



Tallaght
University
Hospital

Ospidéal
Ollscoile
Thamhlachta

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

Planning Department.
South Dublin County Council,
Civic Offices,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

9th August 2022

Re: Clondalkin Ageing Well Centre Planning Application

Working with Bartra, Tallaght University Hospital ("TUH") is proposing to create an "Ageing Well Centre" in the heart of Clondalkin village. Given the key location of the convent building, the ageing well centre will be a community-based centre where older people will be able to access clinical and social care closer to home in a holistic environment.

1. Introduction

TUH is a public tertiary model 4 hospital and is one of the largest acute teaching hospitals in Ireland. TUH has a catchment population of approximately 650,000 people. It is a tertiary referral centre for orthopaedics, stroke, dementia, neurology and vascular surgery. In 2019, the hospital had 420,640 episodes of patient care and saw the highest number of Emergency Department (ED) attendances since its opening in 1998, with over 52,398 attendances equating to a 3% increase on the previous year (this trend is continuing in 2022). This general increase has been paralleled by dramatic increases in those over the age of 75 in the catchment area. The department of Age-related health care is an exemplar of the models of care for older persons and implementation of same. However, these models of care are being delivered in a constrained physical environment, which is unable to grow and expand at the same rate as the acceleration in demand for the services that TUH provides to the most vulnerable demographic cohort - the over 75's.

Population growth forecasts, for the area that TUH serves, indicate that there will be a significant increase in the age profile and consequently the complexity of patients accessing services both on a scheduled and unscheduled basis.

- The more complex needs of older people, through increased prevalence of frailty and multi-morbidity (increasing from 19% to 24% to 30% moderate to severe co-morbidity at age's 65-74, 75-84 and 85+ respectively), are associated with increased morbidity and mortality.
- Older people represent a key demographic for major trauma: the over 65's represent 13.8% of the population but this proportion more than tripled to 44% of trauma patients that presented in 2017.
- 20% of the total presentations to TUH ED are now in the over 65's (an increase from 13% in 2006) and the over 65s account for 39% of the total number of admissions, (an increase of 11% since 2006).
- In addition, there has been a 48% increase in the over 70s medical admissions between 2005 and 2014.
- In 2020, the percentage of patients requiring admission rose from 25% to 27%. This rise in admissions was particularly seen in the cohort of patients over 75 years of age.

All data indicates that there is a continuing trend of increasing numbers of older persons presenting to the Hospital as complex cases with the potential for negative healthcare

outcomes. It is not just a case of increasing numbers of older people. Tallaght and Clondalkin are young suburbs of Dublin having undergone most of their social housing development in the 1970's/ 80's/90's and this is the first time these areas are having to support an older population; consequently, there are very few community facilities which are adapted for older people. Much of the catchment of TUH has areas of high social deprivation and the consequent accelerated biological ageing, results in much higher clinical and social complexity at the age of 65 than would be found in most other areas of Ireland.

The TUH 5-year strategy (TUH, 2019) is built on six key strategic priorities. Central to current service planning and delivery are:

- Providing improved **access** to services by improving patient flow;
- **Integrated Care** – re-orientating models of care so the patient is central;
- **Digital enablement** – the use of technology and innovation to transform care delivery;
- **People** – attracting, developing and retaining talent to become an employer of choice;
- **Research and innovation** – translating research and implementing science and innovation; and
- **Infrastructure** – improved infrastructure for our most vulnerable patients and forecasted population growth.

In the last 3 years TUH has successfully relocated a number of key clinical services off the main campus into purpose-built off-site facilities. These services include day surgery, out-patient clinics and in-patient care and rehabilitation. TUH has a proven successful track record in delivering services through the hospital without walls model. The rollout in 2021 of the electronic patient record (EPR) marked a significant milestone in the hospital's development strategy and has enhanced, GDPR compliant, seamless information sharing to support off-site service delivery. Consequently, TUH is a leader in the implementation of national healthcare policy (Sláintecare) – delivering the right care in the right setting in a timely way.

There are further significant opportunities to improve access to care delivery to the most vulnerable group of patients, the over 75's, by moving suitable age-related services from the acute setting into the community and delivering those services under the clinical expertise and executive governance of TUH. This proposal is for one such facility to be located at the heart of Clondalkin village.

Working with Bartra, TUH is proposing to create an "Ageing Well Centre" in the heart of Clondalkin village. Given the key location of the convent building, the ageing well centre will be a community-based centre where older people will be able to access clinical and social care closer to home in a holistic environment.

The TUH Ageing Well Centre will create an eco-system of vital services for the local community in one facility, ensuring no matter what stage of care they need that they can access it locally without any delays. All individuals care needs whether physical, mental, cognitive or social, will be met in a warm and welcoming environment under one roof. The adjacent nursing home onsite will offer the opportunity to provide localised healthcare to people residing there.

2. Vision for Clondalkin Ageing Well Centre

National healthcare policy in Ireland, Sláintecare, has been designed to create a modern, responsive health and social care service which meets the changing needs of Ireland's population. Innovative models of coordinated health and social care are needed to meet the needs of our older population. This population demographic typically presents with a set of clinical and social care needs that are more complex than other age groups.

“(Sláintecare Report, 2017) It is our vision that the new model of care should be patient centred, deliver services in the most appropriate setting, reduce ED presentations for the over 75’s and support admission avoidance.”

TUH is proposing to create an “Ageing Well Centre” in Clondalkin. Clondalkin is a village located approximately 6km from the main hospital campus and has a population of 48,613 (2016 census).

Our vision for the ageing well centre is a community-based centre where older people will be able to access clinical and social care closer to their homes in a holistic environment. Key to this is the location of the convent building at the centre of town, and its iconic stature within the community.

This initiative is to further emphasise TUH’s philosophy as a “hospital without walls”. The focus for care delivery will be on brain health, bone health, falls, and frailty. The clinical expertise required to deliver the service will be based in the ambulatory hub which will comprises of state-of-the-art gerontological care outpatient suites and an exercise/rehabilitation gym area. The social area will comprise of a volunteer café and an activities hub for music, art, and social gatherings. The focus is on blending strategies that enhance living well with interventions to promote physical and mental health.

The emphasis is to ensure that all an individual’s care needs physical, mental, cognitive, and social, can be met in a warm and welcoming environment under the one roof.

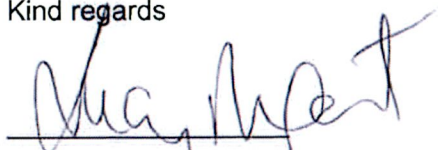
3. Clinical Benefits for Patients

- ✓ Reduce routine geriatric outpatient waiting times from current 4 months to 1 month;
- ✓ Reduce urgent geriatric outpatient waiting times from 5 weeks to less than one week;
- ✓ Reduce ED attendances of people aged 75+ as result of better access to ambulatory care services;
- ✓ Reduce hospital admissions of people aged 75+ as result of better ambulatory pathways;
- ✓ Reduce falls and fracture risk as result of bone health services;
- ✓ Increase access to diagnosis of dementia and post-diagnostic dementia services;
- ✓ Greater access to assessment (and if required), listing for long-term care from within the community rather than need for hospitalisation;
- ✓ Develop a creative ageing centre with access for older people to participate in music, arts, literary events, public health outreach events;
- ✓ Develop a volunteer café which will be run by older people in the community for older people in the community.

4. Summary

Tallaght University Hospital would respectfully ask that SDCC support the provision of this important health facility through the granting of planning permission for the “Ageing Well” Centre.

Kind regards



MS. LUCY NUGENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER