

## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting  
held in the  
Boardroom, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20  
on Thursday 3 November at 6 pm.

### *Present*

Cllr M Carroll	Dr R Corcoran
Mrs D Clune	Dr P Devitt
Cllr J Dillon Byrne	Cllr P Dunne
Cllr B Durkan TD	Ald A FitzGerald
Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD	Cllr C Flood TD
Dr R Hawkins	Cllr P Hickey
Cllr F Hynes	Dr D I Keane
Dr P McCarthy	Mr G McGuire
Dr J Masterson	Ms M Nealon
Dr J O'Boyle	Dr B O'Herlihy
Cllr L O'Neill	Cllr J Reilly
Cllr J Sweeney	

### *Apologies*

Mr B Bonar  
Cllr B Briscoe TD  
Cllr M Gannon  
Cllr A Groome

### *In the Chair*

Cllr I Callely

### *Officers in Attendance*

Mr K J Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mr J Doyle, Acting 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 N McNee, Management Services Officer  
Mr M Gallagher, Finance Officer  
Mr T Merriman, Deputy Technical Services Officer  
Mr M J O'Connor, Secretary

116/88  
CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman a vote of sympathy was passed with Mr Fiachra McGuirk, Community Welfare Section, Park House on the death of his brother.

117/88  
CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

1. *December Board Meeting*

With the members' agreement it is proposed that the December meeting of our Board will be held on Thursday 15 December 1988 at 6 pm and that the General Hospital Care Programme committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 December at 11 am in St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown.

2. *Visit of the Minister for Health to James Connolly Memorial Hospital on 27 October 1988.*

I have circulated, for the information of members, copies of our Chairman's address on the occasion of the visit of Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD, Minister for Health, to James Connolly Memorial Hospital on Thursday last for a ceremony to mark the Du Pont International Investigator award for Medical Research by the American College of Chest Physicians to Dr Conor Burke and his collaborators, Dr Edward Gallagher and Dr Joseph Kidney.

The Minister had congratulated the doctors on their award and thanked the staff of the hospital for their efforts in maintaining a high level of service in the hospital, and, in particular, for their contribution to the North City A & E Rota.

I am glad to inform members that the Minister, in his address, gave an assurance regarding the future of the James Connolly Memorial Hospital as an acute general hospital and stated that he was, in this context, arranging for officials from his department and from our Board to draw up a detailed plan related to its future role

On the proposal by the Chairman the members agreed to go into Committee following item number 8 'Other Business.'

118/88  
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING  
HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 1988

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 1988, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Dr O'Herlincy.

*MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES*

Mrs Clune referred to misleading statements which had appeared regarding the Health Board's 'take-over' of Cheeverstown House and stated that it was not her understanding that there was any question of a 'take-over' and that it was quite clear from the Department of Health letter of 5 October that it was not the Minister's intention either.

Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, said that he was aware of the recent statements referred to and that he had intended to deal with the matter under the Chief Executive's Report. With the members' agreement he said that he would deal with the matter at this stage.

He was aware that the Association of Parents and Friends had written to the Board members expressing their concern regarding the future of Cheeverstown.

He referred to the meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Health at the end of September attended by himself and the Chairman of Cheeverstown House at which the Secretary of the Department indicated that the Minister agreed with the Health Board's view regarding the need for change at Cheeverstown and that he proposed to appoint a new Board consisting of nine members including a Chairman (to be appointed by the Minister), two nominees of Cheeverstown House Ltd., three further nominees from the wider voluntary handicap sector and three nominees of the Eastern Health Board. The premises at Cheeverstown would be leased to the new Board, who would decide on the admission policy. Cheeverstown would continue to be used for the provision of mental handicap services.

He sympathised with the Parents and Friends Association who had obviously been misinformed, not by the Eastern Health Board. A meeting had been arranged with the Parents and Friends Association to fully brief them on the Health Board's position.

Following a discussion to which Cllr Carroll, Cllr Hynes, Deputy Flood, Dr McCarthy, Cllr Dunne and Cllr Dillon Byrne contributed it was agreed to discuss the current situation regarding Cheeverstown House in committee at the conclusion of the meeting.

Copies of Health Board's response to points made by the Parents and Friends Association were circulated to the members for their information.

119/88

#### QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

(i) *Cllr D Roche TD*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer the number of cases where assistance was given by Community Welfare Officers in the provision of school books and or school uniforms in 1987 and 1988. This information to be supplied for each year and for each Community Welfare area?'

#### REPLY

Our Board does not make any payments under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme to assist with the cost of school books. There is a Department of Education scheme, operated by school principals, for assisting persons who are unable to meet the cost of school books.

Our Board does not make any payments under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme to assist specifically with the cost of school uniforms. Payments are made under the exceptional need provisions of that scheme to assist with the cost of necessary children's clothing. The numbers and value of such payments made for 1987 and the projected figures for 1988 are as follows:

(See over...)

Community Welfare Area	1987		Projected for 1988	
	No. of Payments	Cost £	No. of Payments	Cost £
1	491	17,995	589	21,594
2	252	6,683	302	8,154
3	544	18,377	652	22,052
4	1,442	49,468	1,730	59,362
5	1,086	28,604	1,303	34,325
6	708	20,515	850	24,618
7	304	9,920	365	11,904
8	1,642	44,388	1,970	53,266
9	636	26,610	763	31,932
10	685	24,948	822	29,938
11	390	13,145	468	15,774
12	409	15,533	491	18,919
13	558	19,937	670	23,924
14	218	5,014	261	6,003
15	418	11,915	502	14,298
	9,463	313,052	11,738	376,063

(ii) *Cllr. I. Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise if there has been a noticeable increase in suicide in the Board's area? I would welcome if the CEO's reply would include the number of recorded suicides and breakdown into age, male/female, social background, employed/unemployed, noted medical complications recorded previously or at post mortem, over the past five years. Would the Chief Executive Officer comment if a special register for suicides would be of benefit?'

## REPLY

A Working Group is currently investigating the incidence of suicide in our Board's area. It is expected that their interim report will be presented to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee in January 1989.

In the meantime I have made the Group aware of the member's question.

I propose to answer the following two questions together:

(iii) *Cllr. I. Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer give an update and breakdown regarding the known number of full blown A.I.D.S. and people affected by H.I.V. Antibodies? As it is now recognised that over 55% of people being infected are intravenous drug abusers, what research has been done to consider launching a free needle exchange scheme in the Eastern Health Board area? Also can the Chief Executive Officer advise what support services and necessary hospital facilities are available?'

(iv) *Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne*

'What steps have been taken by this Health Board in the past three months to prevent the spread of A.I.O.S. in the Board's area?'

## REPLY

The present position regarding persons in this country who have acquired AIDS infection is as follows:-

Number with full blown A.I.D.S.	- 64 (of whom 28 have died)
Number who are H.I.V. anti-body positive	- 728

The 64 cases can be broken down as follows:-

Homosexuals/bisexuals	- 25
Drug Abusers	- 21
Haemophiliacs	- 9
Congenitally infected children	- 3
Others	- 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>- 64</b>

An AIDS Committee set up by the Chief Executive Officer some time ago is continually reviewing the situation and maintains contact with various people and organisations in this field.

A review report, which will cover the other points raised in the questions, is already under preparation for submission to the next meeting of the Community. Care Committee outlining action already taken or proposed in relation to:-

- (i) health education programmes for second schools and for early school leavers with specific emphasis on A.I.D.S./Drug Abuse;
  - (ii) Outreach scheme aimed at IV. drug abusers now being developed;
  - (iii) AIDS Information Helpline;
  - (iv) Emerging support service needs.
- (iv) *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*  
'How many sheltered employment places are there in the charge of the Eastern Health Board (not sheltered training places)?'

**REPLY**

Sheltered employment is provided for approx. 550 persons in workshops throughout our Board's catchment area.

Our Board employs a number of disabled people in open employment who are registered with the National Rehabilitation Board. Following a special public competition for Grade II and III Officers. 14 appointments, both permanent and temporary, have been made. In addition to this our Board employs three disabled persons who were recruited through the normal procedures and some staff who have become disabled since employment and who have been re-deployed to areas suitable to their handicap.

Over the years a number of people with residual handicaps have been placed in areas within the Board eg wards, kitchens, grounds, messenger services, and we will continue to absorb such people in our service area.

