



northern area
health board
bord sláinte an
limistéir thuaidh

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24th January, 2003.

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, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, on Thursday, 30th January, 2003 at 5.00pm.** Tea is arranged for 4.30pm.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

PRIOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. Chairmans Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of
 - (a) Monthly Board Meeting held on Thursday 19th December, 2002
 - (i) Matters arising
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report (To be circulated)
5. Report from Finance and Property Committee Meeting held on Friday 24th January, 2003.
Report No F1/2003 (herewith)

353.6

6. Northern Area Health Board, Review of Services, 2002
Report No 1/2003 (To be Circulated)

7. Report on the Forum on Fluoridation
Report No 2/2003 (herewith)

8. Report from Standing Committees

(a) Community Services and Continuing Care

(b) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care

9. Motions

9.1 Cllr Michael O'Donovan

“That the Chief Executive report on the need for a Health Centre facility for the Mulhuddart/Ladyswell area.”

9.2 Cllr Michael O'Donovan

“That the Chief Executive give an up-to-date report on our plans for a specialist orthodontic facility at Ashtown, Dublin 15.”

10. Correspondence/Matters for Mention

Chairman's Business

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Board Meeting
of the Northern Area Health Board held in
The Boardroom, NAHB, Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin
On Thursday, 19th December, 2002, at 11.00am.**

Present

Cllr C. Burke
Mr M. Cowley
Cllr L. Creaven
Cllr A. Devitt
Ms N. Harvey
Cllr D. Heney
Mr P. Ledwidge
Cllr D. Murray
Cllr E. O'Brien
Cllr M. O'Donovan
Cllr J. Reilly
Cllr R. Shortall
Cllr J Stafford

Non-Voting Participants

Dr B Murphy

In the Chair

Deputy Dr D. Fitzpatrick

Officers in Attendance – Management Team

Ms. M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Walsh, Asst. Chief Executive
Mr. J. Cahill, Asst. Chief Executive
Mr P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive
Ms. L. McGuinness, Asst. Chief Executive
Ms M. Kelly, Director of Human Resources
Mr S. McGrath, Director of Communications
Mr S. Mulvany, Director of Finance
Mr J. O' Sullivan, Director of Acute Hospitals
Mr J. Murphy, Board Secretary

Other Officers in Attendance

Mr G. Hanley, Operations
Ms J. Ebbs, Operations
Mr D. Mulvey, Operations
Ms B. Kelly, Secretariat
Ms D. Kelly, Secretariat

Also in Attendance

Ivor Callely T.D. Minister for Services for Older Persons
Mr F. Maddock, Fingal Independant

205/2002

Presentation of Report on Services for Older Persons, Northern Area Health Board, to Ivor Callely, T.D., Minister for Services for Older Persons.

The meeting was attended by Mr Ivor Callely, T.D., Minister for Services for Older Persons. In advance of the meeting Deputy Callely was welcomed by Deputy Dr Fitzpatrick, Chairman, and the Chief Executive introduced a presentation of Services for Older Persons in our Board's area.

Following discussion, to which Cllr Burke, Cllr Stafford, Cllr O'Donovan, Mr Cowley, Ms Harvey, Dep Shortall and Cllr Devitt contributed and to which the Chief Executive and Asst Chief Executive responded the report was noted.

Dep Callely welcomed the report, and acknowledged and expressed his support for the pro-active role of the Northern Area Health Board, and it's staff in the provision of services for Older Persons, and that he would continue to support the Board in his role as Minister.

206/2002

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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 Meetings/Visits

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

May I draw member's particular attention to the following: -

- Monthly Board Meeting
It is proposed to reschedule this Board Meeting to Thursday, 30th January, 2003.
- A Special Board Meeting may also be called in Late January or Early February, to discuss outturn 2002 and the 2003 Allocation for Our Board.
- Standing Committee Acute Hospitals and Primary Care,
○ Thursday, 23rd January, 2003, at 10.00am
- Standing Committee Community Service and Continuing Care
Monday 27th January, 2003, at 3.00pm

3. Apologies

Apologies have being received from the following-

Mr Gerry McGuire

4. Preliminary Notice-Association of Health Boards In Ireland

I would like to advise members that the Association's Annual Conference 2003 will be held in The Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny on Friday and Saturday 21st and 22nd March, 2003.

207/2002

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

held on Thursday 21st November, 2002.

