

## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting  
held in the  
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapeiizod, Dublin 20  
on Thursday 21 July 1988 at 6 pm

### *Present*

Cllr I Callely	Cllr M Carroll
Mrs D Clune	Dr P Devitt
Cllr J Dillon Byrne	Cllr P Dunne
Cllr B J Durkan TD	Aid A FitzGerald
Cllr C Flood TD	Cllr A Glenn
Cllr W J Harvey	Dr R Hawkins
Cllr P Hickey	Cllr F Hynes
Dr D I Keane	Dr P McCarthy
Mr G McGuire	Cllr C Murphy
Dr B O'Herlihy	Cllr L O'Neill
Mr R Roche TD	Cllr J Sweeney

### *Apologies*

Cllr O Bennett Mrs B Bonar, Cllr B Briscoe TD, Dr R Corcoran,  
Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD, Cllr A Groome, Ms M Nealon,  
Dr J O'Boyle, Cllr J Reilly

### *In the Chair*

Cllr I Callely

### Officers in Attendance

Mr K J Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mr M Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care  
Mr S O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care  
Mr J Doyle, Acting Programme Manager, Community Care  
Mr F Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care  
Prof B O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health  
Mr L Kavanagh, Personnel Officer  
Mr T Merriman, Deputy technical Services Officer  
Mr M J O'Connor, Secretary

77/88

**CONDOLENCES**

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

1. Cllr Jim Reilly on the death of his mother.
2. Ms Kay Phelan, Matron, District Hospital, Battinglass on the death of her mother.

78/88

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman informed the members that arrangements had been made for the Minister for Health, Dr Rory O'Hanlon, TD and the Chairman of our Board, Cllr Austin Groome, to lay the foundation stone for the Psychiatric Unit at Naas General Hospital on Friday 29 July 1988 at 3 pm.

79/88

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 1988**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 2 June 1988, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Dunne.

In relation to the Ham on page 70 regarding publicity in the Daily Star newspaper it was agreed to record that Mr McGuire had circulated to the members a press statement on behalf of the Psychiatric Nurses Association and that the members had complimented him on same

**Mattan Arising from the Minutes**

It was agreed that the report which Cllr Dillon Byrne had received in relation to her motion regarding the operation of the Child Sexual Assault Units should be circulated and brought to the Community Care Programme Committee.

80/88

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

On a proposal by Cllr Duma, seconded by Cllr Dillon Byrne, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

(i) *Cllr J Durkan TD*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the total amounts of money paid by the Eastern Health Board in 1987 in:

- (a) County Kildare in respect of
  1. Supplementary Welfare Allowances
  2. Rent and Mortgage Supplements
- (b) the corresponding information in respect of Counties Wicklow and Dublin City and County?'

*/contd over*

Reply

		1987
Total of Supplementary Welfare Allowance		Total of Rent & Mortgage Supplements
£		£
Kildare	1,647,659	251,664
Wicklow	1,442,382	268,115
Dublin City & County	18,639,803	3,518,351
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,729,844</b>	<b>4,038,130</b>

(ii) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise what is the situation regarding surgery grants to GMS doctors. Can the Chief Executive Officer advise who and how many applicants are on file and when does the Chief Executive Officer envisage these applications being dealt with?'

Reply

Provision for payment of practice premises grants is included in the Department of Health circular letter 13/72 dated 15 May 1972 which governs the operation of the General Medical Services Scheme and provides that:

*'Health Boards may give grants from revenue towards the provision of new practice premises or for the improvement or extension of the existing practice premises of participating doctors.'*

Payment of such grants is discretionary and there is no entitlement as such. In processing applications for grants account is taken of the number of eligible patients in the doctor's panel, the extent and nature of the accommodation already available at the doctor's premises and the availability of alternative facilities for practitioners in premises under the control of the Board.

No practice premises grants have been paid since late 1986.

There are currently some 29 applications on hands for such grants and if all applications were to be admitted for payment the likely cost would be in the region of £60,000. Having regard to the current financial constraints it has been decided not to make payments for the present.

The position is being kept under review.

(iii) *L. O'Neill*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer to explain why the former Health Clinic at Wyattville Road, Ballybrack has been unused for the past two years; why it has now become derelict, and what is the intended future use for this building?'

Reply

The former Health Centre premises at Wyattville Road, Ballybrack closed in November 1985 following the transfer of staff and services to the new Health Centre at Loughlinstown. There was a possibility that the premises

would be used for other Health Board purposes but it ultimately transpired that no such alternative use was likely. The property was, therefore, surplus to our Board's requirements and buyers for the premises were sought. An offer to purchase has now been received and agreed in principle by the Community Care Committee recently. This will be brought before our Board at the September meeting by way of report and notice under the terms of Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946.

(iv) *Cllr. L. O'Neill*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer for a full report on the services being provided at the new Health Clinic, Meadow Vale, Clonkeen, with particular reference to Community Welfare Offices and dental services?'

*Reply*

The following services are provided in the health centre:-

Child Health clinics

Developmental Paediatric clinics

Immunisation clinics

The Public Health Nursing service for the district is based at the clinic

Social Work services are provided as required.

Community Welfare Services are provided at this centre on one day per week. The Community Welfare Officer who attends Meadowvale also attends at Loughlinstown & Stillorgan Health Centres. The number of persons seeking Community Welfare Services at Meadowvale Health Centre is small and the Superintendent Community Welfare Officer is satisfied that the present level of service is sufficient to meet the demand. The position is, however, being constantly monitored and will be reviewed if there is any appreciable change in demand.

Dental Services have not so far been provided at Meadowvale Health Centre having regard to the comprehensive and expensive facilities provided at the new health centre at Loughlinstown, nearby. The need for additional investment in dental facilities at Meadowvale Health Centre will be kept under review with particular regard to the financial and manpower resources available.

(v) *Cllr Dr. D. Fitzpatrick T.D.*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer

- (a) How many nurses at present are in training in James Connolly Memorial Hospital;
- (b) How many nurses it is proposed to take on the training course in 1988
- (c) How many of these nurses will be post-graduate nurses pursuing a course in general nursing?'

*Reply*

(a) 99 as follows:

48 (4-year integrated course James Connolly Memorial Hospital/ Crumlin Hospital);

37 post-graduate nurses pursuing a course in general nursing;

14 basic and post-graduate funded by other health agencies.

(b) &

(c) 20 post-graduate students commenced training on 2nd May 1988.

The number of students and the mix between basic and post-graduate for an autumn intake is being pursued with the various interests including the Department of Health and An Bord Altranais.

(vi) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise what is the amount paid to:

- (a) deserted wives
- (b) unmarried mothers towards the cost of purchasing a cooker.

Also can the Chief Executive Officer give a breakdown of all entitlements/benefits and amounts given to:

- (a) deserted wives
- (b) unmarried mothers from the Health Board?'

*Reply*

There is no set amount payable to deserted wives or unmarried mothers towards the cost of purchasing a cooker. Any payments to assist in the purchase of a cooker are made under the exceptional needs provision of the Supplementary Welfare Allowances Scheme. Under this Scheme each case is dealt with on its merits taking into account the various individual circumstances of each particular case.

The Department of Social Welfare pays Deserted Wives Benefit at the rate of £49.50 per week plus £12.80 for one child and Deserted Wives Allowance and Unmarried Mothers Allowance at the rate of £46.20 per week plus £11.60 for one child. Further allowances are payable for additional children.

Deserted wives and unmarried mothers do not have any specific entitlements under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme, their entitlements being based on the specific needs and income of each case. Statistics are not maintained in such a manner as to show details of amounts paid to deserted wives and unmarried mothers as against other categories of Supplementary Welfare recipients.

81/88

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *Publicity 'Daily Star' Newspaper*

This relates to adverse inaccurate publicity concerning St Brendan's and St Ita's Hospitals. Following my report and the discussion at the June Board meeting the members' appreciation of the high standard of patient care provided in both hospitals was duly conveyed to the staff concerned.

