

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting held in the Board Room, St
Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20 on Thursday 10 December 1987
at 6pm

PRESENT

Mrs B Bonar	Cllr I Callely
Mrs D Clune	Cllr P De Rossa TD
Dr P Devitt	Cllr J Dillon Byrne
Prof J S Doyle	Cllr B J Durkan TD
Ald A FitzGerald	Cllr C Flood TD
Cllr M Gannon	Cllr Mrs A Glenn
Cllr A Groome	Dr R Hawkins
Cllr F Hynes	Dr D I Keane
Dr P McCarthy	Prof J McCormick
Mr G McGuire	Cllr C Murphy
Ms M Nealon	Dr B O'Herlihy
Cllr J Reilly	Cllr J Sweeney

APOLOGIES

Cllr B Briscoe TD, Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD, Mr R Roche TD

IN THE CHAIR Mrs D Clune

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr K J Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr F J Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care
Mr M Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
Mr S O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Prof B O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health
Mr L P Kavanagh, Personnel Officer
Mr J N McNee, Management Services Officer
Mr G Brennan, Technical Services Officer
Mr M Gallagher, Finance Officer
Mr M J O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat

137/87
CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman votes of sympathy were passed the following:

1. Dr James Masterson, on the death of his mother.
2. Aid Alexis FitzGerald, on the death of his father.
3. Cllr Sam Carroll, on the death of his brother.
4. Nurse Nuala Grogan, St Brendan's Hospital, on the death of her mother.
5. The family of Or William Co whey. Dispensary Medical Officer, Maynooth.

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report which was noted by the Board:

The following items are for information only and are not for debate:

1. *Beaumont Hospital*

I am sure members will be pleased to note that the patients from Jervis Street and the Richmond Hospitals were transferred to Beaumont Hospital on Sunday 29 November and that the hospital is now operational.

I would like to take this opportunity of advising members of the excellent part played by our Board's ambulance service who were highly complimented by the Beaumont Hospital Board for the manner in which they managed the transfer of 228 patients in a fleet of 16 ambulances.

2. *Official Opening*

I wish to advise members that the official opening of a Headquarters and Resource Centre at Charles Street West, for the Homeless Unit developed by our Board this year will take place on Tuesday 22 December'.

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 1987

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 5 November 1987, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Callely, seconded by Dr Hawkins.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr Callely, seconded by Dr Hawkins, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

See over...

(i) **Dr P Devitt**

'Is there any reason why St Ita's Hospital, Portrane, could not supply a Radiology and Phlebotomy Service on referral from local general practitioners for the convenience of local residents and as a means of fund raising?'

Reply

The feasibility of providing such services and the need for them in the light of the recent opening of Beaumont Hospital will be examined and the outcome advised to the member in due course.

(ii) **Cllr P De Fossa TD**

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the following:

1. The numbers on the waiting list for children's dental care at the Rowlagh Health Centre and the average waiting period.
2. The numbers waiting to get an appointment.
3. The actual frequency of dental sessions at the centre over the past twelve months and the planned frequency.
4. What provision is there for appealing the refusal of dental care

Reply

- (1) The number on the waiting list for dental treatment at Rowlagh Health Centre is 400.
- (2) These children have been given appointments and will be seen between now and March 1988. Emergency treatment for relief of pain is provided without appointment.
- (3) Fourteen sessions are held at Rowlagh Health Centre each week. It is hoped to expand this in the new year, but this will involve the re-deployment of staff.
- (4) Children attending national schools, medical card holders and their dependents are entitled to dental treatment. There is a hardship scheme for nursing and expectant mothers whose family income is above medical card guidelines. No entitled person is refused dental treatment if there is a clinical need for this treatment. There may be delays in providing this treatment, particularly for adults, but applicants' names are put on waiting lists and called for treatment in turn when facilities are available.

(iii) **Cllr J Dillon Byrne**

'Could the Chief Executive Officer tell the Board what education regarding the general public and AIDS is being undertaken by any agency in this State?'

Reply

The following agencies are involved:

Department of Health

They have circulated doctors periodically on aspects of AIDS, such as definition of the condition, methods of diagnosis, number of cases reported, etc. They have also produced an information booklet for doctors and a leaflet for the public which has been widely distributed.

Dr J H Walsh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Department of Health is the National AIDS Co-Ordinator. He has made an extensive study of the condition and speaks authoritatively on it from time to time.

The Health Boards

Our Board has an AIDS Committee which meets monthly. They have considered ways and means of educating both Health Board staff and the public. Videos have been procured which are available to Directors of Community Care and their staffs for showing to groups of people for which they are considered suitable. The showing of them is normally accompanied by a lecture.

The Helpline Service set up by our Board last May still operates on one afternoon and one evening per week. Persons seeking information are free to 'phone in and will be spoken to by a doctor.

Last May our Board organised a Seminar at Cherry Orchard Hospital which was widely attended, not alone by our staff but by the staffs of other health boards as well.

The Health Education Bureau

It has produced an information booklet for distribution to the public. They also organised a Seminar on AIDS last April, mainly for health board staff. The emphasis was on developing techniques for educating the public on AIDS.

Voluntary Organisations

Gay Health Action

They have intensively and effectively educated homosexual men who are very much at risk.

Cairde

This is an off-shoot of the above group which is involved in educating the public generally on AIDS.

The Catholic Social Services Committee Task Force has been set up by the Dublin Diocese to make contact primarily with drug abusers who are also at great risk, to educate them on the dangers of contracting AIDS. The educational work is mainly on a person to person basis.

(iv) *Cllr I Cattery*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise what is the income in the Eastern Health Board area since the introduction of the £10 hospital charge at casualty and out-patient departments? And can the Chief Executive Officer give the breakdown, say for a three month period April-June 1987, compared to April-June 1986 of all first visits and follow-up visits at out-patient departments?'

Reply

- (i) *The total amount collected by hospitals directly controlled by the Eastern Health Board, since the introduction of the £10 charge for out-patients, is £94,884.00.*

See over...

(ii) Attendance at out-patient departments 1986 - 1987

	First Visits			Return Visits			Overall
	Mod.	Surg.	Total	Med.	Surg.	Total	
1986 [Apr - June)	2164	4945	7109	1829	5879	7708	14817
1987 [Apr - June)	1778	5414	7192	1544	5011	6555	13747

(iii) The information requested is not readily available in relation to hospitals not directly controlled by our Board.

(v) Cllr J Dillon Byrne

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer what services are being planned for Baggot Street Hospital, what is the time-scale and will our Board be in a position to finance these plans?'

Reply

It is proposed to establish a 50-bed continuing care unit for the elderly with a 20/30 place Day Care Unit and a Health Centre incorporating a general practitioner staffed minor casualty service.

Agreement has been reached with the Board of Baggot Street and these services should commence early in 1988. The Department of Health has agreed to provide the necessary funding.

(vi) Cllr J Dillon Byrne

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer for details of the services planned for James Connolly Memorial Hospital?'

Reply

A detailed report on service proposals for James Connolly Memorial Hospital was circulated at the November meeting of the General Hospital Programme Committee and a summary of the proposals is included in the Progress Report from the Committee circulated with the Agenda and documents for this Board meeting.

Twenty acute beds (Unit 8 west) have been re-opened as have the four dental beds for mentally handicapped persons. Discussions on other developments are continuing and progress will be reported to the Programme Committee in due course.

(vii) Mr G McGuire

'Have any staff members of the Eastern Health Board been appointed to permanent positions since the embargo of 31 March 1987? If so, how many and what categories of staff?'

Reply

The only permanent appointments made since 31 March 1987 were:

- (i) where binding contracts of employment were entered into prior to 31 March 1987 and
- (ii) on the specific sanction of the Minister for Health.

Details are as follows:

	Category	Members
(i)	Nursing	22
	para Medical	6
		<hr/> 28 <hr/>
(ii)	Community welfare officers	8

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted by the Board:

1. *James Connolly Memorial Hospital*

The following beds have now been re-opened:

1. 4 beds for Dental General Anaesthetic work for the mentally handicapped;
2. Twenty acute beds in Unit 8 west.

In addition, the following services from Dr Steeven's Hospital have been located at James Connolly Memorial Hospital on an interim basis pending the availability of facilities at St James's and the MANCH Hospitals:

- (a) Plastic surgery
- (b) Maxillo-facial surgery
- (c) Orthopaedic surgery.

2. *Ante-Natal Clinics at Rowlagh and Tallaght*

The concern expressed at the last meeting of our Board regarding the lack of balance in the radio programme was duly conveyed, as requested to the Director General of RTE.

