



BOARD MEETING - MONDAY 26TH APRIL, 2004

ITEM 5 - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

5.1. Additional Allocations:

I wish to inform you of the following additional allocations from the Department of Health and Children:-

- €0.350m towards the Waiting List Initiative
- €0.500m bed capacity funding to commission ten day beds at Monaghan General Hospital
- €0.800m bed capacity funding to commission four ICU/HDU beds at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
- €0.050m for 2004 towards the implementation of the Cardiovascular Health Strategy and in particular a regional Chest Pain Clinic in Our Lady's Hospital, Navan. The full year allocation beginning in 2005, will be €150,000 on an on-going basis.

Capital Funding

- €2.000m towards the estimated Total Project Cost of the upgrade of the Male Medical Ward at Monaghan General Hospital.
- €0.750m to upgrade the Treatment Room Facility at Monaghan General Hospital.

5.2. Health (Amendment) Bill, 2004

As members are aware, the Department of Health and Children published the Health (Amendment) Bill, 2004, on the 16th April. The provisions of the Bill include, inter alia, the termination of tenure of all Board Members and the removal of the distinction between reserved and executive functions as set out in the Health (Amendment) Act (No. 3), 1996. I understand that the Department was to contact all members under separate cover with a copy of the Bill. I have not been informed yet as to when the Bill comes into effect.

5.3. Outline Development Control Plan/Site Feasibility Study

I have today received approval from the Department of Health and Children to the appointment of Design Teams to prepare Outline Development Control Plans for Louth County Hospital, Dundalk, Cavan General Hospital and Our Lady's Hospital, Navan. Approval has also been received for the appointment of Design Teams to prepare site feasibility studies for Monaghan General Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. Copies of letters are attached for your information.

5.4. Capital Developments - Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

The Symptomatic Breast Care and Palliative Care Unit at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, was completed on the 29th March, 2004. The Palliative Care

Unit is in operation. The equipping of the Symptomatic Breast Care Unit is ongoing and it is hoped to commence service there in the near future.

The Intensive Care/Coronary Care Unit was completed on the 23rd April, 2004. The unit is currently being commissioned and it is intended to transfer patients into the unit on the 1st June, 2004.

5.5. Directive in relation to Cavan/Monaghan Hospital

I have issued a directive to all Consultants in the Cavan/Monaghan Hospital Group regarding the development of joint departments within the Hospital Group. A copy of the statement outlining the directives is attached at Appendix I.

5.6. Health Inequalities Fund

As outlined in the Service Plan adopted by the Board, a service development fund of €1.5m was provided from within the Board's allocation. The fund will focus on projects which will reduce health inequalities and will have two streams - one focusing on services for older people and the other on services for children and families. I am attaching at Appendix II details of the funds being allocated for this year.

5.7. Health Boards Executive (HeBE) Annual Report 2003

The Health Boards Executive Annual Report for 2003 describes the wide range of collaborative programmes and projects undertaken by health boards and non - statutory services providers during 2003. Some fifty projects - varying in size and complexity - spanning a range of disciplines and services were undertaken in 2003. Many projects were concluded during the year and some projects, which will be delivered over a longer timescale, are underway. The Annual Report describes the deliverables for each project during the year and indicates the stage that each project is at in the project lifecycle by the end of 2003. The restructuring and reform programme announced during the year will have a significant impact on the future role of the organisation.

A copy of the report is available on request from the CEO's Office.

5.8. Motions submitted by Mr. John Farrelly, February Board Meeting

Following the February Board meeting I wrote to the Minister for Health and Children in relation to motions submitted by Mr. John Farrelly regarding eligibility for Medical Cards. I requested that the Minister carry out a complete review of the medical card service system, including an examination of income threshold guidelines with a view to increasing them. I have received an acknowledgment from the Minister informing me that the issue is receiving attention. I will keep members updated.

5.9. Donations

I am attaching at Appendix III to this report a list of donations received since the last meeting.

Paul Robinson
Chief Executive Officer
26th April, 2004

APPENDIX 1

PRESS RELEASE

From: North Eastern Health Board
Re: Cavan/Monaghan Hospital Group

22-Apr-04: Mr. Paul Robinson, CEO of the North Eastern Health Board to-day issued directives to each Consultant in the Cavan/Monaghan hospital group in relation to the development of joint departments across the Cavan/Monaghan Hospital group.

The CEO stated in a letter to the Consultants ‘that the development of joint departments is an essential component in achieving progress. In Cavan/Monaghan this has been slow and has hindered progress. Despite numerous attempts at consultation through meetings and correspondence it has not been possible to progress the potential of the group or to implement my proposals of the 18th September 2002 or the Bonner Report’

Mr. Robinson stated that staff consultation will be central to the success of this task and staff representatives of all grades will be an integral part of the process from the outset. A Staff forum on both sites will be immediately re-established.

The directives are as follows:

1. That a Steering group for the Cavan/Monaghan Hospital Group be established immediately. Membership will include Clinicians and Management from both hospital sites. Mr Tadhg O Brien Assistant CEO will chair the steering group. (The full membership of the Steering Group is attached.)
2. That Joint departments of the Cavan/Monaghan Hospital Group be formed for all specialties across both sites and that each joint department devises appropriate protocols relating to service delivery in the context of the responsibilities outlined below. These protocols to be submitted to the Steering Group for consideration.
3. The Steering Group to determine, in conjunction with Board and Hospital management, the level of service to be provided at each site, taking into account available resources, quality of care and safe practices (including risk management) on the following basis:
 - i. Medical services will be provided on both sites 24 hours a day 7 days a week on a protocol driven basis
 - ii. Major elective and emergency surgical services for the Hospital Group will be provided at Cavan or at other hospitals as appropriate. A protocol-driven day surgery service will be provided at Monaghan. This proposal is in line with the

recommendation of the Royal College of Surgeons which was considered and adopted by the Independent Review Group on Surgical, Orthopaedic Trauma and A&E services in June 2002 and the Bonner Report having regard to the European Working Time Directive.

iii. Day services will be provided at both sites.

iv. Outpatient services will be provided at both sites

v. Treatment Room services at Monaghan will be provided under agreed protocols developed with the Consultant in Accident and Emergency Services based at Cavan.

vi. Appropriate diagnostic and support services will be provided at both sites

4. The Steering Group will address the following issues as a matter of priority:
 - The allocation of resources across both sites to provide the agreed level of service.
 - Engaging with relevant stakeholders inside and outside the hospital group
5. Devise an implementation plan to comply with the above directives – this plan to be completed by 31st May 2004.

Acute hospital services in the North Eastern Health Board area are delivered across five sites. Since 1993 the sites have been organised on a group basis namely Louth/Meath and Cavan/Monaghan. These groupings give the Board the potential to provide a more comprehensive service for the region and ensure that acute services continue to be provided on all five sites. Considerable progress has been made in service delivery on a group hospital basis across the Louth/Meath Group.

In relation to the provision of services in the Cavan/Monaghan hospital group a number of reports have been produced following the CEO's proposal of the 18th September 2002 outlining services to be provided on the Monaghan site. These include the St. Paul's Consultancy report, the Bonner Report and the statement of the Minister for Health and Children on the Bonner Report.

ENDS.

Membership of Steering Group

Mr. Tadhg O'Brien, Assistant CEO Acute Hospital Services, (Chairman)

Dr. Paul Smith, Consultant Physician, (Vice-Chairman)

Dr. Brendan MacMahon, Consultant Physician

Dr. Conor Lynch, Consultant Radiologist

Mr. Noel McMurray, Consultant Surgeon

Mr. Kevin Molloy, General Manager

Mr. Eddie Byrne, Director of Nursing

Ms. Josephine O'Hagan, Hospital Administrator

Ms. Isobel Steenson, Assistant Matron

Mr. Pat Grant, Chief Ambulance Officer

APPENDIX 11

Health Inequalities Fund 2004 - List of Approved Projects

Project Title	Project Sponsors	Project Budget
Rough Sleepers Project	Dundalk Simon Community/ Director Homeless Services, NEHB	€50,000
Dundalk Outcomers	Management Committee, Dundalk Outcomers	€75,000
A Child's Right to Immunisation.	Regional Vaccination Committee, North Eastern Health Board	€100,000
North East Community- Based Smoking Cessation Project: Quit & Win Campaign	Regional Health Promotion Officer, NEHB & Cardiovascular Strategy Health Promotion Facilitator, NEHB	€150,000
Mosney Crèche Project	Sr Goretti Butler, Daughters of Charity	€55,000
Marte Meo Communications Skills Training for Public Health Nurses 2004	Director of Public Health Nursing, Meath, NEHB	€15,236
Antenatal Education in the Community (Tailoring Education to the Needs of Pregnant Women in Co Meath)	Director of Public Health Nursing, Meath, NEHB	€25,000
Parenting Programmes	Family Support and Child Welfare Services Manager, Louth, NEHB/Early Intervention Team Co- ordinator, Louth, NEHB/ Voluntary Organisations which have a service level agreement with Child Care in Louth Community Care	€93,500
Speech and Language Therapy and Tullacmongan Resource Centre Integration Project	Speech and Language Therapy Services, Cavan/Monaghan Community Care Area/ Tullacmongan Resource Centre	€99,100
MS Society Project	MS Society of Ireland	€25,000

Meath Youth Advocacy and Family Support Programme	National Director, Youth Advocacy Programme	€120,991
Rape Crisis Services for Marginalised Groups	Co-ordinator, Dundalk Rape Crisis Centre	€48,118
Introduction of the Personal Health Record (PHR) for children into Louth Community Care Area	Regional Development Officer, Child and Adolescent Health/General Manager Louth Community Care Area /Director Public Health Nursing Louth/Senior Area Medical Officer Louth	€130,000
Older Men's Organisation of Ireland Ltd.	Co-ordinator, Services for the Elderly, Cavan/Monaghan	€25,000
Teenage Health Initiative Project	Child Care Manager, Cavan/Monaghan Community Care Area/ Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project, Foroige,	€81,700
"Cook It" Project	Board Of Management Holy Family Parish Community Crèche Limited.	€13,000
Provision of a Holistic Care Service for Young People in Dundalk and Surrounding Districts	Youth Initiative in Partnership (YIP) Project, Dundalk/ Senior Area Medical Officer, Louth/Director Homeless Services, NEHB	€130,800
Asylum Seekers and Refugees Trauma Counselling Service	Director of Counselling, NEHB/A/Principal Psychologist, Meath Community Care Area/ Centre for the Care of Survivors of Torture (CCST)	€98,000
Mind Yourself: Bringing Services Closer to Adolescents at Risk of Suicide	The East Cavan Project, NEHB/ The National Suicide Research Foundation, Cork.	€75,500

APPENDIX III

Cavan General Hospital

- €1,838.22 from the Belturbet Golf Classic Group, Belturbet, Co. Cavan
- €1,000 from Ms. Catherine O'Reilly, Killeshandra, Co. Cavan
- €1,000 from Mrs. Noreen O'Reilly, 27 Farnham Street, Cavan
- €680 from Denn G.F.C., Cavan
- €300 from Mrs. Irene Argue and the McKay Family, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
- €235.45 from Mrs. Ann Sheridan, Kilcogy, Co. Cavan
- €200 from Ms. Pauline O'Reilly, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan
- €60 from Arva Parish Church of Ireland, Co. Cavan
- €50 from Ms. Marie Crudden, Loughduff, Co. Cavan
- €50 from Mr. James Bell and Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Bailieboro, Co. Cavan
- €20 from Mrs. Phyllis Caffrey, Oldcastle
- €400 from Mrs. Anna Walsh, Oldcastle
- €1,797.50 from the family of the late Una Mc Govern, Coras Point, Cavan
- €1,205 from Colin Malone and Donna Ruthledge, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan
- €100 from Ms. Sylvia Moran, Crossdoney ICA, Cavan
- €500 from Una and P. J. Mc Cabe, Shercock
- €150 from Hester Mc Allister at the Department of Veterinary Surgery at UCD
- €50 from Mr. James Brides, Redhills, Cavan
- €1,000 from Mr. George Coulson, Clones
- €476 from the family of the late Ms. Elizabeth Logan, Farnham
- €300 from Mr. Frank Doyle at the Royal College of Surgeons
- €300 from Irene Argue & Robert Mc Kay, Carrick-on-Shannon
- €800 from Mr. Bernard Reilly, Ballyjamesduff

St. Davnet's Hospital, Monaghan

- €2,000 from a person who wishes to remain anonymous

Louth County Hospital

- €500 from Ms. Maura Murphy and Ms. Maeve Hickey, Annamarron, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

Drogheda Services for the Older Person

- €1,000 to the Cottage Hospital from Mrs. M. Owens, Mell, Drogheda