

12th January 2001

Do gach Comhalta den mBord

A Chara,

The monthly meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in **The Boardroom, Northern Area Health Board Headquarters, Unit B Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin** on **Thursday 18th January 2001** at **5.00p.m.** Tea is arranged for 4.30pm.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

PRÍOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. Chairpersons Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting and special meeting held on the 18th & 21st December 2001 [copies herewith]
 - (a) Matters arising from minutes
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report
5. Comhairle na nOspideal - 8th Report *December 1995 – 2000* – Report No. 1/2001 [copy herewith]
6. Water Fluoridation & Public Health – Report No. 2/2001 [copy herewith]

7. Health Services Employers Agency Annual Report 1999 – Report No. 3/2001 [copy herewith]
8. Progress Report on In-Patient Services for Older Persons – Report No. 4/2001 [copy herewith]
9. Notices of Motion

9.1 Cllr. R. Shortall T.D.

“that provision be made in the 2001 service plan for a fully equipped minibus and driver to serve the day-care centre in Seanchara. That immediate arrangements be made to clean up the ground to the rear of Seanchara and to paint and repair the gates as it is currently an eyesore and a cause of concern to local residents.”

10. Correspondence

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of monthly Board Meeting of the Northern Area Health Board

**held the Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin.**

On Thursday 18th January at 5.00p.m.

Present

Cllr. C. Burke
Ald. I. Callely, T.D.
Mr. M. Cowley
Mr. J. Fallon
Sen. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick
Ms. N. Harvey
Cllr. D. Heney
Dr. M. Laffoy
Cllr. D. Murray
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. E. O'Brien
Dr. P. O'Connell
Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Mrs. C. Quinn
Dr. J. Reilly
Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.
Mr. L. Tuomey

In the Chair

Cllr. C. Burke

Apologies

Cllr. L. Creaven

Cllr. A. Devitt

Ms. M. Hoban

Mr. G. McGuire

Officers in Attendance

Ms. M. Windle, Chief Executive

Mr. J. Lamont, Assistant Chief Executive

Mr. J. Cahill, Assistant Chief Executive

Ms. M. Kelly, Director Human Resources

Ms. L. McGuinness, Director of Finance

Ms. N. Byrne, Communications Manager

Ms. O. Treacy, Board Secretary

1/2001

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report.

1. Condolences

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

2. Schedule of Visits

A copy of schedule of forthcoming meetings/visits has been circulated to all members.

3. Special Board Meeting

It will be necessary to call a Special Board Meeting in the near future as soon as our allocation for 2001 has been finalised. Members will be kept informed.

4. Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner to celebrate Christmas will be arranged to take place on the same date as the Special Board Meeting. Details will be forwarded to Members as soon as possible.

2/2001

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON THE 18TH & 21ST DECEMBER 2001

On a proposal by Cllr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Fallon the minutes of the monthly and special Board meetings held on the 18th and 21st December 2001 were agreed.

3/2001

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Fallon, it was agreed to answer the questions that had been lodged.

1. Cllr. R. Shortall

“Will the CEO provide an update on efforts to maximise capacity at Seanchara Nursing Home”.

Reply

Seanchara, a 50 bedded Community Unit, became operational in November 1999. From that time patients have been admitted to the Unit, on a phased basis as care staffing levels increased.

At the present time there are a total of 12.5 W.T.E. vacancies for Care Staff (8.5 nurses and 4 Care Attendants). Consequently, 16 beds remain unfilled.

As safe levels of care must be maintained, capacity cannot be increased without corresponding appropriate staffing levels. Every effort has been made and continues to be made to fill vacant posts. In this regard, a successful recruitment drive in the Philippines, Staff Nurses will be allocated to Seanchara from April/May following their registration with An Bord Altranais. These nurses will initially undertake a six week clinical orientation course in a teaching hospital. St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park is now recognised as a teaching hospital for this purpose by An Bord Altranais. This will facilitate the admission of further patients to the Unit as staff levels improve.

Meanwhile every effort is made to maintain the older person in their home through the provision of Day Care and Respite Care Services. Patients are accepted to the Day Care Unit from Monday to Friday. The Day Care Nurse Manager maintains good links with the Community Services medical, nursing and paramedical personnel to ensure adequate follow-up care is given, as required.

Respite care is also offered in Seanchara as a service to both the older person and their carer. This facility is offered for periods of one week to four weeks in order to ensure maximum benefit to the client. Measures which might increase the availability of respite care are currently under consideration

2. Cllr. R. Shortall

Will the CEO provide details of the vaccination rates for Measles among children for each of the community care areas in Northern Area Health Board, and will she outline what steps are being taken to improve these rates.

Reply

Details of the up-take of the M.M.R. vaccine for each of three Area Health Boards are set out hereunder. A breakdown of the up-take rate for each Community Care Area is not available at present as adjustments are currently being made to the RICHS system. These details will be supplied as soon as possible.

M.M.R. VACCINATION UP-TAKE

(Immunisation uptake rates for children aged 2 yrs at 31st December 2000.)

BIRTH COHORT - FIRST QTR. - 1998

A.H.B.	NO. IN COHORT	NO. VACCINATED	PERCENTAGE
N.A.H.B.	1827	1376	75.3%
S.W.A.H.B.	1924	1458	75.8%
E.C.A.H.B.	865	723	83.6%
TOTAL	4616	3557	77.1%

BIRTH COHORT - SECOND QTR - 1998

A.H.B.	NO. IN COHORT	NO. VACCINATED	PERCENTAGE
N.A.H.B.	1838	1495	81.45%
S.W.A.H.B.	2134	1669	77.9%
E.C.A.H.B.	1016	890	87.6%
TOTAL	4988	4054	81.3%

BIRTH COHORT – THIRD QTR - 1998

A.H.B.	NO. IN COHORT	NO. VACCINATED	PERCENTAGE
N.A.H.B.	1938	1578	81.4%
S.W.A.H.B.	2174	1704	78.4%
E.C.A.H.B.	1043	924	88.6%
TOTAL	5155	4206	81.6%

BIRTH COHORT – FOURTH QTR – 1998

A.H.B.	NO. IN COHORT	NO. VACCINATED	PERCENTAGE
N.A.H.B.	1806	1467	81.2%
S.W.A.H.B.	1994	1556	78%
E.C.A.H.B.	914	799	87.4%
TOTAL	4714	3822	81.1%

The MMR vaccination uptake rates have improved during the course of year 2000.

The media campaign put in place by the Minister for Health & Children and our Board has assisted in increasing the rate of uptake.

Other initiatives to improve the uptake remain in place. These include:

- Improved co-ordination of the work of all those involved in the vaccination;
- The maintenance of a list of defaulters and the follow-up of same;
- Improved communications and contact with general practitioners;
- The issue of information to parents of all pre-school and primary school children advising of the benefits of immunisation.

4/2001**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Mr. Fallon requested that the Board's appreciation be conveyed to the staff who had negotiated the re-location of the proposed Orthodontic Unit. There was further discussion on this matter and other items in the Chief Executive report to which, Cllr. O'Donovan, Dr. Murphy, Sen. Dr. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Shortall, Mr. Fallon, Cllr. Heney, Cllr. Burke and Mr. Cowley contributed and to which the Chief Executive and Mr. Walsh replied. Ald. Callely requested that appreciation be conveyed to all staff involved in managing the Polio Vaccine Helpline for the assistance they provided within the eastern region and beyond. The report was noted.

SERVICE MATTERS

Polio Vaccination Helpline

Following the Minister of Health & Children's announcement on 19th December, 2000 in respect of the Polio Vaccine, a Polio Vaccination Helpline was set up. I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, an up-date in relation to this Helpline.

Orthodontic Services

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copy of a letter from the Department of Health & Children conveying approval to the introduction of the arrangements outlined in the Northern Area Health Board's proposals for the development of a public/private mix for the delivery of orthodontic services.

Syphilis Outbreak

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copy of a letter from Dr. Brian O'Herlihy, Director of Public Health, Eastern Regional Health Authority confirming an increase in cases of syphilis coming to the attention of several Consultants in Genital Urinary Clinics in the City and outlining action that will be taken as a result of a meeting of the "Outbreak" Team.

Approval of two Joint Appointments, on a Category 1 basis, under the Consultants Contract 1997

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copy of a letter from Comhairle na nOspideal approving the joint appointment, on a Category 1 basis, under the Consultants' Contract 1997, of a consultant General Adult Psychiatrist with a special interest in the Psychiatry of Old Age under the Northern Area Health Board, Catchment Area 8/Beaumont Hospital.

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copy of a letter from Comhairle na nOspideal approving the joint appointment, on a Category 1 basis, under the Consultants' Contract 1997, of a Consultant in Palliative Medicine under St. Francis Hospice/Mater Hospital/Northern Area Health Board, James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown.

Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, an up-date report in relation to NCHD vacancies in the Northern Area Health Board.

Launch of Drugs Courts

The Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform, Mr. John O'Donovan, officially launched the Drug Courts Pilot Programme on 9th January, 2001. Our Board is to provide the drug treatment service to the new Drug Court and staff of the NAHB will work in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Dublin V.E.C. to develop a strategy to meet the needs of young people who have dropped out of the education system and have drifted into a life of drugs and crime. I have circulated for the members attention, copy of Booklet which describes in detail the Drugs Court Programme.

Maximum Levels of Reasonable Rent

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copy of a decision setting out the maximum levels of rent to be considered reasonable for rent supplement purposes and which will be effective from 1st January, 2001.

PRESS RELEASES

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, the following:

Minister Moffatt refutes criticisms of the effect of Winter Initiative on Older People

Copy of press release dated 9th January, 2001 from Dr. Tom Moffatt, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health & Children expressing concern that the impression may be given that older people are being discriminated against in the Winter Initiative plans. The initiative, part of which involves contracting additional nursing home places, is aimed at helping acute hospital services to work better for the benefit of all those who need to use the service, including older people.

Minister Martin further clarifies "Medical Certificates of Cause of Death" issue

Copy of press release dated 10th January, 2001 from Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health & Children in which he further clarified the position regarding the Medical Certificates in question.

Adult/Youth Homelessness over the Christmas Period

I have circulated with agenda papers for the meeting, report outlining the Christmas 2000 arrangements for the Crisis Intervention Service to ensure that there was maximum service provision for out of home young people during the Christmas period (22nd December, 2000 – 4th January, 2001 inclusive).

5/2001

COMHAIRLE NA NOSPIDÉAL - 8TH REPORT DECEMBER 1995 – 2000

It was agreed to refer Report No.1/2001 (copy filed with official minute) to the Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee.

6/2001

WATER FLUORIDATION & PUBLIC HEALTH

It was agreed to refer Report No.2/2001 (copy filed with official minute) to the Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee.

7/2001

HEALTH SERVICES EMPLOYERS AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT 1999

It was agreed to refer Report No.3/2001 (copy filed with official minute) to the Community Services and Continuing Care Committee.

8/2001

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-PATIENT SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS

Following discussion on Report No. 4/2001 (copy filed with official minute) to which Cllr. Shortall, Dr. Reilly, Dr. Laffoy, Sen. Dr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Cowley, Mrs. Quinn and Cllr. Heney and to which the Chief Executive and Mr. Walsh replied it was agreed to note the report.

9/2001

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Shortall, seconded by Dr. Reilly and agreed.

“that provision be made in the 2001 service plan for a fully equipped minibus and driver to serve the day-care centre in Seanchara. That immediate arrangements be made to clean up the ground to the rear of Seanchara and to paint and repair the gates as it is currently an eye-sore and a cause of concern to local residents.”

The meeting concluded at 6.35p.m.

CORRECT:

**M. WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHAIRMAN