

SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Minutes of a meeting of the South Eastern HSC Trust

Finance & Performance Committee held on

Monday 21 February 2022 at 11.00am

in the Boardroom, Trust Headquarters, Ulster Hospital

and via Zoom (Link: 2421223704 Passcode: 717527)

Present:	Mr M Mawhinney Mr N Brady	Non-Executive Director (Chairman) Non-Executive Director
In Attendance:	Ms W Thompson Ms N Dunbar Mr J Patton Ms E Hannaway Ms C Allam Miss C Hughes	Director of Finance & Estates Interim Director Planning, Performance and Informatics Interim Trust Chairman Interim AD Performance, Strategic and Capital Development (items 07/22 and 08/22) Assistant Director Elective and Radiology Services (item 07/22 only) Personal Assistant
Apologies	Mrs J Dunlop	Assistant Dir Financial Management

01/22 Welcome

Mr Mawhinney welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Ms Coulter, Chief Executive.

Action

02/22 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

All present confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest with any items on the agenda.

03/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 15 December 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 December 2021, which had been circulated with papers for the meeting, were approved.

04/22 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Any issues arising from the previous meeting were included in the agenda.

05/22 Review of Terms of Reference

Action

The Terms of Reference of the Finance & Performance Committee, updated as discussed at the previous meeting, had been circulated with papers for the meeting.

Mr Mawhinney noted the amendments made to the Terms of Reference as agreed at the previous meeting. During review of the amendments Mr Mawhinney received assurance that Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Risk Management & Governance/Board Secretary, had considered the process for approving business cases outside of the Committee meeting and viewed this as appropriate.

Item 6.11 was reviewed and it was agreed that it should be amended to "Performance reports on specific service areas will be presented and provide a holistic overview of challenges/relevant mitigating actions."

In response to a query regarding the vacant Non-Executive Director post Mr Patton advised that the Trust continues to await an appointment from the Department of Health (DoH).

Mr Mawhinney sought, and received, Committee approval of the updated Terms of Reference.

06/22 Finance Report : Month 9

The Finance Report for Month 9 (December 2021) had been circulated with papers for the meeting.

Ms Thompson noted that there had been little movement from the Month 8 position which had been discussed at Trust Board on 27 January 2022. In the Month 9 report it was noted that discussions with the Health & Social Care Board (HSCB) and DoH are focused on the 2022/23 roll forward position.

During discussion Ms Thompson advised that the plan had been that, with a 3 year budget, the Health Service could begin to develop a longer term Recovery Plan and address some of the major issues facing the service. However this plan has been scuppered due to the absence of a draft budget for Northern Ireland. Trusts will now revert to operating on a recurrent roll forward baseline but, due to the significant non-recurrent elements of funding, there will be a major gap in financial allocations. It is hoped that the NI budget will be agreed early in the 2022/23 financial year.

In response to a query Ms Thompson reported that it is not possible to identify any savings plans currently as the actual amount of the budget is not known and therefore the savings gap cannot be quantified. In the current climate the Trust is not permitted to commit to any new expenditure/services but is also not allowed to stop any current services. During discussion Ms Thompson indicated that each Organisation can only carry out limited actions to address the scale of the regional deficit and really a regional approach would be required to look at policy decisions, eg implement the Bengoa Report; implement Agency spend caps; review Domiciliary/Residential Care charges and charging for prescriptions. She estimated that the Trust's 2022/23 deficit will be in the range of £50m.

Action

Ms Thompson also noted that from 1 April 2022 there will be no Covid-19 funding but the Trust will continue to have costs in this area, for example PPE (1.5m - £2m per month). Clarity is also required the future for Vaccination programmes currently carried out by the Trust. Discussions are also ongoing with Directorates regarding new pressures, particularly within Children's and Adult Services, and the Emergency Department.

During review of page 3 of the Finance Report Mr Brady asked if a column of totals could be added and Ms Thompson confirmed that this would be amended for future reports. During discussion Ms Thompson noted that the Trust's financial forecast has been consistently accurate and only changes when unexpected additional funding is received. Assumed funding is identified in the forecast position but only brought into Directorate positions when it is received. In response to a query from Mr Mawhinney, Ms Thompson indicated that the Flexible Staffing Costs (page 9) will rise in January 2022 as the December claims are processed.

WT

Ms Thompson stressed the following points:-

- Authority is required to continue to operate at 90% of budget. Transactional cash can be drawn down to pay employees and invoices.
- The budget which the Trust is working on, without roll forward non-recurrent funding, is insufficient to meet current expenditure. This would not be an issue for Quarter 1 of the financial year but, without receipt of a budget, would become a significant problem.
- There is no indication of Capital funding but, as this is received on an annual basis, it is likely to be very limited without a budget allocation.

In conclusion Ms Thompson advised that a Financial Strategy 2022/23 will be presented at a future meeting.

Action

07/22 Performance Presentation : Day Procedure Centre at Lagan Valley Hospital

The presentation on Day Procedure Centre, LVH, had been circulated with papers for the meeting.

During a detailed presentation Ms Allam advised that the Minister for Health had announced the creation of two regional Day Procedure Centres (DPC). In October 2020 South Eastern Trust opened the DPC at Lagan Valley Hospital – the other DPC is yet to commence. This has been achieved by the Trust despite no additional funding being received. A bid has been submitted (approximately £7.8m for 2022/23) and is being reviewed for cost effectiveness. This is for 3 general anaesthetic theatres and, when they are being utilised for 10 sessions per week, a submission for a fourth theatre can be submitted. Ms Allam believed that the DPC theatre session costs are better value for money than other Trusts or the Independent Sector.

Ms Allam noted that the DPC has continued to deliver South Eastern Trust lists in addition to the DPC utilisation by regional Trusts on an equal basis. The initial plan had been for P3 and P4 patients to be treated in the DPC in order to address the longest waiting patients. However, due to the pandemic, the pilot has been utilised to treat Priority 2 (P2) patients, ie urgent patients with a confirmed, or suspected, cancer diagnosis. Since October 2020 there have been 2,011 regional patients treated in the DPC – this figure does not include the South Eastern Trust patients treated. She hoped that by April 2022 it will be possible to start treating long waiting P3 and P4 patients. This will also demonstrate the efficiencies achievable from performing a list of patients requiring similar treatments.

During discussion Ms Allam noted that staff in Lagan Valley Hospital had not previously treated some of the specialties being treated in the DPC and were willing to undertake additional training to provide these services. She paid tribute to the staff for their dedication and enthusiasm.

In response to a query Ms Allam advised that Urology treatment, via a new laser, has been very successful and is utilised by the region. Rezum is a new laser treatment for TURP (Transurethral Resection of the Prostate) and patients who would previously have required 1 or 2 overnight stays can now be treated as day cases. This treatment has been

very successful and is well received by patients across the region. She noted that patients from other Trusts remain within their own Consultants' care and, if an overnight stay is required, they are repatriated to their own Trust. Patient feedback has been excellent for the DPC and they have expressed delight at being treated during a pandemic. However Ms Allam noted that, due to the pandemic, it has been necessary for patients to be swabbed in advance of treatment and there have been a high number of patients not attending for their swab (one weekend there was 25% Did Not Attend) and therefore those theatre slots were lost as other patients could not be tested within the timescale.

Mr Mawhinney thanks Ms Allam for a very informative and insightful presentation.

08/22 Lisburn Primary Care & Community Care Centre (PCCC) Update

Ms Hannaway advised that the construction work has been completed and Building Control approval has been received. A small amount of outstanding works are yet to be completed, eg installation of additional drug cupboards, and a timescale for this is awaited from the Contractor. In response to a query Ms Hannaway confirmed that EU Exit/pandemic issues have resulted in some delays for equipment eg previous 2 - 6 week delivery dates have now been extended to 20 weeks in some cases.

The GPs have requested 8 weeks' notice to move and it is anticipated that the transfer will take place at the end of April 2022. Ms Hannaway noted that there have been a few technical issues which BSO are finalising in respect of the GP system and technical support. There had also been an issue with car parking for GPs and this has now been resolved.

Lisburn PCCC has been utilised as a Vaccination Centre and it is expected that this will continue for the immediate future.

09/22 Any Other Business

No items were raised under Any Other Business.

10/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday 25 April 2022 at 11.00am. *Re-arranged to 27 April 2022 at 11.00am.*