Our Board recognises that new technology presents exciting opportunities for the employment of disabled persons and our Management Services Function has demonstrated our Board's commitment by placing six handicapped people in that department. Opportunities outside the direct employer/employee relationships are also being pursued with a view to creating s using new technology for the employment of disabled persons.

- (v) *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

'What increase in financial terms in the home help service is estimated for 1989?'

**REPLY**

Our Board has not yet been notified of its financial allocation for 1989.

Expenditure on the Home Help Service has increased by approx. 6% each year since 1986.

It is hoped to continue this trend. However, any further increase will be a matter for our Board in the light of our financial allocation for 1989.

120/88

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *National Lottery Funds*

I have circulated, with the correspondence for the meeting, a copy of letter dated 19 October 1988, from the Department of Health advising of a further allocation of £13,000 to the following projects in our Board's area:-

(i)	Dominican Sisters Day Care Centre, Dominick Street	£5,000
(ii)	Bray Women's Refuge	3,000
(iii)	Parents Under Stress, Centre Care, Cathedral Street, Dublin 1	£5,000
		£13,000

2. *General Medical Services - Revised Guidelines*

I have circulated, for the information of members, revised guidelines for the assessment of applications for medical cards, which will come into effect on 1 January, 1989.

3. *Measles, Mumps, Rubella Immunisation Programme*

I have circulated for the information of members, a copy of Department of Health Circular dated 14 October 1988, setting out details of the Measles/Mumps/Rubella Immunisation Programme which commenced on 24 October 1988.

The necessary local arrangements for our Board's area had drawn up and put into effect.

4. *Review of Dental Services*

I wish to advise members that the Secretary of the Department of Health has now confirmed agreement to a request for the secondment to our Board of the Department's Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Dr John Clarkson. The purpose of this secondment will be that Dr Clarkson, working in conjunction with Mr FJ Donohue, will carry out a comprehensive review of the present arrangements for the provision of dental services to eligible persons by the Eastern Health Board and, in the light of the recent national Working Group's report, to make recommendations on future arrangements including the organisation and distribution of resources, both staff and facilities. I would hope that this examination could be accomplished within a period of 3 months.

5. *General Medical Services*

I have been notified by the Department of Health that it is the Minister's intention, following a review carried out in association with the Irish Medical Organisation, to specify amended terms and conditions governing arrangements entered into by health boards for the provision of General Medical Services with effect from 1 January 1989, and that the terms of the changed conditions will be formally notified in due course when discussions with the IMO on the precise wording have been concluded. I have been asked to notify all participating doctors of the Minister's intentions in this regard.

6. *Dr Fergus Gleeson, Physician, James Connolly Memorial Hospital*

Apart from the congratulations expressed by the Chairman to the medical staff at James Connolly Memorial Hospital who received the Du Pont Award for their research, I wish to advise our Board of the significant contribution made by Dr Fergus Gleeson, Physician at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, towards the success of the first membership examination of the Irish College of General Practitioners.

Dr Gleeson is resource person to the Examination Sub-Committee of the Irish College and the efficiency with which the clinical section of the examination was organised by Dr Gleeson was commented on favourably by UK observers as a model for them to follow.'

The members agreed with Cllr Dunne's suggestion that the grant of the Du Pont International Investigator Award by the American College of Chest Physicians to Doctors Conor Burke, Edward Gallagher and Joseph Kidney be suitably commemorated at the James Connolly Memorial Hospital.

In response to an enquiry from Dr Hawkins, Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, undertook to advise the Board regarding the proposed new contract for the doctors participating in the General Medical Services Scheme as soon as the details are received.

Following a discussion on the guidelines for the assessment of applications for medical cards to which Cllr Carrol, Ald FitzGerald, Cllr Hynes, Deputy Flood and Dr Hawkins contributed. Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, said he would take due account of the points made by members regarding discretion in considering applicants' circumstances in relation to borderline cases and undertook to clarify the position in relation to young persons over the age of 16 years still resident in the family home.

121/88

**REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

On a proposal by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Dr Hawkins, it was agreed to defer consideration of Report No. 9/1988 until the January meeting of our Board.

122/88

**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**

1. *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- (a) Report on meeting held on 13 October 1988, at which a report on the total community infrastructure was considered.
- (b) Report on meeting held on 24 October 1988, in St Vincent's Hospital, Fairview, at which a draft development plan for the community services in Area 7 was considered.