The matter was also discussed with the Coombe Hospital when it was indicated that lack of attendance as much as financial consideration led to the decision to cease operating these clinics.

However, we will be having further discussions with the Coombe early in 1988 to review the position further regarding the clinics and with a view to developing further combined ante-natal and post-natal care between the Coombe Hospital and the local general practitioners.

3. *Rationalisation of Services - Peamount and Cherry Orchard Hospitals*

Discussions in relation to the above are about to commence and our Board will be kept advised of the position through the General Hospital Programme Committee.

4. *Tallaght Hospital Board - Membership*

Members have received (under correspondence in the papers for the meeting) a copy of letter dated 30 November 1987, from the

Department of Health regarding our Board's representation on the Tallaght Hospital Board.

The following nominations from our Board for the appointment of two members of the Tallaght Hospital Board have been submitted to the Department of Health at various stages since July 1985:

Cllr P Dunne
 Cllr W Harvey
 Cllr C Murphy
 Cllr A Groome
 Cllr J Dillon Byrne

Having regard to the terms of the letter from the Department of Health, and with the agreement of our Board, it is proposed to include the nomination of members for appointment to the Tallaght Hospital Board on the agenda for the January Board meeting.

5. *Early Retirement/Redundancy Scheme for the Public Sector*

I have circulated for the information of members, copies of Department of Health circular dated 27 November regarding the early retirement/redundancy scheme for the public sector.

This has been notified to all our personnel over the age of fifty who have been asked to indicate their response before the 31 December 1987.

The position regarding vacancies will be monitored further as part of the budgetary process.

6. *Baggot Street Hospital*

Fifty beds will open on a phased basis in the first week in January.

Day Care Service will commence shortly afterwards.

The Health Centre and general practitioner minor casualty service will require further time to plan in consultation with the various interests involved. These discussions are about to commence and will be concluded with be possible speed.

7. *Medical Card Guidelines*

I have circulated, for the information of members, revised guidelines for use in the assessment of applications for medical cards. The revised guidelines come into effect on 1 January 1988 and have been adjusted to take account of the increase in the Consumer Price Index in the year to mid-November 1987.

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ALLOCATION FOR NON-CAPITAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE 1988

The following Report No. F1/1988 was submitted:

1. The Budget Working Group held meetings on 10, 25 and 27 November 1987, to consider the letter of allocation received from the Department of Health dated 27 October 1987.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer reported to the Working Group that:

1.1 Our Board has been given an allocation of £187.070 million to cover expenditure on services during the year 1988 including a provision for services at James Connolly Memorial Hospital and Baggot Street Hospital.

1.2 The allocation represents a shortfall of £6.112 million in our Board's estimated requirements calculated as follows:

Board's Estimate	£200.582M
Less proposed savings arising from action by the the Department of Health (Restructuring of Community Drugs Scheme)	<u>5.20M</u> £195.382M
Less impact in 1988 of budgetary measures already implemented in 1987	<u>2.200M</u>
Amount required to maintain services at 1987 levels	£193.182M
<i>Allocation for 1988</i>	<u>£187.070M</u>
Net shortfall for 1988	6.112M (3.2%)

1.3 In order to achieve the reduction of £6.112 million in nett expenditure in 1988, it is necessary to:

(i) Reduce pay costs by	£2.185M
(ii) Reduce non pay cost by	£3.637M
(iii) Increase income by	<u>£0.290M</u>
Total	£6.112M

1.4 The Department of Health has not yet advised the type of restructuring of the Community Drugs Scheme proposed to enable the saving of £5.2 million to be achieved in 1988.

2. The Working Group also considered a detailed programme of budgetary measures proposed by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer to secure the necessary savings in order to maintain expenditure within our approved allocation.

2.1 These measures with modifications agreed by the Budget Working Group are set out in Appendix A (attached).

The Budget Working Group agreed to recommend a budget strategy for adoption by our Board which aims to minimise the impact of the budget reductions on community care services, on services for the elderly, mentally handicapped and disadvantaged children. The embargo on filling vacancies and the curtailment of our Board's flexibility to employ or re-deploy temporary staff will inevitably, despite our best efforts, have some adverse effect on some of the services which the budget strategy aims to protect. Special attention will need to be given to ensure that any such adverse effects are monitored and minimised to the maximum extent possible by corrective action within our overall allocation.

