

MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

**Thursday 28th February, 2013 @ 2.00pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK**

Present:

Cllr. Liam Ahearn	Cllr. Michael Kinsella
Cllr. Pat Burton	Cllr. Tim Lombard
Cllr. John Buttimer	Cllr. Sean Lonergan
Cllr. John Carey	Cllr. Tom Maher
Cllr. Catherine Clancy	Cllr. Barbara Murray
Cllr. Timmy Collins	Cllr. Dr. Sean McCarthy
Cllr. John Coonan	Cllr. Arthur McDonald
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Michael O'Brien
Cllr. Danny Crowley	Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Dr. Patrick Crowley	Cllr. Frank O'Flynn
Cllr. John Joe Culloty	Cllr. Laurence (Cha) O'Neill
Cllr. Tony Dempsey	Cllr. John O'Sullivan
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Hilary Quinlan
Cllr. Wayne Fennell	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Matt Griffin	Cllr. Mary Shields
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan	Cllr. Jerry Sullivan
Cllr. Denis Kennedy	Cllr. Jim Townsend - Chairperson
	Cllr. Ted Tynan

Apologies: Cllr. Pat Cody
Cllr. Brendan Cronin
Cllr. Breeda Moynihan-Cronin

In Attendance:

- Mr. Pat Healy, Regional Director of Operations - South
- Mr. Richie Dooley, Area Manager, HSE Waterford/Wexford
- Mr. Ger Reaney, Area Manager, HSE Cork
- Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Area Manager, HSE Kerry
- Ms. Anna-Marie Lanigan, Area Manager, HSE Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary
- Ms. Deirdre Scully, Area Manager, Community Services, Cork
- Mr. PJ Hathaway A/Assistant National Director HR, HSE South
- Ms. Raymonde O'Sullivan, Assistant National Director of Finance, HSE South
- Ms. Angie O'Brien, Area Communications Manager, HSE South
- Ms. Geraldine Crowley, Business Manager, Office of the Regional Director of Operations
- Ms. Sinéad Byrne, Manager, Regional Health Forum, South
- Regional Health Forum Office staff

1. Adoption of the Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 6th December 2012

At the proposal of Cllr. Bobby O'Connell seconded by Cllr. Denis Kennedy, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday 6th December 2012 were approved and adopted by members.

2. Chairperson's Correspondence

Cllr. Jim Townsend, Chairperson welcomed Members and Managers to the meeting.

He explained that Mr. Pat Healy, Regional Director of Operations would provide a summary of the Regional Service Plan; highlighting key developments and that each Area Manager would elaborate on these developments within their respective areas.

He outlined that the usual local Forum briefings following the publication of the Regional Service Plan will be taking place on Monday 4th March and members had been notified by e-mail of times and venues. Members in Waterford and the West Cork area had difficulty with this date due to other meetings and it was agreed that their briefings would be rescheduled to facilitate members.

Cllr. Ted Tynan referred to an Emergency Motion which he had submitted in advance of the meeting on the '*Abolition of Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Grant for People with Disabilities*'. The Chairperson informed Cllr. Tynan that this could be discussed under Any Other Business at the end of the meeting if time allowed.

The Chairperson informed members that with regard to the March and April meetings, a Committee meeting will now take place on 21st March in Kilkenny instead and the Forum meeting will be moved to April. A revised schedule of meeting dates will be sent to all members.

3. Presentation and Report from HSE Management on Service Plan 2013

Mr. Pat Healy, Regional Director of Operations opened the presentation outlining that following publication of the National Service Plan on 10th January 2013, the HSE South Regional Service Plan sets out the type and volume of service the HSE South will provide directly or through a range of funded agencies to people across the region during 2013. Despite operating within reduced finances, the HSE South is still in a position to be able to announce major new developments which will enhance patient care and treatment across the HSE South.

Mr. Healy referred to the publication of 'Future Health' by the Minister for Health in November 2012 with the approach to reform based on Four Pillars: Service Reform, Structural Reform, Financial Reform and Health and Wellbeing. He outlined that the HSE South has been implementing major re-organisation and change programmes across the region over the last number of years in line with this overall approach and the implemented changes are beginning to yield significant gains for the South in 2013. He explained as a result these dividends are enabling HSE South to do more with less and provide new services across the region, particularly in the area of Palliative Care, Disabilities, Acute Hospitals and Mental Health.

He explained that HSE South faces a dual challenge in 2013 of reducing costs while improving outcomes for patients and service users and acknowledged the contribution of staff at all levels during 2012. The budget allocation for the HSE South in 2013 is €1,626.369m compared with €1,634.974m in 2012. Mr. Healy outlined the analysis of budget reductions and referred members to Page 7 and 8 of the Regional Service Plan.

