

14th May 2004.

Do gach Comhalta den mBord

A Chara,

The monthly meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in **The Boardroom, Northern Area Health Board, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, on Thursday, 20th May, 2004 at 5.00pm.**

As this will be the last meeting of the Northern Area Health Board, a function will be held at Headquarters to mark the occasion, following the meeting.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

PRIOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. Chairmans Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of
 - (a) Monthly Board Meeting held on Wednesday 21st April, 2004
 - (i) Matters arising
 - (b) Special Board Meeting held on Thursday 29th April, 2004
 - (i) Matters arising
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report (*to be circulated*)
5. Report F3/2004
Report from Finance and Property Committee Meeting,
held on Wednesday 12th May 2004 at 12.00midday. (*herewith*).
6. Northern Area Health Board Annual Report, 2003
Report No 5/2004 (herewith)

7. Northern Area Health Board – Review of Adequacy of Child Care, 2003
Report No 8/2004 (herewith)

8. Report from Standing Committees

(a) Community Services and Continuing Care

(b) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care

9. Motions

9.1 Cllr Mary Murphy

“That this Board commits itself to implement the National Drugs Strategy commitment for a full drugs treatment centre for Finglas. In that context can the Chief Executive clarify that the fully segregated drug treatment centre will be established by NAHB, the time scale and location of its establishment. Can she also clarify that the delivery of no other service will be diminished in the context of developing the segregated drugs treatment service.”

10. Correspondence/AOB

11. Matters for Mention

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Board Meeting
of the Northern Area Health Board
held in the Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin**

On Thursday, 20th May, 2004

Present

Cllr. C. Burke
Mr. M. Cowley
Cllr A. Devitt
Ms. N. Harvey
Cllr M. Murphy
Cllr. G. McGuire
Cllr. E. O'Brien
Cllr M. O'Donovan
Mrs C. Quinn

In the Chair

Cllr. L. Creaven

Apologies

Mr P. Ledwidge

Officers in Attendance

Ms. M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Walsh, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr J. Cahill, Asst Chief Executive
Mr. P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive
Ms A. Kerrigan, Asst Chief Executive
Mr N. Mulvihill, Asst Chief Executive
Ms. M. Kelly, Director of Human Resources
Mr. S. Mulvany, Director of Finance
Mr S McGrath, Director of Communications
Mr. J. Murphy, Board Secretary

Other Officers in Attendance

Ms Bernie Kelly, Secretariat
Ms D. Kelly, Secretariat
Ms S. Kenny, CEO's Office

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1. Condolences

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

2. Schedule of Meetings/Visits

A copy of the schedule of forthcoming openings/launches has been circulated.

Please note the following:

The Board visit scheduled for 11.00am on Monday 20th May to St. Helena's Family Resource Centre, St Helena's Road, Finglas, has been cancelled due to an ERHA Board meeting scheduled for that morning.

3. Health Services Reform Programme

I have circulated a copy of correspondence from Mr Micheál Martin, TD, Minister for Health and Children, acknowledging receipt from our Boards submission on the Health Services Reform Programme which has been copied to the Health Service Executive for their consideration.

39/2004

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

held on Wednesday 21st April, 2004.

On a proposal by Cllr Burke and seconded by Cllr O'Brien, the minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting held on 21st April, 2004 were agreed.

40/2004

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

held on Thursday 29th April, 2004.

On a proposal by Cllr O'Donovan and seconded by Cllr Burke, the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 29th April, 2004 were agreed.

41/2004

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr McGuire, and seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed to answer the questions lodged.

1. Cllr Mary Murphy

“To ask the Chief Executive can the Chief Executive clarify when the Finglas Rapid Commitment for a therapy centre for young people will be established, where it will be located, who will deliver the service and how it will be funded?”

Reply

The RAPID Plan for the Finglas area includes a proposal to provide counselling for children and teenagers, and their families, who are exhibiting problematic behaviour in school or at home that may be caused by such issues as parental separation, bereavement, family crises, bullying, self-harm, substance-abuse and eating disorders.

The Finglas/Cabra Local Drugs Task Force and our Board are actively involved in developing this project. Discussions have been initiated with a prospective provider for the service who are currently conducting an evaluation of their service in another part of our Board’s area. A consultation meeting has been held with local General Practitioners on the needs of families in the area and consultation with other key stakeholders is being initiated. When the consultations and evaluation have been completed, due shortly, they will inform the extent and type of service to be provided.

St. Helena’s Family Resource Centre has been identified as a base from which to provide the service for the short to medium term. The project will be jointly funded by the Local Drugs Task Force and our Board and is due to commence in early Autumn 2004.

