

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT 2:00PM

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

Members Present (*in person*)

Cllr. Adrian Henchy

Cllr. Gillian Toole

Members Present (*online*)

Cllr. Tom Behan

Cllr. Kieran Dennison

Cllr. Howard Mahony

Cllr. Ray McAdam

Cllr. Christy Burke

Cllr. Deirdre Heney

Cllr. Brigid Manton

Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Cllr. Donna Cooney

Cllr. Sean Kelly

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Trevor Smith

Apologies

Cllr. Emer Tóibín

Not in attendance

Cllr. Daryl Barron

Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick

Cllr. Conor Keelan

Cllr. Patricia Roe

Cllr. Mary Callaghan

Cllr. Michael Gallagher

Cllr. Tom Kitt

Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Séamus Coyle

Cllr. Michelle Hall

Cllr. Brian McKenna

HSE Representatives Present (*in person*)

Mr. Brian O'Connell, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates, Dublin North East

Selina Kavanagh, Capital & Estates Manager, North East – Community Services

Damien Keane, Capital & Estates Manager, Dublin North – Community Services

John Reilly, Capital & Estates Manager, Dublin North – Acute Hospitals

Ms. Martina O'Byrne, Head of HR, Midlands Louth Meath CHO

Mr. Gearóid Rennicks, Communications & Press Officer, Ireland East Hospital Group

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

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 CHO 1

Ms. Michelle Forde, Head of Primary Care, CHO Dublin North City & County

Cllr. Adrian Henchy chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 24th July, 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 24th July, 2023 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Kiernan Dennison and seconded by Cllr. Christy Burke.

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:

- Register online for free GP care for children aged six and seven.
- HSE encourages people to ask “Could it be Sepsis?” to mark World Sepsis Day.
- HSE-funded Fertility Treatment Services.
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day.
- HSE rolls out expansion of the Laura Brennan HPV Catch-up Vaccination Programme.
- Monaghan Primary Care Centres.
- New COPD Support Group host open day in Monaghan.
- HSE launches New Season of ‘Talking Health and Wellbeing’ Podcast.
- HSE back at Electric Picnic 2023 to provide harm reduction services.

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

Request for the HSE ‘Talking Health and Wellbeing’ Podcast to be shared with members so they could repost it on social media.

It was agreed that the RHO would draft a tweet so that members could post it on social media along with the link to the podcast.

Members welcomed the information on World Sepsis Day and requested if there was an opportunity for this to be put out as a radio advertisement to help raise awareness.

There is a media plan in place for a campaign on sepsis awareness and a radio advert would be included as part of this.

Update requested on the Primary Care Centre for the East Wall and North Wall area and asked if this had been re-advertised for expressions of interest?

This is currently under review as part of the overall process. Once this starts to roll-out, future adverts will be advertised under the operational lease mechanism. Management advised that this was the best mechanism for the East Wall site and that there were no third party providers to date.

Concerns raised in relation to an incident where a 12 year old boy was left waiting three hours on football field in Co. Monaghan for an Ambulance to arrive. Report requested on why people in the North East are having to wait a number of hours for ambulances to reach the North Monaghan and South Monaghan/Cavan areas.

A request for full details to be provided by the Councillor was requested and it was agreed to revert with a response from the National Ambulance Services in relation to these matters.

Update requested on the GP IMO negotiated supports which are included in the extension of GP Visit Card and Free GP care for children aged six and seven. How is the Nurse prescribing and minor ailments to Community Pharmacy progressing in tandem?

It was agreed to revert with further information on this matter.

Members welcomed the HSE Funded Fertility Treatment services as excellent. It was noted that there were 150 referrals made and was there any analysis on this to establish why so many were referred?

It was agreed to revert with further information on this matter.

Is there a Primary Care Centre site earmarked for Ratoath in Co. Meath? Is there an opportunity for a community garden at a nearby site which has been idle for 20 years but recently had secure fencing installed? This would be a temporary solution to help promote a healthy Ireland.

This site is currently under review as to whether it will be a self- build primary care centre and it is expected to start the process next year.

Report requested on the testing findings from the teams who provided harm reduction services at Electric Picnic 2023.