He referred to the significant challenge for the Service in 2013 with the management of a reduced workforce to reach an end of the year ceiling of 19,795 which will require 800 WTE reductions this year to address public sector reductions and the filling of development posts. Mr. Healy explained that the Public Service Agreement and HR Exit schemes will be used as supports with the primary

focus remaining on redeployment, restructuring and reorganisation of the current workforce to deliver services within budgetary and workforce constraints.

Following on from the implementation of a comprehensive range of change programmes moving to new models of care across all services and care groups Mr. Healy outlined some of the positive results of the changes implemented to date and a number of key initiatives across hospital and community. He also explained that each Area Manager would take members through these in detail for their respective areas.

In Palliative Care Services the HSE South in collaboration with voluntary partners will progress a number of initiatives for the region to include the opening of 20 additional specialised in-patient beds in Marymount Hospice, progression to design stage in the planned development of the 20 bed Regional Specialist in-patient and Day Service in Palliative Medicine at Waterford Regional Hospital and progression of a 15 bed Specialist In-Patient Unit in Palliative Medicine at Kerry General Hospital.

Disability Services will see significant change through new models of care as part of the implementation of the new congregated settings policy which will positively impact on the way in which people with disabilities are supported to live the lives of their choice. Mr. Healy explained that HSE South will implement 11 key projects in partnership with Genio and the voluntary sector to lead out on the move towards a person-centred model of service and support. Working in collaboration with COPE Foundation, 10 clients at Grove House, Cork will move to more appropriate community based settings. In a further partnership with COPE an 8 bedded regional specialised therapeutic service will be opened to support people with intellectual disability who present with challenging behaviour in Cork.

Acute Hospital Services will see improved access to scheduled and unscheduled care in line with Special Delivery Unit (SDU) targets following on from significant re-structuring in the acute hospitals through the implementation of the national clinical programmes. A number of key developments are taking place in 2013, as follows:

CUH is opening:

- 29 surgical beds;
- 6 bed Surgical Assessment Unit;
- Dedicated Emergency Theatre.

In order to provide the required capacity identified by the Acute Medicine Programme:

- 46 additional beds will be provided at CUH;
- 10 additional beds at Mercy University Hospital.

While the smaller hospitals namely Mallow and Bantry now have a defined role delivering less complex care, which will guarantee a sustainable and central future role in health care delivery for both hospitals. In line with the principles of the Department of Health's policy on small hospitals, Mallow and Bantry will continue to provide services that are appropriate for the hospitals and for the local population, delivering non-complex care as close as possible to patients' homes. A new Medical Assessment Unit and a replacement Endoscopy Suite are being built at a cost of €4.5 million at Mallow General Hospital due for completion in July 2013.

In the South East, implementation of the national clinic programmes is providing funding for the following:

- Wexford: an additional 10 bed surgical short stay unit
- Kilkenny: 11 additional medical beds
- South Tipperary: five additional acute medical beds

- Waterford is set to gain a considerable number (approximately 21) of new and replacement consultant posts in areas such as emergency medicine, dermatology and acute medicine.

These significant gains in the acute hospitals must now translate into accompanying patient benefits, in line with national targets to improve access to our services by reducing waiting times for emergency or unscheduled care and elective or scheduled care in public hospitals. This includes improved access to outpatient and diagnostic services. Specific targets include:

- No adult will wait more than 8 months for an elective procedure (either inpatient or day case).
- No child will wait more than 20 weeks for an elective procedure (either inpatient or day case).
- No person will wait longer than 52 weeks for an OPD appointment.
- No person will wait more than four weeks for an urgent colonoscopy and no person will wait more than 13 weeks following a referral for routine colonoscopy.
- 95% of all attendees at Emergency Departments will be discharged or admitted within 6 hours of registration.
- Our expected activity for 2013 is 151,321 inpatient and 165,512 day cases.

All acute hospitals in the HSE South will benefit from an increase in funding in 2013.

With regard to Mental Health Services Mr. Healy informed members that significant progress has been made in HSE South with the implementation of 'A Vision for Change' with the South East being the main focus of development over the past number of years. The focus in 2013 will be the consolidation of developments which have been implemented across the South East with the implementation of the next phase of the change programme across Cork and Kerry. He informed members that the HSE South will be provided with an appropriate allocation from the additional 2013 €35m national funding which will be used to develop Adult Teams, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, development of services for older people with mental health illness and counselling.

Primary Care Services will see the provision of 133 Primary Care Teams which will include the provision of 13 new teams in 2013. The HSE South will be provided with development funding in the order of €3.3m to support the next phase of the programme including the appointment of approximately 48 additional staff. Chronic Disease Management Programmes will shift the management of a range of diseases such as diabetes, stroke, heart failure, asthma and COPD from the hospital to community setting. Funding will also be provided to eliminate the waiting lists for prosthetics and orthotics in Cork and Kerry. Members were informed that the pilot arrangements in place would now be confirmed as additional permanent funding of €1.8m per annum for Addiction Services across the HSE South.