2. *General Hospital Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- (a) car park at Naas General Hospital
- (b) presentation by Ms. Ruth Ennis, Nutritional Advisor
- (c) acute hospital services
- (d) Report on services in Cherry Orchard Hospital

**3. Community Care Programme Committee**

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

The report dealt with the meeting held on 27 October in Community Care Area 4 (Crumlin/Tajlaght).

In considering the report of the Director of Community Care the following matters arose:-

- Many of the problems experienced in the delivery of services in the Tallaght area, which had already been identified, continue
- Health facilities have not kept pace with the population growth and the development of other public facilities in the Tallaght area.
- The lack of a permanent health centre in West Tallaght.
- The need to locate an administrative office/area headquarters in a central location in the Tallaght area.
- The need for positive bias towards the Tallaght area in allocating resources.
- The need for adult speech therapy service.

Following a discussion on the development of services in the Tallaght area to which Cllr Sweeney, Deputy Flood, Cllr Carrol, Dr Hawkins and Cllr Dunne contributed it was agreed that a special meeting of the Board should be held in the Tallaght area as soon as possible to consider the development needs of the health service in the area.

123/88

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

1. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD. seconded by Cllr Carroll, and agreed.

*'That the grant of 55p per meal given to voluntary groups catering for senior citizens be increased in the coming year's estimates'.*

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer stated that he would bring the terms of the resolution to the attention of the Budget Working Group at its next meeting at which stage he would be making a proposal in the matter.

2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dr Fitzpatrick TD:

*'That the Eastern Health Board draw up plans for the development of Domiciliary Physiotherapy Services in all areas of the Eastern Health Board as they are already provided in Area 2 and Area 6'.*

The motion was seconded by Dr Hawkins and following a discussion to which Deputy Fitzpatrick, Dr Hawkins, Dr O'Herlihy and Cllr Sweeney contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, was agreed.

The following motions were proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne and seconded by Cllr Carroll:-

3. *'That a proper and comprehensive plan to help to combat or reduce the spread of AIDS be discussed and then undertaken, in conjunction with the Health Education Unit of the Department of Health, for this Board's area'.*
4. *'That this Board recommend to the Minister for Health that a needle exchange programme be introduced to help prevent the spread of AIDS particularly among intravenous drug abusers'.*

Following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon Byrne, Cllr Dunne, Deputy Flood and Dr Keane contributed and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief

Executive Officer, and Prof O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health, replied the first motion was cameo and consideration of the second motion was deferred pending the submission of a Report on AIDS to the November meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee.

5. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne:-

*'That the new shelter to replace Brú Chaomhin be opened without further delay and that, in the meantime, a special meeting of the Community Care Committee be held in the existing shelter'.*

Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, informed the members that the recruitment of the Supervisor and the necessary staff had been put in train and that he expected that the new shelter would be opened shortly.

The motion was noted.

124/88

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter dated 19 October 1988, from the Department of Health referred to in the Chief Executive Officer's Report regarding the making of grants from the National Lottery Funds, copies of which had been circulated, was noted.

125/88

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board went into Committee to consider this item.

**Cheeverstown House**

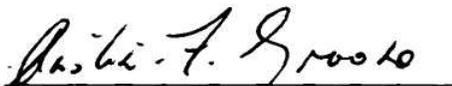
Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, informed the members that the proposals contained in letter dated 5 October, 1988 from the Secretary of the Department of Health, which had been accepted by our Board at its meeting held on 6 October 1988, had been rejected by the Board of Cheeverstown House Ltd. He understood that the Minister for Health intended to arrange a meeting to consider the matter further and to which three representatives from our Board and three representatives from Cheeverstown House Ltd. would be invited.

Following a discussion to which Dr O'Herlihy, Deputy Dr Fitzpatrick, Cllr Dunne, Mrs Dunne, Dr O'Boyte and Deputy Flood contributed, it was agreed that the Chairman of the Board, together with Mrs Chine and Cllr Dunne, should attend the meeting with the Minister.

The meeting concluded 9.10 pm.

CORRECT: \_\_\_\_\_

K J Hickey  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



**CHAIRMAN**