

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. John Joe Culloty

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MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 19th May 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. Mary Rose Desmond
Cllr. Michael Doyle
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Denis Foley
Cllr. Deirdre Forde
Cllr. Breda Gardner
Cllr. Joe Harris
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh

Cllr. Mike Kennelly
Cllr. George Lawlor
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Joe Malone
Cllr. Michael McCarthy
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Aaron O'Sullivan
Cllr. John Pender
Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. William Quinn
Cllr. Mary Shields
Cllr. Joe Sullivan
Cllr. Tom Wood

Apologies:

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro
Cllr. Rachel McCarthy
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. Anna-Marie Lanigan, Area Manager, Community Healthcare Organisation – Area 5
Mr. Paul Gallen, Area Operations Manager, National Ambulance Service
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

Apologies:

Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation - Area 5
Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Group CEO, South/South West Hospital Group

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 24th March 2016

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Kennelly, seconded by Cllr. D. Foley, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, March 24th 2016 were approved and adopted by the members.

2. Chairperson's correspondence

- Members were reminded to switch off mobile phones.
- Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan, Area Manager will represent Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer Area 5, at today's meeting.
- Adoption of Regional Health Forum Annual Report 2015
The Chairman advised the members that copies of the report had been emailed to members but that some hard copies were available if any member wished to have one. The Annual Report was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Buttimer and seconded by Cllr. T. Collins.

3. Reports by Chairpersons of:

- (a) South East Committee Meeting held on 19th April 2016
- (b) South West Committee Meeting held on 21st April 2016

The two reports were taken as read.

4. Presentation from the Health Information and Quality Authority to the Regional Health Forum

A presentation was given by Ms Susan Cliffe, Deputy Chief Inspector, Social Services, Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) to the Regional Health Forum Members.

Queries raised by Members on the following topics were answered by Ms Cliffe:

- The role of HIQA in respect of Mental Health facilities
- Offering 'solutions' following HIQA inspection of premises
- Consequences of failure to earn HIQA registration for a residential facility for older people
- HIQA use of surveys/interviews with residents families and staff
- Use of CCTV by HIQA in the course of their work at facilities being inspected.
- Use of Antibiotics and role in monitoring GP prescriptions
- Frequency of unannounced visits to HSE/Public and Private Health Care facilities and Designated Units
- Limits on HIQA powers of enforcement
- Registration Cycle – major announced inspection, unannounced inspections and triggered inspections

Concluding the discussion, the Chairman, Cllr. JJ Culloty, thanked Ms. Cliffe for her excellent presentation and clarifying the various issues raised by Forum members.

It was agreed that a copy of Ms. Cliffe's presentation would be e-mailed to members from the HSE South Forum Office.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) Cllr. Denis Foley moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"While understanding the entitlement that every citizen has to their own privacy but given the levels of stress carers must cope with when looking after a mentally ill relative, that the HSE to put in place a more family friendly set of protocols with respect to the provision of information for primary carers of the mentally ill. That the HSE to put in place a set standard operating procedures for medical professionals dealing with patients suffering from a mental illness. These procedures must ensure that the carers (family members) are as fully informed as possible with respect the diagnosis, care plan and prognosis of a patient prior to discharge."

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

Cllr. Foley appreciated the reply but asked for improved levels of communication between the carers and the HSE staff.

In response Ms. Lanigan advised that the HSE acknowledges the significant role that carers play but that privacy and confidentiality must be respected and the consent of the service user is essential and must be safeguarded. Ms. Lanigan confirmed that Mental Health staff are receiving ongoing training and the HSE is mindful of the reciprocal value of effective communications.

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

"I call on this Forum to outline the procedures and framework involved towards achieving the implementation of the new 100 bed facility to replace Saint Patrick's Hospital, Cashel under Public Private Partnership by 2021 and the steps involved in attracting a Private Partner for this major development?"

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

Cllr. Wood thanked Ms. Lanigan for the response and asked for clarification as to whether the development will be a Public Private Partnership or a Direct HSE build. In response, Ms. Lanigan advised that the options are being considered at present and if it is a PPP Project it will be on a green field site. If it is a Direct build the project will proceed on the hospital grounds.

She said that the project has been included in the Capital Plan and will confirm a date for decision which will be advised to Cllr. Wood.

It was noted that the Local Authority may be in a position to assist, if the decision is taken to proceed to a green field site.

(c) Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"The Regional Health Forum, South recognises the fact that the National Ambulance Service is understaffed and the understaffing of this emergency service has resulted in lengthy response times for some emergency call outs in the South East Region. This Forum now requests the Health Service Executive to actively consider deploying more ambulance personnel to improve emergency ambulance response times in the South East Region".

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

Cllr. Fitzgerald felt that the resources in place were inadequate to provide an effective service. He quoted some examples from experience in East Waterford and the delays waiting for an ambulance to arrive when an external vehicle is required if the locally based teams are on calls.

He gave examples of staff and vehicles in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and noted that the comparison is unfavourable to the South.

Cllr. Fitzgerald also highlighted the emigration of trained EMT staff to Australia where working conditions and pay are more attractive.

In response Mr. Gallen accepted that with the limited resources the response targets won't always be met. He advised that many of the Northern Ireland fleet are interim vehicles and the response time within 19 minutes will be closer to 65% than 80% in his area. Mr. Gallen noted that there are many recommendations in the 'National Ambulance Service Capacity Review' covering the need for enhanced IT systems, Human Resources and vehicles. He spoke about new models of care which may lead to colocation with Primary Care facilities and a reduction in the number of patients being brought to ED.

In conclusion Mr. Gallen advised that there are two Ambulance Control Centres operating in the Republic of Ireland based at Tallaght and Ballyshannon respectively.

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

"As counties, Kerry and Cork are known to be high risk areas for contracting Lyme disease, that the HSE South carry out an advertising campaign, highlighting the dangers, and also preventative methods of this very serious disease."

A written response from Dr. Paul McKeown, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, Health Protection Surveillance Centre was circulated to members and was noted.

The Chairman Cllr. Culloty acknowledged Dr. McKeown's response and noted that Cork and Kerry seemed to be high risk areas. He felt there was a need for greater awareness about the risks and what measures should be taken to avoid infection. Cllr. Culloty asked that the HSE would increase its level of advertising to raise awareness generally and enhance the value of Lyme Awareness week.

In response Mr. Reaney noted Cllr. Culloty's comments and agreed request that Cork and Kerry be highlighted in future awareness campaigns. He also undertook to ensure that awareness of Lyme Disease was considered for inclusion in the Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan.

(e) Cllr. Damian Quigg moved the following motion standing in his name:

"That the HSE provide detail to this Forum as to what savings has been made by the decision to remove stores at UHK, made on the basis of efficiencies and savings. Specifically, can the HSE detail what savings have been made versus how much they now pay in rental for the community store at clash, how much courier charges to the hospital are per annum. Can a breakdown of all other cost efficiencies please be provided?"

A written response from Mr. Tony O'Neill, Logistic Business Lead, HSE South, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Quigg thanked the HSE for the comprehensive report which he felt required further study. The annual savings made provided a significant conclusion.

(f) Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"When will Killarney Mental Health Unit be opened?"

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

In response Cllr. Healy-Rea advised the members he was disappointed the Deer Lodge won't open before Q1 2017 despite being badly needed.

In response Mr. Reaney shared Cllr. Healy's disappointment with the delay in opening the Unit. He explained that it had always been expected that the opening would be into the second half of 2016 but that the top class facility needed to be commissioned and staffed before it could be opened.

The HSE is committed to opening it and will source the necessary resources to enable this.

The staffing plan has been moving slower than anticipated and other HSE facilities which are releasing staff have not been able to clear them all for transfer so far. The HSE is continuing to work towards an opening date in Q1 2017.

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

"That the HSE will endeavour to keep St Patricks Hospital in Kilkenny open for the foreseeable future and work with HIQA to create a safe environment for both patients and staff."

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

Cllr. Gardner explained her dislike for the word "decongregated" in the context of the National Strategy and felt it stood for closure despite the great work which is done by staff with limited resources. She spoke of the fears of family members that residents may be under various pressures from neighbours living in community settings. Cllr. Gardner noted that St. Patrick's had been home for many residents over several decades. In response Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan confirmed that the HSE is committed to the highest standard of care for residents on the St. Patrick's Hospital site. She advised that the 'Time to move on from Congregated settings - A Study for community inclusion', (HSE, June 2011) is an evidence based National Strategy. She highlighted the benefits of community activities, enhanced living within individual care plans but emphasised that the changeover is a long term strategy.

There is a dedicated fund available for this process and St. Patrick's may access this fund as progress is made. In conclusion Ms. Lanigan insisted that all changes will be made in consultation with service users and their families in a collaborative way. The ultimate aim is to improve the standards of care and quality of life for the people concerned.

6. Questions

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

"What has been the expenditure to date on the refurbishment, 1st and 2nd phase, of Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel since the transfer of Acute Services to South Tipperary General Hospital in Clonmel?"

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

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

"When will the HSE Meet with Executives of Kerry County Council to discuss options relating to St Finan's Hospital site in Killarney?"

A written response from Mr. Pat McCarthy, Assistant National Director, Estates, HSE South, and Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork & Kerry Community Healthcare Organisation, was circulated to members and noted.

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

"What are the waiting times for Children's Orthodontic appointments in Tralee, Co Kerry as a girl has been on the list here for the past 6 years!"

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

(d) Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae put forward the following question:

"When will the beds in Kenmare and Dingle Community Hospitals be opened?"

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

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

"What impact will the €12 million cut to the Mental Health Budget have locally and what can be done to lessen the impact on service users, family and staff of whom are already feeling the burden of an under resourced service."

A written response by Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan was provided based on information supplied by the Mental Health Unit, Department of Health, as this question relates to a National issue. The response was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Gardner called for the €12m to be reallocated to the Mental Health Budget and this was unanimously agreed.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th June 2016, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.