

# REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

**Chairperson,**  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell

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## MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 2pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

### Present:

Cllr. John Buttimer  
Cllr. John Carey  
Cllr. Timmy Collins  
Cllr. Henry Cremin  
Cllr. Brendan Cronin  
Cllr. John Joe Culloty  
Cllr. Davy Daniels  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. John Francis Flynn  
Cllr. Denis Foley  
Cllr. Breda Gardner  
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan  
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh  
Cllr. George Lawlor  
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley

Cllr. Joe Malone  
Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
Cllr. Rachel McCarthy  
Cllr. Arthur McDonald  
Cllr. Jason Murphy  
Cllr. Seanie Power  
Cllr. Damian Quigg  
Cllr. John Sheehan  
Cllr. Mary Shields  
Cllr. John Sheehan  
Cllr. Frank Staples  
Cllr. Joe Sullivan  
Cllr. Tom Wood

### Apologies:

Cllr. Deirdre Forde  
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro  
Cllr. Mary Hanna

Cllr. Louise McLoughlin  
Cllr. Ray Murphy  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell

### In Attendance:

- Dr Ger O' Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group
- Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
- Dr. Derval Howley Head of Service, Health & Wellbeing
- Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairperson, Cllr. Bobby O' Connell, the immediate past Chairperson Cllr. Joe Sullivan, acted as Chair of the meeting.

**1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Damian Quigg, seconded by Cllr. John Buttimer, the Minutes of the Forum meeting, held on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, were approved and adopted by the members.

**2. Chairperson's correspondence**

Members were asked to switch off their mobile phones.

**3. Reports by Chairpersons of:**

The next Committee meetings will be held on:

- (a) South East Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April in Kilkenny
- (b) South West Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April in Tralee

**4. Presentation from HSE Management on Operational Plans for 2018**

The Cork/ Kerry Community Healthcare Plan was presented by Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer.

The CHO 5 (South East Health Care Organisation) Plan was presented by Dr. Derval Howley, Head of Service, Health & Wellbeing, who was deputising for Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer.

The South/ South West Hospitals Group Plan was presented by Dr. Gerard O' Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer.

The Forum members received a copy of the presentations and having thanked the HSE Managers, the following questions were raised and answered by the respective officials. In some cases updating will be arranged on an individual basis.

- Will the Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Organisation try to increase further the number of additional beds for older persons in Kerry?
- Could day care accommodation be provided for older persons suffering from Dementia/Alzheimers in the new building, being planned for the St Finan's campus in Killarney, which could be run by the community?
- What are the plans to increase respite bed nights for Residential services in Kerry?
- Can communication in the Cork/Kerry Mental Health services be improved to ensure appropriate referrals are made?
- What is the current position regarding recruitment and appointment of Assistant Psychologists, under Primary Care Services in Cork/Kerry ?
- Can progress be made with the initial assessments of children for Occupational Therapy services, in parts of Cork where waiting lists are increasing?
- Will the HSE review the availability of Home Care Packages for older people with disabilities?
- Are there any Mental Health studies undertaken of progress made by former prisoners after their release?
- How will the additional beds, which were announced last year for Tipperary, be allocated between Cashel and Clonmel and how will they be progressed during 2018?
- What is the present position regarding Primary Care Centres in Cork city and county?
- Will the new CUH helipad be operational during 2018?
- Will there be an enhancement in respite care beds for the east Cork area?

- Has a replacement Consultant Psychiatrist CAMHS been recruited with responsibility for the Glanmire area?
- Could additional hours be offered to part time nursing staff at St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny instead of using agency services?
- Is there funding approved for development of St Columba's Hospital Thomastown?
- What Primary Care Centres are planned for the Kilkenny area?
- Is there any Health & Wellbeing investment in research through universities linked to our hospitals?
- What are the uptake rates of the 'flu vaccine among HSE staff and what is the target?
- Will UHW get the 2nd Cardiac Cath Lab in 2018 and how long more will the mobile unit be based there?
- Are HSE premises compliant with HIQA standards?
- What services will be available in the new Primary Care centre which is due to open shortly in Wexford town?
- Could the most recent unit provided at the County Clinic, Grogan's Road, Wexford be used for some health or community related service?
- Are there any plans to outsource assessment of needs waiting lists and are there guidelines on how this would be done?

## 5. Notices of Motion

(a) Cllr. John Sheehan moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE would support patients with head injuries and severe neurological injury in their transport needs to headway as many patients find the transport costs prohibitive."

A written response from Mr Ger Reaney was circulated to members and noted.

(b) Cllr. Tom Wood moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"As concern arises about the unacceptable level of Investment in Mental Health Services in South Tipperary and with the closure of Saint Michael's Acute Psychiatric Unit in Clonmel widely recognised as a mistake, this Forum calls on the HSE to: 1. Outline what measures will be taken to improve services and 2. Give serious consideration to the provision of inpatient beds again in South Tipperary."

A written response from Ms. Aileen Colley was circulated to members and noted. In response, Cllr. Wood emphasised that there were still local concerns following the closure of St Michael's Acute Psychiatric Unit. He asked if the HSE will be reinstating acute beds for this service. Dr. Howley referred Cllr. Wood to Ms. A Colley's response.

As the number of Forum members now present, did not reach a Quota, as specified under Standing Orders, the Acting Chairperson ruled that the meeting was being adjourned.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.