



EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

*PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE 4 YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY*

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FRIDAY 25TH JULY, 1997 AT 11.00 A.M.

Eastern Health Board

Progress Report on the Implementation of The 4 Year Action Plan for the Development of Services for the Elderly

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On 17th May, 1995 the Eastern Health Board adopted the report "Review of Services for the Elderly and Four Year Action Plan - 1995-1998". At a Special Board meeting held on 29/11/1996 a progress report was presented which outlined in detail the progress which had been made under the various proposed service developments outlined in the 4 Year Action Plan.

This further report reviews the progress made by our Board in the implementation of the 4 Year Action Plan 1995-1998 to the present day.

Demographic Information

The following table illustrates the trends in the population in our Boards area for people aged 65+, 75+ and 85+ in the last four available censuses.

TABLE 1

Eastern Health Board	1981	1986	% increase	1991	% increase	1996	% increase
Over 65	101,570	108,315	6.64%	117,443	7.19%	Not Yet Available	-
Over 75	36,133	41,073	13.67%	46,452	13.11%	Not Yet Available	-
Over 85	6,060	7,226	19.24%	8,965	24.07%	Not Yet Available	-
E. H. B Population (All Age Groups)	1,194,735	1,232,238	3.14%	1,245,225	1.05%	1,293,964	3.91%

For the purpose of this report and on examination of the information currently available from the 1996 preliminary census figures, it is reasonable to assume that the population aged 65+ will increase by approximately 7.5% from the actual figure of 117,443 in the 1991 census to an estimated figure of 126,251 in 1996.

The assumed figure of 126,251 also compares favourably with the projections of population growth as outlined in the National Council on Ageing and Older People report entitled "Health and Social Care Implications of Population Ageing in Ireland 1991 - 2011" which anticipates that 9.8% of our population would be aged 65+ in 1996 (see Table 2). When one examines these figures in relation to the actual overall census figure of 1,293,964 the result is a potential population aged 65+ of 126,808 in 1996.

**Table 2 - Projected Health Board, County/County Borough level of population
for persons aged 65 years plus 1991-2011
(figures in parentheses are % of total area population)**

	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Eastern Health Board	117,446 (12.8)	126,162 (9.8)	137,063 (10.3)	153,327 (11.2)	176,034 (12.5)
Dublin Borough	61,335 (12.8)	63,329 (13.4)	65,027 (14.1)	66,870 (14.8)	68,022 (15.5)
Dun Laoghaire	19,889 (10.7)	21,866 (11.1)	24,187 (11.6)	27,610 (12.6)	31,584 (13.8)
Dublin County	17,516 (4.8)	20,972 (5.4)	26,021 (6.2)	33,761 (7.6)	45,467 (9.6)
Kildare	8,887 (7.2)	9,459 (7.2)	10,252 (7.3)	11,951 (8.1)	15,261 (9.8)
Wicklow	9,816 (10.1)	10,536 (10.4)	11,576 (11.0)	13,135 (12.1)	15,700 (13.9)

The Central Statistics Office has advised that the age related groupings breakdown of the 1996 census will be available in late 1997/early 1998 and will relate to the new local authority areas in our Boards area. This breakdown will give us a clearer picture of the trends in population growth of the elderly into the next millennium.

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Review of progress of Implementation of 4 Year Action Plan

1. Community Ward Teams

Proposal (Par. 4.2.1. Four Year Action Plan)

“The extension of the Community Ward Team facility throughout our Board’s area so that one Team is provided per 4,000 elderly. In general this would mean that there should be 3 fully staffed Community Ward Teams in each Community Care Area. An interim target should be to have two Community Ward Teams in each Community Care Area by the end of 1996.

No of Community Ward Teams per Area

	No. of CWT’s July 1996	No. of CWT’s July 1997
Community Care Area 1	2	3
Community Care Area 2	2	2
Community Care Area 3	1	2 ✓
Community Care Area 4	1	2 ✓
Community Care Area 5	1	1
Community Care Area 6	3	3
Community Care Area 7	3	3
Community Care Area 8	2	3
Kildare (Area 9)	1	2
Wicklow (Area 10)	1	2
	—	—
Total	17	23

A detailed submission has been made to the Department of Health for the necessary funding of staff required to put an additional seven Community Ward Teams in place in our Boards area by late 1997, early 1998.

This will enable our Board achieve its target outlined in the 4 Year Action Plan of having three fully staffed Community Ward Teams in each Community Care area by mid 1998.

