

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, South Western Area Health Board HQ, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 6th November, 2001, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. G. Brady	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. E. Byrne	Cllr. T. Cullen
Dr. K. Harkin	Ms. A. Harris
Ms. M. Hoban	Cllr. C. McGrath
Cllr. M. Miley	Ald. M. Mooney
Dr. B. Murphy	Mr. M. Murphy
Cllr. C. O'Connor	Sen. S. Ó Fearghail
Cllr. J. Reilly	Sen. T. Ridge
Cllr. D. Tipping	Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.

Observers

Ms. N. Harvey	Mr. G. McGuire
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In the Chair

Cllr. C. O'Connor

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
 Mr. S. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive
 Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
 Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
 Mr. M. Rogan, Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 Mr. J. Doyle, Area Operations Manager, Addiction Services
 Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
 Mr. R. Healy, A/Senior Manager, CEO's Office
 Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, CEO's Office
 Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, CEO's Office

In Attendance

Dr. E. Keenan, Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse, Addiction Services

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Members were invited to join with the Chairman in standing for a minute's silence to express sincere sympathy to those whose names were included on the list of condolences.

The Chairman then proceeded to advise members of the following:-

1. *Welcome to Oak House*

I would like to welcome members to the Board's new Headquarters at Oak House, Millennium Park.

This Board Room will be the venue for the various formal meetings of the Board. The furniture we have here today is of a temporary nature and I would ask members to bear with us at this time of transition to our new offices.

2. *Christmas Meeting*

I would like to propose to members that we hold our December Board Meeting as usual on the first Tuesday of the month - Tuesday, 4th December, in City West Hotel, Saggart. If this date and venue is acceptable, I propose that the meeting will take place at 6.00 p.m. followed by the traditional meal.

3. *November Service Visits/Meetings*

I would like members to note the List of Service Visits for November. It includes the South Western Area Health Board (all day) Primary Care Conference and I would encourage members to attend. You will be notified in due course.

Members will be aware of the imminent launch of the new National Health Strategy. I have discussed this matter with the Chief Executive Officer and we agreed the need to convene a Special Board Meeting to discuss the strategy, when launched.

4. *Information Leaflet*

An Information Leaflet has been circulated with the Chief Executive Officer's Report today. This leaflet was prepared by our Communications Department and will be distributed shortly to all households in the South Western Area Health Board area. Information contained in the leaflet includes:- Safety Tips for Christmas and New Year, Health Information, Euro Changeover and Useful Telephone Numbers.

In addition, the Chairman advised members that two of the eight members who currently represent the Board at the Association of Health Boards need to be nominated to sit on the Executive Committee for the coming year. He requested the co-operation of the Group Leaders in finalising these nominations.

Discussion followed regarding attendance of members at the forthcoming LAMA Conference in Monaghan. It was agreed that three members could attend on behalf of our Board. The relevant names to be given to the CEO's Office.

115/2001**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2nd OCTOBER, 2001**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 2nd October, 2001, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell.

116/2001**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Sen. T. Ridge, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Will the C.E.O. confirm that it is his intention to review his decision to withdraw the Dietary Allowance payment to (name and details supplied) who was in receipt of £26.19 per month until it was withdrawn when he took up Community Employment and will he make a statement on this matter?”

Reply:

The specific details of this case have been forwarded to Cllr. Eric Byrne by the relevant Assistant Chief Executive.

2. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Will the C.E.O. please outline in writing the method used to calculate the entitlements for Supplementary Welfare Payments for (name and details supplied)?”

Reply:

The specific details of this case have been forwarded to Cllr. Eric Byrne by the relevant Assistant Chief Executive.

3. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Will the C.E.O. report on the following issues:-

Is there a Quota of Nurse Attendants allocated to care of the elderly?

Does the Human Resources Section hold a panel for such Nurse Attendants?

Are there any promotional grades within the rank of Nurse Attendants and will he make a general statement on the role and numbers of this grade?”

Reply:

There is a Quota of 239 Nurse Attendants allocated to care of the elderly.

Human Resources does not hold a panel for Nurse Attendants. Nurse Attendants are recruited locally by the hospital administrator or community care administrator as the need arises.

The primary promotional opportunity for nurse attendants is nurse training. Nurse attendants are a vital and core part of nursing teams. They carry out domestic duties as well as personal care of patients.

4. Dr. Kieran Harkin

“Could the C.E.O. please describe the range of visual aids available to patients with visual impairment? Could the C.E.O. please further advise of how these aids may be accessed by patients?”

Reply:

The visual aids available to patients through the Community Care Offices are as follows:

- Magnifier
- Low Visual Aid (standard)
- Binocular Low Visual Aid

To qualify for these visual aids, patients must hold a medical card. When applying, patients must submit a medical recommendation from the National Council for the Blind and a quotation for the visual aid.

5. Dr. Kieran Harkin

“With regard to adapted footwear for orthopaedic purposes, could the C.E.O. please advise of the total cost of such appliances in past year and of the average cost of each appliance? Could the C.E.O. please advise as to the common modifications made and as to the qualifications required to make such modifications?”

Reply:

The total cost for adapted footwear for orthopaedic purposes for the South Western Area Health Board this year is £142,401.33. The average cost of each appliance is £200. The most common footwear is made-to-measure footwear which is prescribed by an orthopaedic surgeon or a physiotherapist.

6. Dr. Kieran Harkin

“With regard to the care of the elderly could the C.E.O. please advise:

- (a) If control of access to public nursing home beds continues to rest entirely within the hands of medical staff based in acute general hospitals?
- (b) How many patients over the age of 65 reside in the Inchicore/Bluebell/Ballyfermot area? Furthermore, could the C.E.O. please outline the community based facilities for this group of patients in the area?
- (c) Could the C.E.O. please describe any plans which might exist to develop facilities for this group of patients within their community?"

Reply:

- (a) The decision as to whether an older person requires long-stay care is one reached by a consultant-led multi-disciplinary team. These teams are located in the various Departments of Medicine for the Elderly or Psychiatry of Old Age which provide services from the Acute Hospitals in the South Western Area Health Board. Referral to these departments is by appointment from the older person's General Practitioner.

The older person will receive a full medical assessment usually in the Day Hospital attached to the Departments of Medicine for the Elderly/Psychiatry of Old Age. Following this assessment the team, in consultation with the patient's family, will put in place a care plan for the older person which could involve a combination of care interventions including long stay care if this is ultimately required.

Some options for long stay care include access to a publicly funded facility or a private nursing home. In the latter case a nursing home subvention may be applicable.

The assessment process is currently being considered by the Consultative Forum on Older People. A report is expected in the New Year.

- (b) The number of people over the age of 65 as per the 1996 Census is 8,815. Community based facilities for this group of patients in this area are as follows:

- Chiropody
- Ophthalmic
- Respite care
- Home Help Service
- Public Health Nursing
- General Practitioners
- Day Centres
- District Care Unit (multi-disciplinary teams visit patients in their home to facilitate their early discharge from hospital)

- (c) Future plans for facilities for this group are as follows:

- Day care centre in Cherry Orchard Hospital
- Peamount Hospital to convert a building for day care centre
- Community Services West Dublin is actively seeking premises for a day care centre in the community (Clondalkin/Deansrath, Lucan, Inchicore)
- Chiropody visits to increase next year from 4 to 5 per year

- Plans for a delivery service for incontinence wear products to patients' homes.

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REPORT 14/2001 – RE: NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY 2001-2008

Mr. Hugh Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, summarised Report 14/2001 (copy filed with official minute) and introduced a joint presentation by himself and Dr. Eamonn Keenan, Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse, regarding the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008 and our Board's response to same.