On a proposal by Cllr Burke and seconded by Cllr Devitt, the minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting held on 21st November, 2002 were agreed.

208/2002

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

held on Thursday 28th November, 2002.

On a proposal by Cllr Devitt and seconded by Cllr O'Brien the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 28th November, 2002 were agreed.

209/2002

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Dep Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to answer the questions lodged.

1. Cllr Roisin Shortall

"To ask the Chief Executive to please outline the plan, if any, for the provision of meals on wheels services in Dublin 11 as SUPPORT the organisation who currently provides this service in the area is to wind up in January: will she indicate if this service is to be mainstreamed and if so when this will happen."

Reply

SUPPORT is an organisation co-ordinating a Community Employment Scheme in the Finglas area. It provides workers to three meals centres for older persons, Clareville Court Day Centre, St. Helena's Centre and Glassanaon Court Centre. The scheme operates with 1 Supervisor, an

Assistant Supervisor and 23 workers. They are affected by the current plans by FÁS around the C.E. scheme.

A Cabinet sub-committee (which includes N.A.H.B. representation) on Social Inclusion are agreeing an inter-departmental approach to restructuring of FÁS C.E. Schemes and the outcome of their discussions will influence the mainstreaming of projects. Specific projects are protected until these discussions conclude. The SUPPORT organisation is included in the named protected projects.

There was a difficulty regarding the retention of an Assistant Supervisors post. However, FÁS have agreed in principle to the continuation of this post for an initial period of 9 months.

2. Cllr Roisin Shortall

“To ask the Chief Executive to report on the admission criteria for Creag Aran High Support Unit”.

Reply

Creag Aran High Support Unit is managed by the South Western Area Health Board, who have provided the following information in relation to admission criteria.

- A Child must be aged between 9 and 11 years to be considered for admission.
- The behaviour and level of need of the child is such that it poses a real risk to his/her health, safety, development or welfare unless placed in a High Support Unit.
- It can be clearly demonstrated by the referring agency that consideration has been given to all alternative care settings and there is no alternative setting in which the child's needs can be met.

Creag Aran is a six bedded unit. There are three children in the unit two of whom are from the NAHB. This leaves three vacancies. There is no waiting list. One child from NAHB is due for discharge from 4th July 2003 and the second child is due for discharge on 27th June 2003. The NAHB and Creag Arran have developed the care plan. The NAHB Social Workers has monthly meetings with the child's key workers in Creag Arran and normally visits the child once a month.

3. Cllr Dermot Murray

“To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report as to why the extension to the North East Doc on call service has not yet been established at the Boards Facility at Hampton Street, Balbriggan despite a commitment that the service was to commence operations in October 02. In reporting will the Chief Executive clarify the following points.

- a) When this service is likely to come into operation?
- b) If all of the necessary finance has been approved for it's establishment?
- c) Have the refurbishment works at the Hampton St. facility been completed?
- d) If agreement has been reached in regard to the number of doctors that are required to provide adequate cover for the catchment area it is intended to cover?

Reply

Extensive discussions took place during the course of the year with the North Eastern Health Board and the General Practitioners in the Dublin North East Area in relation to the establishment of this service in Dublin North East. It was not possible to bring the service on stream until a sufficient number of doctors had agreed to participate in the service. All of the doctors in the area have recently indicated their willingness to participate in the service. It had been expected that this service would have been in place by the end of November 2002.

However the establishment of the service was also dependent upon the North Eastern Health board recruiting an additional 7 whole time equivalent staff to support this service (nurses, drivers and receptionists). That Boards staffing numbers are currently in excess of its approved ceiling on staff members and they are unable to obtain approval for the employment of these staff. Discussions are continuing between our Board and the North Eastern Health Board to explore any possible options for resolving the present difficulties.

The specific information sought is as follows:

- a) Subject to the finalisation of discussions between our Board and the North Eastern Health Board regarding the issue of approval for the employment of support staff (nurse, driver and receptionist) it is anticipated that this service will commence as early as possible in the new year.
- b) The funding required for the establishment of the service has been approved. Funding of €240,000 was approved in 2002.
- c) All of the refurbishment works at the health centre in Hampton Street, Balbriggan have been completed except for the installation of technical equipment. The total cost of this work is approximately €18,000. This work will be finalised in consultation with the North Eastern Health Board during the month of January 2003.

