

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. Joe Sullivan

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MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 22nd September 2016 @ 2pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

Present:

Cllr. John Buttimer
Cllr. John Carey
Cllr. Timmy Collins
Cllr. Henry Cremin
Cllr. John Joe Culloty
Cllr. Davy Daniels
Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond
Cllr. Michael Doyle
Cllr. Deirdre Forde
Cllr. Breda Gardner
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh

Cllr. Mike Kennelly
Cllr. George Lawlor
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Joe Malone
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Ray Murphy
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Aaron O'Sullivan
Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. Joe Sullivan **Chairperson**
Cllr. Tom Wood

Apologies:

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan
Cllr. Michael McCarthy
Cllr. William Quinn

Cllr. Mary Shields
Cllr. John Sheehan

In Attendance:

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Chief Executive Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group
Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation – Area 4
Ms. Aileen Colley, Area Manager, Community Healthcare Organisation – Area 5
Ms. Trina Doran, Business Manager, South/South West Hospitals Group
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 23rd June 2016

On the proposal of Cllr. Timmy Collins, seconded by Cllr. Mike Kennelly, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, June 23rd 2016 were approved and adopted by the members.

Dr William Murphy, Medical and Scientific Director, IBTS addressed a question that was put forward in the Forum Meeting held June 2016:

- 1.1 "To ask the HSE to request a spokesperson from the Irish Blood Transfusion Service, to come before this Forum, and explain why large amounts of perfectly good blood is being disposed of, from people who have haemochromatosis?"

Cllr John Joe Culloty

Dr. Murphy answered Cllr. Culloty's question as to why the IBTS did not take blood from all people with haemochromatosis, since these people need to have blood taken off as part of the management of haemochromatosis, and the blood is perfectly suitable for transfusions to patients. Dr. Murphy stated that haemochromatosis is very common in Ireland; about 1 in 100 people have inherited the genes for the condition. With early diagnosis and management, haemochromatosis does not cause disease. Management consists primarily of taking about 4 pints of blood per year from people with the condition. If the person with haemochromatosis is eligible as a blood donor on all other grounds, then this blood can be used for transfusion to hospital patients. However the IBTS needs to be sure that the person donating blood has access to free care for their condition, as otherwise they would have a financial incentive to donate, which is well known to compromise safety of blood transfusions. The IBTS is developing a programme to provide access to free phlebotomy for everyone with haemochromatosis in Ireland to enable this to happen. Clinics are in place in Cork and Dublin, but progress in extending the service is slow – while the IBTS can provide phlebotomy services much more cheaply than GPs or hospital services it does incur a marginal cost that needs to be provided for in some way.

Cllr Culloty thanked Dr Murphy for his informative presentation. Mr. G. O'Dwyer CEO, South/South West Hospitals Group thanked Dr. Murphy for his attendance, long service to the IBTS and on behalf of HSE Management and Forum members wished him well in his upcoming retirement.

2. Chairperson's correspondence

- Nothing to report.

3. Committee Meetings:

The next Committee Meetings of the Regional Health Forum South:

- (a) South East Committee Meeting to be held on 11th October 2016.
- (b) South West Committee Meeting to be held on 20th October 2016.

4. Notice of Motions

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

"That this Forum calls on the HSE personnel to finally get to grips with the situation at Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel, the Le Cairde Unit on the hospital complex and St. Patrick's Hospital, as all pronouncements to date have failed to materialise and that the Area Manager for Primary, Community and Continuing Care would come to Cashel at the earliest opportunity to address the concerns of staff, patients and families."

A written response from Ms Aileen Colley, Chief Officer, Area 5 was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Wood expressed his disappointment with the response which he felt was vague. He asked for a Senior CHO Area 5 Manager to meet the various parties in Cashel and clarify the plans for Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel campus.

In response Ms. Colley advised that the St. Patrick's Hospital issue has been on the agenda for a long time and has to be HIQA compliant by 2021. Part of the commitment is to replace 100 beds and this is progressing with the Estates Department and the Capital Plan is in place. The Le Cairde building has been redeveloped to HIQA standards and will be used for the transfer of St. Claire's Ward with effect from the end of October and liaison will continue with families regarding the transfer.

Ms. Colley outlined the various HSE personnel using the Our Lady's Hospital campus and a meeting has been held with HIQA regarding the provision of beds in the Hospital. Further development as a health hub is required and it is intended that CIT teams will be based there in the future.

(b) Cllr. Mike Kennelly moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE with immediate effect, Secure the current position of the Rheumatologist in The University Hospital Kerry."

Also

(c) Cllr. John Joe Culloty moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"To call on the HSE to immediately provide and Advanced Nurse Practitioner to University Hospital Kerry, as the Consultant Rheumatologist cannot cope with the demands made on him at present."

Also

Q 5(h) Cllr. Damian Quigg put forward the following question:

"What is the current waiting time for patients awaiting rheumatologist appointments at UHK?"

A joint written response from Ms Maria Godley, General Manager, University Hospital Kerry was circulated to members and acknowledged by Cllrs. Kennelly, Culloty and Quigg.

In response to queries from Cllrs. Kennelly, Culloty and Quigg the South/South West Hospitals Group CEO Mr. G. O'Dwyer advised that the Consultant Rheumatologist would be returning to full time duty next week. The SSWHG will provide all possible support within our resources to assist in clearing the waiting list as well as filling the post of CNS, which was declined by the successful applicant, and also submitted a case for waiting lists initiative support

(d) Cllr. Arthur McDonald moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE South ensures that no child is waiting 48 months to be seen by a hearing specialist as it can affect the child's development."

A written response from Ms Aileen Colley was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. McDonald outlined the history of a local case and Ms. Colley advised that no child is listed for longer than 68 weeks for Community Audiology services. It was agreed that Cllr. McDonald would provide details to Mr. O'Dwyer to establish if there was an acute service aspect to the child's case which required consideration.

(e) Cllr. John Buttimer moved the following motion standing in his name:

"That the HSE would publish a full report on the development of a helicopter landing site at CUH and would include all details pertaining to this development including cost, location, capacity, planning, environmental impact assessments and mitigation measures, engagement with stakeholders (including local residents), and timeframe for completion."

A written response from Mr. Tony McNamara, Chief Executive Officer, Cork University Hospital Group, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Buttimer acknowledged the work of the HSE in trying to resolve this issue over a long period.

In response to his query Mr. O'Dwyer advised that HSE Estates and the hospital Engineers, and planners are in negotiations regarding the site. The agreed site must be safe and sustainable. When these negotiations are complete a planning application will be lodged with the Local Authority. The present temporary arrangements are Bishopstown GAA and Cork Airport. Members will be kept informed of progress.

(f) Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"The Minister for Health made an announcement in June of forty million for home help, how much of this money is a portioned to County Kerry?"

A written response from Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Area 4, was circulated to members and noted.

In response Cllr. Healy-Rea asked how much of the additional money was coming into Kerry and highlighted some case histories which need to be supported.

Mr. Reaney explained that the additional funding was provided to maintain existing levels of service and to provide support to 10 specific hospitals in the country to reduce the number of Delayed Discharges and help to maintain older people at

home and in their communities. In total an additional 221 Home Care Packages have been provided in Area 4.

This amounts to an additional budget of €0.9m being provided for Kerry. There is an increasing demand for the Home Help service in Kerry as in other parts of the country. Ongoing reviews of need are essential. The HSE made presentations regarding the requirement for increased levels of Home Care funding in its 2016 and 2017 Estimates submissions.

Cork and Kerry represents 15% of the country's population and receives 20% of the National Home Care Budget. Therefore Mr. Reaney indicated that the Kerry demographics are well covered at present.

The final allocation of the additional funds for Home Care Services in Cork and Kerry will be notified in the near future.

Mr. Reaney indicated that the Kerry demographics are well covered at present.

(g) Cllr. Damian Quigg moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"That this Forum support my notice of motion to put measures in place where all expectant Women would receive free routine detailed scans in order to rule out any organ deficiencies prior to the birth of their child."

A written response from Dr. Ger O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospital Group, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Quigg noted that this issue affects 1 in 100 babies and refers to anomaly scans in the case of high risk pregnancies. Mr. O'Dwyer advised that additional ultrasonographers are planned for some of the South/South West Maternity Hospitals. They provide a specialised service and require a lot of training

The Forum agreed to support Cllr. Quigg's request that the Minister for Health Mr. S. Harris TD would be requested to meet the family of a recently reported case.

Mr. O'Dwyer offered to update the members on the service in a few months time and this was agreed.

(h) Cllr. Breda Gardner moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"What is the HSE policy and the waiting time involved for remedial surgery of a fractured humerus, in cases of original misdiagnosis?"

A written response from Dr. Ger O'Callaghan was circulated to members and noted.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Gardner would provide details for Mr. O'Dwyer to investigate. The CEO South/South West Hospitals Group confirmed that the HSE supports people in such circumstances and will work with the patient to achieve a resolution.

Question 5(i) was taken with this Notice of Motion.

(i) Cllr. Deirdre Forde moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"That the Hse give a report on currents statistics for the last 3 years for TB (tuberculosis) in the Cork region in particular, and the South Western region as a whole. What responses are been allocated by HSE to combat the disease and should a public awareness programme be initiated also."

A written response from Dr. Anne Sheehan, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Forde felt that statistics for 2015 would be helpful. She is of the view that there is an increase in TB in the Cork area and that a major media awareness campaign is required.

Mr. Reaney noted that the figures indicated a decline locally and nationally and there is no knowledge of the increase referred to by Cllr. Forde.

The HSE regularly updates GPs at conferences and CME events while the Department of Public Health undertakes contact tracing of all TB notified cases.

Mr. Reaney undertook to check if there is any evidence of change in the preliminary data for 2014/2015.

6. Questions

(a) Cllr. Tom Wood put forward the following question:

"Will the 40 bed modular unit, at an estimated weekly cost of 60,000 euro per week, regarded as an interim solution to relieve the trolley situation at South Tipperary General Hospital be in place before the onset of winter as expected by the Consultants who met with Minister Harris earlier this summer?"

A written response from Ms. Maria Barry, General Manager, South Tipperary General Hospital was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Wood queried the current status of this project. Mr. O'Dwyer advised that the HSE is currently going through the procurement process at present and keep the Forum updated on progress.

(b) Cllr. John Joe Culloty put forward the following question:

"Will the HSE confirm that the people attending Lantern Lodge in Killarney continue to receive the same services of food, showering, laundry etc. when they move to Leawood House?"

Also

(g) Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae put forward the following question:

"To ask the HSE, will the patients of Lantern Lodge get the same treatment in Leawood House by way of meals and showering facilities?"

A joint written response from Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, was circulated to members and acknowledged by Cllrs. Culloty and Healy-Rae.

Cllr. Culloty was satisfied with the assurance that the facilities previously available to those attending Lantern Lodge would be there for them in the new arrangements following relocation. Cllr. Healy Rae voiced concerns about how shower facilities and meals would be provided.

Mr. Reaney confirmed that the focus is on providing an effective therapeutic service to meet the current expectations of service users and the standards of a modern service. In doing so we will continue the wellbeing of service users and they will have access to all necessary services in an alternative setting.

The transfer will only take place when all arrangements are in place to ensure everyone's needs are met.

(c) Cllr. Arthur McDonald put forward the following question:

"When will the location of the new Tir na nOg Respite House be made known to the families of the children who attend this facility as there is no longer a respite service in Carlow for these children. Also that a commitment for the new school be given from the HSE South that the Holy Angels get their new build as soon as possible."

A written response from Ms. Aileen Colley was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. McDonald summarised the current position of Tir na nOg and the Holy Angels School.

Ms. Colley confirmed that the HSE has funding for respite services. The present difficulty is of locating a suitable premises, which meets HIQA standards for the provision of respite service on a temporary basis, while seeking a long term solution.

Regarding the Holy Angels Pre-School a proposal was prepared by the HSE Disability Service with the Estates Department and in consultation with the existing service provider for the development of a new pre school service in Cashel.

A project brief was submitted to the National Capital Steering Committee and while awaiting a response, minor capital funding has been provided to facilitate essential maintenance on the current premises.

(d) Cllr. Henry Cremin put forward the following question:

"I would like to question the situation with patients in nursing homes participating in the Fair Deal Scheme where 80% of their pension is taken for their stay costs. With regards, to the remaining 20%, it is known to be used towards miscellaneous expenditure, i.e. daily newspapers/tuck shop etc. Is there an option for patients to opt out of this payment, as one patient in particular needed a dentist visit, and didn't have any disposable income in order to pay for a taxi transfer? Should they have a confirmed agreement prior to this 20% allocation to other services?"

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

Cllr. Cremin expressed concerns about how some Nursing Homes deal with the 20% due to the resident.

Mr. Reaney advised that the resident will keep the 20% personal allowance designed to allow its use as the person wishes and the resident must have access to those funds.

Residents may raise complaints with the Nursing Home concerned if there are difficulties and can also contact the Ombudsman. The quality of care is monitored by HIQA. The HSE administers the Fair Deal Scheme but is not responsible for the management of the service provided by the Nursing Home. Complaints in respect of finance should be made to the Nursing Home.

(e) Cllr. Bobby O'Connell put forward the following question:

"What is the up-to-date position on the sale of the former Castleisland Health Centre in College Road, Castleisland."

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

(f) Cllr. John Buttimer put forward the following question:

"To ask the HSE if it can undertake a review of alarm systems in the new Acute Mental Health Unit at CUH to ensure that alarms once responded to and verified can be cancelled as quickly as possible. The Unit is adjacent to a residential area noise from alarms has potential to cause a disturbance."

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

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd November 2016, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.