

Regional Health Forum Delegation

visit to Emergency Department,

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Co. Louth

On

Wednesday, 19th October, 2011 at 3:00pm

Attendance

Regional Health Forum

Dr. Bill Tormey

Cllr. Michael O'Dowd

Cllr. Anthony Donohoe

Cllr. Tommy Byrne

HSE Management

Mr. Dermot Monaghan, Area Manager, Louth Meath

Ms. Margaret Swords, General Manager, Louth Meath Hospital Group

Dr. Dominic O'Brannagain, Clinical Director of the Louth/Meath Hospital Group

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager – Regional Health Office - Dublin North East

Ms. Eileen Whelan, Director of Nursing

Dr. Niamh Murphy, Consultant Cardiologist

Ms. Catriona Crowley, Louth Meath Transformation Programme

Apologies

Cllr. Nick Killian

Mr. Dermot Monaghan, Area Manager, Louth Meath welcomed all present. Dermot outlined to the delegation that there is a plan to transform Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. This plan will make a significant difference, it has clinical buy in and the commitment of all. However funding and resources are needed to implement it in full. He reassured the delegation that everything that can be done is being done.

Ms. Catriona Crowley, Louth Meath Transformation Programme gave a powerpoint presentation on the reconfiguration programme. (copy attached)

The Plan includes the following:

- full implementation of the Acute Medicine Programme – extending the Acute Medical Unit to a 7 day, 18 hr unit. 5 bed Clinical Discharge Unit, speciality cohort plan,
- Action on delayed discharges – integrated discharge planning. There are 62 patients across DNE whose discharge is delayed, 38 of these patients are in Our Lady of Lourdes and 28 of these patients are from the medical speciality. In DNE there are approx 6,000 long term care beds compared to 8,000 in DML. In DNE there are less beds, people are living longer and the length of stay in long term care is now approx 3 years compared to 2 years a few years ago. It also takes longer to access funding under the Nursing Home Support Scheme.

- Additional beds – There are currently 97 medical beds in the hospital 28 of which are occupied by medical patients awaiting long term care placement. It has been calculated that a bed complement of 117 Medical beds is required for the hospital to implement the Acute Medicine programme therefore funding is required to open an additional 20 beds to reach this bed complement. There is also a requirement for access to five Long term care beds weekly for Clinically discharged patients to ensure that the available capacity can be used for provision of care to acute medical patients.

There are 8 stroke rehab beds open in Louth County Hospital, this will increase to 9 beds next week and ultimately 11 beds.

There are 3 Palliative Care support beds open in Louth County hospital as part of the phased opening of 10 beds.

There are plans to increase the toilet facilities in the Emergency Department. These should be in place within the next 6/8 weeks. There are already 4 toilets in the public waiting area.

It was stated that existing patients on wards are advised if additional trolleys are being put up on the ward as part of the full capacity protocol.

The Regional Health Forum delegation agreed to advocate and fight for Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and suggested that they meet again in twelve months to review progress.

In order to protect the dignity and confidentiality of patients in the Emergency Department, members were taken individually through the Emergency Department.