2. Community Unit, Navan Road

Proposal (Par. 4.2.3)

The development of a 46 bed Community Unit for the Elderly at the Navan Road site, this will include respite/intermittent, convalescent and long-stay beds and a Day Care Unit.

Capital Cost	£875,000
Equipping Cost	£257,077
Revenue Cost 1996	*£690,000 (12/2/96-31/12/96)

*Based on opening date of 12/2/1996

Current Situation

The Community Unit at the Navan Road was commissioned on 9 February 1996. The unit became operational on 12 February 1996, with the first patients admitted on that date.

Over the following weeks the full range of services at the Unit, i.e. respite intermittent, convalescent, extended care and Day Care came on stream.

3. Community Unit, Sir Patrick Duns

Proposal (Par 4.2.)

The development of a 25 bed Community Unit for the Elderly together with a Day Care Unit at Sir Patrick Duns Hospital. This Unit will include facilities for respite/intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and day care.

Refurbishment Cost	£540,000
Equipping Cost	£183,700
Revenue Cost 1997	£500,000 (Feb-Dec 1997)
Full Year Costs	£582,000*

*Estimate based on 1997 costs

Current Situation

The Community Unit at Sir Patrick Duns Hospital accepted its first patients on 3/2/1997 and is now fully operational.

4. Community Unit, South Circular Road

Proposal (Par 4.2.5)

The development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly at South Circular Road. This will include respite intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and a Day Care Unit.

Capital Cost	£1.98m
Equipping Cost	£350,000 (approx.)*
Full Year Cost	£992,000*

*Estimate based on January 1997 costs.

Current Situation

Construction of the new 50 bed unit has commenced and is progressing satisfactorily with a target date of completion of November 1997.

A detailed submission has been made to the Department of Health in respect of the staffing, revenue and equipping monies necessary to open the Unit on target.

Discussions are continuing with the Department of Health in this regard.

5. Baggot Street Hospital, Community Rehabilitation/Stroke Centre

Proposal (Par 4.2.13)

The development of a Community Rehabilitation/Stroke service at Baggot Street Hospital.

Capital Cost	£ 72,000
Equipping Cost	£ 12,530
Revenue Cost 1996	£ 18,000
Full Year Cost	£185,000

Current Position

The Rehabilitation/Stroke Service at Baggot Street Community Hospital commenced on 1/12/1996, operating on a day basis Monday to Friday.

Comment

The development listed at 2.3.4 and 5 above and incorporated in the Four Year Action Plan are included in our Boards Capital Development Programme which was approved by the Minister for Health in April 1994.

6. Community Unit, St Clare's Home

Proposal (Par 4.2.4)

The development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the elderly at the St. Clare's site. This will include respite/intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and a Day Care Unit.

Capital Cost	£1.76m
Equipping Cost	£350,000 (approx)*
Full Year Revenue cost	£992,000 *

*Estimate based on 1997 costs.

Current Situation

The contract for the development of the first of two 50 Bed Community Units on the St. Clare's Home campus has been awarded to a construction firm from the Boards list of contractors and a notification of the decision to grant Planning Permission has been received from the Local Authority.

The contractor will be on site in mid August 1997 and the target date for completion of this project is March 1998.

A detailed submission has been made to the Department of Health regarding the revenue capital money required to allow the unit open on schedule.

7. Community Unit, Dalkey

Proposal (Par 4.2.7)

Development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly at Dalkey. This will include respite/intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and a Day Care unit (to be completed by mid 1998).

Capital Cost	£2.0m (approx)*
Equipping Cost	£350,000 (approx)*
Revenue Cost full year	£992,000*

*Estimate based on 1997 costs.

Current Situation

A site in the centre of Dalkey village has been identified as the optimum one for the development of a Community Unit for the Elderly.

This site was originally earmarked for the development of a new Health Centre and a small scale Community Unit for the Elderly. A feasibility study has now been carried out to see if the site could accommodate a 50 bed Community Unit and Day Care Unit in addition to a Health Centre. The study has concluded that both facilities can be located on the site.

The process of selecting a Design Team will be completed in the near future, following which detailed drawings will be completed to allow the project to proceed to tender stage as soon as possible.

The target date for the completion of the project is before end 1998.

Comment

The development of the Community Units listed at 6 and 7 above is being funded by the sale of lands surplus to our Board's needs on the St. Clare's Home campus.

8. Community Unit, Raheny

Proposal (Par 4.28)

The development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly at Raheny. This will include respite/intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and a Day Care unit (to be completed mid 1998)

Capital Cost	£2.0m (approx)*
Equipping Cost	£350,000 (approx)*
Revenue Cost full year	£992,000*

*Estimate based on 1997 costs

Current Situation

A suitable site has been identified in Raheny village close to shops, churches and transport services for the construction of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly and discussions are at an advanced stage with the owners regarding the purchase of this site.

