

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held in the Boardroom of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, on Wednesday, 29th October, 2014, at 4.30pm

Some items have been redacted in line with the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 & 2003

Present

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin (Chairperson), Mr. Frank Magee (Deputy Chairperson), Mr. Lorcan Birthistle (Chief Executive), Mr. David Devlin, Mr. John Healy, Ms. Geraldine Hickey, Ms. Mary Kelly, Ms. Rachel Kenna, Councillor Ruairi McGinley, Councillor Ray McHugh, Mr. Martin O'Rourke, Mr. Turlough O'Sullivan, Dr. Maurice Smyth, Dr. Sean Walsh & Mr. Paul White.

In Attendance

Ms. Suzanne Allen, Dr. Colm Costigan, Ms. Sharon Hayden, Mr. John Cotter, Ms. Pamela McDonald & Ms. Noreen Johnson.

Apologies

Sr. Anna Kennedy & Mr. John Byrne

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Rachel Kenna, newly appointed Director of Nursing, to her first meeting as a Director of the Board.

Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict

14.9.1 Draft Minutes

Draft minutes of meeting held on 30th July, 2014, having been circulated, **WERE APPROVED** and signed by the Chairperson.

Action: Approved

14.9.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Mr. L. Birthistle spoke to:

14.9.2.1 Redacted

14.9.2.2 Service Level Arrangement

Mr. Birthistle reported that as agreed with the Children's Hospital Group Chief Executive, the Service Level Arrangement is now being finalised at 2013 activity and 2014 funding status. On this basis, the Board directed the Chief Executive to sign the Service Level Arrangement 2014 on behalf of the Board.

Action: L. Birthistle

14.9.2.3 Redacted

14.9.2.4 Northern Ireland Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Surgery

The report of the International Review Group, commissioned by the respective Ministers, previously circulated, was discussed. It was noted that this report identifies serious deficits in medical staffing in Anaesthetics/PICU and Cardiology. Mr. Birthistle confirmed the direction from the Board to only accept the provision of the service to Northern Ireland patients if this is adequately and safely resourced. Discussions are taking place on an ongoing basis.

Action: L. Birthistle

Ms. S. Allen spoke to:

14.9.2.5 Consultant Contract Compliance

Ms. Allen drew the Board's attention to the positive quarterly report on Public/Private Compliance rates for the period April - June 2014, which showed a 91.91% compliance for Inpatients and 92.21% compliance for Day cases.

Action: Noted

14.9.2.6 Recruitment

14.9.2.6.1 PICU Staffing

Ms. Kenna spoke to current nursing staff vacancies in PICU. The hospital has experienced significant recruitment challenges and has sought applications from the UK for specialist nursing staff. It is anticipated that current recruits will complete PICU training by 22nd December, at which time the current PICU bed status can be reviewed.

Action: R. Kenna

14.9.2.7 Cross Hospital Working

The Board **APPROVED**, in principle, to support the consultant body in the three children's hospitals to work in each of the hospitals.

Action: S. Allen

14.9.2.8 Redacted

Cllr. McHugh and Mr. Devlin left the meeting

Ms. S. Hayden spoke to:

14.9.2.9 Out Patients

The Board were informed of the overall reduction of 20% in the OPD waiting list compared to October, 2013. As a result of additional clinics, Ophthalmology saw a reduction of 50% in waiting lists. Challenges are ongoing. Mr. Birthistle advised that the Minister has acknowledged the inevitability of waiting lists getting longer.

14.9.2.10 Emergency Department

Ms. Hayden noted the seasonal increased number of presentations to the Emergency Department and Dr. Walsh confirmed that this increase is being experienced nationally in both adults and paediatrics.

Action: Noted

Ms. R. Kenna spoke to:

14.9.2.11 Quality Improvement Plans

Ms. Kenna outlined recent updates pertaining to QPSD Quality Improvement Plan, previously circulated. No areas of concern were noted.

Action: Noted

14.9.2.12 JACIE Accreditation

Ms. Kenna advised the meeting that the Haematology/Oncology Department has received JACIE Accreditation and is now officially the first JACIE Establishment for HSCT Transplantation on the island of Ireland. The Board noted this significant achievement and will communicate its congratulations by writing to the team, recognising the tremendous effort involved.

Action: L. Birthistle

14.9.2.13 PCHCAI

Ms. Kenna drew the attention of the Board to the current Prevention & Control Standards of Healthcare Associated Infectious data for September, 2014 noting results fell within performance indicators.

Action: Noted

Mr. L. Birthistle spoke to:

14.9.2.14 Redacted

14.9.2.15 Redacted

Ms. Kelly left the meeting.

Mr. J. Cotter spoke to:

14.9.2.16 Budget 2014

Mr. Cotter advised the Board of recent additional funding of €370,899 received by the HSE pertaining to additional posts required to stabilize the hospital's cardiac service and the deduction of €35K for EWTN non-compliance, bringing the current allocation for 2014 to €113.59m.

Action: Noted

14.9.2.17 Financial Performance

Mr. Cotter reported that the net expenditure for the month of August was €9.875m which represents an increase, driven mainly by an increased spend on medication driven by bone marrow transplant procedures and an increased use of medical and surgical appliances driven by complex cardiac procedures. The Board requested that all patient presentations pertaining to bone marrow transplant exceeding the service level arrangement be communicated to the HSE.

Action: J. Cotter

14.9.2.18 Patient Income

Mr. Cotter informed the Board of clarification received from the HSE that private charges are to be raised for all private patients attending irrespective of accommodation. This change in process is expected to generate additional revenue for the hospital.

14.9.2.19 Cash Flow

Mr. Cotter noted that the unsustainable reduction in HSE allocation has been highlighted once again to the HSE. It is hoped that the deficit will be addressed by the HSE before year end.

Action: Noted

14.9.3 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Magee confirmed update discussed at 14.9.2.17.

Action: Noted

14.9.4 Redacted

14.9.5 GOVERNANCE, NOMINATIONS & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Ms. McDonald reported that the Committee has appointed Fr. John Dunphy, newly appointed Hospital Chaplain to the Medical Ethics Research Committee. Ms. McDonald further confirmed to the Board that the final report on Annual Compliance will be submitted to the Board for approval before year end. The issue regarding a replacement for Mr. Magee on the Governance, Nominations and Remuneration Committee has not yet been resolved.

Action: T. O'Sullivan

14.9.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.9.6.1 Ebola

Dr. Walsh advised the Board of the work undertaken by the hospital's Ebola Working Group. Dr. Walsh confirmed that the hospital implemented isolation measures over the summer months for a number of patients presenting to the Emergency Department. All test results were negative. Dr. Walsh noted that according to current criteria, the national arrangement is that any paediatric patient presenting to the hospital, who is positive for Ebola, will be transferred to the National Isolation Unit located in the Mater Hospital.

Action: Noted

14.9.6.2 Redacted

There being no further business, the meeting then concluded.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 26th November, 2014, commencing at 4.30 p.m.