REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. Arthur McDonald

Agenda
Regional Health Forum South Meeting
Date: Thursday 20th February 2020 Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

1.   Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2019

2.   Chairperson's Correspondence

3.   Next Committee meetings to be held on:

   (a) South East Committee Meeting held on 21st April 2020 in Kilkenny
   (b) South West Committee Meeting held on 23rd April 2020 in Tralee

4.   Presentation on Fair Deal – Mr Ray Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer, Nursing Homes Support Office

5.   Notices of Motion

(a)   "Can The HSE give an update on the completion of the Primary Healthcare Centre in Listowel and to list all the services to be available and are these positions being advertised or indeed filled."

Cllr Mike Kennelly

(b)   "That the HSE South calls on the HSE and the Department of Health to pay the salaries of the four Nurses employed by the Irish Motor Neuron Disease Association [IMNDA] as they are at present paid from money raised by means of voluntary donations to the IMNDA. These extremely dedicated Nurses cover extensive areas and save the State considerable expenditure by ensuring the sufferers can remain in their own homes for most of their illness."

Cllr. Michael Gleeson

(c)   "Officially there are over 200 vacancies at University Hospital Waterford. In reality the situation is much more stark. UHW is the most under-staffed large hospital in the country according to HSE figures.

*.   UHW is a 381 bed hospital with 2290 members of staff, serving a population in the South East of 520,000

*.   Limerick University Hospital is a 455 bed hospital with 2814 staff members, serving a population of 400,000 in the Mid West.

UHW has 551 staff LESS than LUH although of comparable bed size but serving a greater population.

*.   Cork University Hospital has 635 beds and 4051 staff — although 50% greater in bed size than UHW, but incredibly, 100% more staff.

Given the undisputed 2019 HSE figures above, clearly demonstrating the flagrant bias against UHW and the people of the South East, I call upon the South/South West Hospital Group to establish a working group without delay to correct the glaring imbalance in Medical Care afforded to the people of the South East. I anticipate that reasonable progress in this endeavour will be made in reasonable time and before the regional HSE reorganisation due in 2021."

Cllr Jody Power

(d)   "What measures have been planned and put in force by this Health Group to mitigate against the potential risks and possible hospital disruptions posed by the current strain of Coronavirus which has originated in China and have public health contingencies been finalised in this regard."

Cllr Mikey Sheehy

(e)   "There are an estimated 9,000 to 11,000 AEDS nationally, so you would assume that if you were having a heart attack a working serviced AED would not be far away. This is not the case. When a local community or sports group buys and inputs an AED it is this volunteer group that is responsible for maintaining and servicing the AED. Volunteers come and go and AEDs are not being serviced and maintained properly, it is an oversight that needs to be addressed. It could be a life that could be at risk because a AED was not serviced or maintained. This is of great concern to people and we need to address the servicing and maintaining of our AEDs. The location could be addressed with an App! Inaccessibility to an AED is a factor with some locked in cabinets, who has the key! An AED battery needs to be replaced every 3 to 5 years, the electrode pads have a life shelf of 2 to 3 years. A potential asset we have in communities. Could one of the local Agencies have access and be involved in checking and maintaining them? Can we ask that question? As once AEDs are installed no one organisation is responsible for them and someone should have that responsibility, after all it could be a life and death situation."

Cllr Audrey Buckley

(f)   "When will an Audiologist be appointed in South Tipperary?"

Cllr Roger Kennedy

6.   Questions

(a)   "As a new community hospital is planned for Killarney, can the HSE South inform if there are plans prepared or in preparation for the future uses of the existing Saint Columbanus Home, the adjacent Community Hospital and adjoining lands?"

Cllr Michael Gleeson

(b)   "Currently, there is a sporadic Cardiac Care facility at UHW due to the on-going maintenance programme now underway. The proposed 12 hour Cardiac Care facility is currently in a planning stage and not due on stream until Q1:2021. The required 24/7 Cardiac Care unit, much sought after and necessary, is but an unattainable aspiration at this stage.

Given the depressing state of Cardiac Care affairs in the South East at present, I request that you give urgent attention to Recommendation 3.4 of the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest report, to which the HSE is a party, and establish forthwith a strategy to allow the full-time Waterford Fire Service respond to Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest emergencies exclusively. The required training and resources are at hand - all that's required is the leadership for its attainment. Your positive response to this request would be very much welcomed by all in the South East - 520,000 poorly served people."

Cllr Jody Power

(c)   "To ask this Forum to support paramedic staff working within the HSE who are essential to the delivery of frontline medical services. The service is now stretched to breaking point and staff from within need every support possible to continue to deliver this crucial service."

Cllr Mikey Sheehy

(d)   "When will the Landsdowne Road Agreement pay restoration for all Section 39 Agencies be funded and can the HSE give a commitment that HIQA requirements will be met financially by HSE for Section 39 Agencies?"

Cllr Roger Kennedy

7.   Date and Time of next meeting – 26th March 2020, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.