

Agenda Regional Health Forum South Meeting

Date: Thursday 19th November 2020 **Time:** 2.00

Venue: Virtual Meeting

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2020
2. Chairperson's Correspondence
 - Discussion on possible Elections taking place before the end of 2020
3. The next Committee Meetings will take place on:
 - South East Committee Meeting held on 1st December 2020 via webex
 - South West Committee Meeting held on 3rd of December 2020 via webex
4. **Notices of Motion**

Deferred from September 2020 Meeting

- (a) "Patients in Dungarvan and its surrounding districts may be referred to hospitals in Waterford, Clonmel or Cork, and may come under the care of consultants and teams in one of several hospitals. This can present a difficulty for patients attending clinics at one hospital, who in an emergency are taken by ambulance to another hospital due to National Ambulance Service protocols. This can interrupt continuity of care and may often result in a patient being transferred from their emergency destination hospital to the hospital at which they have been receiving treatment.

What are the protocols with respect to identifying destination hospital for emergency ambulance calls?

Is the closest hospital with an emergency department indicated in all cases?

Can a patient or a patient's next-of-kin choose the destination hospital based on ongoing treatment at a particular hospital?

Is it possible for a GP or consultant to stipulate the preferred destination hospital for their patient in the event of an emergency?

Is there scope for flexibility and for informed decision making in the best interests of the patient, especially in situations where the difference in travel time between hospitals is a matter of minutes?

Cllr Conor D. McGuinness

Deferred from September 2020 Meeting

- (b) "Despite assurances given that all Covid-19 testing would be completed within 48 hours at our last South East Committee meeting in Kilkenny, St Carthage's Nursing home in Lismore Co. Waterford was left waiting for over 5 days for results. This caused added distress for the staff, residents and anxious relatives of the nursing home which required a lock-down situation to be re-imposed for this extended period. In this light, I request that the HSE

present this meeting with the actual statistics for test completed within the targeted 48 hour over the last 2 months and the complete picture of time taken for all test results completed over this period."

Cllr Jody Power

- (c) "That HSE Forum South would give an update on the Dental service in County Kerry and clarify if it has returned to providing a full service to schools and to entitled members of the public. That the Forum would further inform the members of the extent of the waiting lists for both levels of this very vital service."

Cllr Michael Gleeson

- (d) "To ask the HSE to give timeline for the provision of the 30 additional beds for acute care in St Michael's unit at South Tipperary General Hospital."

Cllr Roger Kennedy

- (e) "That this forum supports my call for the South/South West hospital group and the HSE to address the extremely worrying 'routine' waiting list at UHK for rheumatology as a matter of urgency. This waiting list is one of many OPD lists that have expanded and increased over time with the COVID19 pandemic adding to the strain on current resources. All supports and resources that can be possibly be utilised should be explored."

Cllr Mikey Sheehy

- (f) "Can the HSE advise as to when public health Paediatric Physiotherapy appointments in the Cork Kerry Region will resume having ceased at the commencement of Level 5 due to redeployment of service providers without notice to services users."

Cllr Eileen Lynch

- (g) "That HSE SSWHG instigate forthwith a communication protocol in all hospitals to ensure that when a patient test results are produced that they are recorded at the hospital and communicated to all professionals in that patients care plan, in a reasonable timeframe. The communication process must include check and fail-safe process to ensure full and timely compliance."

Cllr Jody Power

5. Questions

Deferred from September 2020 Meeting

- (a) "Many full-time and retained firefighters have undertaken first responder training. Will the HSE engage with local authority fire services with regard to the latter providing First Responder services in their locality? Could local authority fire services be covered under the National First Responder Network scheme for training, deployment and insurance purposes?"

Cllr Conor D. McGuinness

- (b) "Would the HSE please inform if it has given any further consideration to my request at the February 2020 Forum meeting to accept responsibility for the payment of the Salaries of the two [2] additional Motor Neuron Nurses who are at present funded from money raised by charitable pursuits? Raising money in such a manner has of course now become almost impossible because of Corona Virus restrictions."

Cllr Michael Gleeson

- (c) "Can the HSE please provide an update on the Jigsaw project commencement and establishment in Tipperary?"

Cllr Declan Burgess

- (d) "Can you please provide an update on the site for the Primary Care Centre, Tullow."

Cllr John McDonald

- (e) "To request that the members be given a date when St Bridget's Hospital Carrick on Suir will reopen, now that Covid-19 numbers are in decline. This hospital provided much needed step down facilities and palliative care beds and was a vital service for Carrick on Suir and its hinterland."

Cllr Roger Kennedy

- (f) "Have management at UHK initiated an independent exit questionnaire across all hospital services for staff leaving the HSE, transferring within the HSE and retiring? If UHK management have not initiated such an independent review will they do so now?"

Cllr Mikey Sheehy

- (g) "Can the HSE please provide clarification and timeline as to when a new GP will be allocated to Macroom town, Co Cork. There are currently four surgeries in the town which are serviced by 6 GP's. Since the retirement of one GP in September 2019, one of those four surgeries has been ran continuously by locum/agency GP's without a permanent GP being appointed. Can the HSE outline what measures are currently being taken to appoint a permanent GP. This has led to a situation whereby no surgery in the town is currently taking on patients and with the construction of upwards of 100 Social Houses to be completed in the town in the first quarter of 2021; there are no medical services available to any new residents."

Cllr Eileen Lynch

6. Date and Time of next meeting – 25th February 2021 at 2pm.