr. Hickey, the report was noted.

- (b) Dublin County Local (Health) Committee — 5th February 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn the report was noted.

- (c) Dun Laoghaire Local (Health) Committee - 23rd January, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Kinsella seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn the report was noted.

- (d) Kildare County Local (Health) Committee - 18th January, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Groome seconded by Cllr. Sweeney the report was noted.

Mr. Nolan reminded the Board members that the Board meeting for April would be held at Naas. Mr. Swords advised them that the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin would celebrate Mass at 3 p.m. and bless the new accommodation in the Hospital. There would be a meal in the hospital dining room followed by the Board meeting at 6 p.m. Arrangements could be made for a 'bus to bring members to Naas leaving James's Street at 2 o'clock.

**40/1979 BORROWING PROPOSALS FOR
CAPITAL WORKS**

The following Report No. 13/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

"I set out hereunder Schedule for Capital Expenditure for which long-term borrowing arrangements must be made.

Capital Project	Estimated cost	Estimated grant	Balance	Loan approved	Amount to be raised
St. Colman's Hospital - 22 bed unit	148,000	74,000	74,000		74,000
St. Columcille's Hospital - Upgrading Mech. Services	215,000	107,500	107,500		107,500
St. Ita's Hospital - Improvements to Nurses accom. Female Chronic Block 72 Bed	348,000 366,000	174,000 183,000	174,000 183,000	80,000 125,000	94,000 58,000
Mental Handicap Unit Male Chronic Block	676,000 483,000	394,500 241,500	281,500 241,500	175,500	106,000 241,500
St. Loman's - 23 Additional Beds	129,000	64,500	64,500		64,500
St. Brendan's - Fire Alarm System and Improvements St.	250,000	125,000	125,000		125,000
Kyran's Home Section 65 grant Los Angeles Society Section 65 Grant	10,000 65,000	— —	10,000 55,000		10,000 55,000
Trudder House - Section 65 Grant	65,000	—	65,000	60,000	5,000
Madonna House - Section 65 Grant	92,500	—	92,500	87,500	5,000

Capital Project	Estimated cost	Estimated grant.	Balance	Loan approved	Amount to be raised
Health Centres -					
Wicklow and Offices	483,000	241,500	241,500	—	241,500
Kilbarrack	450,000	225,000	225,000		225,000
Coolock Offices					
Accom. for Community Care Staff	160,000	—	160,000	—	160,000
	3,930,500	1,830,500	2,100,000	528,000	1,572,000

It is proposed to raise loans from the Commissioners of Public Works, repayable over a period of 35 years to provide the required sum of £1,572.000".

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney seconded by Cllr. Carroll the following motion was unanimously adopted: —

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 13/1979 be adopted".

**41/1979 REPORT ON CHILDREN SLEEPING OR
LIVING ROUGH AND RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY DUBLIN
CORPORATION (5/2/1979)**

The following Report No. 14/1979 by the Joint Committee was submitted: —

CHILDREN SLEEPING OR LIVING ROUGH

Consequent on the adoption by the Eastern Health Board, at its meeting on the 3rd March, 1977, of the following resolution: —

'That a Special Committee be set up consisting of members of the Eastern Health Board and Dublin Corporation to seek ways and means of coping with the problem of children sleeping rough in the Dublin area".

the City Council, at the Adjourned Quarterly Meeting held on the 18th July, 1977, agreed to appoint the following members of the Council to the Joint Committee: —

Councillor Mrs. J. M. Barlow
Councillor E. Brennan
Councillor P. Dunne
Councillor Miss M. Freehill
Councillor Mrs. A. Glenn
Councillors. Moore, T.D.
Councillor J. O'Keefe,
Councillor F. Sherwin

The Eastern Health Board appointed the following members to the Joint Committee: —

Alderman A. Fitzgerald	
Councillor J. Connolly	
Councillor J. Durning	
Councillor T. Leonard T.D.P.C.	
Dr. J. D. Behan	Ms. N. Kearney
Mr. H. Corrigan, F.P.S.I.	Dr. B. Powell

The Committee elected the undersigned as Chairman.

Dr. Paul McCarthy, Clinical Director of Child Psychiatric Services, Eastern Health Board, was appointed advisor to the Committee.

The Committee regrets to report the death of Councillor Durning in March, 1978.

The Committee has met on seven occasions, held discussions with representatives of several organisations familiar with the problem of homeless children (Gardai, Chief School Attendance Officer, Hope, Sherrard House, Los Angeles, I.S.P.C.C.) and has visited some of the homes available for children who might otherwise be sleeping rough. The Committee also received written submissions, and sought information as regards numbers by way of a survey among organisations dealing with the problem.

The Committee also had available the City Council's Report No. 25 of 1977 "Children Sleeping Rough and Children Begging".

The term Children was taken for the purpose of the deliberations to include those up to 18 years, though it was noted that the Childrens Acts deal only with children up to 16 years.

The Committee was of opinion at an early stage that the problem of children sleeping rough could not be separated from that of the Itinerant Children found uncared for and begging in the City, children who do not appear to attend school.

Having completed its deliberations the Committee came to the following conclusions: —

1. There is a number of children regularly sleeping rough in the city.
2. No person or organisation has accurate statistics of children sleeping rough. The Committee was glad to note that 'HOPE' are at present engaged on a survey which aims, inter alia to provide this information.
3. The number of children sleeping rough on a regular basis is however, believed to be extremely limited.
4. Both boys and girls are included. In the case of girls the problem is more serious as there is added risk of prostitution or becoming pregnant.
5. The numbers would be greater were it not for the voluntary hostels.

6. There will be a continuing need for such hostels providing a range of facilities to meet the varying needs of all children who for one reason or another must be accommodated outside their homes.
7. This need for various categories of accommodation in the Dublin Area was also stressed in recommendations made by the Task Force on Child Care Services in their Interim Report (see appendix 1 attached). The Committee noted these proposals but did not go into them in depth as they felt the Task Force was in a better position to assess the actual types of accommodation needed.
8. There is a need to stress the responsibility of parents in ensuring that children have no need nor desire to leave home and to go sleeping rough.
9. The number of children roaming the city by day, or begging in the streets and apparently neglected is a matter for concern.
10. These are mainly the children of a small number of travelling families.
11. The Gardai have legal powers to remove children who are at risk to a place of safety but there are difficulties of finding suitable places of safety where their needs can adequately be assessed and arrangements made for their future care, either by their parents or in some suitable home.
12. The recommendations on the problem of Children begging set out in the Report of the Commission on Itinerancy — August, 1963, would if implemented contribute to solving of the begging aspect of the problem set out in point 9 above. Report No. 25/1977 also referred to these recommendations. Extracts attached as appendix 2.

The following are the recommendations of the Committee: —

1. Updating of legislation relative to the Welfare of Children and incorporating a Charter of Childrens' Rights. As 1979 has been designated as the Year of the Child by the United Nations Organisation it would be appropriate to have this legislation introduced this year.

In this legislation the emphasis should be on the interests and well being of the child, rather than the rights of parents, and there should be provisions to protect children from abuse or neglect.

The legislation should make it plain that the primary responsibility for rearing and controlling children rests with parents but where they are unable or unwilling to do so properly the appropriate statutory agencies should have the responsibility to intervene. The present minimum legal age for criminal responsibility is seven years. This is obviously far too low and this limit should be raised to at least 12 years.

Provision of extra resources to the organisations providing existing hostel accommodation to enable them to improve and extend their accommodation and provide adequate back-up staff — Medical, Social and Educational.

There is an urgent need for a Reception/Assessment Centre for children up to 16 years of age who are found begging or sleeping rough. The Centre would need to be open for the reception of children on a 24 hour a day basis. The Health Board would appear to be the appropriate agency to run such a Centre.

The Gardai, who are the only agency who patrol the city streets on a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year basis, come across these children at all hours of the day and night. A Juvenile Bureau should be set up by the Department of Justice attached to the Garda Juvenile Liaison Section to which these children could be brought when they are found by the Gardi. This bureau would be staffed by officers who would from their experience know the childrens' backgrounds and know whether they needed to be referred to the Reception Centre or perhaps be brought home to their parents.

The Reception Centre should be linked to an Assessment Unit with adequate accommodation, equipment and staffing to assess the needs (physical and psychological) of any child transferred there over a period of up to, say six weeks, following which a child requiring long term accommodation would be transferred to an appropriate home.

The provision of a range of different types of accommodation under (in the case of Dublin) the aegis of the Eastern Health Board to meet the varying needs of children sleeping rough, as diagnosed at the assessment stage, and of young people up to 18 years of age. These homes would be staffed with trained personnel. There should be a child care programme and follow-up service.

5. The establishment of a central council for homeless children comprising representatives of the voluntary and statutory agencies involved in working with and accommodating children who have left home, and having the services of professional and specialist staff.

We wish to thank the members and staff of all those organisations who permitted us to visit their hostels and otherwise supplied information, also the officials of the Corporation and the Eastern Health Board who helped us in the compilation of this Report.

All of which we submit as our Report this 29th day of January, 1979.

ALICE GLENN
CHAIRMAN.

APPENDIX 1.

Extract from Interim Report of Task Force on Child Care Services.

CHAPTER 2

SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Cross references are to paragraphs in the Report.

Recommendations are in order as they appear in the Report and not necessarily in order of importance.

2.0.1. The proposed Council for the Education and Training of Social Services Personnel should be instituted as a matter of urgency and its first priority should be to decide on the training needs of residential child-care staff (3.3.9).

2.0.2. Three Neighbourhood Youth Projects should be initiated in the immediate future, one each in Dublin, Cork and Limerick (4.3.1.).

2.0.3. Urgent consideration should be given to the provision of small residential units for very young children who need short-term care apart from their families and for whom foster care is not appropriate (5.0.8).

2.0.4. The existing building at St. Joseph's Special School, Clonmel should be replaced by a special school providing residential care for 60 boys who need care or control additional to that provided by their families and who have serious education problems as well (6.1.14).

2.0.5. Additional hostel accommodation should be provided in Dublin for 30 homeless boys aged from 14 years upwards (6.2.4).

2.0.6. A special residential centre should be provided in Dublin to cater for about 15 severely disturbed boys aged from 15 to 18 years (6.3.5).

2.0.7. The proposed Special Residential Home at Warrenstown House, Co. Dublin should provide intensive care for 24 acutely emotionally deprived boys and girls (6.4.4.).

2.0.8. A special school should be established in the Dublin area to cater for 25 to 30 boys aged from 12 to 16 years who cannot be coped with in existing residential institutions (.6.5.8).

2.0.9. A special residential centre should be provided in Dublin to cater for 12 severely disturbed girls aged about 14 to 18 years (7.1.2).

2.0.10. A special school should be provided in the Dublin area for 25 girls aged from 12 to 17 years, who have shown themselves to be too difficult or disruptive for existing facilities (7.2.1).

2.0.11. A residential assessment centre for 10 girls should be provided in Dublin in association with the special school mentioned at 2.0.10 above (7.3.2).

2.0.12. Two new open residential centres should be provided in Dublin, each catering for about eight travelling children and providing a range of support services and day-care facilities for travelling families (8.0.5).

2.0.13. A special residential centre should be provided in Dublin for a group of approximately 12 travelling children who have been identified as being in need of residential care in a centre which can provide means of containment in the first instance (8.0.6).

2.0.14. Within the existing law, certain modifications should be introduced with a view to achieving some reduction in formality in dealing with children's cases in court (9.0.3).

APPENDIX 2

Extract from Report of the Commission on Itinerancy — August, 1963.

Recommendations on the Problem of Begging.

***25. The Commission are satisfied that both for the sake of itinerants and the settled community steps must be taken to prohibit begging now practised habitually by almost every itinerant woman and child.**

***26. As begging forms so much of the real income of itinerant families, the first step will be to ensure that assistance will be available for those itinerant families who may need it until they are in a position to make up in some other way the income that will be cut off from them by an effective prohibition of begging.**

***27. Much progress would be made if the settled community were less indiscriminate in their almsgiving.**

***28. The laws against begging, particularly begging in the streets and in places of public resort, should be strictly enforced.**

***29. The provisions of the Vagrancy (Ireland) Act, 1847, should be amended so that the penalty on conviction for begging may be a fine or imprisonment or both. This should enable a District Justice to impose a fine in an appropriate case and get over the difficulty mentioned in paragraph 24 (a) above. The period of imprisonment which may be imposed should be increased. For repeated offences there should be power to impose progressively higher penalties. Consideration should also be given to special provisions for habitual offenders.**