- d) It is anticipated that all of the total General Practitioners (13) in the Dublin North East area will participated in the out of hours service.

4. **Cllr Dermot Murray**

“To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report on whether or not the NAHB has a vested interest in the old dispensary at High Street Balbriggan formally the property of Eastern Health Board and now occupied by the senior citizens committee”.

Reply

The property known as the Old Dispensary, High Street, Balbriggan was disposed of by the former Eastern Health Board to Balbriggan Senior Citizens Welfare Club in 1994. The sale was completed at an agreed cost of £10,000. The Senior Citizens Club had occupied the premises in a tenancy since 1980, and they had carried out a number of improvements and repairs to the premises.

I am advised by our Law Agent that our Board does not retain any interest in this property or any control over its future use or disposal. However, the Constitution of the Senior Citizens Welfare Club stipulates that should the organisation cease to exist, its assets and property will revert to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

5. **Cllr Eamonn O'Brien**

“To ask the Chief Executive if she would outline whatever plans are being considered or intended to upgrade facilities at St. Clare's Glasnevin. To provide type of improvements and costing which are obviously needed as witnessed during a recent visit to the facility”

Reply

Our Board's allocation for maintenance provides for essential repairs, maintenance contracts and essential works.

Our Board has identified a number of minor capital works (including upgrading of catering facilities and equipment, painting and related works) required at Saint Clare's, Glasnevin, in particular with regards to catering and kitchen facilities in 2001. These were subject of a request for capital funding submitted to the Regional Authority in that year. No funding for minor capital works was made available to our Board this year.

6. **Cllr Eamonn O'Brien**

"To ask the Chief Executive if she would outline the role and services as provided by the staff at Domville House. To state if all of those addicts in the Ballymun catchment area who require treatment are being seen to. To provide figures and gender of those attending for treatment and to say if the drug menace is on the increase in the area".

Reply

Services Provided by following staff:

Consultant Psychiatrist:

Provides specialist support to GP, Counsellors, etc., and assesses new clients.

Sessional GPs:

The client is passed on to a Doctor who will decide on his/her treatment. His/her Doctor will look after medical treatment for the duration of his/her attendance.

Pharmacists:

- Dispenses methadone and other drugs prescribed by GP.
- Pharmacy is open 7 days per week.

Nurses:

The Nurses role in the Addiction Services are:

- Primary Nursing and health care.
- Crisis intervention.
- Viral screening.
- Vaccination Programme.
- Public Testing Clinic.
- Accumulating data for Health Research Board and Epidemiology.
- Management of waiting lists.
- Urine screening.
- Referral management for patients.
- Health Promotion / Education.
- Liaison Drug Midwife for clients linked into Rotunda Hospital.
- Hep C Liaison Nurse recently appointed to the service.

Addiction Counsellors:

The Addiction Counselling Service includes the following services:

- Individual counselling and support for people in all phases of addiction.
- Assessment of treatment options for people with addictions.
- Treatment planning for detoxification etc.
- Recovery work.
- Individual counselling and support for concerned persons in relation to addiction.
- Family work and support.
- Group work.
- Talks to groups.
- Advice and information on all aspects of addiction and related issues.
- Referral service.
- Liaison with community care services i.e. Social Work team.
- Liaison with community groups.
- Liaison with Probation and Welfare Service and the Courts.
- Liaison with community GPs.
- Reports.
- Visiting homes, hospitals and prisons.

Outreach Counsellor:

- Outreach/Street Work.
- Needle Exchange.
- Liaison with community and other statutory bodies.
- Prison/hospital visits.
- Information re. HIV testing/counselling.
- Drug, HIV and Hep C prevention.
- Smokers' Programme.

Welfare Officer:

The Welfare Officers have played a vital role in the development of the Addiction Services. Their primary functions are:

- Liaison.
- Referral.
- Information.
- Assistance with applications for financial assistance.
- Budgeting.
- Advocacy.
- Promotion/Education.
- Teamwork.
- Facilitation support works.

The Welfare Officer in these clinics is a resource person for clients and other disciplines within the Board. He/she does not have a cheque book or have any role in making financial payments. That function remains with the district CWO. The Welfare Officer in the Treatment Centres keeps in regular contact with the district CWO.

