

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held
in Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Dublin 12, on Tuesday,
5th February, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. C. O'Connor
Sen. T. Ridge

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. E. Byrne
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Tipping

Observers

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Dr. K. Harkin

Ms. M. Hoban

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. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources
Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
Mr. F. Mills, Director for Social Inclusion
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, CEO's Office
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, CEO's Office

15/2002

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. *Special Board Meeting*

I would like to inform members that a Special Board Meeting to discuss KDoc and the Primary Care Strategy will be held in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, on Wednesday, 27th February, 2002, at 6.00 p.m. You will be notified of the full details by post.

2. *Visit to Services outside the Region*

Members will be aware that this Board is currently addressing the need to develop our Mental Health Services. The Protocol and Procedures Committee has discussed various options for visits to services in other areas and the Executive has been in touch with their colleagues in the North Eastern Health Board in this regard.

The Inspector of Mental Hospitals in his annual report made particular mention of the new and innovative services in the Cavan/Monaghan area of the Northern Eastern Health Board. I am therefore proposing a visit to this service, at the earliest date convenient to the North Eastern Health Board, possibly towards the end of February or at the start of March. Again the CEO's Office will be in contact with you regarding this matter.

The Protocol and Procedures Committee has also asked that we look at innovative approaches to services in the community for older persons. The Executive is exploring possibilities in this regard.

3. *Official Opening of Derrinturn Health Centre*

I would like to inform members that the official opening of the new Derrinturn Health Centre will be at 12.00 noon on Friday, 15th February. Cllr. Jim Reilly will be deputising for me at this event.

4. *Visit of President McAleese to Aisling House, Maynooth*

On 15th January last I officiated at the visit of President McAleese to Aisling House in Maynooth.

The ethos of this house is to integrate the residents into Maynooth's community and the residents undertake programmes which bring them in direct contact with local people and businesses.

The Parents and Friends of Aisling House Association volunteer their time generously and I wish to acknowledge their financial contributions which in the past have assisted in providing transport for residents' outings.

I also wish to acknowledge the dedication of the staff in their care and attention to each of the residents. It should be noted that Aisling House is accredited by An Bord Altranais as a

learning environment for student nurses undertaking intellectual disability/mental health nurse training.

5. *Order of Business*

If it is acceptable to members I would like to change one item on the order of business and take the presentation by Mr. Paul Kavanagh and his team as the next item on the agenda.

This was agreed by members.

16/2002

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY, 2002, AND 25TH JANUARY, 2002

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 8th January, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings held on 25th January, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly , seconded by Ms. A. Harris.

17/2002

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Dr. Kieran Harkin

“Could the C.E.O. please advise of the total staff time required to process all aspects of the funding received from the National Lottery and provide a breakdown of how this time was spent? Could the C.E.O. please estimate the costs of this process?”

Reply:

It is difficult to assess the amount of time spent on the National Lottery applications in 2001 as this task was seen as part of the normal duties of the Operations Department.

The completed applications are returned to the Finance Department, Eastern Health Shared Services, in the first instance, following public advertisement, who acknowledge receipt and then distribute the applications to the relevant Health Boards.

Each application received is then examined to ensure it is relevant to the South Western Area Health Board and information is collated in regard to the organisation and the type of grant applied for.

The total amount sought is inevitably far in excess of the allocation. A draft proposed breakdown of the allocation commenced in October and this was then to be considered by the Management Team. However, as this exercise was nearing

completion the Board received a supplementary allocation which required the matter to be revisited and the proposed grants had to be revised before the matter could be brought before the Board.

As no specific records were kept in regard to the time spent by officers in this task, I would propose considering such an exercise for National Lottery Grants 2002.

2. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“Could the CEO comment on:

The Psychiatry of Old Age, Tallaght Hospital Service (CEO response January 2002)

- When "in the near future" will there be sufficient nursing resources to enable the planned in-patient unit to open?
- How is it envisaged that the Old Age Psychiatry team in Tallaght Hospital might deliver a satisfactory service in the absence of an in-patient unit and day hospital, in the meantime?
- The progress of the already agreed Psychiatry of Old Age extended care unit (25 beds) on the redeveloped St Loman's Hospital site in terms of the expected time frame for completion?”