***30. The Children Act, 1908, should be amended so that in the case of a child found begging it would be necessary for the parent to prove that he did not send the child to beg. For this purpose it is suggested that the words "and that the person charged allowed the young person or child to be in the street, premises or place" should be deleted from Section 14 (2) of this Act. The recommendations as to increased penalties and provision for habitual offences set out in paragraph 29 above are also made in respect of offences under Section 14 of the Children Act, 1908.**

***31. A new offence should be created to provide that any person previously convicted of a begging offence shall if charged with loitering and importuning persons on the street or highway for the purpose of begging or with entering any private property for that purpose be presumed to have loitered or importuned or entered the private property for that purpose unless the contrary is proved.**

***32. Where the complainant is a member or officer of the Garda and where he has observed the act or acts alleged to constitute the offences referred to in paragraphs 29, 30, 31 above he should be empowered in so far as the power does**

not already exist to arrest the person accused without a warrant and upon the person having been taken to the Garda Station and there formally charged the accused person might be released upon suitable bail by the Sergeant in charge of such station or the member of the Garda for the time being in charge. As it would probably be impossible in many cases to obtain a surety, it is suggested that provision be made for the deposit with the Garda of a suitable sum of money as bail to be later lodged with the District Court Clerk. The sum so deposited should be available for the payment pro rata of any fine and/or costs ordered by the District Court. Any balance, or in the event of a sentence of imprisonment or acquittal the whole sum, should be returned to the person paying the same.

33. The general recommendations on the problem of law enforcement made elsewhere in this Report (Chapter XIV, paragraphs 15-25) are also applicable to the problem of begging.

Extract from City Council Report 'Children Sleeping Rough and Children Begging' (Report No. 25/1977).

2.7. But what of those who have no economic need to beg? The report of the Commission on Itinerancy (1963) examined the problem of begging generally and mentioned the difficulties involved in applying sanctions. It recommended: (a) ensuring alternative forms of income, (b) less indiscriminate almsgiving by the settled community, (c) laws to enable those begging or encouraging children to beg to be fined as an alternative to imprisonment, (e). amendment of Child Act 1908 to put the onus on a parent to prove he did not send the child to beg, (f) creation of a new offence to facilitate conviction for loitering for the purpose of begging and (g) easier procedures for arrest and deposit of bail.

2.8. This report was published thirteen years ago but the position remains much the same. The sanctions available are ineffective; despite the efforts of voluntary and statutory agencies to raise the standards of living of the travellers, some of them still choose to beg; the public (tourists as well as natives) still make it a financially attractive occupation. As long as it remains so there can be no satisfactory answer to the problem of children begging in the streets".

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY DUBLIN CORPORATION
ON 5/2/1979**

'That the Report be adopted, and that immediate consultations should take place with the Eastern Health Board; that increased Capitation Grants be made available to voluntary associations engaged in working with the unattached youth of our city, and that the Dublin Youth Service Council be approached and asked to employ unattached youth workers in the city centre'.

Cllr. Mrs. Glenn told the members that while the Committee did not find any evidence of a hardcore of children sleeping rough, there were many children who had left home for short periods. Some were being catered for by the H.O.P.E. organisations, mostly children from families who had alcoholic or psychiatric backgrounds. While the organisation was doing an adequate job the committee was not satisfied with the accommodation they occupied. It was possible that the City Manager might be able to provide better premises for the organisation. The Committee also felt that the Gardai want a premises to which they can bring children immediately when they are found on the streets and the Gardai have also approached the Manager. She hoped that when accommodation was provided the Board might be able to supply medical and psychiatric support. Itinerant children were a different problem in that they were not abandoned children. Unless a case could be brought showing continuing neglect a Court could not place the child in care and the parent can claim the child back. It was hoped that this situation might be changed so that an on-going analysis of the child's background and of continuing abuse if present could be recorded and used. The City Manager had agreed to introduce a programme particularly for itinerants and it was hoped that this would go a good way towards providing a solution to the problem.

Mr. Donohue pointed out that the Board cannot take custody of a child unless the child is committed by the Court. The Board is considering the possibility of building up a dossier on problem families as a whole and taking proceedings against the parents if continuing abuse is demonstrated. There was a need for places for the custody of children while investigations were proceeding and he suggested that the Department of Justice be asked to recognise certain centres for this type of temporary custody. It was agreed that Mr. Donohue would submit a report on the matter to the next meeting.