General Assistants:

- Supervision of urines.
- Supervision of waiting room/methadone intake.
- Making appointments with Doctors/Counsellors on behalf of clients.
- Answering queries made by general public at clinic.
- Providing a safe environment for staff in which to operate.
- Manning Needle Exchange Clinics to ensure a safe and friendly service.

Domville House Attendances:

Total June 2002: 286.

Total December 2002 (below):

Males: 174.
Females: 117
Total: 291

Mobile Clinic:

Total June 2002: 26.

Total December 2002 (below):

Male: 13
Female: 6
Total: 19

GP Protocol:

Total June 2002: 112.
Total December 2002: 122.

Needle Exchange:

Nos. weekly basis June 2002: 25.

Nos. weekly basis December 2002: 20.

There is currently no significant waiting list for treatment in Domville House.

There has been no significant increase in persons attending for treatment in the Ballymun area and the average numbers attending Needle Exchange has dropped from 25 to 20 since June of this year. There may, however, be drug misusers in the community who have not presented for treatment for their addiction.

7. Cllr Christy Burke

“To ask the Chief Executive how much funding is available for painting programme in the Northern Area Health Board as some properties are in need of regular maintenance works”.

Reply

Our Board's allocation for maintenance provides for essential repairs, maintenance contracts and essential works.

Our Board is aware of the need to address the backlog of maintenance in relation to the upkeep of a number of our properties, and we have sought funding from the Regional Authority for minor capital funding. No funding was made available in 2002 and we have asked the Authority to consider the provision of minor capital funding for 2003 as a matter of urgency. Our Board directly employs eight painters. These painters

- o Carry out emergency painting and glazing works directly in association with the work of other trades
- o Carry out urgent cosmetic work as required
- o Otherwise a team led programme of painting is carried out to areas as prioritised by the Engineering Manager.

8. Cllr Christy Burke

"To ask the Chief Executive what progress is being made with the Department of Health and Children and the Northern Area Health Board in relation to funding for young persons programme of drugs at Gardiner Street, Dublin 1".

Reply

The purchase of the premises at 67 Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin 1, was approved by our Board in late 2000 at a cost of €984,000. This premises was purchased to provide a Young Persons Programme for younger drug users in the North Inner City and to complement the Drug Court Service.

The premises requires complete refurbishment and major adaptations to allow the service envisaged to operate from the premises. A design team was appointed in 2001 and they have prepared detailed design briefs. Renovation and re-fitting costs at €1.2m have been identified. The ERHA have verbally confirmed that an allocation of €1m has been set aside for the refurbishment costs at Gardiner Street. We are currently carrying out an up to date report on the condition of the building, following which our Board will proceed with a planning application. It is unlikely that the Young Persons Programme, envisaged, will be operational until 2004, at the earliest. A limited Young Persons Programme continues to operate in the evenings, at City Clinic, while negotiations are taking place with the ERHA around the development at Gardiner Street.

210/2002

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

SERVICE MATTERS

Community Unit, Lusk.

I wish to advise members that our Board's Community Unit for the Elderly, at Lusk, received 1st prize in the "Public Service" category in the Swords/Fingal Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards, 2003.

Wet Hostel

A "wet hostel" which will target street drinkers, is to open before Christmas and will be operated by the de Paul trust as part of the winter strategy on homelessness. Drinkers sleeping rough are at high risk of suffering hypothermia, and this service is aimed at this group.

The hostel has 24 places and will be open to men and women. The Service will provide accommodation, food and medical services.

The de Paul trust already operates a hostel in Clancy Barracks, targeting drug abusing homeless, which opened for last winter.

Psychology Service

At a meeting on 22nd November 2002, involving Senior Management from the 3 Area Health Boards, ERHA, and the Department of Health and Children a package of funding was agreed to meet the shortfall of funding for the 12 students who commenced training in January 2002 and also to fund the intake of 12 students from 2003 (for the three year cycle). The Department of Health and Children and ERHA contributed to the 2002 shortfall whilst the 3 Area Boards, Department of Health and Children and ERHA agreed levels of contribution towards the 2003 intake.

All of the post-graduate students were written to on the 3rd December, 2002 updating them on the current position.

Letter of Determination, 2003

I wish to advise members that a copy of the 2003 Department of Health and Children, Letter of Determination to the Eastern Regional Health Authority was recently received by our Board, and is currently being considered by our Finance Department and Management Team.