This project could be completed by end 1998, however this target date is contingent on funding being made available by the Department of Health. In this regard discussions are continuing with the Department.

9. Community Unit, North County Dublin

Proposal (Par 4.2.10)

The development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly in Skerries. This will include respite/intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and a Day Care unit (to be completed September 1998).

Capital Cost	£2.0m (approx)*
Equipping Cost	£350,000 (approx)*
Revenue Cost full year	£992,000*

*Estimate based on 1997 costs

Current Position

A suitable site for the location of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly has been identified in the village of Lusk, Co. Dublin and negotiations are currently in hand to acquire this site. A feasibility study is being carried out to ascertain the optimum location of the Unit for the Elderly on the site.

This project could be completed by end 1998, however this target date is contingent on funding being made available by the Department of Health. In this regard discussions are continuing with the Department.

10. Community Unit, Fairview

Proposal (Par 4.2.6)

Development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly in Fairview. This will include respite intermittent, convalescent, and long stay beds and a Day Care unit (to be completed end 1998)

Capital Cost	£2.0m (approx)*
Equipping Cost	£350,000 (approx)*
Full Year revenue costs	£992,000*

*Estimate based on 1997 figures

Current Situation

Discussions are continuing with the authorities of St. Vincent's Hospital, Fairview with regard to acquiring a suitable site on the Hospital Campus for the development of a Community Unit for the Elderly. Parallel with these discussions other alternative site options in that general area are being considered.

This project could also be completed by end 1998, however this target date is contingent on funding being made available by the Department of Health. In this regard discussions are continuing with the Department.

11. Community Unit, North Kildare/South West Dublin

Proposal (Par 4.29)

The development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly at North Kildare South West Dublin. This will include respite intermittent convalescent and long stay beds and a Day Care Unit.

Current Position

The developing role of Peamount Hospital in the provision of a number of services, including a range of services for the elderly has been the subject of on-going discussions between officers of our Board and of the Hospital. These discussions have progressed well and led to the development of two separate twenty-five bed Units for the Elderly on the campus providing respite intermittent and long stay care.

The first of these 25 bed units came on stream in December 1995 and the second in June 1997.

A detailed submission has been made to the Department of Health proposing that a 25 bed secondary rehabilitation facility and a Day Unit be developed on the campus to service the hospitals catchment area including North Kildare and South West Dublin.

On going discussions have been held with the Department of Health with a target of commencing this service in late 1997/early 1998.

12. Leopardstown Park Hospital

As part of the 1996/1997 A&E initiative our Board entered into an agreement with the management of Leopardstown Park Hospital for the provision of an additional 17 long stay places at Leopardstown Park Hospital.

The first patients were transferred from the acute general hospitals on 6/1/1997 and the service is now fully operational.

13. The provision of Day Hospital Services for the Elderly at Naas General Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park and St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire (Par 4.2.15)

- Naas General Hospital

The adaptation of an area to house a Day Hospital Service at Naas General Hospital as an integral part of the development of a Department of Medicine for the Elderly at the hospital has been completed and the service commenced on 1/11/1996.

- **St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park**

The commissioning of a Day hospital as an integral part of the Department of Medicine for the Elderly at St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park is targeted to come on stream by the end of July 1997.

- **St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire**

It is planned to develop a Day Hospital service at St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire as part of the development of an acute Department of Medicine for the Elderly. The authorities at St. Michael's Hospital are currently finalising a briefing document for the Department of Health outlining the monies required to develop a Day Hospital/Department of medicine for the Elderly in the near future.

14. The extension of the Day Hospital Service at Beaumont Hospital to a full 5 Day week service (Monday to Friday) (4.2.16)

Current Position

The Day Hospital attached to the Department of Medicine for the Elderly at Beaumont Hospital currently operates on a 2 day week basis. The extension of the service to operate on a 5 day week basis is a priority development for the hospital.

The management of Beaumont Hospital are currently preparing a development plan for the provision of acute Psychiatric Services and a five day a week Day Hospital for the Elderly on the hospital campus. This plan will include an option appraisal on the most suitable location for the Day Hospital and on completion will be submitted to the Department of Health for approval.

The Board of Beaumont Hospital will maintain ongoing dialogue with the Department of Health with a view to developing the Day Hospital Service as early as possible.

15. The appointment of a Consultant in Psychiatry of Old Age and the Development of a Department of Psychiatry of Old Age in South East Dublin together with Acute Assessment Services at St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park and Clonskeagh Hospital and Day Hospital facilities at St. Vincent's.

(Par 4.2.17)

Current Position

A new Consultant in Psychiatry of Old Age took up duty on 1st December, 1995. To facilitate this appointment acute assessment facilities are currently been made available to the Consultant at Clonskeagh Hospital. In addition an acute assessment service has been developed at St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park with a day hospital service targeted to commence by the end of August 1997.

16. The appointment of an additional Consultant Psychiatrist and support staff to each of the three Departments of Psychiatry of Old Age to ensure that the service is expanded and available to every Community Care Area. (Par 4.2.18)

Current Position

The funding of additional consultant staff and support staff is being pursued with the Department of Health.

17. Fourth Consultant Physician in Medicine for the Elderly in North Dublin City/County. (Par 4.2.19)

Current Position

An application for financial clearance for an additional joint post of Consultant Physician in Medicine for the Elderly in North Dublin City/County, structured between James Connolly Memorial Hospital and the Mater Hospital has been submitted to the Department of Health.

18. The need for a 3rd Consultant Physician in Medicine for the Elderly in South Dublin.

Current Position

A joint application for financial clearance for a 3rd post of Consultant Physician in Medicine for the Elderly in South Dublin has been submitted to the Department of Health. The post will be structured, St. James's Hospital - 8 sessions, Eastern Health Board - 3 Sessions.

19. The need for a 2nd Consultant Physician in Medicine for the Elderly in South West Dublin.

Current Position

The need for a second post of Consultant Physician in Medicine for the Elderly in Dublin South West has been identified and discussions are ongoing between our Board and the management of the new Tallaght Hospital regarding the structuring of the new post.

On completion of these discussions a joint application for financial clearance will be made to the Department of Health.

20. The Existing Levels of home Help and Meals on Wheels to be preserved and expanded to meet the needs of the Elderly. (Par 4.2.20)

Current Position

Both of these vital services have been maintained at existing levels in the current year.

Our Board continues to have a flexible approach to the demands placed on it for these services and increased needs are addressed and met as they arise.

A major review of the Home Help Service has been carried out by a multidisciplinary group within our Board. Their report highlights many of the key issues with respect to the home help service from our Board's perspective. While the service maintains an excellent standard, it does require examination in the light of changing client needs. Many of the problems are complex and demand a detailed analysis with wide consultation of all those involved in the development of the service. A group, including representatives of voluntary organisations, has been established and is pursuing the implementation of the findings and recommendations of this review.

The National Council on Ageing and Older People has recently undertaken a major national review of Home Help Services. This exercise, which is required to be completed within three months, will involve detailed consultations with the key players, including management and service providers.

21. The Continuous monitoring of the operation of the Health (Nursing Homes) Act 1990 to ensure that sufficient financial resources are made available to fully implement the Act. (Par 4.2.21)

Current Position

The implementation of the Health (Nursing Homes) Act 1990 continues to be closely monitored by our Board.

Close liaison is maintained with the Department of Health to ensure that adequate funding is available to meet the full requirements of the Act.

Trends to date in 1997 indicate that the number of new subventions are increasing and will number 2,602 in total by year end, a net increase of 155 over the figure at 31/12/1996 i.e. 2448. The cost of this increase is being met from within our Board's allocation for Nursing Home Subvention.

The following table shows comparisons between 1993 and the present day.

	1993 (pre Sept)	1997
Total no. of private/voluntary Beds in system	4050	4382
No. of persons in receipt of subvention	1539	2602 (estimated year end)
Budget	£4.493m	£10.428m
Average cost of subvention per person	£42 per week	£93 per week

The New Nursing Homes (Subvention) (Amendment) Regulations 1996 were signed by the Minister for Health on 29.07.1996. The new regulations provide that a Health Board may allow for the payment of subvention above the maximum rate in specific cases. The regulations have also increased the personal allowances which apply when assessing the circumstances of adults, sons/daughters of an applicant for subvention.

22. Contract Nursing Home Places

Current Position

Currently there are a total of 230 Contract Private Nursing Home places funded by our Board in Dublin/Kildare/Wicklow. These places which have come on stream on foot of successive A&E Winter Initiative plans were originally allocated to the various Acute General Hospitals to allow for the transfer of elderly patients - who were occupying acute hospital places - to a level of care most appropriate to their care needs.

As vacancies occur these places are allocated by the Services for the Elderly Department to the various Departments of Medicine for the Elderly on a medical priority need basis.

In January 1997 the latest 30 of these places came on stream which allowed patients transfer from the Dublin Acute General Hospitals to a more appropriate level of care.

23. Provision of a Day Centre for the Elderly, Finglas

Proposal

Development of a Day Centre for the Elderly and Elderly Mentally Infirm on a site made available by Focus Housing Ireland close to Finglas Village.

The Day Centre will cater for approximately 15 individuals on a daily basis Monday-Friday and will provide a range of social and medical services. The facilities to be provided will include a day area, dining area, bathrooms, W.C.'s, recreational area, treatment areas etc.

Current Position

A sum of £200,00 has been made available by the Department of Health towards the Capital cost of constructing a Day Centre in Finglas. Our Board entered into agreement with Focus Housing Ireland for the construction of a Day Centre as an integral part of their overall development plan on their site at Finglas Village and planning permission has been granted to Focus Housing Ltd. for the overall project. In this regard the contract to construct the entire project including the day care centre has been awarded by Focus Housing Ltd.

The commencement of this project has been delayed due to funding difficulties being experienced by Focus Housing in regard to their portion of the overall development and due to the discovery of archaeology findings on the site.

While the delays in this proposal are being examined and resolved parallel discussions are being held with interested groups in the Finglas area to ascertain if a facility in the ownership of the West Finglas Tenants Association can be adapted to develop a Day Care Service for the Elderly in the Finglas area in the interim.

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Additional Service Developments

The developments listed hereunder from 24 to 26 are additional to those listed in our Boards Four Year Action Plan and have been identified on the basis of patient need and demographic information. The construction of these units in mid 1999 is contingent on the necessary capital funding being made available by the Department of Health.

24. Community Unit, Maynooth

Proposal

The development of a 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly in Maynooth. This will include respite/intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and a Day Care Unit (to be completed end 1998).

Capital Cost	£2.0m (approx)*
Equipping Cost	£350,000 (approx)*
Revenue Cost full year	£992,000 *

*Estimate based on 1997 costs

Current Position

A site in the ownership of the Board has been identified in Maynooth, Co. Kildare which is suitable for the development of a Community Unit for the Elderly.

25. Community Unit, St. Clare's Home (2nd Unit)

Proposal

Development of a second 50 bed Community Unit for the Elderly at St. Clare's Home. This will include respite/intermittent, convalescent and long stay beds and Day Care Unit (to be completed end 1998).

Capital Costs	£2.0m (approx)*
Equipping Costs	£350,000 (approx)*
Full Year revenue cost	£992,000*

*Estimated based on 1997 figures

Current Position

As previously advised a site has been retained on the St. Clare's Home Campus for the construction of a 2nd Community Unit for the Elderly.

26. St. Brendan's/St. Loman's Hospital

Our Board as part of its future development of Community Units for the Elderly is committed to retaining sites for this purpose on both the campuses of St. Brendan's and St. Loman's Hospitals.

27. Leopardstown Park Hospital

Our Board is involved in ongoing discussions with the management of Leopardstown Park Hospital regarding their proposal to develop a 50 bed unit for the Elderly - modelled on the Community Unit concept - on the hospital campus. The new unit will provide a complete range of in-patient services for the elderly in the area including respite intermittent care, convalescent and long stay care beds.

Our Board is fully supportive of this initiative which will provide a much needed quality facility for the elderly in South East Dublin and discussions are ongoing between the Department of Health, the management of Leopardstown Park Hospital and our Board regarding the time frame for the development of the unit on the hospital campus.

The capital cost of this project will be approximately £2 million and it is expected that a large portion of this expenditure will be funded by various associations and interest groups aligned to the hospital and from within the hospital's own resources.

28. Future Proposals

As indicated earlier in the report the detailed age breakdown of the 1996 census figures is not yet available.

The Chief Executive Officer has established a group including representatives from the Service Programmes and a Specialist from the Department of Public Health Medicine to carry out a detailed assessment of the requirements for services for the elderly over the next 10 years.

In considering the future requirements of services for the elderly this group will work closely with the many voluntary organisations involved with care of the elderly and with the local authorities, having particular regard to a closer integration of the day services provided by our Board with the sheltered housing complexes provided by the local authorities.

This group will also carry out a detailed needs assessment with regard to community services for the elderly e.g. community ward teams, public health nurse services, home help service, community and residential services for the elderly mentally infirm, and in particular the need for secondary rehabilitation services.

The Group will also be examining the care requirements for the increasing number of elderly persons with mental handicap in our Board's area.

The final report will include a full assessment of need and will be completed before the end of the current year.

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