

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. Joe Sullivan

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MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 2pm
Meeting Room, Floor 16, County Hall, Cork County Council

Present:

Cllr. John Carey
Cllr. Timmy Collins
Cllr. Henry Cremin
Cllr. Brendan Cronin
Cllr. John Joe Culloty
Cllr. Davy Daniels
Cllr. Michael Doyle
Cllr. John Francis Flynn
Cllr. Denis Foley
Cllr. Breda Gardner
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley

Cllr. Michael McCarthy
Cllr. Arthur McDonald
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Ray Murphy
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Aaron O'Sullivan
Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Willie Quinn
Cllr. Bob Ryan
Cllr. Mary Shields
Cllr. Frank Staples
Cllr. Joe Sullivan **Chairperson**
Cllr. Tom Wood

Apologies:

Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Deirdre Forde
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro
Cllr. Rachel McCarthy
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. John Sheehan

In Attendance:

Dr Ger O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group
Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation – Area 4
Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation – Area 5
Mr. Brendan Crowley, Chief Ambulance Officer, National Ambulance Service, South
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

Vote of Sympathy

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairperson Cllr. Joe Sullivan proposed a vote of sympathy to the families of:-

Captain Dara Fitzpatrick R116, Ryan McBride Captain Derry City Football Club, Martin McGuinness former MLA and Deputy First Minister Northern Assembly and Danielle McLaughlin, Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Jason Murphy and all present stood for a minute of silent prayer and reflection.

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 23rd February 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Davy Daniels, seconded by Cllr. John Joe Culloty, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, February 23rd 2017 were approved and adopted by the members.

2. Chairperson's correspondence

The Chairperson welcomed all members and HSE managers and asked that mobile phones be turned off.

3. Committee Meetings:

The next Committee Meetings will take place on:

- (a)** South East Committee Meeting, 11th April 2017 in Kilkenny.
- (b)** South West Committee Meeting, 13th April 2017 in Bantry General Hospital.

The arrangements were noted by the HSE South Forum members.

4. Notice of Motions

- (a) Cllr. David Daniels moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Has the proposed new Saint Patricks Hospital Waterford gone to tender?"

A written response from Ms Aileen Colley, Chief Officer, CHO Area 5 was circulated to members and noted. Cllr. Daniels was satisfied with the response.

Three motions were taken together:

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

"That this Forum calls on the HSE to make available the most recent annual income figures from the collection of parking charges at hospitals within this

region and where possible outline what the income generated by such charges was used for."

- (c) Cllr. Jason Murphy moved the following motion standing in his name:

"That this Forum writes to Management of University Hospital Waterford to ask that efforts are made to ensure free car parking for cancer patients or a designated family member or carer during their treatment."

- (d) Cllr. Henry Cremin moved the following motion standing in his name:

"Can the H.S.E. give a full report on the request from the Irish Cancer Society in relation to ensuring free car parking for cancer patients or a designated family member or carer during their treatment in hospitals."

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

Cllr. Tom Wood noted that arrangements and charges vary across the Hospital Group.

Cllr. Jason Murphy queried why arrangements were different at University Hospital Waterford, which has a significantly higher income from car parking fees, and St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny. He also asked if private companies are managing the car parks for the Hospitals.

Cllr. Henry Cremin asked that a review be undertaken of all charges at all of the car parks in the South/South West Hospitals Group.

Cllr. Davy Daniels supported the call for a review with particular reference to the provision of free parking for cancer patients attending University Hospital Waterford.

Cllr. Breda Gardner said that she had received details of the parking concession arrangements at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny from the General Manager and the document should be emailed to all Forum members for information.

In response Dr. G. O'Callaghan advised that some hospital car parks are managed by private companies. The introduction of charges resulted from the all day use of hospital car parks by people on their way to town or city for work. They left their cars and travelled by bus to the work location and clogged up parking spaces for several hours per day.

The income is used to help with car park running costs and also to fund the cost of rented car park spaces near the hospitals.

Dr. G. O'Callaghan confirmed that the South/South West Hospitals Group is sympathetic to families of cancer patients and he agreed to review the parking charges across all hospitals in the Group.

- (e) Cllr. John Joe Culloty moved the following motion standing in his name:

"I call on the HSE to provide a separate Day Care Facility to cater for the growing number of people affected with Alzheimers disease in the Killarney Area."

A written response from Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork & Kerry CHO, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Culloty wondered if the general public might have an opportunity to contribute to the review of Day Care Centres for the elderly and he felt that Killarney area currently does not have adequate facilities for people presenting to the service. He also asked if a public/private partnership might be considered for future developments.

In response Mr. Ger Reaney advised that the Cork & Kerry CHO is striving to improve its home care and Day Centre facilities as part of its response to the emerging needs of the population in the area.

The review is being undertaken to establish what services are currently provided and where they are based. This information will form the basis of the recommendations for future provision based on identified and emerging needs. Killarney has not been identified as a black spot at present. There isn't scope in the review for public input, but it should be noted that the voluntary sector is involved.

In respect of the public/private option, it will be decided how to proceed when the future service needs are identified.

6. Questions

- (a) Cllr. David Daniels put forward the following question:

"What is proposed by the HSE for the recently purchased land at Ballinakill Waterford?"

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

Cllr. Davy Daniels expressed his thanks for the information provided.

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

"What measures are proposed to reduce increasing concerns about the lack of available ambulances for the transfer of patients from one acute hospital to another hospital or health care facility, or the transfer of residents in care of the elderly facilities to outpatient appointments?"

A written response from Mr Brendan Crowley, Chief Ambulance Officer, National Ambulance Service, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Wood highlighted the problem of long stay Tipperary patients trying to get to an appointment in Cork University Hospital or University Hospital Waterford and the possibility of missing it if transport can't be sourced. He praised the Cashel based Order of Malta and Red Cross who provide a service for such patients and wondered if its work was known to and acknowledge by the HSE. Cllr. Wood asked if this service could be notified to the communities where elderly patients live.

Mr. Crowley acknowledged the role of the voluntary services in this task but emphasised that the NAS couldn't meet all demands from private residents, those in residential centres, nursing homes and other bases and that private arrangements are the norm for travelling to outpatient clinic appointments. Many elderly patients didn't need an ambulance and private vehicles would suffice most of the time and NAS vehicles can't be engaged for much of a day for this purpose and out of commission in the area it covers.

Mr. Crowley noted that NAS helps if possible when an elderly patient is attending hospital for an intervention and he agreed to spread the word about the voluntary service help with transport to appointments and link with those groups for mutual benefit.

(c) Cllr. Breda Gardner put forward the following question:

"When exactly is the National Review scheduled to take place and when will the policies arising out of that be implemented? Who exactly is carrying out this National Review? (the name of the person/persons) Is this an Independent National Review or an internal HSE National Review? What are the terms of reference for this National Review and who prepares them (with specific emphasis on the terms of reference regarding the PPCI Services at UHW)? Will all the Cardiologists in the South East region be consulted prior to the completion of this National Review? When does the HSE plan to implement the terms of the Herity Report? Before or after this National Review?"

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

Cllr. Gardner expressed his disappointment with the response provided and indicated the question would be resubmitted to a future HSE South Forum meeting.

Dr. O'Callaghan confirmed that a national review would be under the aegis of the Department of Health not the South/South West Hospital Group and that no information has been received to date on when it would start or what terms of reference it would have.

He advised that an additional €0.5 m had been provided to enhance University Hospital Waterford Cardiology services in 2017 and that the Waiting list had been significantly reduced in recent months, helped by outsourcing cases to the Bons Secours and Cork University Hospital respectively.

He stated that the Herity Report did not recommend the provision of a second Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory at University Hospital Waterford.

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

"How many people are currently on the waiting list for cataract surgery in Kerry, and also to provide a detailed breakdown of waiting times?"

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

Following a brief discussion on the Waiting list details provided Dr. O'Callaghan told Cllr. Culloty that significant work has been done in recent months, including outsourcing, in reducing the number of patients awaiting cataract operations.

The small number of Ophthalmic Physicians in the South/South West Hospitals group focus mainly on outpatient lists and try to alleviate the pressure on the Ophthalmic Surgeons.

The National Treatment Purchase Fund is now a separate unit with its own budget and the South/South West Hospitals Group will be working with them directly to ensure the maximum number of patients have their treatment as soon as possible. Concluding the discussion, Dr. G. O'Callaghan agreed to forward details of the Outpatient Waiting list for Kerry cataract patients to Cllr. Culloty on 25/03/2017.

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

"Can the H.S.E. give an update on the waiting times and the amount of public patients waiting for Cancer Preventative tests particularly the B.R.C.A.1 Gene testing and are all these procedures carried out in Cork or do patients have to travel."

A written response from Professor Andrew Green, Consultant in Clinical Genetics, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Cremin emphasised that waiting for the genetic testing is a worrying time for patients and their families and he requested that they be done as quickly as possible. In respect of cancer related rapid access clinics it was noted that some targets were in arrears but Dr. O'Callaghan assured Cllr. Cremin that there is one common list and not two - private and public - and that all patients are treated as promptly as possible.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th May 2017 at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.