

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Report No. 28/2000

Board Meeting – October 2000

Re: Service Development – Provider Plan 2001

Health Care in Context

The year 2000 marks the turn of a new century heralding many opportunities and challenges. At a national level we are experiencing unprecedented growth across many areas including industry, commerce, education, technology and the demands of a global economy. We have a growing population with a changing shift in demographics to encompass more young people and a growing elderly population. This is placing increasing demands on our health and social services.

The demand is for a more health focussed rather than disease focussed approach with an emphasis on health promotion and a health maintenance model. The challenge is of achieving a higher quality of care at an affordable cost.

Reform of Eastern Region Health Services

The Health (Eastern Regional Health Authority) Act 1999 aims “to achieve real improvements in the health and personal social services ... in the Eastern region... in a more accurate and accountable way ... to achieve value for money” (Minister for Health 1998).

The South Western Area Health Board was established on March 1st 2000. It is the largest of the three Area Health Boards in the Eastern Region and the second largest Health Board nationally. It has a rapidly growing population across urban and rural areas with particular economic and psychosocial difficulties.

Provider Plan 2001 – striving towards Equity, Quality, Accountability, Partnership

The 2001 Provider Plan is one of the first steps as part of a five year service development plan for the Health and Social Services of the South Western Area Health Board.

The five principles underpinning the service are:

- Equity
 - Quality
 - Accessibility
 - Appropriateness
 - Accountability
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- HEALTH AND SOCIAL GAIN

The primary aim is to orientate services towards the patient/client. The emphasis is on continuous service improvement and appropriate service expansions. The Planning and Development process will strongly foster a spirit of partnership across Voluntary, Statutory and Community Services.

- The Provider Plan is a clear and succinct statement of priority objectives reflecting overall policies and service strategies adopted by the Board. It is consistent with objectives of the Health Strategy, other National Strategies and the National Development Plan.
- It indicates the developments for 2000, the capacity to deliver on these within the Base Budget and innovative ways within the existing service to use the budget.
- Difficulties and gaps within the service are identified and ways to address these are outlined for 2001.
- Further developments to enhance existing services are specified for the coming year.
- Arrangements for financial management are detailed.
- Arrangements for management and monitoring of the plan on an on-going basis are outlined. This includes arrangements for planning, co-ordinating and monitoring services in co-operation with the voluntary services.
- Performance measures and performance indicators used by the Board are indicated.
- Arrangements for management and monitoring of the plan on an on-going basis are outlined.
- Arrangements for value-for-money and the methodology to measure the impact of services and to improve customer service are indicated.

The whole thrust of the Provider Plan 2001 is towards a comprehensive and inclusive process reflecting a local service/area/client and community focus.

It is intended that a joint standing committee meeting will be organised in October to discuss further the Provider Plan process with Board Members.

Pat Donnelly
Chief Executive

3rd October 2000