In summary, new service development funding (to the Eastern Regional Health Authority), amounts to €137m, compared to €180m for 2002. It is not yet known how much of these service development funds will be allocated to our Board. Bids for service developments in our Board's area have been submitted to ERHA, to be considered as part of the Eastern Regional Health Authority service planning process.

Summary Review 2002

During 2002, a total of 19 Board Meetings were held

- 11 Monthly Board Meetings
- 8 Special Board Meetings
 - 1 meeting on Addiction Services
 - 1 meeting on Finance and Property/Governance
 - 1 meeting on Services for the Elderly
 - 2 meetings on the NAHB Annual Report 2001
 - 1 meeting to adopt the NAHB Provider Plan 2002
 - 1 meeting on Acute Hospitals
 - 1 meeting on Childcare and Families

In addition to reports by the Chief Executive, a total of 52 Reports were considered by the Board in 2002

- 21 on Primary Care
- 9 on Acute Hospitals
- 4 on Services for Older Persons
- 3 on Child Care Services
- 2 on Disabilities Services
- 2 on Mental Health Services
- 1 on Addiction Services
- 1 on Suicide in Ireland
- 3 on the National Development Plan
- 2 on the Annual Report
- 4 Others

In addition, a total of 35 Questions and 12 Motions were dealt with by our Board during 2002.

Board Members also attended meeting of Standing Committees and other Committees set up by our board as follows –

Standing Committees

Community Services & Continuing Care	10
Acute Hospitals & Primary Care	10
Finance & Property Committee	8
Protocol & Procedures Committee	1

Child Care Advisory Committee

5

List of Visits in the N.A.H.B. for the year 2002 a total of 21

Date	Venue
07/01/02	Homeless Persons Unit, James Street, Dublin 1
21/01/02	Community Mothers Programme, Wellmount Health Centre, Finglas, D 11
28/01/02	J.C.M. Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
11/02/02	Drug Court Service, Richmond Hospital Building, Nth Brunswick St. D 7
18/02/02	St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, Dublin 20
25/02/02	Audiology Service 44 North Great Georges St, Dublin 1
11/03/02	Coolock Day Activity Centre, Cromcastle Rd., Coolock, Dublin 5
25/03/02	2003 Special Olympics Games, Park House, Nth Circular Rd. Dublin 7
20/05/02	Dublin Fire Training Centre, Malahide Rd, Marino, Dublin 3
27/05/02	The Talbot Centre, 29 Upper Buchingham St. Dublin 1
24/06/02	St Ita's Cemetery, Portrane, Co. Dublin
15/07/02	Darndale/Belcamp Health Centre, Darndale, Dublin 17
22/07/02	"Aistear Beo" Family Centre, Coolmine, Blanchardstown, D 15
05/09/02	Dublin Port
16/09/02	Gramby Centre, Dorset Street, Dublin 1
14/10/02	Coolock Health Centre, Cromcastle Rd, Coolock, Dublin 5
21/10/02	Keltoi, St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, Dublin 20
11/11/02	Claremont Community Residential & Day Care Service, Navan Rd, Dublin 7
18/11/02	Cuan Ross, Navan Road, Dublin 7
09/12/02	CAIRDE, 19 Belvedere Place, Dublin 1
16/12/02	Barrymore House, North Circular Road, Dublin 7

A total of 39 official events took place in 2002, including Official Openings, Launches, Exhibitions and Awareness Programmes

Following discussions to which Cllr Devitt Cllr Burke, Cllr Stafford, Mr Ledwidge, Mr Cowley, Dep Dr Fitzpatrick, contributed, and to which the Chief Executive responded, the report was noted.

211/2002

REPORT NO F9/2002 – Report from Finance and Property Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12th December 2002

The adoption of (Report No F9/2002) was proposed by Cllr Devitt seconded by Cllr Burke, the report of the Finance and Property Committee was agreed.

212/2002

REPORT NO 49/2002

**Report of Adequacy of Child Care Review, Northern Area Health Board, 2002
Draft 2**

The adoption of Report No 49/2002 was proposed by Cllr Burke, and seconded by Cllr O'Brien and agreed.

213/2002

REPORT No 50/2002

Progress Report – Cardio Vascular Strategy

On a proposal by Deputy Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to refer report No. 50/2002 to the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee.

214/2002

REPORT NO 51/2002

Progress Report – Services for Persons with Autism

On a proposal by Deputy Fitzpatrick, seconded by Mr Ledwidge it was agreed to refer report No. 51/2002 to the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee.

215/2002

REPORT NO 52/2002

Fingal County Child Care Strategy

On a proposal by Deputy Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed to refer report No. 52/2002 to the Child Care Advisory Committee.

216/2002

REPORT NO 53/2002

Report on Mental Health Service, Catchment Area 8 – St Ita's Hospital

On a proposal by Cllr Devitt, seconded by Cllr Creaven it was agreed to refer report No. 53/2002 to the Community Service and Continuing Care Standing Committee.

217/2002

PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

(a) *Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee*

On a proposal by Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr Devitt, the report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Committee was agreed.

(b) *Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee*

On a proposal by Cllr Burke, seconded by Ms Harvey, the report from the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee was agreed.

**218/2002
MOTIONS**

The following motion was proposed by Dep Shortall and seconded by Dr Reilly.

12.1 Cllr Roisin Shortall T.D.

“That the Chief Executive report on the Board’s response to the Report of the Review of Gheel Autism service by Evaluation, Training and Consultancy International completed in March 2002 and that she set out a timescale for the implementation of the report’s recommendations.”

The Chief Executive’s response (copy filed with official minute) was noted. It was agreed to request a progress report from the ECAHB, on the implementation of the recommendations in the Review of Gheel Autism Services, to be brought to our Board in March, 2003.

**219/2002
MATTERS FOR MENTION**

There were no matters for mention.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

**M. WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

19th December, 2002.

**DEPUTY DR D FITZPATRICK
CHAIRMAN**

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Questions for Monthly Board Meeting January, 2003

There were no questions presented.

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Chief Executive's Report
30th January, 2003.**

To be circulated at meeting

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Report No F1/2003

*Report from Finance and Property Committee Meeting
Held on Friday 24th January, 2003 at 9.30m.*

1. Minutes from Meeting held on 12th December, 2002

On proposal by Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Burke the minutes of the proceeding of the meeting of the Finance & Property meeting, held on 12th December, 2002 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

2. Financial Report for the period to 30th November, 2002

The Chief Executive and Director of Finance presented a summary report on the Board's financial position to 30th November, 2002 (Copy filed with official minute).

Following discussion to which Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Burke, Dr Fitzpatrick, Cllr Devitt and Mr Crowley contributed, and to which the Chief Executive, Asst Chief Executive, Operations, Director of Finance and Director of Human Resources responded, the report was noted.

3. Financial Out-Turn 2002/Outlook 2003

The Chief Executive advised members that the Financial out-turn, 2002 was being finalised. The ERHA had adopted its Service Plan for 2003, but our Board had not yet been advised of its allocation for 2003, but it was anticipated that there would be very limited development funding made available to our Board this year. A further meeting of the committee will be called when the out-turn 2002, and the allocation 2003 are available.

4. Property Matters

The Chief Executive circulated a report (copy filed with official minute) for members information on progress to date on the following developments –

- Village Complex for Intellectual Disabilities, St Ita's
- Ballymun Primary Care Centre, area HQ
- Glen Court, Gardiner Street
- Cabra Health Centre
- Orthodontic Unit, Ashtown Gate

The report was noted.

Meeting Concluded at 10.40am.

**M. WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

24th January, 2003

**CLLR. ANNE DEVITT
CHAIRMAN**

Northern Area Health Board

Report of Chief Executive Officer to Finance and Property Committee 24th January 2003

Village Complex for Intellectual Disability St. Joseph's/St. Ita's Service

Planning permission for this project was granted in August 2002. A budget for the project has been agreed with the Hospital Planning Office and the Regional Authority. Approval to proceed to tender stage has been requested from the Regional Authority and is awaited. An advertisement inviting expressions of interest from contractors for the construction of the complex has been drafted and will be placed shortly, subject to the approval of the ERHA. The projected cost of the project is estimated at € 9.1m , with an estimated construction programme of 15 months from commencement on site.

Ballymun Primary Care Centre and Area Headquarters

The Ballymun Civic Centre, in which our Board's Primary Care Centre and Area Headquarters are to be located, reached practical completion in December 2002. Handover of our portion of the building is provisionally scheduled for February 17th, 2003. The Board's design team for the fit-out of the building has been selected, and the tendering process for the fit-out has commenced. Tenders are due to be opened and considered next week. The Regional Authority has been requested to formally approve the appointment of the design team. The ERHA has also been furnished with estimated costings for the revenue and capital elements of this project, which is a lease-purchase arrangement to be carried out over a fourteen year period. Details of the lease-purchase agreement are being finalised by our Board's legal representatives, in consultation with the reps of Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. The agreement will be brought before this committee for formal approval when the final draft is agreed. The fit-out of the building is likely to be carried out over a twelve to fifteen month programme with approval of the ERHA.

Glen Court Gardiner St Drug Treatment Centre/Young Person's Programme

Our Board was informed in late December 2002 that a sum of €1m was to be made available for the works required to refurbish and adapt the above premises. As this sum fell short of the original cost plan drawn up by our design team, they were requested to revise their designs and specifications for the project. This process has now been completed, and the revised design will be submitted for planning permission at the end of January. The building is a listed structure, and the application will also be for a change of use from residential/commercial to clinical/medical. The earliest that work can commence on site is May 2003.

Cabra Health Centre

Funding of €635,000 was made available in the 2001 budget for the refurbishment of Cabra Health Centre along with €254,000 to fund the relocation of services.

Our architects drew up a plan for the Health Centre to incorporate a number of features specified following consultations with local community representatives and staff in May 2002 with a cost estimate of €1.32m. In order to progress matters, planning permission was applied for while alternative funding was sought.

The Dept. of Social and Family Affairs have committed to provide additional funding, however, a shortfall of €400,000 still exists.

Planning permission has been received in respect of these plans.

A decision from the Dept. of Health and Children has been promised within the next week as to whether the additional funding is forthcoming to enable our Board proceed with this option. A scaled down design plan has been prepared which will allow a limited refurbishment within the cost parameters of the €635,000. As planning permission has been obtained for the original option, our architect would be in a position to go to tender immediately upon approval being obtained for the additional funding. This would permit a start on site in late February, with a five to six month construction programme, allowing for completion in August 2003. If the alternative design is adopted, a further planning application will be required.

Orthodontic Unit Ashtown Gate

The Eastern Regional Health Authority approved funding of €864,000 to provide a Orthodontic unit for our Board's area in April 2002, pending the construction of a permanent unit planned for the James Connolly Memorial Hospital site. Our board has leased a premises at the above development on the Navan Road for the provision of a temporary Orthodontic Unit to serve the NAHB region. Planning permission has been obtained for change of use of the premises and tenders are due to be issued today, Friday January 24th, for the works to adapt the premises for use as an orthodontic facility. It is expected that the contract will be awarded during the first week in February, and that works will commence on site on February 10th and be completed by the end of April 2003. The estimated cost of fit-out works will be €300,000, with additional costs of approximately €500,000 arising in respect of equipment.

M Windle
Chief Executive

24th January, 2003.

Northern Area Health Board

**Northern Area Health Board, Review of Services, 2002
Report No 1/2003**

To be circulated at meeting

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Report No 2/2003

Summary of Report of the Forum on Fluoridation

The Forum on Fluoridation was set up by the Minister for Health and Children in May 2000. The terms of reference of the Forum were to;

Review the fluoridation of public water supplies and the programme of research being undertaken on behalf of the health boards in the area.

To report and make recommendations to the Minister for Health and Children.

The Forum comprised a panel of 18 people representing relevant Government Departments, Regional Health Authorities, university faculties engaged in relevant research areas, consumer bodies, environmental interests, and professional dental and medical bodies. In addition its members included specialists engaged in the measurement and reporting of fluoride levels in drinking water, authorities on ethical, legal and sociological matters. During a fourteen month period, the Forum carried out a review of fluoridation in Ireland – the first major review since the introduction of water fluoridation in 1964. The Forum sought input from national and international experts on fluoridation, holding views opposed to and in favour of water fluoridation. Submissions were received from the general public, from non-governmental, professional and public bodies and national and overseas experts in many fields. One of the main objectives of the Forum was to examine scientific evidence for and against water fluoridation. Any claims about the benefits or dangers of fluoridation had to be substantiated by recognised scientific studies and not by anecdotal evidence or individual experiences.

The Forum sought to provide answers to three questions:

Has water fluoridation improved the oral health of the Irish population?

Is there scientific evidence that water fluoridation at a level of 1 part per million (mg/l) endangers human health?

What recommendations should the Forum make to the Minister for Health and Children?

The Forum published its report in September 2002. The Forum concluded that water fluoridation has been effective in improving the dental health of the Irish population and that it does not harm human health. The overall conclusions were that:

Water fluoridation has been very effective in improving the oral health of the Irish population, especially children, but also of adults and the elderly.

The best available and most reliable scientific evidence indicates that at the maximum permitted level of fluoride in drinking water at 1 part per million, human health is not adversely affected.

Dental fluorosis (a form of discolouration of the tooth enamel) is a well recognised condition and an indicator of overall fluoride absorption, whether from natural sources, fluoridated water or the inappropriate use of fluoridated toothpaste at a young age. There is evidence that the prevalence of dental fluorosis is increasing in Ireland.

The Forum made a number of recommendations on water fluoridation which are intended to assist health care providers, public health officials, policy makers and the public in achieving maximum protection against dental decay while minimising the occurrence of dental fluorosis:

The fluoridation of piped public water should continue as a public health measure. The optimal level of fluoride in drinking water should be reduced to between 0.6 and 0.8 parts per million.

There should be ongoing quality assurance of all aspects of water fluoridation. An expert body should be established to implement the recommendations of the Forum and to advise the Minister on an on-going basis.

Research related to fluoride should continue.

A number of the Forum's recommendations are for the parents of young children and are concerned with the use of toothpaste and the preparation of infant feeds:

Fluoride toothpaste should continue to be used in both fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas.

Fluoride tooth paste is not advised for children under 2 years of age.

Between the ages of 2 and 7 years toothbrushing should be supervised to ensure that only a pea-sized amount of paste is used and swallowing of the paste is avoided.

Infant formula should continue to be reconstituted with boiled tap water in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Northern Area Health Board

The quality aspects of fluoride delivery in the NAHB region are monitored at present by the Fluoride Monitoring Committee which meets on a quarterly basis. Monthly distillation tests are carried out using the most up to date equipment. Test results are checked to ensure that fluoride levels are within statutory limits. The results are collated and are submitted to the Dept of Health and Children on a quarterly basis as Performance Indicator PC6.

The Forum also recommended that the optimal level of fluoride in drinking water should be reduced from the current level of between 0.8 and 1.0 parts per million to between 0.6 and 0.8 parts per million. The instruction to Health Boards to bring about this change in Fluoride levels will not be issued until statutory regulations have been introduced to facilitate this.

An expert body will be established to implement the recommendations of the Forum and advise the Minister on an on-going basis. It is anticipated that this expert body will make a number of recommendations in the areas of quality assurance, fluoride monitoring and reporting of fluoride levels under Performance Indicator PC6.

Pending the implementation of these recommendations, fluoride levels in drinking water will continue to be maintained within existing statutory limits and existing monitoring techniques will continue as heretofore.

While the reservoirs supplying the Northern Board are outside the Board's geographic area, there may be some cost implications in the future change of fluoride levels. Information on this is not currently available.

The recommendations in relation to the use of toothpaste and the preparation of infant feeds are of relevance to the parents of young children. The dental service, in collaboration with the Health Promotion Department is currently working to ensure that these recommendations are made known to the Board's health professionals, particularly those dealing with young children and their parents, and to parents themselves. Information leaflets and posters are being designed for distribution.

M WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

30th January, 2003

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CONTINUING CARE STANDING COMMITTEE

Held in Room G3, Northern Area Health Board Headquarters, Swords

On Friday 20th December 2002, at 11.30 pm

SUMMARY REPORT

1. REPORT ON EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENT SERVICE, HOMELESS PERSONS UNIT

The Committee recommended to the Board that the Board should write to the Minister for the Environment & Local Government setting out the pressures that homelessness puts on the health service and the need for a focussed response in all local authorities in the country

The Committee noted the report

2. PROGRESS REPORT – SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM- REPORT 51/2002

The Committee noted the report

3. REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE, CATCHMENT AREA 8 – ST. ITA'S HOSPITAL – REPORT 53/2002

It was agreed to defer consideration of the report to the January meeting

Cllr. Christy Burke
Chairman

20th December 2002.

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NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

ACUTE HOSPITALS AND PRIMARY CARE STANDING COMMITTEE

There was no meeting held in December 2002