

# REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

**Chairperson,**  
Cllr. Jason Murphy

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## MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 2pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

### Present:

Cllr. Henry Cremin  
Cllr. John Joe Culloty  
Cllr. Davy Daniels  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Denis Foley  
Cllr. Breda Gardner  
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan  
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan  
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh  
Cllr. Joe Malone

Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
Cllr. Arthur McDonald  
Cllr. Jason Murphy  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell  
Cllr. Michael O'Ryan  
Cllr. Seanie Power  
Cllr. Damian Quigg  
Cllr. Joe Sullivan  
Cllr. Danielle Twomey  
Cllr. Tom Wood

### Apologies:

Cllr. Deirdre Forde  
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley  
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue  
Cllr. John Sheehan  
Cllr. Mary Shields  
Cllr. Frank Staples

### In Attendance:

Dr Ger O' Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group  
Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare  
Ms Anna Marie Lanigan, Head of Primary Care, South East Community Healthcare  
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

**1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. John Joe Culloty seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018 were approved and adopted by the members.

Cllr. Damian Geoghegan was welcomed as a new member to the Regional Health Forum.

Cllr. Joe Malone requested a separate meeting between Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary Regional Health Forum Members in relation to Mental Health Services. This request was supported by Cllr. Breda Gardener and Cllr. Denis Foley. Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan agreed to follow-up on this matter.

**2. Chairperson's correspondence**

Members were reminded to switch off mobile phones.

**3. Reports by Chairpersons of Committees**

Reports by Chairpersons of:

- (a) South East Committee Meeting held on 29.01.2019 in Kilkenny
- (b) South West Committee Meeting held on 07.02.2019 in Cork

The reports of both meetings were taken at the March 2019 Meeting.

**4. Notices of Motion**

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

"Meningitis B has been the most common cause of bacterial meningitis in Ireland. Vaccines are the only way to prevent meningitis and therefore we call on the HSE South to make the Meningitis B vaccinations universally available free of charge."

A written response from Dr Fiona Ryan, Director of Public Health, HSE South was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. McDonald acknowledged that the Men B vaccine is part of the Universal Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme for all children born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016, he was disappointed that NIAC have not recommended a catch up Men B vaccine programme for older children.

(b) Cllr. Damian Quigg moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That this Forum, shall support this motion, requesting an outreach X Ray service for Ospidéal Pobal Chorca Dhuibhne (West Kerry Community Hospital). Parts of West Kerry are over 40 miles from UHK, Tralee A&E where the vast majority have to attend. At present unless they can afford to pay privately for X ray in Tralee they will have to wait for hours upon end for a service which could be available locally especially as West Kerry Community Hospital is underutilized at present."

**Cllr. Damian Quigg**

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

Cllr. Quigg was disappointed to note that there were no plans at this time particularly given the influx of tourists to the Dingle area. Mr. Ger Reaney acknowledged that diagnostic services need to be built up in the community to support General Practitioners and decrease travel distances for service users. However there are insufficient Radiographers for current service locations at present. There is presently a focus on trying to address access and volume of activity to maintain existing facilities for instance in South Kerry. Cllr. Quigg stated that he felt the Dingle area is different given the tourist population. Mr. Ger Reaney advised that ~~any plan to consider such a proposal~~ [a plan to expand access to radiography in Community facilities will be developed by Cork Kerry Community Healthcare in 2019](#) but that proposals must be needs assessed.

(c) Cllr. Mary Lenihan Foley moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Could I ask HIQA/HSE what plans are in place for two houses in Youghal, bearing in mind that these houses are being lived in at the moment but residents will soon be moving into alternative Accommodation. They are 2 fine houses which maybe could be used for Respite and other services which are needed in East Cork area."

This item was deferred to the March 2019 meeting.

(d) Cllr Danielle Twomey moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"Can the HSE please issue a written report on the number of medical cards it has revoked in the southern region, from the last 2 years to date. This should include breakdown per county, and also the reasons for the cancelling of medical cards."

A written response from Ms Catherine Kane, Head of Customer Services, PCRS, HSE, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Twomey was disappointed that there was no representative present from PCRS and outlined her frustration with the medical card process. Cllr. Twomey was specifically concerned with medical card renewal and issues arising.

(e) Cllr Henry Cremin moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Can the HSE give any indication of when the replacement representative will be taking up their position on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee that meet regularly in the city hall offices."

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

Cllr. Cremin acknowledged the written reply and urged that this important [post Representative](#) -be filled as soon as possible.

(f) Cllr Tom Woods moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Will HSE confirm that the significant excess expenditure on the National Children's Hospital will not affect the commencement and completion of the new buildings replacing the present Saint Patrick's Hospital in Cashel and due to be in place by the end of 2021 to meet HIQA conditions."

A written response from Mr Kate Killeen White, Chief Officer, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted. Cllr. Wood acknowledged the response and stated his concern regarding the cost overrun with the National Children's Hospital and the potential impact on planned capital developments such as replacement beds at St. Patrick's Cashel. Cllr. Wood stated that he would expect that further savings would be required from the HSE in the next few years as a result of this cost overrun. Cllr. Wood said that he would also expect progress to continue in relation to St. Patrick's.

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

"That the Chair of Regional Health Forum South writes to Minister Simon Harris and Minister Pascal Donoghue to support the Nurses in their pay parity and provide safe staffing conditions to protect both the nurse and patient as a matter of urgency."