Areas covered in the presentation included:

- Addiction Services – Education/Prevention; Treatment Options; Personnel; Treatment Locations; Profile of Drug Misuser; GP/Pharmacy Involvement
- South Western Area Health Board's position/response regarding targets contained in the Strategy's Action Plan.

Members thanked the speakers for the presentation. Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Wall, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. J. Reilly, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. C. McGrath, Mr. G. McGuire, Cllr. D. Tipping, Dr. K. Harkin, Ms. N. Harvey and Sen. T. Ridge contributed and to which Mr. H. Kane, Dr. E. Keenan, Mr. M. Rogan (Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services) and Mr. J Doyle (Area Operations Manager, Addiction Services) responded as follows:-

- In response to members' concerns regarding the level of services in the Kildare area, the Area Operations Manager confirmed that proposals for developments in this area are currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Assistant Chief Executive shortly. Members will be kept informed of details in this regard.
- The role of Trinity Court in providing services to clients from our Board's area was outlined.
- Details of the "Backpack" Programme were provided.
- The need for further addiction services in the Tallaght/Clondalkin area was acknowledged.
- Information to be obtained for members regarding various aspects of the Cuan Dara and Cuan Mhuire facilities.
- Members were informed that a Working Group has been set up to look at the area of drug misuse amongst children under 18 years.

Report was noted.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive gave a summary of Report No. 15/2001 to members (copy filed with official minute):

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

1. New Headquarters – Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas
2. Clinical Waste Disposal – Donard, Co. Wicklow

3. Anthrax Update
4. Homeless Service Update
5. Reduction in Incidence of Meningococcal Disease
6. CHAIR National Steering Group
7. Suicide Prevention Initiative
8. Pilot Project – Treatment of Alcohol Problems in General Practice
9. College Alcohol Policy
10. “Legislating for a Tobacco Free Society” Conference (31st Oct - 2nd Nov. 2001)
11. Smoking on School Buses – Update
12. Hermitage Medical Clinic

Discussion followed to which Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. J. Wall, Mr. P. Aspell, Sen. S. Ó Fearghail, Ms. A. Harris, and Ms. N. Harvey contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded. Discussion included the following areas:-

- Members thanked the C.E.O. for updating them regarding the disposal of clinical waste in the Wicklow area and his update regarding initiatives re smoking on school buses.
- Clarification was provided regarding the situation whereby the Northern Area Health Board recently arranged for the provision of emergency accommodation for homeless persons in a hotel in Newbridge, Co. Kildare. In response to members’ dissatisfaction with the lack of prior notification to them of this development, it was agreed that a letter should be forwarded to the Northern Area Health Board requesting that, in future, information regarding any initiatives involving our Board’s area should be notified to them at the earliest possible time. In addition, Mr. G. McGuire agreed to raise this matter at the Northern Area Health Board meeting.
- Members expressed thanks to Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications, for informing them of this issue as soon as information was available to him.

Report was noted.

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MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Sen. T. Ridge requested a further update on homeless services in the New Year.

In response, the Chief Executive Officer confirmed that members will be kept informed of the outcome of discussions currently in progress between the Northern Area Health Board, Dublin Corporation and other agencies regarding the role of Health Boards in dealing with this issue. A full report will be brought to the Board when these negotiations have significantly advanced.

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress reports from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee were adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. G. McGuire, the progress report from the Primary Care and Acute Services Standing Committee was adopted.

121/2001**PROGRESS REPORT FROM FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Sen. S. Ó Fearghail, the progress report from the Finance and Property Committee was adopted.

122/2001**NOTICE OF MOTION**

The motion in the name of Cllr. E. Byrne was deferred to a future Board Meeting.

123/2001**CORRESPONDENCE**

The items of correspondence, as referred to in the Chief Executive's report, were noted by members.

124/2001**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (NOVEMBER 2001)**

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Standing Committee meetings for November 2001, which had been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

125/2001**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 4th December, 200, at 6.00 p.m. in the City West Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin.

CORRECT:**P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN