

# REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

**Chairperson,**  
Cllr. Jason Murphy

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## MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

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

### Present:

Cllr. Henry Cremin  
Cllr. John Joe Culloty  
Cllr. Davy Daniels  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. John Francis Flynn  
Cllr. Denis Foley  
Cllr. Deirdre Forde  
Cllr. Breda Gardner  
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan  
Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
Cllr. Arthur McDonald

Cllr. Jason Murphy  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell  
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue  
Cllr. Michael O'Ryan  
Cllr. Damian Quigg  
Cllr. John Sheehan  
Cllr. Danielle Twomey  
Cllr. Tom Wood

### Apologies:

Cllr. Timmy Collins  
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley  
Cllr. Susan McCarthy  
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin  
Cllr. Frank Staples  
Cllr. Mary Shields

### In Attendance:

Dr Ger O' Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group  
Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare  
Ms Kate Killeen-White, Chief Officer, South East Community Healthcare  
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

## **1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Prior to proceeding with the scheduled agenda Cllr. Cremin proposed a vote of sympathy for the Downey family on the tragic passing of Marie Downey and her new born son.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hanna Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Quigg, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 were approved and adopted by the members.

## **2. Chairperson's correspondence**

Members were reminded to switch off mobile phones.

## **3 (a) Committees**

Reports of Committee meetings held on:

- South East Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Kilkenny
- South West Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in Cork

The reports of both Committees were taken as read.

The next Committee meetings will be held on:

- South East Committee Meeting held on 09.04.2019 in Kilkenny
- South West Committee Meeting held on 11.04.2019 in Tralee

## **3 (b) Presentation of Community Operational Plan 2019**

The Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare Plan was presented by Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer. Mr. Reaney also provided a general overview of the national position in relation to funding and staffing levels (staffing levels can only grow to the level they are funded). The South East Community Healthcare Plan was presented by Ms. Kate Killeen White Chief 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.

- With population changes, the health and social care services are targeting services/available resources to certain age-groups or areas where there has been significant population growth.
- Reduction in prevalence of smoking but concerns raised by a number of members in relation to the increase in obesity levels and alcohol binge drinking. Immediate impact of alcohol and longer term impact of obesity. Members commented on the relatively low price of alcohol in supermarkets.
- What Health & Well-being initiatives in place to target obesity and binge drinking? Could additional funding be provided to address issues relating to binge drinking and young people.
- Will the Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Organisation try to address recruitment of additional CAMHS Consultants for Cork and Kerry areas?
- Could additional resources be provided to address CAMHS assessment waiting lists. Are there plans for the provision of additional counsellors?
- Commencement of Specialist Peri-natal Psychiatrist commencing in March 2019 in Cork and Kerry to work with Mental Health and Obstetrics and Maternity Services.
- Could additional funding be provided to develop model of care such as smaller residential units for people with dementia i.e. Dementia Village Netherlands.

- Increases in numbers of older people in the population - increase further the number of additional beds for older persons in Kerry?
- What is the basis for the differential funding levels in Palliative Care between Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare and South East Community Healthcare?
- What are the HSE plans to address concerns arising for people with Downs Syndrome who are required to submit documentation in relation to any changes in their condition for their medical card review process?
- Will additional funding be allocated to the provision of Disability Respite Service provision?
- Has the Capital Expenditure programme been finalised for 2019?
- Given the increases in population what are the plans to address the ongoing trolley crisis across hospital and community services?
- What are the plans to address Cataracts Lists in Cork/Kerry area?
- What are the plans for Kilcreene Hospital Kilkenny and will orthopaedic services provided there be moved to UHW?
- When will Cardiac Cath Lab be completed in Waterford and what are the plans to extend service provision?

#### **4. Notices of Motion**

(a) Cllr. Mary Lenihan Foley moved the following Motion, standing in her 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."

Cllr. Mary Lenihan Foley had sent apologies and requested the response was sent to her. A written response from Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

(b) Cllr. John Francis Flynn moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"When will the Retired Consultant Cardiologist in University Hospital Kerry be replaced?"

And

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

"To ask the HSE, what progress has been made on the recruitment of Consultants in UHK, particularly in the areas of Cardiology, Respiratory, Haematology, Oncology, Geriatrics & ED."

A written response on both motions from Dr. Ger O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. John Joe Culloty noted the response, advised that he had sought specific details on various posts and asked whether it was the intention to reduce cardiology services in Kerry.

Dr. Ger O'Callaghan explained that it was not the intention to do so, rather it was planned to work CUH and KUH together in order to build services up. He advised of Locum Consultant in situ in Kerry 2 days per week. He also acknowledged that a very eminent reputable Cardiologist was providing assistance to the acute services.

A second post will be submitted to the Consultant Appointment Commission shortly.

Dr. O'Callaghan also provided an update in relation to the Respiratory Consultant (new post) Haematology Services, Oncology and the Consultant Geriatrician post which is for re-advertisement. He also updated members on the Emergency Medicine Consultant posts.

With regard to the replacement of the Histopathologist who recently retired, Dr. O'Callaghan explained that due to recruitment difficulties, interim measures are currently in place to ensure service continuity. He also identified the problems recruiting lone /single practitioners and the risks with this and stated that it was better practice to have them linked into a team. Dr. O'Callaghan agreed to prepare a Consultant Recruitment status report for Cllr Culloty.

(c) Cllr. Bernard Moynihan moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That a detailed account be given on time frame for the above works on Extension/Upgrade of Kanturk Community Hospital to be carried out."

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

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

"That this Forum be informed of any programme for painting/cleaning works planned for this year to improve the exterior appearance of buildings at Our Lady's Hospital Complex in Cashel with special attention to 1. External and internal boundary walls. 2. Area in vicinity of the former main door to the hospital. 3. Unsightly roof top tanks on the main listed building. 4. Former residential lodge at main entrance."

A written response from Ms. Kate Killeen White, Chief Officer, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted. Cllr. Wood expressed his disappointment with the response, noting that external appearance was important and that protected structures should not be allowed fall into disrepair. Ms. Killeen White acknowledged these concerns, however within existing funding the focus is on meeting regulatory requirements.

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

"That this Health Forum via the Chairperson writes to Minister Simon Harris, Minister Jim Daly and HSE executives as a matter of urgency to implement boards of Management to each hospital to ensure local accountability."

A written response from Dr. Ger O'Callaghan was circulated to members and noted. Cllr. Gardner stated that a Board of Management for each hospital would bring better accountability.

## 5. Questions

(a) Cllr. John Francis Flynn put forward the following question:

"That a breakdown of the cost of running University Hospital Kerry be provided, the cost of administration, wages, the ratio of nurses to administration staff."

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

Cllr. Flynn noted the response, and stated that he is seeking the full financial statement for 2018. Following this clarification, Dr. O'Callaghan agreed that the acute hospital services would provide this statement to Cllr. Flynn.

(b) Cllr. George Lawlor put forward the following question:

"Can the Forum members be advised on the provision of a Community Intervention Team for Winter 2019. County Wexford is without a CIT. This is completely unacceptable and placing great strain on services and service users within the county."

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

(c) Cllr. Deirdre Forde put forward the following question:

"Can the HSE give a written report of how many children/young adults which have been diagnosed in the last 10 years with Type 1 Diabetes in the Cork Region and outline why is Dexcom still only available to certain children in Cork area. Also indicate what extra resources (financial and staffing) will be allocated this year to:

(a) train families and support them when transitioning from conventional injection to Pump Technology and

(b) for training teachers and SNAs from the current unacceptable once a year in Cork and

(c) Indicate the HSE intends to tackle the fact that it can be up to a year long wait for some of these children and their families to see a Child Physiologist."

A written response from Mr Tony McNamara, CEO, CUH Group was circulated to members and noted. Cllr. Forde whilst noting the response expressed her dissatisfaction with it. She reiterated her concerns in relation to a number of issues in this regard for children with diabetes which include access to the Dexcom Pump in Cork, lengthy waiting times as SNAs await training and the need for psychological supports on diagnosis.

Dr. O'Callaghan noted Cllr. Forde's concern in relation to ready access to such pumps in the Leinster area. It was his understanding that in Cork, the multidisciplinary team meet and review cases on an individual basis in relation to suitability for the pump.

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

“With Saint Patrick’s Hospital, Cashel, having to transport patients and residents to and from hospitals and other health centres on an almost daily basis, is there any possibility that the existing unsatisfactory vehicle could be replaced with a user and wheelchair friendly one”

A written response from Ms. Kate Killeen White, Chief Officer, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members. In reply, Cllr. Wood stated that a new vehicle fit for wheelchairs should be provided for older people in this residential unit, for their appointments and for social activities.

Ms. Kate Killeen White reiterated her response as per the written reply and advised that this funding request was not currently possible from within the existing budget allocation.

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

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

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.