

# REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

**Chairperson,**  
Cllr. John Joe Culloty

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## MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 @ 2pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

### Present:

Cllr. John Buttimer  
Cllr. John Carey  
Cllr. Timmy Collins  
Cllr. Henry Cremin  
Cllr. John Joe Culloty **Chairperson**  
Cllr. Davy Daniels  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Denis Foley  
Cllr. Deirdre Forde  
Cllr. Breda Gardner  
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro  
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan  
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh  
Cllr. Mike Kennelly  
Cllr. George Lawlor

Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
Cllr. Rachel McCarthy  
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin  
Cllr. Jason Murphy  
Cllr. Ray Murphy  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell  
Cllr. Aaron O'Sullivan  
Cllr. John Pender  
Cllr. Seanie Power  
Cllr. Damian Quigg  
Cllr. William Quinn  
Cllr. Bob Ryan  
Cllr. John Sheehan  
Cllr. Joe Sullivan  
Cllr. Tom Wood

### Apologies:

Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley  
Cllr. Joe Malone  
Cllr. Mary Shields

### In Attendance:

Dr. Ger O' Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group  
Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Area 4 Community Health Organisation  
Ms. Anna-Marie Lanigan, Area Manager, Area 5, Community Health Organisation  
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

**1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Tom Wood, seconded by Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 were approved and adopted by the members.

**2. Chairperson's correspondence**

Members were reminded to switch off mobile phones.

Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer sends her apologies and Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan, Area Manager will represent her at today's meeting.

**3. The dates of the next Committee Meetings of the **Regional Health Forum South** were noted:**

- (a) South East Committee Meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- (b) South West Committee Meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**4. Notices of Motion**

(a) Cllr. Bobby O'Connell moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE inform the public the importance of having their EIR code available when contacting the Emergency services."

A written response from Mr. Paul Gallen, Area Operations Manager, National Ambulance Service was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr O'Connell thanked Mr. Gallen for the response and said he was satisfied with the information provided. He submitted the motion because of representations made to him by people who have been asked for their EIR Code when requesting an ambulance. He felt that the HSE should help to raise awareness of the importance of people knowing their EIR Codes.

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

"To call on the HSE to increase funding for Disability Services in Kerry, as staffing is at an unacceptable level."

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

Cllr. Culloty acknowledged the detailed response and emphasised the importance of a respite service within the Disability Area.

He asked that provision of a respite house be considered by the HSE which could be run economically by a modest number of staff and would provide a valuable service to the people of Kerry.

Mr. Reaney acknowledged the Chairman's intentions and agreed that the provision of respite services is essential for parents and families. He noted the increasing demand for residential and respite services including residential places on an unplanned or emergency basis.

He assured Cllr. Culloty that the HSE will continue to seek additional funding to address current and anticipated future levels of unmet need as a priority in the HSE Submissions for the 2017 Health Estimates.

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

"That the HSE would develop an Education program to increase the awareness of the general population (especially young people) of the dangers of illicit steroid use in relation to sport and weight training."

A written response from Ms Sandra Coughlan, Interim Manager Health Promotion and Improvement, (South), Health and Wellbeing Division was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Sheehan thanked Ms. Coughlan for the extensive response. He emphasised that these steroids have now moved beyond use by sportsmen and women and now represent a significant problem across society with particular dangers to liver and the cardiovascular system along with the related mood swings. There is a need for greater awareness across communities to dispel the notion that there are health benefits to be gained from their use.

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

"That in light of the immediate critical situation facing Saint Patricks Hospital, Cashel due to non compliance with HIQA Environmental Standards this Forum calls on the HSE to provide the HIQA Authority with costed timelines and definite plans for the provision of the 100 Community Nursing Unit Beds in Cashel by 2021 thus safeguarding the continuity of services in the intervening period."

A written response from Ms Anna Marie Lanigan was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Wood acknowledged the information provided and advised the members that since the May meeting HIQA had made an unannounced visit to St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel. He noted that there was much concern in Cashel regarding the HIQA references to the Hospital and its non registered status.

Cllr. Wood asked for clarification about the 100 replacement beds to be provided in South Tipperary, the location, and if the project group had met since May.

In response Ms. Lanigan confirmed that HIQA has been advised the project is in the HSE Capital Plan. The 100 beds will be based in Cashel but the location depends on whether it will be a Public Private Partnership or direct build project. The local project group (Estates area) has met and is working on the plan while there is ongoing consultation with HIQA regarding the 2021 deadline for the provision of the 100 community nursing beds in Cashel.

## **5. Questions**

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

"With an expectation of additional resources been made available in 2016 to improve Therapy Services in South Tipperary, with special emphasis on pupils attending Scoil Aonghusa Special School in Cashel, has any progress been made?"

A written response from Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Wood was pleased to note that additional therapy services would be available in South Tipperary. He asked about the deployment of the posts to Scoil Aonghusa.

In reply Ms. Lanigan advised that the posts will be assigned to a Children Disability National Team in accordance with the national requirements and not to individual schools. She agreed to refer Cllr. Wood's request for therapies to be provided at the school during class hours, to the local Disability Team.

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

"Will the HSE give an up to date position in relation to the Primary Care centre in Castleisland in relation to the expansion of services there?"

A written response from Mr. Pat McCarthy, Assistant National Director, Estates, HSE South was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. O'Connell was delighted to note progress made to date, with a late 2018 finish date anticipated.

Mr. G. Reaney undertook to provide Cllr. O'Connell with updates as the project proceeds.

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

"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?"

A verbal response from Ms Mirenda O'Donovan, Communications Manager, IBTS was given to Cllr Culloty informing him that the IBTS will be in attendance at the September 2016 Regional Health Forum meeting.

(d) Cllr. Dr John Sheehan put forward the following question:

"Can the HSE/PCRS outline what measures are in place to provide Primary Care Medical Card Services for a patient who has being removed from a General

Practitioners' List other than assigning the patient to another practice for 6 months?"

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

Cllr. Sheehan acknowledged the reply and noted that violent and abusive patients are being moved to other GPs every six months. He insisted that this is not a sustainable answer and asked if it was considered best practice or if the issue is being considered within the HSE GP Contract Renegotiations.

In reply Mr. Reaney accepted the difficulties which arise for GPs but pointed out that under the current GMS scheme patients are entitled to access a GP and that there isn't an alternative process. Unless new arrangements are agreed to address this situation, the HSE is bound by the terms of the 1970 Health Act.

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.