In addition, our solicitors have written in detail to this newspaper requesting a full withdrawal of the serious and misleading inaccuracies contained in the report. The matter will be pursued as appropriate.

2. *Interim Report on Special Committee on Ballymun*

At the request of the Committee an interim report has been circulated to members at this meeting requesting our Board's agreement to their recommendations that a formal indication be forwarded to the Minister

for the Environment of the Eastern Health Board's support for the proposals contained in the Ballymun Task Force report on Integrated Housing Policy for Ballymun which was issued on 2 May 1988.

3. *National Lottery proceeds 1987/1988*

I have circulated for the information of members three letters giving a breakdown of allocation to projects in our Board's area as follows:

(A) *Letter dated 22 June 1988 from the Secretary, Department of Health Projects to be funded through Eastern Health Board*

	£
1. Alarm Systems for the elderly	25,000
2. Initiation of Homes Start Volunteer Project in the Eastern Health Board area(child services)	35,000
3. Provision of Community based accommodation for the mentally handicapped	150,000
4. Action for Mobility for Disabled People - General grant	5,000
5. Samaritans, Dublin – provision of furniture for new centre	10,000
6. Community Development Project, Blanchardstown	10,000
7. Mental Health Centre, Drumcondra	75,000
8. Psychosexual Counselling Service (Catholic Marriage Advisory Council)	16,000
9. Turning Point – Counselling for the Terminally Ill	10,000
10. Community Action against drugs (AIDS prevention Programme)	5,000
11. Bayside Meals-on-Wheels,Sutton	1,600
<i>Total</i>	<u>342,600</u>

*Projects funded directly by Department of Health*

	£
1. Irish Wheelchair Association – Home Care Attendants Scheme	50,000
2. Daughters of Charity, Dublin - provision of community based hostels for the mentally handicapped	300,000
3. Children's Sunshine Home, Foxrock, Co Dublin – replacement of kitchen equipment	15,000
4. Moore Abbey Centre for the Mentally Handicapped – replaced of boiler and other urgent repairs	20,000
<i>Total</i>	<u>385,000</u>

(B) *Letter dated 30 June 1988 from the Department of Education,*

*The following projects are being funded through our Board:*

DISADVANTAGED YOUTH PROJECTS ADMINISTERED BY THE EASTERN HEALTH BOARD	Grant in 1988	
	Revenue £	Capital £
Services for Young Homeless In Dublin City		
Tabor Society	12,000	50,000
Salesion Fathers, Clontarf	100,000	
CSSC, Eccles Street		70,000

Sisters of Charity, Stanhope Street	32,000
St Vincent de Raul, Amiens Street	66,000
Darndale Homeless Project	100,000
Finglas Homeless Project	100,000
Services for Young Substance Abusers in Dublin City	
Anna Liffey Project	£25,000
Mater Dei Substance Abuse Counselling Service	£50,000
Service for Young Homeless in County Dublin	
Tallaght Homeless Project	£100,000

*(C) Letter dated 12 July 1988 from the Department of Education*

*The following projects to assist young travellers are being funded through our Board:*

*Dublin Committee for Travelling People*

- |                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Supervised Flatlet Project | £50,000 |
| 2. Youth Work Services        | £25,000 |

After a discussion to which Deputy Flood, Cllr Hynes, Deputy Durkan, Cllr Dunne, Deputy Roche, Cllr Murphy and Cllr Dillon Byrne contributed and to which the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Hickey, and the Acting Programme Manager, Community Care, Mr Doyle replied, the various allocations from National Lottery funds were noted. It was noted that consultation had taken place with officers of the Board in relation to some of the projects to which allocations had been granted and that the final decision regarding allocations had been taken by the relevant Ministers. A number of members expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of consultation with the Eastern Health Board regarding the full list of applications from its area for Lottery funding. It was noted that a more detailed proposal regarding alarm systems for the elderly would be incorporated in the report on services for the elderly to be considered at a Special Board Meeting in September.

