

# REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

**Chairperson,**  
Cllr. Jason Murphy

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## MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at 2pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

### Present:

Cllr. Timmy Collins  
Cllr. Henry Cremin  
Cllr. Brendan Cronin  
Cllr. John Joe Culloty  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Denis Foley  
Cllr. Breda Gardner  
Cllr. Michael McCarthy

Cllr. Arthur McDonald  
Cllr. Jason Murphy  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell  
Cllr. Michael O'Ryan  
Cllr. Mary Shields  
Cllr. Joe Sullivan  
Cllr. Danielle Twomey  
Cllr. Tom Wood

### Apologies:

Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond  
Cllr. Michael Doyle  
Cllr. Deirdre Forde  
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan  
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan  
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh  
Cllr. Joe Malone  
Cllr. John Sheehan

### 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> March 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. John Joe Culloty, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 were approved and adopted by the members.

**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 09.04.2019 in Kilkenny
- (b) South West Committee Meeting held on 11.04.2019 in Mallow

The reports of both meetings were taken as read.

**4. Notices of Motion**

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

"That serious consideration be given towards the establishment of a Minor Surgical Treatment Unit (elective minor surgery) at Our Lady's Hospital in Cashel as there is ample suitable accommodation and such a service would reduce the pressure on South Tipperary General Hospital in Clonmel."

A written response from Ms. Kate Killeen White, Chief Officer was circulated to members and noted. Cllr. Wood appreciated the response and advised that the query came from acute hospital staff and was to look into developing a minor surgical unit similar to the minor injury unit that is currently operational in Cashel.

(b) Cllr. Brendan Cronin moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"To ask the HSE to explain why there is a constant smell of raw sewerage within the newly built €13.5 million Deer Lodge care facility in Killarney where its believed there is a major fault in the internal sewer network and also to clarify how many times since this building was opened have drain cleaning companies been brought in, and is it true that work had to been undertaken to repair fire doors not fitted properly and that parts for door handles and light fittings are extremely difficult to source in this country."

**Cllr Brendan Cronin**

Also

Q 5(b) Cllr. John Joe Culloty put forward the following question:

"What was the cause of the foul smell in Deerlodge? Has it been rectified?"

**Cllr John Joe Culloty**

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

Cllr. Brendan Cronin stated that this matter is of concern particularly as a working environment and queried whether it had been fully addressed. Mr. Reaney responded stating that his response was based on the most recent information provided to him. He also advised that the Management Team have met with staff and at no stage was this issue raised. Mr. Reaney stated that there are quality assurance policies and processes in place to raise any issue of concern.

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

There was no written response instead a discussion between the members took place in the Chambers and it was proposed and seconded to support the Motion and write to the Minister for Health requesting him to seek to have the minimum age for the purchase of alcohol to be increased from 18 to 21 years. Cllr. Culloty and other Forum Members outlined their concerns with 'binge drinking culture' and its impact on young people. It was highlighted that society should be taking actions.

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

"Calling on the HSE to establish and fund a drug detox centre here in Cork either as part of an already established facility or a new build."

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

Cllr. Twomey stated that drug issues were very prevalent in Cork and that there was a need for more detox beds. The HSE needs to prioritise funding for drug treatment and the methadone programme needs greater regulation. Cllr. Henry Cremin asked about Cuan Mhuire funding going forward. Mr. Reaney responded advised that funding for organisations such as Cuan Mhuire is on a year to year basis.

Cllr. Michael O'Ryan then raised the matter of the mortuary at University Hospital Waterford. Dr Gerard O'Callaghan update the meeting on the progress of this project.

## **5. Questions**

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

"What progress has been made to date regarding new 90 bed facility to replace Saint Patrick's Hospital in Cashel and when can we expect a planning application to be lodged?"

A written response from Ms. Kate Killeen White was circulated to members and noted. Cllr. Wood noted the contents of the reply.

(c) Cllr. Danielle Twomey put forward the following question:

"What measures are being put in place to tackle the understaffing issues at the CUMH?"

A written response from Prof John Higgins, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Director Maternity Directorate, South/Southwest Hospital Group was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Mary Sheilds put forward an additional query in relation to the progress towards a new helipad. This was a matter of importance for instance in transporting patients with acute stroke to hospital quickly. Mr. O'Callaghan advised that a planning application has been submitted. Cllr. Sheilds urged CUH Management to do their utmost to prioritise this matter. She thanked HSE members of the Regional Health Forum for their courtesy and co-operation over the years.

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.