It was agreed that a report would be requested on the different drugs which were detected.

The report was noted by the Forum.

3. Presentation on Estates Capital Projects

Mr. Brian O'Connell, HSE Capital & Estates Lead Manager, Dublin North East, Selina Kavanagh, HSE Capital & Estates Manager, North East – Community Services, Damien Keane, HSE Capital & Estates Manager, Dublin North – Community Services North Dublin and John Reilly, HSE Capital & Estates Manager, Dublin North – Acutes, gave a presentation to members on Capital Projects in Dublin North East.

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

Members welcomed all the work that has gone in the Swords Primary Care Centre. Given the size of the population in Swords, is it envisaged that there would be another Primary Care Centre developed in the area?

The Primary Care Centre in Swords is 87,000 square feet and is one of the biggest in the country. It is double the size of the next biggest in the region. There are no plans to build any more in the Swords area.

Will the Adult Day Services provided at 57 Rathfeale Road be adult mental health services or will there be other services available there?

This location will provide Disability Adult Day Services within the catchment area.

Will the Hostel at 63 Rathfeale Road provide mental health services to people from the community and will it include homeless services.

This location will be a mental health high support Hostel. This will replace existing premises that are currently located in the Swords area and are relocating to this purpose built unit.

Is there going to be a dedicated Children's Mental Health facility anywhere in Swords, given that both the new Children's Hospital and the Primary Care Centre at Blanchardstown are very difficult to access for parents if they don't have a car?

Extensive refurbishments have been done to the Plaza Shopping Centre on Main Street, Swords where the main CAMHS services are located. A retro fit of existing premises at an approx. cost of €1.8m which extended this facility by two additional floors. This provided significant space for the CAMHS unit. There are also extensive children's services included in the Primary Care Centre as well. Non CAMHS services in Swords Plaza will move up to the new Primary Care Centre to develop new Mental health services and will allow the CAMHS team to expand services in the Swords Plaza centre.

Will Beaumont Hospital still be the main centre for head injuries?

Beaumont Hospital is the specialist on neuro services as part of trauma package but the Mater Hospital won the main trauma bid for the Dublin area. It was agreed to link with the Hospital services in relation to this issue and revert to members with an update.

What is the position in relation to the Green spaces at St. Anne's which is very important for people's wellbeing.

This overall complex is of historical importance and is protected. There is a need to deal with the development of these three buildings sensitively and keep as much green area as possible.

Will all the upgrades include natural light in these buildings?

All rooms will have natural light where appropriate. All rooms will have natural light and where possible all Consulting rooms will have natural light. Won't have natural light in theatres but where possible it is endeavoured to maximise as much natural light as possible in other locations.

How is the temperature regulated in HSE buildings? Are modern regulators used to allow for proper control of temperature in Hospitals? What ventilation is installed?

There is a strategy in place via the Sustainability Office to naturally ventilate buildings and we remodel them extensively to try and achieve this. We have more room controls, especially in the Older Persons Unit, within certain parameters to have this level of control. While we are insulating buildings to a greater degree we are also trying to make sure we're not creating any difficulties for user comfort levels.

Further details requested on services located in Griffith Avenue.

Mental Health Community Day services will be located in Griffith Avenue. This will be done in two phases. Adult Community Mental Health teams services and Day Hospital services.

Clarification was sought on development levies for St. Francis Hospice?

St. Francis Hospice is part funded by the HSE. Extensive fundraising is done by them as they are a Charity and also the Developer of the site. As a result the majority of the funding will come from them. Management advised that the levies should be waived and they appreciate input from Councillors on this issue with their respective Councils.

Clarification sought on the project at Bayside Shopping Centre being referred to as the Clontarf Coastal area.

Clontarf Coastal Network is the name of the geographical area of that region.

Request for update on plans for developments at Vernon Avenue?

Vernon Avenue has been looked at a number of times but there is not much scope to extend. It is on the overall list for Primary Care Centres going forward in the Clontarf wider area. Opportunities are problematic to achieve in this area either through HSE build or via Operational Lease but it is still on the agenda.

Are there any plans to reconfigure the site at Oscar Traynor Road?

This site recently delivered the Primary Care Centre in Coolock. There are no plans to develop further as this was delivered in 2018 via Public Private Partnership contract and the HSE will not regain ownership for 25 years. Only one side of site can be developed due to where main water line runs through middle of site.

What are the future plans for Henrietta Place?

The HSE have purchased three buildings at this stage. They were originally purchased through Covid funding with potential for Covid services which did not materialise but also for Social Inclusion services. There is a rental arrangement in place for two of the buildings. Service has been extended into education facility. There are plans to redevelop the entire campus, largely around social inclusion and mental health services. Complex clients attend these services and there are plans to enhance to make more accessible for clients.

Update on the Dublin City Council Planning Department request for additional information on Grangegorman Villas.

Relatively straight forward information that has been requested relating to engineering matters. It is expected to get this information through in the next few weeks.

What is the timeframe for works to begin at Grangegorman Villas and for services to open? What is the cost for this project?

It is expected to have planning approved this year, a detailed design and construction tender in 2024 and to start on site in 2025. The overall building costings are between €50 and €60m. This will include relocation of 10 beds from the Mental Health Unit at Elizabeth's Court.

When are works due to commence at Adelphi House?

This is due to go out to tender this year. There were legitimate reasons for delays in going out to tender. Expected to start on site in Q1 2024. There is no issue with funding. Any issues have been dealt with and it is not envisaged that there will be any difficulties with getting this to site.

Request for HSE to look at potential of direct build project Primary Care Centre for East Wall and North Wall, similar to what was done in Summerhill.

Various options have been explored to purchase a site for a Primary Care Centre in East Wall, such as doing through our own delivery and discussions with Dublin City Council. Every avenue available to us has been examined. There are no really big sites in the area that would meet the criteria, as it is a low density area so it is difficult to acquire a site. This is also the problem for an Operational Lease provider. Some sites on the periphery of the area have also been looked at but they are not in the heart of the residential community but all available options are being explored.

Clarification sought on Primary Care Centres located in Ballymun and Nexus, Ballycoolin and the difference in services between both Centres.

The Primary Care Centre in Ballymun was an administrative hub as well as a Primary Care Centre. This was a large quantum of space which was tied up in administrative space and as this is now a Regional administrative function, it has been relocated to Nexus site to free up space. This will allow for an increase in clinical space in Ballymun

for the Primary Care and ECC teams to co-locate. There is no direct connection for day to day operations between both sites.

Services are mapped due to population size and dependent on how many Primary Care Teams there are or whether there is a need for ancillary/network services. There may be five Primary Care Centres within a network. New network services might be in one centre or dotted around in each of the centres. They might have a network service in each of the five or they may be gathered in one. There is a strong degree of standardisation with services but also a degree of flexibility on how to best delivery services, as not same requirements for all.

What Air Ambulance supports are available at the various Hospitals?

There is potential for the Mater Hospital to include an Air Ambulance. It would be located on top of the Rock Wing which has allowed provision for this. It is dependent on the size of the Helicopter as it can be a complex issue in an acute hospital setting in built up area. The outline design has been done for this and the capital submission is due early next year.

Update requested in relation to vacant site in Ratoath.

It was agreed to revert with further information but it was advised that Ratoath is on the list for Primary Care Centres going forward despite close proximity to Ashbourne and Dunshaughlin as there is a density need for each to have a Primary Care Centre.

What services will be provided at the house purchased in Drumbaragh Kells?

This house has been purchased for existing clients from another house in Kells to move across to this new site. It is replacement services rather than respite or an enhancement.

Further information was requested in relation to Stewarts' facility in Kilcloon. What liaison has happened with the Stewarts' Foundation Board?

It was agreed to revert with further information on this matter.

Request for comment on the cost of acquisition of greenfield sites, vacant sites or derelict buildings.

Management commended property staff who have responsibility for this area on their work and efforts to ensure to drive the most competitive prices for the HSE and the taxpayer. It is a challenging market but staff strive their utmost to get best possible price. As a public sector body there are factors which can lead to the loss of some acquisitions but it is usually the timeframe to close rather than the price that causes this. Value for money and costs being within the valuations are the main priorities.

Members welcomed the two 10 bed Mental Health Hostels in Fingal and requested an update on whether there may be plans for similar or sharing of services in Meath and Louth?

The facilities in Fingal are for existing service users. A programme of capital submissions has been done for existing not fit for purpose locations for replacement facilities rather than enhancement. No current plans for Meath on the Capital Plan but will take back to service.

Will the Cystic Fibrosis Unit in Beaumont Hospital be accessible for residents of the North East who have a CF diagnosis?

It was agreed to revert with further information on this matter.

Did the RCSI contribute to the funding for works at Connolly Hospital?

The RCSI pays a premium contribution towards works such as the one at Connolly Hospital. The HSE's partnership with the RCSI is to ensure the next generation of Doctors. It is a very advantageous way to work together co-located to teach Doctors. The RCSI is developing on behalf of HSE which will also include an additional floor. A Laboratory is also being developed which will be a much more cost effective way than developing on a stand-alone site.

Update requested on a Primary Care Centre and the difficulties with accessing GP services in the Donabte?

This Operational Lease programme is in review at the moment. It has been looked at and there was interest but more from the GP side. Management will engage with a view to seeing how to encourage new GPs to this area. Will engage with Fingal County Council regarding future zoning of lands.

Members welcomed the proposed restoration of Ardeen House, Balcarrick Beach, Donabate and requested further information on what services were going into this facility and when was it due to open?

Ardeen House will facilitate the de-congregation to a community setting of six people from St. Michael's House in Baldoyle. It is also intended to submit a planning application in the new year with a view to getting onsite at end of 2024/early 2025 and services delivered in 2026. Management agreed to provide more information to members as it becomes available.

What are medium to long-term plans for the regeneration of St. Ita's Hospital? The National Forensic Hospital has gone in on the brown field site and a couple of large red brick buildings remain.

Management advised that they are working very hard with a number of other bodies to see what solutions are available for the development of St. Ita's Hospital. Monies have been spent on the building, including improvements to Tayleur House, the Laundry Department through Covid and also other areas when a need was identified. It is in interdepartmental discussion at the moment.

Update requested on accommodation for staff of the National Forensic Hospital and the possibility of in-house accommodation option?

Management acknowledged that issue of accommodation for staff and advised that one of the successful buyers of the house on Portrane Avenue was an employee of the National Forensic Hospital. The accommodation issue has been explored overall but lack of housing for staff is not a new issue. It is a topical issue across all urban areas and is a recruitment barrier.

Are the houses on Portrane Avenue still owned by HSE?

The work on the houses on Portrane Avenue is a great collaboration with Fingal County Council. These houses will transfer over to Fingal County Council along with the walkways and future cycle-ways on the coastal line which have also been agreed to transfer.

Are there plans for further healthcare services in the Swords Primary Care Centre campus?

The Swords Primary Care Centre building is 87,000 square foot. The overall planning permission granted was for 300,000 square feet. The plans at the moment are for just the Primary Care Centre.

In relation to Alzheimer’s Day Care services are there any plans to incorporate the current Alzheimer’s Café initiative which have opened in some GAA Clubs around the region?

Management agreed that this is a really good initiative and advised that they will take this suggestion away as feedback from the meeting and for future consideration.

4. Motions

That the HSE report on how someone under 18 can receive an assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) through the public health/disability services, who resides within the Howth Malahide Local Electoral Area. Please specify within the report how those with mild, moderate or less complex difficulties can access assessment. Please specify within the report the wait times and numbers awaiting the services who provide ASD assessments publicly.”

Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey

Cllr. Tormey was not in attendance so the Motion was not moved.

5. Questions

The responses to the Questions were noted.

6. Chairperson’s Correspondence

Management and members expressed deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Cllr. Damien O’Reilly’s family and friends on his sudden passing. Cllr. Adrian Henchy, Chairperson commented that Cllr. O’Reilly was an outstanding public representative for County Meath and his local community and he was highly respected. A moments silence was observed as a mark of respect.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East will take place on Monday, 23rd October, 2023.

Signed:

_____ **Chairperson**