2. Cllr Mary Murphy

“Can the Chief Executive clarify plans to develop the primary health care centre for Finglas, can she confirm that it will be located at the present site of the Ballygall Health Centre, can she clarify that no services presently located in that centre will be relocated. Can she clarify on the time scale for the rebuilding project and comment on how existing services can be provided in the context of the building work involved. Finally can she confirm that it is the health boards intention to consult with local service users and residents about this redevelopment?”

Reply

“The Board is in the early stages of discussions with Dublin City Council regarding the possible redevelopment of the site currently occupied by Ballygall Road (Finglas) Health centre. The City Council are considering a proposal for a joint development on this site and adjoining sites, which would

provide a mixed use (residential/office/commercial) facility and would incorporate a modern Health/Primary Care Centre to replace the existing Centre.

No time scale has been set for this project, as a number of individual landowners are involved, and agreement of all parties would be required before the project can proceed.

If the project is adjudged to be viable, it will, of course, be necessary to relocate services temporarily, and, if this is necessary, all steps will be taken to ensure that disruption of services and inconvenience to service users is minimalised. Measures will be put in place, should this project proceed, to consult all local interests, both jointly with the City Council's procedures, and in regard to our Board's service needs.

3. Cllr Christy Burke

"To ask the Chief Executive

- 1) How many homeless beds are available on any given night in the Northern Area Health Board area?
- 2) How many beds are occupied on any given night in the Northern Area Health Board area?
- 3) Does the Northern Area Health Board let Homeless Agencies know if beds are available on any given night?
- 4) Does the Chief Executive Officer have homeless figures for those who do not occupy beds in the Northern Area Health Board?"

Reply

Our Board provides the Emergency Accommodation Placement Service for Homeless Persons on an agency bases for the Local Authorities in our area. Homeless persons in need of emergency accommodation may access our service from 10.00am to 12.00 midday at Wellington Quay (Women & Families) or James Street (Single Men), or via a freephone number (1800 724724) from 10.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 1.00am, seven days per week. Homeless persons are assigned to appropriate accommodation, which is sourced and approved by the Local Authority.

1. At present there are 1,015 beds available, in 469 units of accommodation (i.e. mix of single, double, family and dormitory type accommodation).
2. The average occupancy of these beds is 85-90%, depending on the "fit" between persons seeking accommodation and the accommodation type available (e.g. on occasions a double room or a family room, may be

occupied by a single person etc, due to the unavailability of single units, for which there is increasing demand).

This need for additional accommodation for a single person has been identified to the Local Authorities, as has the need for “move on” accommodation for this group, as single persons tend to stay longer in emergency accommodation, due to the lack of appropriate long term accommodation options.

3. Staff on the freephone “out of hours service” are in regular contact with other agencies on a nightly basis, and all are aware of bed availability on any given night. There is also close co-operation with the Dublin City Council “Night Bus” which offers accommodation to persons found sleeping rough, who may not have accessed our services.
4. A small percentage of persons who are booked into emergency accommodation do not turn up at the assigned location. Similarly, there are other persons who do not make any attempt to access our services.

There are particular groups who pose considerable challenges when seeking accommodation – e.g. persons with drug or alcohol addictions, persons who have a history of anti social behaviour or violence, or persons released from prison. Senior Management from our Board continue to work closely with officials from the Local Authorities in provision of accommodation to these groups, as evidenced by the pilot scheme which commenced in 2003 identifying chaotic rough sleepers and providing coordinated responses to their needs.

A homeless multi-agency initiative which involved Senior Managers from our Board, Representatives from Dublin City Council and the Gardai was piloted in 2003. This involved the putting in place and management of a multidisciplinary team to target a small group of eighteen chaotic rough sleepers who had multi-faceted care and social needs with the objective of stabilising their lives and attempting to provide a housing solution. This integrated approach achieved a successful outcome for the majority of clients targeted. The recent opening of the “Wet Hostel” at Aungier Street with (23 places) and Clancy Night Shelter at Blessington Street with (17 places) for those with addiction and alcohol problems by the de Paul Trust have helped respond to this identified need.

In instances where there is no accommodation available within the beds sourced by the Local Authority, officials from our Board may make arrangements for short term placements in private Bed and Breakfasts, or provide a payment to the applicant to allow them “self accommodate”. It is acknowledged that the availability of emergency beds has increased in recent years, and thus the pressure on our service has diminished - but there are still demands for single persons, with increase in recent years in single females accessing this service.

4. Ms Noeleen Harvey

“To ask the Chief Executive is it possible for a detailed map outlining the boundary roads for community care areas in the Northern Area Health Board be issued to every pharmacy?”

Reply

It is not practical to produce a map identifying roads and streets within each Community Care Area; as such detail would require the production of a very sizeable wall map.

It may be possible to issue Pharmacies with an electronic file containing a database of all road and street names within our Board’s area and identifying the appropriate community care catchment area. (An officer of the Board is consulting with Ms. Harvey in this regard).

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CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

SERVICE MATTERS

Medical Card Review

I have circulated the initial report, into the Medical Card processing times, as requested by members.

The General Medical Service Payments Board provided our Board with a random couple of 200 cards issued in 2003, of which 136 files have been assessed to date.

Of this 136 files, 82.5% of cards were issued within thirty days of receipt of application. The majority of cases which exceeded the thirty days were cases, which exceeded the financial guidelines and additional information was required in order to establish medical need.

37.5% of forms surveyed were incomplete on receipt, and required follow-up by our staff – which contributed to some delay. 88.2% of properly completed applications received a card within twenty working days.

This review is still ongoing, with a further 64 files to be processed, but initial findings suggest that the majority of medical cards, for which completed application forms are received, and who are within the financial limits, are issued within a reasonable time frame.

Smoke Free Workplace Regulations

The statutory regulations providing for smoke free workplaces come into effect on 29th March 2004.

Since 29th March 2004, our Board's Environmental Health Officers have conducted a comprehensive programme of inspections, which were planned or as a result of complaints received.

While the number of inspections undertaken have concentrated on licensed premises, other workplace inspections have also taken place.

Details of all workplace inspections undertaken during the period 29th March 2004 to 18th May 2004 are set out below. The inspections of licensed premises includes both day and night time inspections.

National Tobacco Control Inspection Programme Sections 46 & 47 Workplace Smoking Ban Period 29/3/04 – 18/05/04

Type of Premises	Number of Complaints	Number of Inspections	Number Inspections Compliant*		% Inspections Compliant *		Formal Warnings
			No Smoking	Signage	No Smoking	Signage	
Licensed Premises	77	531	507	440	96	83	64
Restaurants	2	64	63	53	98	83	11
Hotels	4	12	11	12	92	100	1
Transport	17	3	2	0	66	0	4
Hairdresser/Barber	2	2	2	2	100	100	1
Education	1	1	0	1	0	100	
Newsagents	1	3	2	0	66	0	3
Cafe/Canteen	0	2	2	0	100	0	2
Supermarkets	0	4	4	1	100	25	3
Total	104	622	593	507			90

* Please note that these figures show the levels of **compliance**.

Office of the Ombudsmen- Annual Report 2003

The Annual report of the Office of the Ombudsman shows that a total of 363 valid complaints were received from Health Boards during 2003 of which 59 related to our Board.

It should be noted that over 25% of all complaints from Health Boards related to the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme. As our Board manages the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme on behalf of the three Area Health Boards, all complaints in relation to Supplementary Welfare Allowance in the Eastern

Regional Health Authority Area come to our Board, which is estimated at approximately 40 of the total of 59 complaints received.

Of the 69 complaints completed by the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to our Board in 2003, a total of 53 (i.e. 77%) were either not upheld, withdrawn or discontinued.

While 42% of complaints to the Ombudsman for the overall Health Service were “not upheld”, the % of “not upheld” cases in relation to our Board is 55%, so the % of legitimate complaints in our Boards area is considerably lower than the average..

Acting Assistant Chief Executive

I wish to advise the Board that Mr Noel Mulvihill has been appointed as Acting Assistant Chief executive, to replace Ms Laverne McGuinness, who has taken up duty with the Health Services Executive.

Overview of the Northern Area Health Board Since 2000

Our Board was established on 1st March, 2000, under the Health (Eastern Regional Health Authority) Act, 1999, charged with the delivery of health and personal social services to the population of Dublin city and county, north of the river Liffey.

Our Board adopted as its mission statement

‘To deliver quality health and personal social services in partnership with other agencies and agencies and health care providers, to achieve the maximum health and well-being possible for the population in our area through the best use of available resources.’

During our Boards tenure in the period From 1st March 2000 to 31st March 2004, our Board spent a total of almost €2 billion on the provision of services. Our Boards first full year expenditure, for 2001, amounted to €453 million, while the initial allocation for 2004 has risen to €574 million, which reflects new service developments and increasing demands on services provided by our Board.

We have seen major demographic changes in this period as is evidenced by population growth within our Boards area which has increased from 457,000 (1996 census) to 487,000 at the 2002 census, an increase of 6.6% births in our Board average at 7,500 to 8,000 per annum, with approximately one third of all live births to single/unmarried mothers, with 6-7% of births to teenagers.

