

**Minutes of the 263rd Meeting of the Board of Trustees
of the Cheshire Foundation in Ireland**

**Wednesday 21 October 2009 at 12.30 – 14.30
Block 4, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford Ind. Estate, Dublin 18**

Present: Michael O'Mahony, Chair
Eoin O'Morain, Vice-Chair
Diane Davison
Owen Collumb
Bill Durkan
Justice Ronan Keane

Apologies: Dr. Mark Delargy
Jerome Kennedy
Rosaleen McDonagh
Maeve Nolan
John O'Kane

In Attendance: Mark Blake-Knox, Chief Executive
Maggie Thomas, Head of Development
Ian Quinn, Head of Finance

Minutes: Genevieve McNally

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the 262nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on 9 September 2009, were taken as read, agreed as a fair record, and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising

The Chairman said that Ed Merbis had tendered his resignation as he was likely to be moving away from Ireland in the near future. The Chairman thanked Ed Merbis for his time and tremendous contribution to the Board. The CEO said he would also like to thank Ed Merbis for his dedication to Cheshire Ireland over the years.

Eoin O'Morain said he thought the Minutes of the 9 September should have stated that it was agreed to purchase two apartments in Dundrum and negotiate with developers for a reduction on the purchase of any more. The Chairman said that it had been agreed that no apartments would be purchased until such time as the sale of the Barrett had been clarified.

3. Barrett New Living Options project

The CEO said the contract for the sale of 20/21 Herbert St. has not yet been signed. The solicitor acting on behalf of the purchaser asked if it would be possible to close before the end of the year to bring the closing date forward to 31 December 2009. The CEO has instructed McCann Fitzgerald to say that we would still require up to six months to give vacant possession. He is waiting on a response from the solicitors.

A discussion took place on the sale of the Barrett and the potential purchase of the new apartments.

A discussion took place on the perception of buying 8 apartments in a 'cluster', and how this might effect people with disabilities integrating into the local community. The

CEO said that it was the wish of each of the individuals to go to live in Dundrum. The primary reason for their choice was the availability of support.

The Chairman asked the CEO to put together a list of the potential capital spending requirements across the organisation for the next meeting.

Action: CEO

4. Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

The CEO spoke about the recent meeting, between representatives from the Not for Profit and Voluntary Hospital group, with the CEO and other HSE personnel in relation to SLAs. Some amendments to Part 1 of the SLA had been made and others were under discussion.

The CEO said that he and the Chairman had met with McCann Fitzgerald to get advice on Part 1 of the SLAs.

The Chairman proposed that Cheshire would now sign Part 1 of the SLA but would make it known to the HSE that Cheshire still had some concerns about part of its content and how it might be operated. This proposal was subject to the successful completion of the current negotiations with the HSE on amendments to the SLA.

The Board agreed to delegate to the CEO authority to sign the agreements and schedules on behalf of Cheshire Ireland.

5. CEO's Report

Collaboration

The CEO referred to the recent conference call he and the Chief Executive of Headway had with the Chief Executive and Disability Manager of Livability, a non-profit agency that was set up following a merger of the organisations in the UK. The CEO said that the call had been very valuable.

Department of Health Working Group

The CEO referred to the section in his report relating to the Department of Health & Children's Value for Money and Policy Review Initiative 2009 -2011, which is chaired by Laurence Crowley. This group's function is to carry out an examination of disability services in Ireland. The CEO said this group are to deliver a full report of their findings by September 2010.

Coollattin Property

The CEO gave some background history regarding the gift of Coollattin Properties Ltd. to Cheshire Ireland. The CEO said that he and Ed Merbis had been nominated by the Board to become Directors of Coollattin Properties Ltd. but since Ed Merbis has now resigned a new Director needs to be proposed.

The Chairman recommended that Diane Davison be nominated as one of the Directors of the Company. This was agreed.

Leonard Cheshire UK

The CEO spoke about his and the Head of Finance's recent meeting with the Chief Executive and senior executives of Leonard Cheshire UK. At this meeting LC UK spoke about a project they were undertaking to save in excess of €10m per annum. The CEO and other Senior Managers plan to meet with consultants that advised LC UK in the coming weeks.

2010 Budget

The CEO said the budget for 2010 will be based on the current years funding less 6% as this is the level of reduction in funding indicated by HSE to the Not for Profit Group.

Abbeyview

The CEO referred to the appeal from a former Manager at Abbeyview to his dismissal. The CEO said following consideration, he upheld the decision to dismiss him from his role.

Swine Flu

The CEO said that, to date, there were no reported cases of swine flu in any of the centres.

CAMP

The CEO said the CAMP had been a very successful week in September.

The CEO also spoke about the sad death of a member of the Air Corps, Alan O'Regan, who had been very involved in CAMP for nearly 20 years. The CEO is to write to Alan O'Regan's family expressing condolences. **Action: CEO**

6. Any other Issues

Ronan Keane suggested holding a Nomination & Governance Committee meeting to discuss recommendations to the Board, as there is a small number of Board vacancies.

The CEO will arrange a meeting of the Committee.

Action: CEO

Board approval was agreed for the following:

- To sign and seal a Deed of Mortgage with Cork County Council in regard to CAS Grant of €2,193,451 for St Laurence Cheshire Home, and associated documents.
- To sign Letter of Guarantee with Carlow County Council in regard to CAS Grant of €838,241 for St Patrick's Cheshire Home
- To include Kathleen Vickers (Southern Regional Manager) and Ian Quinn (Head of Finance) as signatories on relevant Bank Mandates.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Date of next meeting: 9 December 2009