4. *Ante-Natal Clinics*

I am pleased to inform the Board that following discussions with the authorities of the Rotunda Hospital, the ante-natal clinics at Finglas, Coolock and Ballymun were re-commenced from week beginning 18 July 1988.

With regard to the ante-natal clinics formerly provided by the Coombe Hospital at Rowlagh and Tallaght it has not yet proved possible to have the opening of Rowlagh clinic on a trial basis implemented. Discussions with the Coombe Hospital are continuing in this regard.

5. *Tallaght Hospital Board*

I have circulated, for the information of members, copy of a letter from the Department of Health advising of the Minister's appointment of three Eastern Health Board representatives to the Tallaght Hospital Board i.e. Cllr B Briscoe TD, Lord Mayor of Dublin. Cllr A Groome, Mrs D Clune.

I have also been advised by the Minister's office that our Board's nomination of Mrs Bernadette Bonar to the St James's Hospital Board has been confirmed by the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital Board has been notified accordingly.

6. ***Adoption Bill No. 2 (1987)***

The above Bill has already been circulated and considered by our Board through the Community Care Programme Committee.

I have circulated for the information of members a copy of a letter received from the Department of Health from which it will be noted that the present position is that the Bill has been referred to the Supreme Court for a decision on its conformity with the Constitution before the President signs it into law. Judgement has been reserved following recent the Supreme Court hearing of the issues involved.

7. ***World Health Organisation Healthy Cities Project***

The local authority members of our Board, in particular, will be aware of the proposal, following the Conference this week involving local authority and Health Board representatives, that Dublin should be formally designated by the World Health Organisation as a Project City and thus be part of the European Healthy Cities Network, working with the World Health Organisation. A more detailed proposal is being formulated in association with Dublin local authorities and this will be submitted to the Board at an early date through the Community Care Programme Committee.

On a proposal by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Carroll, it was agreed that designation by the World Health Organisation of Dublin as a Project City as part of the European Healthy Cities Network should be sought.

8. ***Revised Allowances***

I have circulated, for the information of members, copies of

- (a) Infectious Diseases (Maintenance) Regulations, 1988
- (b) Disabled Person (Maintenance Allowance) (Amendment) Regulations 1988

the effect of which is to provide for increases in rates of allowances as from 25 July 1988.

9. ***Programme Committee's Membership***

I have circulated for the information of members a final list of the revised membership of the three Programme Committees as follows:

SPECIAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE (A)	GENERAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE (B)	COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE (C)
1. Dr DI Keane	Prof J McCormick	Dr R Hawkins
2. Cllr F Hynes	Prof JS Doyle	Cllr Mrs A Glenn
3. Cllr D Fitzpatrick TD	Cllr B Durkan TD	Ms M Nealon
4. Dr J O'Boyle	Cllr C Murphy	Cllr M Carroll
5. Ald A FitzGerald	Dr J Masterson	Cllr O Bennett
6. Mrs D Clune	Cllr J Reilly	Cllr P Dunne
7. Dr P Devitt	Dr B O'Herlihy	Mrs B Bonar
8. Cllr I Callely	Cllr M Gannon	Cllr B Briscoe TD
9. Cllr C Flood	Cllr P Hickey	Dr P McCarthy
10. Cllr J Dillon Byrne	Cllr J Sweeney	Mr G McGuire
11. Cllr W Harvey	Mr R Roche TD	Cllr L O'Neill
12. Cllr A Groome	Dr R Corcoran	



10. *Inter-Departmental Review Committee on Third Level Education*

I have circulated for the information of members, copy of letter dated 5 July 1988 from the Department of Health regarding the appointment of an Inter-Departmental Committee to examine aspects of the future higher education.'