At the 2002 census, approximately 50,000 persons aged 65 or over were resident in our Boards area, representing 10% of the population. All persons aged 70 or over are now automatically eligible for a medical card.

Fingal County new home builds amounted to approximately 7,000 units during 2003, (approximately 10% of the national figure) and considerable future development is planned for Dublin 15, Baldoyle and the “M1 Corridor”. Our Boards area has also

seen a considerable increase in the number asylum seekers and refugees, residing in our area.

Of the twenty-three RAPID areas identified nationally, five of the areas are within our Boards geographical area. RAPID areas are defined as having a high “social deprivation index”, and the RAPID programme aims to respond to needs in the identified areas on a holistic and co-ordinated manner through active engagement with all stakeholders, i.e. Statutory and Voluntary Agencies, Government Departments and local committees.

All of this growth, whilst welcome in that it reflects the strength of our economy, does continue to create pressures in our ability to keep services and infrastructural developments in pace with the level of demographic growth.

A fundamental tenure of which our approach to service delivery is based is working in partnership both with the social partners and with other health service providers within our Boards area.

We are committed to working in partnership with other agencies, and staff representatives, in the planning and delivery of high quality health and personal social services and I am happy to report that during our Boards tenure we have developed and progressed strong links have been established between our Board and the major hospitals in our area – the Mater and Beaumont, and with voluntary organisations providing services in our area. Relationships have been established with the Local Authorities in our area, (Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council), with a view to each providing mutual assistance in the performance of respective Statutory functions, with the objective of course of ensuing more equitable access and service delivery for patients and clients.

Our Board is represented on the Dublin City, and Fingal County Development Boards, and contributed in the development of the City and County Development plans. We are actively involved in working to promote social inclusion and childcare.

Our relationship with Fingal County Council has resulted in a number of properties and sites being made available to our Board, including sites at Mulhuddart/Tyrellstown (for a Primary Care Centre) and at Lusk (for a planned “Village Complex” for persons with Intellectual Disability), and the development in partnership with FOLD, of a Residential Unit providing care for persons with Alzheimer’s and a Primary Care Unit at Hartstown. The contribution and involvement by Board members through the representative role and through visits to the service locations contributed substantially to the building at council level and of these linkages.

Our Board has commissioned many reports and reviews to deliver the health needs of our areas population for example studies have identified the community health needs (Finglas and Darndale) (Report No 3/2003 and Report 34/2003), bed capacity shortfalls (Report No 4/2001), GP Medical Manpower needs (Report No 23/2003) in our Boards area. In developing our services, our Board have had due consideration for National and Eastern Regional Health Authority policies (e.g. National Health Strategy, Primary Care Strategy, Drugs Strategy, Cardio-Vascular Strategy, Cancer Strategy), in addition we have taken on board the comments and recommendations

from reports from independent reviews of services provided (e.g. Inspector of Mental Hospitals and the Social Services Inspectorate).

In order to provide information to the public /tax payer we have built up through monitoring, evaluating and reviewing service delivery, a data set of Performance Indicators, so that activity growth can be seen from year to year. Our Board aims to improve the quality and range of service delivery to the population in our Boards area. This approach is evidenced by for example the “Home First” project, developed between our Board and Beaumont Hospital, which, through the delivery of home-care supports enables older persons to be discharged from an acute hospital setting, and to reside in their own home – thus providing a high quality, value for money service.

The main service and infrastructural developments initiated, developed or commissioned by our Board include the following (by Care Group).

Service for Older Persons

- Total Expenditure €250m
- Lusk Community Unit
- “Home First”
- Rapid Access Unit, St Mary’s Hospital
- Long Stay Bed Management System
- Nursing Home Partnership Agreements
- 200 plus extra Public beds for Older Persons
- Senior Help Line
- Delayed Discharge Initiatives
- “Fold” – Agreement re provision of services for persons with Dementia or Alzheimer
- Home Care Packages, including Subvention

Primary Care

- Total Expenditure €520m
- Ballymun Primary Care Project and Health Centre
- Oldtown Health Centre
- Darndale Health Centre
- Quarry Road (Cabra) Health Centre
- Inner City Primary Care Partnership
- Breast Check – Target Uptake Reached greater than 72%
- Ashtowngate Orthodontic Unit

Child Care

- Expenditure €320m
- Crannóg Nua High Support Unit
- Youth Advocacy Programme
- Foster Care Resource targeted recruitment drives
- Full Implementation of “Children First”

- Springboard (in partnership with Bernardos)
- Family Resource Centre (in partnership with Daughters of Charity).