Cllr. Gardner outlined concerns regarding staff ratios and staffing levels. Her proposal was supported by a number of Forum Members present, Cllr. Wood, Cllr. Malone. The Chairperson Cllr. Jason Murphy agreed to fully support this motion.

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

"As the HSE has previously stated that it intends to sell the majority of its land in Killarney, I ask for an update on any progress made in this process."

A written response from Mr Alan O'Connell, Estates Dept, HSE South was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. John Joe Culloty stated that it is important that this matter is progressed as he did not want to see Saint Finian's building fall into a state of disrepair or indeed create a health safety risk. Mr. Ger Reaney stated that a further to the written reply provided that he had received a more recent update stating the IT Tralee [has now confirmed that it](#) was no longer interested in purchasing the site/property. Mr. Reaney stated that Kerry County Council [may have committed to](#) purchase 6 acres and the remainder of the site would now be moved on to the next stage for disposal given that the process [under of offering the property to](#) state agencies was now exhausted.

## 5. Questions

(a) Cllr. Damian Quigg put forward the following question:

"Given that children with disabilities, intellectual or physical, often do not reach a meaningful maturity or level of independence at the age of 18, how can the state (HSE) justify the differentiation between a child of 17 who needs a particular service or therapy and an adult of 18?"

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

Cllr. Quigg stated that he was not satisfied with the response and that he is specifically putting this forward this question as it was known that service availability is greater for children than adults. Cllr Quigg asked whether Children First and associated legislation could be re-visited in light of this matter. Cllr. Quigg also requested that Minister Harris be requested to attend the next Forum meeting to put this and other issues to him.

Mr. Ger Reaney in reply advised that ~~a general the generality of the~~ response ~~had been provided as the was because the~~ question posed ~~not specific was general too~~. However given Cllr. Quigg's clarification on the issue, Mr. Reaney ~~acknowledged stated that the cause of the problem was funding for~~ ~~that~~ Disability Services for people across all of Ireland ~~has have~~ not kept up with demographic pressures and changing demands.

Mr. Reaney advised that ~~the rationale for the current a~~ focus on developing services for children ~~is because of the importance of Early Intervention and potential positive impact of services provided to children on the ability to function in the future including means greater options and impact on their potential for~~ functioning as adults. Mr. Reaney also outlined service provision such as Rehabilitative Training and Day Services and while there may be ~~occasional~~ delays in entry, these are in general ~~positive~~ services ~~where capacity exists to meet need~~. ~~There are, however significant~~ challenges in the provision of respite and residential services. Mr. Reaney stated ~~that that he would suggest that a review of Children First would not address this issue Children First is not best place to focus but rather the overall provision~~ of services. Mr. Reaney spoke of ~~the need for~~ multi-annual planning for people of all ages ~~in~~ disability services and in relation to respite and residential services. ~~Mr Quigg agreed that a multi-annual plan for Residential and Respite Services, for people with disabilities was what was required and he again expressed his frustration that the Minister had not agreed to meet the Forum.~~

(b) Cllr Henry Cremin put forward the following question:

"Have the HSE carried out any exercise in relation to the particular transport mode that all the staff of CUH actually use every day coming to and from work. How many public car spaces for visitors (paying) are there on the grounds of the CUH. How many car spaces (non paying) are there for staff members of the CUH and how many are occupied Monday to Friday. How many staff walk/cycle to work. How many staff use public transport to work."

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

Cllr. Cremin asked about the possibility of developing initiatives such as a Park n' Ride facility for CUH. Mr. Ger O'Callaghan whilst acknowledging the challenges with accessing parking at CUH advised that a park n' ride system / public transports may not always be possible given the different work shifts of staff.

(c) Cllr. Tom Woods put forward the following question:

"What is the capacity of, occupancy rate, and average length of stay where applicable for residents at the Rea Nua, Lorica and Carraig Oir Units on Our Lady's Hospital Complex in Cashel?"

A written response from Mr Kate Killeen White, Chief Officer, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Wood noted the response in relation to occupancy levels. He clarified that his query related more to plans for people with mental health problems. In response Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan stated that the function of units such as Lorica was very different from acute inpatient units. Cllr. Wood highlighted his concern in relation to the lack of acute mental health inpatient beds in South Tipperary. Ms Lanigan stated that she would bring these concerns back to Senior Mental Health Management in South East Community Healthcare.

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

“When will the post of retired Rheumatologist in St Luke’s Hospital Kilkenny last October be replaced?”

A written response from Mr Anne Slattery, General Manager, St Luke’s Hospital was circulated to members and noted. The reply outlined Rheumatology Service provision including an outreach Consultant service; however Cllr. Gardner was concerned that there was no Rheumatologist based in the South East. Mr. Ger O’Callaghan clarified that this written response was in relation to St. Luke’s Hospital Kilkenny which is part of the Ireland East Hospital Group. He advised that there was Rheumatologists in University Hospital Waterford.

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

“As a submission for 31 additional acute beds for UHK was made early last year, what is the update on this submission?”

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

Cllr. Culloty noted this response. Dr. Ger O’Callaghan advised there was no additional funding approval for this proposal, however the Stroke Unit in Kerry was open and additional beds were opened for Clinical Winter. Dr. O’Callaghan acknowledged the deficit in Kerry and advised that the Hospital Group would continue working with Kerry University Hospital on this matter.

There was no confirmation as to when the National Capital Plan would be finalised.

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.