The Budget measure* proposed will aim to further streamline institutional services and also to reduce our overheads and administration costs. Funding for outside organisations will also reflect the need to ensure corresponding action to rationalise overheads in this sector. In deciding to recommend this strategy, the Working Group recognised that the scope for achieving significant savings in 1988 in these areas had been very much restricted by actions already taken to reduce expenditure in 1987.

2.2 The measures proposed are those which are left to the discretion of our Board but also include Government decisions referred to in the letter dated 27 October 1987 from the Department of Health as follows:

- (i) Measures are to be taken to ensure that health agencies do not incur unapproved expenditure.
- (ii) The Institutional Assistance Regulations are to be amended before 1 January 1988 to enable charges to be made after 30 days (action to amend these Regulations will be taken shortly).
- (iii) Charges will be introduced before the 1 January 1988 for the use of tertiary referral services in certain circumstances. (Further details in relation to this matter will be communicated shortly).
- (iv) Hospital canteen charges should be increased by an average of 20% from 1 January 1988.
- (v) Overall pay costs are to be reduced by a combination of non-filling of vacancies and a reduction in premium payments.
- (vi) Non pay expenditure of all health agencies is to be reduced significantly in 1988 by cost containment and efficiency measures. (Details of our strategy in this regard are to be submitted to the Department's Cost Containment Unit by 1 December 1987).
- (vii) The transfer of the functions of Local Health Committees to Health Boards by 31 December 1987 and also the provision to be made in our 1988 budget for the support of the NSSB Community Information Centres in our area. (Further details in regard to these two matters are awaited).
- (viii) All possible measures are to be taken to ensure that generic drugs are as widely used as possible.

The Working Group noted that the decisions at (ii) and (iv) above will only have a marginal effect on our Board's income. We have already been taking steps aimed at maximising income from patient maintenance charges, and in relation to hospital canteen charges there is unlikely to be any further scope for gaining increased income.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer pointed out to the Working Group that in addition to the continuation of the general policy on the non-filling of permanent vacancies, the further

restrictions which have been introduced will effect our Board's capacity to employ or re-deploy temporary staff and that this also will restrict management's flexibility to meet service gaps: also that the administrative and reporting structure proposed will be cumbersome and will place further difficulties in the way of management's discretion.

3. The Working Group agreed to recommend the draft budget as detailed in Appendix B attached, for adoption by our Board. This draft budget has been formulated to take account of the Working Group's comments and recommendations. It was also agreed that our financial situation and the effects of the implementation of the various actions proposed should continue to be monitored by the Budget Working Group.

- 3.1 The savings to be achieved have been allocated, taking account of the factors outlined in the preceding paragraphs, to our Board's service programmes on the following basis:

	Total	Community Cmo	Special Meeplest	Contral Meeples	Contral Services
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pay	2.185	300	1.009	700	176
NON	3,637	848	1.190	1.105	494
	5.822	1.148	2.199	1.805	670
Additional Income	290	150	20	120	
Total Savings	£6.112	£1.298	£2.219	£1.925	£670
% Reduction	3.2%	1.9%	4%	3.6%	5.4%*

*Excluding pension Commitments

4. The Budget Working Group was advised that the Department of Health has not yet indicated what our overdraft limit is to be for 1988 but that it is anticipated that strict cash limits will still be applied which will entail continuing close monitoring and control of our bank position.
5. Our Board was requested in the Department of Health's letter of 27 October 1987, to furnish details of the proposed programme and service budgets by 1 December 1987. The Department has already been advised that these details could not be furnished until after our Board's consideration of the report of the Budget Working Group recommending a budget for adoption by our Board at their meeting which takes place on the 10 December.'

APPENDIX A

Measures to be undertaken in 1988 to achieve expenditure targets

SUMMARY

		£000
	Pay	2,185
	Non Pay	3,637
		<hr/>
		£5,822
	Additional Income	290
		<hr/>
		£6,112
1	COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME	
		£000
	1.1 Proposed Budget Savings	
	Pay	300
	Non Pay	848
		<hr/>
		1,148
	Additional Income	150
		<hr/>
		1,298
1.2	Details of Budgetary measures to be implemented	
1.21	Pay	£000
	Total savings proposed	300
	To be achieved by	
	- Non filling of vacancies	250
	- Reduction in Locum Cover	50
1.22	Non Pay	£000
	Total saving proposed	848
	To be achieved by reducing the costs of overheads and increasing efficiency:	
	(a) Travel expenses	15
	(b) Drugs medicines and disposable	25
	(c) Postage, telephone, security, rentals, stationery, lights, heat and power	270
	(d) Stores issues	20
	(e) Grants to outside organizations	200
	(f) Non replacement of equipment	10

	(g) Ophthalmic Services	90
	(h) Recycling appliances	105
	(i) Rationalising charges for- Data Processing	
	Laboratory testing	
	Transport	80
	(j) Sundry expenses	33
	<i>Total savings non pay</i>	<u>£848</u>
1.23	<i>Income</i>	£000
	Additional income target	150
	To be generated by:	
	Increasing charges for services provided by the Superintendent Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages	130
	Introducing charges for	
	Rodent Control	10
	Food Hygiene Licences	10
2	SPECIAL HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMME	
2.1	Proposed Budget Savings	£000
	Pay	1,009
	Non Pay	1,190
	Additional Income	<u>20</u>
2.2	Details of Budgetary measures to be implemented:	£2.219
2.21	Pay	£000
	Total savings proposed	<u>1,009</u>
	To be achieved by:	459
	Delaying filling of vacancies	
	Reduction in premium pay	150
	Replacement of nursing staff vacancies by General Care staff	250
	Recorganisation of medical staff rosters	85
	Reduction in overtime	<u>65</u>
	<i>Total pay sayings</i>	<u>£1.009</u>

2.22	Non Pay	£000
	Total savings proposed	1,190
	To be achieved by reducing the costs of overheads and increasing efficiency;	
	(a) Drugs, medicines and disposables	100
	(b) Postage, stationery and telephone	20
	(c) Light and heat	80
	(d) Catering services	100
	(e) Maintenance costs	80
	(f) Cleaning and security	50
	(g) Grants to outside organisations	431
	(h) Closure of wards on transfer of patients to the Community	100
	(i) Sundry	169
	(j) Reduction in costs of Workshops (to be funded by ESF)	60
	<i>Total non pay savings</i>	<u>£1.190</u>
2.23	Income	£000
	Additional income target	20
	To be generated by:	
	Review of patient maintenance collection system	20
3.	GENERAL HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMME	
3.1.1	Proposed Budget Savings	£000
	Pay	700
	Non Pay	1,105
		<u>1,805</u>
	Additional Income	120
		<u>£1.925</u>
3.2	Details of Budgetary measures to be implemented	
3.2.1	Pay	£00
	Total savings proposed	700
	To be achieved by:	
	Non filling of vacancies	475
	Reduction in premium pay	100
	Reduction in locum cover	50
	Streamlining overheads and support services	75
		<u>£700</u>

3.22	Non Pay	£000
	Total savings-proposed	1,105
	To be achieved by reducing the costs of overheads and increasing' efficiency:	
	(a) Drugs, medicines, appliances, disposables and x-ray supplies	150
	(b) Postage, stationery and telephone	16
	(c) Light and heat	86
	(d) Catering services and stores issues	36
	(e) Furniture, crockery and hardware	80
	(f) Non replacement of vehicles	100
	(g) Payments to outside agencies	500
	(h) Sundry	137
	<i>Total non pay savings</i>	<u>£1,105</u>
3.23	<i>Income</i>	£000
	Additional income target	<u>120</u>
	To be generated by:	
	Introduction of charges for hospital services cards and forms E111	120

3 CENTRAL SERVICES

4.1	Proposed Budget Savings	£000
	Pay	176
	Non Pay	<u>494</u>
		£670
4.2	Details of budgetary measures to be implemented:	
4.21	Pay	£000
	Total savings proposed	176
	To be achieved by:	20
	Reduction of overtime costs	
	Non filling of vacancies	70
	Streamlining overheads and support services	<u>86</u>
	<i>Total Pay Savings</i>	£176
4.22	<i>Non pay</i>	£000
	Total savings proposed	494
	To be achieved by reducing the costs of overheads and increasing efficiency:	
		See over...

	£000
(a) Travel expenses	30
(b) Stationery, advertising, printing, telephones, postage and bank	120
(c) Non pay Technical Services	250
(d) Non-replacement furniture and equipment	10
(e) Training	20
(f) Sundry	64
<i>Total non pay saving</i>	<i>£494</i>

Following a discussion to which the Chairman, Dr McCarthy, Mrs Bonar, Cllr Calloly, Cllr Groome, Dopyty Durkan, Dr Keene, Mr Mc Guire, Cllr Hynes, Ms Nealon, Cllr Dllion Byrne, Prof McCormick, Deputy Dr Rosse and Dr O' Herllhy contributed and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, replied, it was agreed to adopt the allocation for non- capital health expendlture for 1988 and to arrage a special meeting of the Board during January 1988 to anable members to discuss any points of detail arising from the Budget Working Group's report and recommendations. It was noted that the budget strategy proposed will be kept under review by the Working Group throughout 1988.

Cllr Dllion Byrne and Deputy Dr Rossa requested that it be recorded that they did not agree with the adoption of the Budget.

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PEARSE STREET DRUG TREATMENT CENTRE - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 23/87 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'The Establishment Order relating to the proposed Drug Treatment Centre at Pearse Street (to replace the Jervis Street Unit) provides that our Board will have two nominees on the new body and it has been requested that one of our nominees should be an officer involved in drug services.

It was agreed at the November meeting of our Board that the nominations as above would be included on the agenda for the December meeting.

With regard to the officer nomination, I propose to nominate Ms A Flanagan, Senior Administrative Officer, for appointment by the Minister.

The nomination of a member of our Board is a matter for the Board.

Mrs B Bonar, Mr G McGuira and Cllr I Calloly were nominated. The result of a seeret ballot was as follows:

Mrs Bonar - 8 votes
Mr McGuirs - 8 votes
Cllr Calloly - 7 votes

Cllr Calloly was eliminated, and the result of a second ballot was as follows:

Mrs Bonar - 14 votes
Mr McGuire - 8 votes

The Chairman declared Mrs Bonar elected.

Mrs Bonar thanked the members for their support in electing her and stated that she looked forward to representing the Health Board on the Board of the Drug Treatment Centre.

The members also agreed with the nomination by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Ms Aine Flanagan, Senior Administrative Officer.

144/87

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Dr O'Hertlhy, seconded by Cllr Calloly, it was Agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Update report on developments in non-Eastern Health Board Acute General Hospitals.
- (b) A recommendation that a special joint meeting of the three Programme Committees should be held early in 1988 to discuss all aspects of recent developments in acute hospital services and their effects on other service areas.
- (c) A report on service proposals for James Connolly Memorial Hospital.
- (d) A report on discussions regarding the Maternity Unit at St Columcille's Hospital.
- (e) Progress report on the development of Out-Patient and Operating Theatre Suites at St Columcille's Hospital.
- (f) New A & E Roster for the North City area which came into effect on 1 December 1987 following the opening of Beaumont Hospital.
- (g) Report on services at Naas General Hospital.

Dr Keana stated that he was very pleased to note that the Dental Service for mentally handicapped persons at James Connolly Memorial Hospital had been re-opened from 1 December 1987

2. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Cllr Groome, seconded, by Cllr Hynes, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Report on services in Area 7 (Dublin North Central);
- (b) Report on visit of the Committee to St Vincent's Mental handicap Centre, Navan Road on 3 December 1987.

Members agreed with Cllr Sweeney's suggestion that letters

should be sent to Dr J Halpenny, Medical Director, and to Sr Angela, conveying the Health Board's appreciation of the services provided at St Vincent's Mental Handicap Centra and at St Joseph's, Clonsilla.

3 **Community Care Programme Committee**

On a *proposal* by Cllr Dillon Byrne, seconded by Cllr Hynes, it was agreed to adopt *the report**

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Services for the Homeless.
- (b) Social Welfare (Supplementary Welfare Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations 1987.
- (c) Proposed ESB high voltage power line in County Wicklow.
- (d) Report on services in Community Care Area No. 5.

Cllr Sweeney referred to Professor O'Donnell's report on proposed ESB high voltage power lines in County Wicklow and expressed the view that this report should have been referred by the Community Care Committee to the Health Board before it was considered by the Local Health Committee.

Members agreed with Cllr Dillon Byrne's request that the words '*and noted*' should be deleted from the third line of the paragraph on Services for the Homeless

14S/87

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

The report of the following Local Committee meetings, having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:

1. **Dublin County Local Committee Meeting held on 12 November 1987**

On a proposal by Cllr Dillon Byrne, seconded by Cllr Sweeney, it was agreed to note the report.

The following matter was dealt with in the report:

- (a) A resolution seeking a commitment from the Minister for Health that the role of the Local Health Committees would not be diminished nor would they be disbanded.

2. **Dublin County Local Committee Meeting held on 12 November 1987**

- 3. On a *proposal* by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Callely, it was agreed to note the *report*.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) A resolution deploring the decision of the Minister for Social Welfare to change the rules of the Free Fuel Scheme.
- (b) A resolution expressing agreement that the abolition of the National Social Service Board was depriving those most in need of assistance and information in regard to their rights under the Social Welfare code.

3. *Wicklow Local Committee Meeting held on 20 November 1987*

On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Hynes, it was agreed to note the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) A recommendation from the Local Committee that the Health Board make a decision to require the Bray Old Folks' Association either to accept the Health Board's offer of new premises at Strand Road, Bray, or to find themselves alternative accommodation and vacate the Board's site at Killarmey Road, Bray by 31 December 1987 was agreed.
- (b) With regard to the future of Local Health Committees the Committee had agreed to recommend that the Eastern Health Board should allow Wicklow Local Committee to hold four quarterly meetings each year in future.

4 *Dublin City Local Committee Meeting held on 23 November 1987*

On a proposal by Cllr Dillon Byrne, seconded by Cllr Callely, it was agreed to note the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) A resolution that the allocation of £500 per annum to the Walkinstown Association for Handicapped People should be reviewed upwards.
- (b) Cllr Callely drew the members' attention to the Local Committee's request that the A & E Service for the Beaumont Hospital Board catchment area should be provided on a 24-hour, 365 day basis.

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NOTICES OF MOTION

1 On a proposal of the Chairman it was agreed to consider the motion in the name of Cllr Dillon Byrne calling for a meeting to decide on a list of priority services at the special meeting of the Board to be arranged during January 1988 to discuss details of the allocation for Non-Capital Health Expenditure 1988.

2 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Callely, seconded by Cllr Groome and agreed:

'That all Eastern Health Board personnel identify themselves by name to the general public when dealing with the public ? that consideration be given to the wearing of identification in public offices.'

3 The motion in the name of Cllr Dillon Byrne regarding the banning of smoking at Health Board meetings and committee meetings was deferred to the January meeting of the Board.

4 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne:

- (a) *recognising that there is a minimum of 386 homeless children under the age of 18 in Dublin City;*
- (b) *recognising that this survey was carried out in Summer 1987, acknowledging that 8% of these home/ess children are under 8 years of age:*

- (d) *recognising that four out of ten children under 13, and more than 50% in age group 13 - 15 sleep rough in the city centre;*
- (e) *acknowledging that half of the home/ess grils and one fifth of the boys gave sexual exploitation as a significant factor m their leaving home;*
- (f) *recognising that parental drug abuse, family violence, physical abuse and crime are major factors in creating this situation of self elected orphans;*
- (g) *that this Health Board recognises their need as chronic and that the Board catalogue whatever property they own and could rapidly be converted to hostel accommodation (maximum time two months); otherwise, that we lease property of a suitable nature to deal with this urgent need, immediately.'*

The motion was seconded by Cllr Gannon and following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon Byrne, Gannon, Glenn, Prof McCormick and Mrs Bonar contributed and to which Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Services, replied it was agreed to include the motion on the agenda for the special meeting of the Board to be held during January 1988 to discuss details of allocation for 1988.

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CORRESPONDECE

The following correspondence, copies of which had been circulated, was noted.

1. Letter dated 11 November 1987 from the Corporation of Dun Laoghaire requesting the Minister for Health and the Eastern Health Board to provide a women's clinic in Loughlinstown Health Centre, the service to include cervical smear testing,
2. Letter dated 11 November 1987 from the Corporation of Dun Laoghaire conveying the terms of a resolution calling en the Health Board to ensure that the Maternity Unit at Loughlinstown Hospital was kept open.
3. Letter dated 18 November 1987 from the Department of Health regarding Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 and 1974.
4. Letter dated 30 November 1987 from the Department of Health regarding our Board's representation on the Tallaght Hospital Board.

CORRECT: K J Hickey
Deputy Chief Executive Officer


Chairman