Acute Hospitals

- Expenditure €220
- Acquisition of St Joseph's Hospital
- Completion of Building Works at James Connolly Memorial Hospital

Mental Health

- Expenditure €400m
- Acute Psychiatric Unit at James Connolly Memorial Hospital completed
- Plans for Acute Psychiatric Unit at Beaumont well advanced
- Ongoing transfer from institutional facilities to community facilities (e.g. Lispopple)
- Techport – Sector HQ and Day Hospital
- Mental Health Resource Centre, North Road, Finglas

Disabilities

- Expenditure €270m
- Clonmethan Village Complex
- Increased Residential, Day and Respite Places

Addiction

- Expenditure €80m
- Opening of Keltoi – Residential Treatment (Rehabilitation)
- Increase in number of Clients in Treatment
- Increase in number of General Practitioner's and Pharmacists providing Treatment

While much progress has been made during the term of our Board, it is recognised that there is much to do. Our physical infrastructure requires further substantive investment, particularly Mental Health, Disabilities, Primary Care and Older Persons.

Many of our Boards developments and enhancements occurred at a time of budgetary constraints and reduced staff ceilings, and are achievements of which both Board members and staff can justifiably be proud.

It is a fitting monument to the combined effort of our Board, management and staff that services have continued to develop to meet increasing demands while at the same time meeting our Statutory obligations with regard to the governance aspects of the Boards remit.

I have found working with the members enjoyable and valuable. Members have been a bridge between our Board and members of the public, and the discipline of bringing reports to the Board on a regular basis and being charged with accounting for our

decisions and activities has been an educational, informative, and enlightening experience for both myself and our Boards staff.

On behalf of myself and the management team I wish to thank the members for their valued contribution to the Health Services. In particular I would like to thank the Chairman of our Board, Cllr Anne Devitt, Deputy Dr Dermot Fitzpatrick and Cllr Liam Creaven, the Vice Chairman, and the Chairpersons of Standing Committees and other Committees set up by our Board.

I would also like to thank the Staff of the Secretariat, Jim, Bernie, Johnny and Dorothy, who will continue to be available to answer any queries or representations you may have.

I wish you all well, - good health – and success to all involved in the forthcoming elections.

Following discussion, to which, Cllr Burke, and Dr Murphy contributed, and to which the Chief Executive responded, the report was noted.

43/2004

REPORT NO F3/2004

Report from Finance and Property meeting held on Wednesday 12th May, 2004

The report from the Finance and Property Committee held on 12th May, 2004 was noted. As there was no quorum present at the Finance and Property Committee meeting, the acquisition of the Lease of the North Side Civic Centre was proposed by Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, and agreed by the Board.

44/2004

REPORT NO 5/2004

Northern Area Health Board Annual Report, 2003

The Annual Report as circulated, having been previously adopted by our Board, was noted.

45/2004

REPORT NO 8/2004

Northern Area Health Board – Review of Adequacy of Child Care, 2003

The report on The Northern Area Health Board - Review of Adequacy of Child Care, 2003, as circulated, having been previously adopted by our Board, was noted.

46/2004

PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

(a) Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee

On a proposal by Cllr McGuire seconded by Cllr Burke, the report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting held on 26th April, 2004 was agreed.

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

On a proposal by Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Burke, the report from the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee meeting held on 22nd April, 2004 was agreed.

47/2004

MOTIONS

9.1 Cllr Mary Murphy

“That this Board commits itself to implement the National Drugs Strategy commitment for a full drugs treatment centre for Finglas. In that context can the Chief Executive clarify that the fully segregated drug treatment centre will be established by NAHB, the time scale and location of its establishment. Can she also clarify that the delivery of no other service will be diminished in the context of developing the segregated drugs treatment service.”

The motion was proposed by Cllr Murphy , seconded by Cllr O'Brien.
The response from the Chief Executive (copy filed with official minute) was noted.

48/2004

AOB

There followed discussions to which Cllr Burke, Cllr Devitt, Cllr McGuire, Cllr Quinn, Mr Cowley, Cllr Creaven, and Dr Murphy contributed – thanking the Chief Executive, Management Team and staff for their continued support and co-operation with Board members during the term of the Board. It was agreed that the Northern Area Health Board had provided a focused, client centred approach, and had improved the services available in Dublin City and County north of the Liffey. Members also expressed concerns on what they perceived as the “democratic deficit” in the proposed new structures.

The meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

M. WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CLLR LIAM CREAVER
CHAIRMAN

20th May, 2004