82/88

**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**

(a) *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee*

On a proposal by Mrs Clune, seconded by Cllr Dunne, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

1. Report on St Brendan's Hospital
2. Progress report on service and personnel developments.

Cllr Sweeney and Cllr Carroll referred to a press report relating to a dispute between Cheeverstown and the Eastern Health Board. It was decided to keep this matter in Committee and not to discuss it further until the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Hickey, reports back to a further Special Meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

(b) *General Hospital Care Programme Committee*

On a proposal by Dr O'Herlihy, seconded by Cllr Dunne, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

1. Progress report on development of Naas General Hospital;
2. Motion passed following discussion on excessive demands placed on the Meath Hospital;
3. Report on prosecution of the De Montfort Nursing Home under the Homes for Incapacitated Persons Regulations 1985;
4. Report on services on James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown.

(c) *Community Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

1. Proposals for creation of posts of partner and assistant with a view to partnership in the GMS.

The matter in relation to the creation of a national panel rather than in individual Eastern Health Board panels was clarified for Dr McCarthy who raised a query concerning Circular 9/81. It was noted these matters were currently the subject of negotiations.

2. Report on Home Improvement Scheme for the Elderly;
3. Report on services in Community Care Area No. 3.

Deputy Roche enquired as to the arrangement for access to the Community Welfare Service outside of normal working hours and at weekends. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer agreed to circulate for

the information of members the arrangements in this regard as outlined at the meeting.

83/88

## NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The notice of motion in the name of Cllr Dr Fitzpatrick TD, regarding National Association for the Deaf guidelines was, in his absence, deferred to the August meeting.

2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Durkan TD, seconded by Cllr Carroll, and agreed:

*'That this Board would examine the possibility of offering further grant assistance under Section 65 to the KARE Association of Co Kildare.'*

3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne:

*'That the Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Health Board look at the cost effectiveness of the present sessional private physiotherapists' system in general use in our Board's area vis-à-vis the estimated cost of later medical care in cases of need.'*

The motion was seconded by Cllr Carroll and, following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon Byrne and Dr O'Herlihy contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, was agreed,

4. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Dillon Byrne:

*'In view of the fact that a Health Board official is to take over the functions of the Registrar of Marriages on the present Registrar's retirement that the Eastern Health Board should arrange a suitably dignified setting for civil marriage ceremonies other than a solicitor's office as has been the practice until now'.*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Keane and following a discussion to which Cllr. Dillon Byrne, Deputy Roche, Cllr. Murphy, Dr. O'Herlihy, Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Dunne, Deputy Flood and Cllr. Hynes contributed and to which Mr. Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, was carried, amended as follows:

*'Should a Health Board official take over the functions of the Registrar of Marriages on the present Registrar's retirement that the Eastern Health Board should arrange a suitably dignified setting for civil marriage ceremonies, other than a solicitor's office, as has been the practice until now'.*

5. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan:

*'That this Board would consider the number of cases referred to the Social Workers in the last 12 months in*

- (a) Kildare
- (b) Wicklow and
- (c) Dublin

*with a view to determining the time lag in the response to individual cases, the workload involved, the staff available and any suggestions that might involve an improvement of the service'.*

The motion was seconded by Deputy Flood and following a discussion to which Deputy Durkan, Deputy Flood, Cllr. Sweeney, Deputy Roche, Cllr. Dunne and Dr. McCarthy contributed, and to which Mr. Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that a report on the matter should be brought to the Community Care Programme Committee.

6. With the members' agreement Cllr. Hynes withdrew his motion regarding repairs to two cottages in Co. Wicklow.
7. Cllr. Dillon Byrne indicated that she would not be moving her motion regarding the Health Board taking a lease on 29 Whitechurch Way from the I.S.P.C.C. as Mr. Doyle, A/Programme Manager, Community Care, had confirmed that this was in train.
8. The following motion was proposed by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Cllr. Dunne, and agreed:

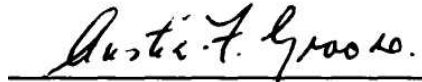
*'That the Chief Executive Officer undertake to explore the possibility of setting up a day care facility at St. Ita's Hospital for the senior citizens of North County Dublin and report to the Board meeting of 8th September on his deliberations'.*

84/88

#### CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from the Chairman of the Adjudicating Committee for the People of the Year Awards, copies of which had been circulated, was noted. The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.

CORRECT: K J Hickey  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Chairman