Reply:

At present there are 45 nursing vacancies out of a total complement of 182 nurses in the Dublin West/South West Mental Health Service of which Old Age Psychiatry is a component. Following recent overseas recruitment drives, seven additional nursing staff have been assigned to the service and more appointments are expected. However, at this point it is not possible to specify an exact date when there will be sufficiency in staff to open Aspen as an in-patient unit.

A number of posts e.g. social work, occupational therapy, psychology and mental health nurses, are due to be advertised to enable the South Western Area Health Board to provide day hospital programmes from Aspen in the interim and to continue and develop the community-based service, which will include liaison, consultation and domiciliary assessments.

The 25-bedded Psychiatry of Extended Care Unit is a component of Phase 1 of the St. Loman's campus redevelopment. Progress is dependent on the allocation of sufficient capital funds from the Authority.

3. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“Re: "The development of an Outreach Psychiatric team within the South Western Area Health Board." (Chapter 9: Social Inclusion Services (9.3 Adult Homelessness) Service Developments 2002 - ERHA Service Plan, page 165).

Could the CEO comment on:

- the capital and revenue necessary for this development and how will this be disbursed?
- the timescale for this planned development to be in place?
- any additional resources available to this service?"

Reply:

The South Western Area Health Board has proposed that an outreach Psychiatric Team be established for homeless persons with mental health problems. The Eastern Regional Health Authority service plan has allocated additional revenue funding of €380K in 2002 for this purpose.

Based on this level of revenue funding a team comprising the following can be established:-

- 1 Consultant Psychiatrist
- 1 Non-Consultant Hospital Doctor
- 2 Community Mental Health Nurses
- 1 Mental Health Social Worker

The team will (subject to funding) be expanded to include psychology, occupational therapy and outreach support workers.

The service will be located in one of the existing mental health services. This has yet to be determined and will require more discussion with the provider. The service should be established in the Summer 2002.

In the first year the team can begin without capital funds by using existing facilities. The new Clinical Team will identify the particular needs of this client group. These needs can be met either through building new infrastructure or using additional revenue to purchase services from an existing provider.

The additional needs when clearly known can be included in our Service Plan 2003.

4. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

"To ask the C.E.O. to request an urgent report from the Director of Public Health arising from the serious concerns of the community of Killinarden, Raheen and Springfield in Tallaght in respect of the masts at Tallaght Business Park. Will he note the view of the general community that there is a high rate of cancer deaths in this area, will he investigate the matter and make a statement?"

Reply:

Masts are usually erected either for the purpose of receiving or transmitting signals. In recent years, with the aim of limiting the proliferation of unsightly masts, it has become common practice for both receiving and transmitting equipment to be erected on the same mast. Transmitting equipment is used for mobile phone communication purposes. Such transmitting equipment emits non-ionising radiation.

There are guidelines, published by the International Commission on Non-ionising Protection, relating to non-ionising radiation and the Office of the Director of

Telecommunication Regulations arranges for audits of licensed mobile telephone operators to be carried out focusing on compliance with these guidelines.

A group of experts in the U.K., led by Sir William Stewart, investigated possible health effects posed by mobile phone technology, including base stations, on behalf of the U.K. Government. The group looked at recent research, took evidence from scientists and listened to the views of the public at open meetings around the U.K. and issued a report in May 2000. Their conclusion was that “the balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of guidelines”. The Stewart report recommended that the 1998 International Commission on Non-ionising Guidelines be adhered to and these guidelines are being used by the Office of the Director of Telecommunication Regulations.

The other matter raised is a separate issue. The Board is not aware of a “high rate of cancer deaths” in these areas. In the Eastern Region, cancer is the second most common cause of death after cardiovascular disease and it is the most common cause of death in the under 65 year age group. Lung cancer is the most common form of the disease within the region with over 90% of lung cancer cases, and a third of all cancer cases, attributable to smoking.

In relation to the specific areas mentioned, an examination of data relating to cancer mortality has been undertaken covering a four year period from 1994 to 1997. (This is the latest information available to this Department which is down to a District Electoral Division level). The examination of this data shows:-

- This is a very young area with a total combined population of 13,000, of which 99% are under 65 years of age.
- The standardised mortality rate in respect of all cancers in this area combined is lower than that of the Eastern Region as a whole and lower to that of Ireland.
- There is no predominance of any one type of cancer.
- 7 out of the 27 cancer deaths in this area over the period were due to lung cancer and 5 were due to colo-rectal cancer.
- All the cancer deaths were in persons over 40 years of age.

5. Cllr. Charlie O’Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to report to this Board on services being proposed arising from discussions involving the S.W.A.H.B. representative in respect of the RAPID Programme in the Tallaght West estates of Brookfield, Fettercairn, Jobstown and Killinarden. Will he update the Board and make a statement?”

Reply:

RAPID is the programme for Revitalisation of Areas by Planning, Investment and Development. In the West Tallaght area, three target areas were identified for inclusion in this programme. These were Killinarden, Jobstown and Fettercairn/Brookfield. It was decided that one plan would be developed for the entire West Tallaght area.

The Area Implementation Team for West Tallaght is made up of representatives of state agencies, voluntary groups and community representatives for the target areas.

The plan is currently being developed and is expected to be signed off by the Area Implementation Team in February and approved by the National Monitoring Group in March.

A wide range of local groups and organisations representing various target and marginalised groups were consulted in the development of the plan. A number of workshops with state agencies and groups representing socially excluded communities were also organised. Existing services and development plans for all the state agencies involved were also examined and these contributed to the development of the plan.

As a result of the process of consultation, a list of priority needs and service gaps were identified. For Health and Substance Misuse, the key recommendations being developed in the plan are to extend the range and quality of Primary Health Care services and facilities, to assess and address the health needs of target groups, to extend and improve rehabilitation treatment and prevention services for substance misuse and to provide quality Primary Health Care to the communities of West Tallaght. Recommendations to implement mechanisms to meet the health needs of target groups and to develop and promote information on services and healthy living are also being developed.

The Area Implementation Team is also developing recommendations to provide more child care training opportunities locally, develop a range of developmental and recreational opportunities for young children and to continue/enhance support and provision to families.

The South Western Area Health Board is currently in the process of recruiting and appointing a senior officer in each Community Services Area who will be responsible for developing services for disadvantaged and marginalised groups.

6. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to update members on Health Board services available to the community of Kilnamanagh Estate in Tallaght. Will he note the clear need for a health board facility in the general area to house such services? Will he confirm his plans in the matter and make a statement?”

Reply:

Community services for the Kilnamanagh area are provided from Millbrook Lawns Health Centre. Existing services provided in Millbrook Lawns are:- Public Health Nursing, including Child Developmental Clinics, Dental Service, Speech and Language Therapy, Community Welfare Service, Home Help, Social Work Service, including a duty Social Work Service, and Addiction Services. Barnardo's pre-school services are also provided.

Mental Health services are also situated in close proximity to the Kilnamanagh area. In-patient services are provided in Tallaght Hospital and out-patient services are provided from Mayberry Road in Kilnamanagh 4 days per week.

Services for Older Persons are also available. A Day Care service is available in Glenview Lodge, Tallaght. Meals on Wheels services are based in Greenhills and the Home Help service is located in Main Street, Tallaght. Discussions have commenced with the Community Centre management to develop and provide a Day Care Centre service on the premises of Kilnamanagh Family Recreation Centre. We plan to commence a day activity service in this centre this year and further develop the facilities in 2003.

Addiction services are provided from St. Aengus's Centre, Castle Tymon, Tallaght and 515 Main Street. A number of G.P.s and local pharmacies provide addiction services throughout the whole Tallaght region which can be availed of by residents of this area.

There are 5 General Practitioners in the Kilnamanagh area providing services under the General Medical Services Scheme.

Under the Board's Capital Development Plan there are plans to significantly extend the services available in Millbrook Lawns Health Centre which will further enhance the existing services available to residents of Kilnamanagh. Plans for the new centre will involve expanding existing services there, as well as establishing Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Mental Health and a General Practitioner service. It is also planned to enhance administration services, including processing medical cards and customer services.

We have sought approval from the Authority to proceed with the appointment of a Design Team for this project.

18/2002

PRESENTATION ON SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENTS AT OUR LADY'S HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, CRUMLIN

(This presentation was made after Chairman's Business)

Mr. Paul Kavanagh, C.E.O., Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, welcomed members to the hospital and introduced his staff who were in attendance. Mr. Pat Doherty, Anaesthetist, proceeded to give a powerpoint presentation outlining a brief history of the hospital, details of services, hospital activity and future developments planned.

Members thanked Mr. Doherty for his presentation and paid tribute to all the staff of the hospital for their hard work over many years. Following contributions from Cllr. C. O'Connor, Ald. M. Mooney, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. McGrath, and Cllr. C. Byrne, Mr. Kavanagh responded as follows:-

- Mr. Kavanagh thanked members for their comments in support of the hospital and its staff.
- He is not aware of any current plans to develop any other paediatric hospital nationally and confirmed that a large number of patients who are treated in Our Lady's travel from various parts of the country for specialised treatment, e.g. cancer treatment, specialist surgery, etc.
- Members were informed that the Department of Health & Children and the Eastern Regional Health Authority are aware of the needs of the hospital in terms of future developments, the progress of which will be dependent on the availability of resources.

- Members were informed of the continuation of ongoing linkages and co-operation with AMiNCH, Tallaght.
- Plans for the development of the theatre facility were highlighted.
- Mr. Kavanagh indicated that members would be welcome to return in the future to have a brief tour of the hospital if they wish.

In conclusion, Mr. F. Feely, Chairman of the Hospital Committee of Management, thanked members for their attendance.

At this point, Mr. Kavanagh, Mr. Feely and the hospital staff left the meeting.

19/2002

REPORT 2/2002 – SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS IN THE SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, updated members on services for the homeless in the South Western Area Health Board. At the request of members, it was agreed to refer the report which had been tabled for the Board Meeting on this issue to the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee. The report is to include some further information requested by members.

20/2002

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive read Report No. 3/2002 to members (copy filed with official minute):

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

1. Flooding in Ringsend/Irishtown
2. Lucan Health Centre
3. St. Mary's, Naas
4. Bed Capacity Review
5. Developing Working Relationships
6. National Counselling Service – Survivor Consultation Project
7. Barretstown Gang Camp
8. Report on Suicide in Ireland
9. Advocacy Network for Mental Health Users
10. Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme
11. 1996 Pharmacy Regulations
12. Smoking Cessation

Discussion followed to which Cllr. C. McGrath and Ms. N. Harvey contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded.

The C.E.O.'s report was noted.

21/2002

MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters for mention/matters arising from the minutes.

22/2002

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

On a proposal by Sen. T. Ridge, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 10th January, 2002 was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. C. McGrath, seconded by Sen. T. Ridge, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health and Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 17th January, 2002, was adopted.

23/2002

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

On a proposal by Sen. T. Ridge, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Protocol and Procedures Committee was adopted.

A contribution from Cllr. E. Byrne regarding Ballydowd was noted.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the recommendation in the Appendix to the progress report concerning a proposed change to the commencement time of Service Visits from 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne, members voted in favour of maintaining the 11.00 a.m. start time.

It was also agreed to review the current remit of the two Standing Committees.

24/2002

CORRESPONDENCE

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

25/2002

SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (FEBRUARY 2002)

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Standing Committee meetings for February 2002, which had been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

The date for a Joint Standing Committee meeting in February to be finalised.

26/2002

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

A Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, 27th February, 2002, at 6.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

The March meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 5th March, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN