

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2024 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE OFFICES, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS, CO. MEATH
& VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members Present (*in person*)

Cllr. Gillian Toole

Members Present (*online*)

Cllr. Daryl Barron

Cllr. Donna Cooney

Cllr. Michael Gallagher

Cllr. Tom Kitt

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Cllr. Tom Behan

Cllr. Kieran Dennison

Cllr. Deirdre Heney

Cllr. Howard Mahony

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Mary Callaghan

Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick

Cllr. Sean Kelly

Cllr. Brigid Manton

Cllr. Trevor Smith

Apologies

Cllr. Christy Burke

Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Cllr. Adrian Henchy

Cllr. Conor Keelan

Not in attendance

Cllr. Séamus Coyle

Cllr. Patricia Roe

Cllr. Michelle Hall

Cllr. Ray McAdam

HSE Representatives Present (*in person*)

Mr. Liam McHale, Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, CHO Dublin North City & County

Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office – HSE DNE

HSE Representatives Present (*online*)

Ms. Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO Dublin North City & County

Mr. Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

Ms. Mary O'Hare, Acting Head of Health & Wellbeing, Midlands Louth Meath CHO

Dr. Cliona Murphy, Clinical Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme

Mr. Cormac McAdam, Communications Officer, National Women and Infants Health Programme

Mr. Pascal Keeve, Communications Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

Cllr. Gillian Toole chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 25th September, 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25th September, 2023 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Emer Tóibín and seconded by Cllr. Tom Behan.

Cllr. Gillian Toole requested an update on respite services for County Meath.

2. Health Service Executive Updates

Mr. Liam McHale, Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, CHO Dublin North City and County, gave a report to the meeting which dealt with the following:

- HSE rolls out measles MMR vaccine catch up programme;
- Work commences on new Ballybay Primary Care Centre;
- HSE renal services reshaping the lives of patients with Chronic Kidney Disease;
- Every Move Counts - New guidelines aim to encourage people of Ireland to sit less and get more active;
- Brain Awareness Week: It's never too late (or early) to start looking after your brain;
- Campaign aims to increase knowledge of sepsis symptoms;
- Unlock a healthier, happier you by joining Social Prescribing.

The following outlines comments and queries raised by members and responses from HSE representatives:

Concerns in relation to training of GPs and health professionals around dementia – incidence of medical professional conversing with Alzheimer's patient who was clearly unable to engage

The HSE provide training and resources for healthcare staff who care for people with dementia. The resources are underpinned by a person-centred model and in the context of the Assisted Decision Making Act. An update in relation to training for medical staff specifically will be provided.

Request for advice in situation where an elderly gentleman with Alzheimer's may be experiencing abuse in the home

Allegations of potential abuse should be taken very seriously. The national safeguarding policy outlines principles to safeguard vulnerable adults from abuse. Each CHO has a safeguarding team who deal with these issues very comprehensively. Anybody with concerns should make a referral to their relevant safeguarding team.

Future presentation on Safeguarding

It was agreed that a future presentation on Safeguarding would be organised.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. **Presentation on Menopause**

Dr. Cliona Murphy, Clinical Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme, gave a presentation to members on Menopause.

The following outlines comments and queries raised by members and responses from Dr. Murphy.

Clarification on the acronyms SIMF and OEST

SIMF refers to the Serious Incident Management Forum for maternity services. This is where serious incidents are reviewed to determine whether a review is required.

OEST is the Obstetric Event Support Team which is an initiative by the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) as part of its quality and safety agenda.

Further information on soy as a dietary supplement

Soybeans contain hormone-like substances called phytoestrogens. There is some scientific research to show that they are helpful in the management of menopause symptoms.

Advice on testing for bone density

Menopause is a good time for women to link in with their GP for a check-up in general. Women who do not drink milk, are celiac or do not participate in regular exercise are at a higher risk of osteoporosis. There is also an increased cardiac risk in a postmenopausal woman. A check in at this time in a woman's life may be beneficial, even if relatively asymptomatic.

4. **Motions**

There was no business under this item.

5. **Questions**

There was no business under this item.

6. **Chairperson's Correspondence**

Cllr. Gillian Toole, Vice-Chairperson, extended good wishes to Cllr. Cllr. Séamus Coyle following his recent accident and wished him a speedy recovery.

7. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 27th May, 2024.

During the course of the meeting, the following issues were also raised:

- Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey referred to changes taking place in primary care and CDNTs in terms of autism assessments and the court ruling on the validity of assessments. Cllr. Tormey requested a presentation on autism.

It was agreed that a presentation would be arranged.

- Cllr. Howard Mahony expressed disappointment on a recent response he received in relation to parking and passes for agency nurses at Connolly Hospital.

It was agreed that this matter would be examined and a more comprehensive response provided.

- Cllr. Brigid Manton raised a serious issue involving rates of neuroblastoma cancer in children within a specific radius in Swords. Cllr. Manton sought advice on how to proceed in getting this matter investigated.

Cllr. Gillian Toole advised that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the competent authority and also recommended to flag with the Department of Health (DOH).

Cllr. Donna Cooney expressed shock at the numbers and stated that Queens University Belfast undertook an epidemiology study on clusters of cancers in the North Inner City. Cllr. Cooney recommended that the matter warrants an impartial study in the first instance prior to the investigation of possible causes by the EPA.

It was agreed that further information would be conveyed directly to Councillor Manton.

- Cllr. Tom Behan sought an update on the former Primary Care Centre in Laytown stating that he understands the building is to be sold. He asked that if a sale is to take place the council could have first refusal.

It was agreed that an update would be provided to Cllr. Behan.

- Cllr. Emer Tóibín referred to the planning application refusal for a primary care centre in Navan and requested an update on the current position and whether any other planning application has been made for a centre elsewhere in the town.

It was agreed that an update would be provided to Cllr. Tóibín.

- Cllr. Tóibín also made a request for a future presentation on dental screening services in Primary Schools.

It was agreed that a presentation would be provided.

Signed:

Chairperson