**42/79 DISPOSAL OF NURSE'S RESIDENCE
 AT KILL, CO. KILDARE**

The following report No. 15/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

'The Nurses' Residence at Kill West on plot of one rood is occupied since 1953, at weekly rent of 25p by Mrs. Anna Daly, Public Health Nurse; now retired. Mrs. Daly has requested the Board to sell the residence to her. It is a prototype aluminium cottage erected by the Kildare County Council in 1953 and forms part of land registry folio number 7862/15 (map showing location attached). The ownership was transferred to the Health Board under the provisions of Section 36 (1) (a) of the Health Act, 1970.

The Board's Engineering Officer has reported that the cottage is in poor repair and that it would not be worth spending money on it. The premises are not required by the Board for health service purposes. The Board's Valuer has reported that the current market value of the property is £2,500. Mrs. Daly has agreed to buy the property for this amount.

I propose, subject to the consent of the Board and to the sanction of the Minister for Health, to dispose of the Nurses' Residence to Mrs. Daly for the sum of £2,500; Mrs. Daly to be responsible for the Board's legal fees, stamp duty, etc."

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow the proposals outlined in the report were adopted unanimously.

43/79 TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 16/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

At meeting held on 7th December, 1978 the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £114 million during the quarter ending on 31st March 1979.

When sanction of the Minister for Health was requested for this arrangement it was intimated to the Board that financing by the Department of Health would be such during the March quarter that temporary borrowing up to a max-mum of £1.1 million would be adequate for the Board's requirements. This has proved to be correct since January 1979.

It is considered that overdraft accommodation of the same amount will be required during the June quarter 1979.

Accordingly, I request that the Board consent to borrowing by way of overdraft during the three months to 30th June 1979 up to a maximum of £1.1 million".

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Sweeney the proposals outlined in Report No. 16/1979 were adopted unanimously.

**44/79 APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEE TO IRISH
PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD.**

On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Hand, Cllr. Carroll was selected as nominee to the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

45/79 CORRESPONDENCE

Mental Handicap Projects:

- (a) Letters dated 7th and 21st February 1979, from the Department of Health, were read stating that the Minister had no objection to the appointment of Mr. P. V. Moloney, as Architect for the proposed 200 bed Mental Handicap Project at St. Columcille's Hospital.

On the basis of the accommodation and areas set out on the approved preliminary brief, a budget cost of £3m. would apply for planning purposes: the figure is based on prices ruling as at 1st January 1979 and allows only for wholly new buildings on a cleared site and is exclusive of demolitions, professional fees and furnishings and all abnormalities such as rock etc. It was decided to note the letters with satisfaction and to refer them to the Chief Executive Officer for submission of Design Team proposals etc to the Department.

- (b) A letter dated 26th February from the Association of Parents and Friends of the Mentally Handicapped together with copy of letter dated 13th February 1979 from the Dept. of Health were read stating that the Minister had agreed to provide the necessary capital funds to enable planning to proceed this year on the proposed major development on the Easter Health Board lands at St. Clare's, Ballymun.

The overall development will include the following main elements:

- (i) 100 residential places for mentally handicapped adults.
- (ii) Central complex to provide necessary ancillary facilities to serve all residents and day attenders at the different facilities on site.

Mr. Nolan referred to reports, already submitted to the Board, in which are set out in detail, analyses of categories of patients involved in the care of the aged programme. The programme has two main aspects viz institutional care both in large units and in smaller homes coupled with domiciliary/community services. However the latter services cannot be adequately developed unless the present inadequacies in bed accommodation are promptly remedied. Additional beds under the direct control of the Board and with adequate staffing levels are urgently needed.

He referred to the tendency for Nursing homes to avoid incurring heavy staffing commitments- or accepting patients who require heavy nursing which in turn placed a great strain on the Board's resources for such patients.

There is an immediate need for an additional 50 Public Health Nurses to meet expanded demands on the service. He considered that a blanket programme for care of the elderly should be prepared which would cover all aspects of the problem and should be planned in the first instance on a five-year basis.

The meeting finished at 8 p.m.

CHAIRMAN