

## Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health

### Oral Presentation (8 minutes)

October 27<sup>th</sup> 2016

#### Introductions:

Chairman, Deputies, Senators,

Thank you for inviting the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board to attend your committee to provide an update on progress of the new children's hospital on the shared campus with St. James's Hospital. I am delighted to be able to share significant progress on this much needed and much wanted project.

Joining me this morning is Eilish Hardiman, CEO, the Children's Hospital Group; Dr Sharon Sheehan, Master/CEO, Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital, Dr Peter Grealley, Group Clinical Director, the Children's Hospital Group and Caitriona Sharkey, a parent who has had extensive interactions with paediatric services in Dublin.

#### Opening Comments:

Due to the scale and complexity of the project, we had circulated some pre-reading to the members of the Committee. I hope you have had the opportunity to review those materials. This morning I will provide an update on the design and construction aspects of the project while my colleague Eilish will provide an overview of the extensive progress that has been made on the integration of services across the three children's hospitals – Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, Temple Street Children's University Hospital, and the National Children's Hospital at Tallaght Hospital.

#### Progress Update:

Commencing in September 2013 the role of the current National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, is to plan design, build and equip the new children's hospital at the St. James's Hospital Campus PLUS,

2 Paediatric Outpatients Department and Urgent Care Centres– one at Tallaght Hospital and one at Connolly Hospital, a 53 bed family accommodation unit and the Children's Research Innovation Centre on a shared campus with St. James's Hospital.

Following two years of procurement and design work by an international team; 1,000s of hours of engagement with families, young people, staff, local communities and 3 local authorities, a planning application for the new children's hospital and the associated developments was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in August 2015.

The application submitted included:

- a masterplan for overall campus development at St. James's Hospital showing how up to 3 times the current area, including the relocated Coombe Women & Infants Maternity Hospital, can be accommodated on the 50 acre site
- a world class hospital design with 6,000 rooms, extensive gardens including the Rainbow Garden which is the length of Croke Park
- a hospital design and capacity based on measured activity including unmet clinical need and future projected demographics for the next 20 years

- and an Environmental Impact Statement which comprehensively tested traffic and accessibility issues and concerns

A 10-day public oral hearing was held in December 2015 which allowed those who are supportive of the project – and those who have concerns about the location – to air their views and to have their questions answered.

In April of this year, planning permission was granted, with no design changes.

This major milestone for the most significant healthcare capital project ever undertaken in the State was welcomed broadly by families, young people, by the staff of the three children's hospitals and by those who have campaigned for almost 20 years for this badly needed hospital.

### **Key Project Updates since planning was secured:**

- In August 2016 the Development Board appointed a Contractor for enabling works on the new children's hospital and site clearance works including demolitions are currently underway.
- The Minister for Health, Simon Harris, together with children and young people who are current and former users of paediatric services helped to get the digging underway
- Overall Programme
  - Main & Satellite Construction Tenders are currently being returned and evaluation will commence in November
  - We will be making recommendation for appointment of Contractors in Dec '16 and subject to Government approval contracts will be awarded in Jan '17
  - Construction of Paediatric Outpatients Department and Urgent Care Centres scheduled to complete in 2018
  - Construction of children's hospital scheduled to complete in 2020

### **Introduction to Eilish Hardiman:**

This hospital is obviously about a lot more than the design and the bricks and mortar. It is about the staff, children and young people who will deliver and receive world-class care within the new buildings.

Eilish Hardiman will provide an update on progress from a paediatric services perspective –

### **Eilish Hardiman Introduction:**

Good morning Chairman, Deputies, Senators – thank you for inviting us this morning.

The Children's Hospital Group consists of the three children's hospitals at Crumlin, Temple Street and Tallaght and is working closely with the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board to ensure that children, young people, their families and our staff finally get the hospital that they need and deserve.

The new hospital is only one element of how new plan to deliver paediatric services in Ireland.

This plan for paediatric services is mapped out in the new Model of Care for Paediatrics developed through 4 years of extensive engagement with doctors, nurses, health and social care professionals, G.P.'s and parents representatives by Professor Alf Nicholson and Professor John Murphy.

The new children's hospital at St. James's and two Paediatric Outpatients Department and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals will provide children and young people with the right care, in the right place, delivered by the right team.

These new facilities have two core objectives:

1. To meet the acute paediatrics care needs of the Greater Dublin Area – that is Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and part of Meath. It will undertake this remit via the hospital and the Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Blanchardstown. This encompasses the majority that is 78% of the work undertaken by the three hospitals.
2. The second objective is to provide specialist services for children across Ireland, which comprises of 22% of our work planned.

Tri-location of the new children's hospital on a shared campus with St James's Hospital and, in time, with the relocated Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital, is the optimal configuration of services from a clinical perspective. The three children's hospitals believe that St. James's Hospital, as the largest and leading adult teaching hospital is the best adult colocation partner for the new children's hospital because of its depth and breadth of sub-specialities that best support paediatrics and it offers unparalleled opportunities between its research facilities and in the new Children's Research and Innovation Centre – which will drive clinical advancements and improved clinical outcomes.

In parallel with the building of the physical hospital, the Children's Hospital Group is working and the three children's hospitals are working to integrate services so that before services open in these new buildings, we will already be working as one.

The Children's Hospital Programme includes the establishment of a new single entity to govern and manage paediatric services in existing locations as well as managing transition planning for the new hospital and Paed OPD and urgent Care Centres.

### **Why we need this hospital:**

When discussing progress, I think it is also important to remind ourselves why we are doing all of this:

- Children, young people and their families are currently receiving care in buildings that are no longer fit for purpose
- Heroic, talented staff, are despite some of their surroundings delivering excellent care in sub-optimal conditions
- We rely on multiple arrangements with adult hospitals to support paediatrics
- The ability to work collaboratively, across clinical specialities, is limited by all specialities not being under the one roof.
- Parents tonight will still sleep on the floor when staying with a sick child
- There is limited parking in Crumlin and none in Temple Street – with no ability to pre-book spaces

Our children, staff and families deserve more.

And as you have heard from John, we are well on the way to delivering more

### **Progress on Integration:**

We are also making progress on integration:

The 39 clinical specialities across the three hospitals have mapped out what they need to undertake so that they are integrated before the hospital opens. This is essential to ensure all services can operate safely and effectively once they have transitioned to the new hospital and the satellite centres.

There is extensive – daily – collaboration between clinical leads, nurses, management and staff from across the three hospitals – on clinical, operational and design matters.

We are on track on many aspects of our programme. While we work with our colleagues in the Development Board to support the build, we are already currently making changes to how paediatric services are delivered in Ireland. The new building is a significant catalyst for this positive change – and there is a lot more yet to come.

**John Pollock to Close:**

Thank you Eilish and thank you to the members of the Committee for your attention.

We are happy to take any questions that you might have.

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