

**Minutes of the 252nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees
of the Cheshire Foundation in Ireland**

**Wednesday 2 April 2008 at 12.30 – 14.30
Block 4, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford Ind. Estate, Dublin 18**

Present: Justice Ronan Keane, Chair
Laurence Crowley
Dr. Mark Delargy
Bill Durkan
Ed Merbis
Maeve Nolan
Dr. Patricia O'Brien
Tom O'Connor
Eoin O'Morain

Apologies: John Guinan
Rosaleen McDonagh
John O'Kane

In Attendance: Mark Blake-Knox, Chief Executive
Maggie Thomas, Head of Development
Niall Byrne, Head of Quality Service & HR
Joe Campbell, Head of Finance

Minutes: Genevieve McNally

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the 251st Meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on Wednesday 20th February 2008, were taken as read, agreed as a fair record, and signed.

2. Matters Arising

The Chairman welcomed Joe Campbell, Head of Finance, to the meeting.

The Chairman referred to an action in the previous minutes, in which all Trustees were to return the original copies of the KPMG Report. A number of these were returned.

3. CEO's Report

The CEO also welcomed Joe Campbell to the Senior Management Team.

The CEO referred to concerns raised at the last Board meeting in relation to the ending of the funding for the Advocacy Development Officer post. The CEO said that he had found a means of funding the role for another 12 months.

The CEO also referred to the sad loss of a Cheshire staff member, Bernie Brooks, who died earlier this month after a long illness, and would like to record Bernie's great dedication to Cheshire during her 20 years of service at Ardeen and Central Office.

Redesign of services at Barrett Cheshire House

The CEO said that the redesign of services for people living in the Barrett will begin once the work required on the audit is completed.

Ardeen Cheshire Home

The CEO gave a brief synopsis to the background of the company – Coollattin Properties Ltd. which was gifted to the Ardeen Cheshire Home by the Fitzwilliam family.

The Chairman referred to the piece in the CEO's Report in which one of the steps required that in order to have the Coollattin Properties Ltd. re-instated, would be for Cheshire to nominate 2 people who will serve as Directors of the re-instated company.

Eoin O'Morain asked if there could be outstanding tax issues. The CEO is to check this. **Action: CEO**

It was agreed that Ed Merbis and Mark Blake-Knox would be Directors, nominated by the Cheshire Board.

It was agreed to ask McCann Fitzgerald to undertake the work of identifying what property is, in fact, owned by Coollattin Properties Ltd. **Action: CEO**

HR Issues

The CEO said that he will be extending the West/North Western Regional Manager's contract for another year. The CEO confirmed that the Regional Manager has been considering succession.

Employee Relations Issues

The Chairman asked about top-up maternity pay which is referred to in the CEO Report. Niall Byrne gave the background to the situation on top-up maternity pay and a brief discussion followed.

Shared Value/Basic Assurances

The CEO spoke about the very important work being undertaken in the 6 of the Cheshire Centres under the Basic Assurances Project.

Greystones

The CEO said there was a HSE meeting about the funding of the services to be provided at Greystones the day prior to the Board Meeting. The CEO had not heard the outcome of the meeting.

Maggie Thomas is hopeful that the Greystones development will be ready for people to move in at the beginning of May.

Leonard Cheshire UK

The CEO said that Maeve Nolan will be attending the 'Conference & Global Alliance General Assembly UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 19th May. Leonard Cheshire International is covering the cost of attendance of one delegate from each country.

4. Presentation

A presentation - 'Health & Safety Risk Management System within Cheshire'. Was given by Paddy O'Brien, Health & Safety Risk Management.

A brief discussion followed Paddy O'Brien's presentation.

5. Tullow Development

Maggie Thomas gave the background to the proposed new Cheshire supported housing development at 'Templeowen', Abbey Street, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

Maggie Thomas said that these houses will be owned by Cheshire Ireland with a 30 year mortgage. The residents in these houses will be Cheshire tenants, currently people living in St. Patrick's Cheshire Home, who will pay a small rent to Cheshire.

The Tullow development, which had been previously approved in principal, was given the Board's approval.

Eoin O'Morain wondered is it time to consider setting up a separate housing company. The CEO said this is a matter that management had raised previously with the Board. A proposal will be put before the Board at a meeting later in the year.

Dr. Mark Delargy spoke of how uncomfortable he felt during the discussion about Cheshire's move to supporting individuals in the community. He fully supports the concept but is torn by the needs of some of the patients of the NRH that he sees on a daily basis, who, because of the level or nature of their disability probably need to live in a supported environment shared with some others. Dr. Delargy gave an example of a person and his/her family that he had been with earlier in the day.

He asked about the people who are not ready to move into their own house. These people might need to take two years to put a plan in place. Dr. Delargy's concern would be for a person lying in a hospital bed with very high clinical and support needs with no plan in place.

Maeve Nolan said that she shared Dr. Delargy's concerns.

The CEO suggested that he would meet with Dr. Delargy and the CEO of the NRH to see if Cheshire can work with some of the NRH patients.

Maeve Nolan suggested putting this topic on the Agenda for further discussion.

The Chairman agreed to have it on the Agenda for a future meeting.

6. Any other Issues

Maggie Thomas asked for approval to open new Bank of Ireland account for Blackrock Cheshire.

Maggie Thomas also asked for approval to change Bank of Ireland mandate for Cork Supported Accommodation service, to reflect a change in staffing.

Approval was also given to sign and seal a Property Registration Authority releasing back a Right of Way that is now not used at Curragrean, Galway to Michael Gerard Burke.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Date of next meeting: 21st May 2008