Mr. Healy informed members that in 2013 the HSE South is committed to maintaining the provision of home help hours and home care packages to clients at 2012 levels and will also strengthen community hospital governance and short stay bed availability.

In summary Mr. Healy explained that the HSE South is committed to delivering high quality services to our patients and working towards compliance with national standards in relation to quality and patient safety. The involvement of service users including community health initiatives, consumer panels, representative organisations and targeted consultation initiatives are also key priorities to the design and delivery of health services. He also referred to the management of performance against agreed plans with Compstat being the mechanism used at local service delivery unit level for hospitals and community services which will assist and support services to delivery quality service within resources.

Briefing from Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Area Manager, HSE Kerry

Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Area Manager, HSE Kerry outlined that in Palliative Care, the HSE South in collaboration with Kerry Hospice Foundation will commence the development of a 15 bed satellite In-Patient Unit in Palliative Medicine at Kerry General Hospital. The capital cost of the development will be fully funded by Kerry Hospital at an estimated cost of €5m; will take 2 years to construct with a target opening date in early 2015. He explained that HSE South will provide revenue funding from existing resources with a commitment for significant financial support from Kerry Hospice Foundation for a period of 5 years until services are fully reconfigured.

With regard to Mental Health Services, Mr. Fitzgerald informed members that Kerry will move to the next phase of the implementation of the change programme with the priority being the development of community mental health teams, and extending skill mix which commenced in 2012 to include all High Support Hostels. He also outlined the reconfiguration of acute in-patient services in line with the recommendations of 'A Vision for Change' which will involve the closure of 10 acute beds. A county wide Suicide Response Forum will be co-ordinated in conjunction with statutory and voluntary providers. On the Capital side Q4 of 2013 will see the completion of a 4 bed high observation unit at Kerry General Hospital. A 40 bedded residential and rehabilitation Mental Health Unit will commence in Killarney in 2013 and a new mental health day centre will transfer services currently located in Kilgarvan to the new purpose built Kenmare Community Nursing Unit with an increase in services from 3-5 days.

Significant change will be implemented in Disability Services which will include changes to the governance, funding and focus of provision which will positively impact the way people with disabilities are supported to live the lives of their choice.

Mr. Fitzgerald outlined actions in Primary Care Services in Kerry which include the development of 5 outstanding Primary Care Teams, 4 in Killarney and 1 in Killorglin. Primary Care Centres in Caherciveen and Listowel will be progressed and the development of a proposed Primary Care Centre in Tralee via a Public Private Partnership will also proceed. Mr. Fitzgerald also referred to the commencement of an initiative to address the waiting lists for specialised footwear and prosthetic services in Cork and Kerry.

Regarding Services for Older People, Mr. Fitzgerald outlined developments which will include the opening of the new Kenmare Community Nursing Unit. This will replace the existing Kenmare Community Hospital. On a geographical basis across HSE South, he explained management structures and operations of community hospitals will be organised into clusters and community hospitals in Kerry will move to a single governance arrangement. The HSE will provide a site for the development of a new purpose built unit on the grounds of Listowel Community Hospital in conjunction with the voluntary committee of the Day Care Centre in Listowel.

He referred to the additional €1.8m per annum from 2013 onwards for Addiction Services across HSE South which will provide the following in Kerry:-

- Mainstreamed funding for the Methadone Clinic in Kerry
- Mainstreamed funding for 4 Addiction Counsellors, 1 part-time GP, 1 Nurse, 1 part-time Clinical Psychologist and 2 admin staff
- Mainstreamed funding for 8 Adult Residential Detoxification beds and 4 Adolescent Residential Detoxification beds in the voluntary sector across the region
- Roll out of a screening and vaccination programme in Kerry Addiction Services

Members were also informed that all treatment services in Kerry are participating in a new training programme to support Drug and Alcohol Services in the region and an updated regional directory of drug and alcohol services will be published in Kerry. Mr. Fitzgerald referred to the establishment of the Methadone Programme as a result of the pilot phase of this funding with a new addiction service developed for the U18s. Approximately 500 people are accessing HSE Addiction Services in Kerry on an annual basis.

Kerry General Hospital will see a number of developments in 2013 which include the refurbishment and progress the accreditation of the endoscopy screening service, implementation of the National Integrated Medical Imaging System (NIMIS) in the Radiology Department and implementation of ORMIS which is a theatre management system. The final phase of the Emergency Department will be fully operational which will include the Cardiology Suite, the Acute Medical Assessment Unit and the Minor Injury Unit.

Briefing from Ms. Deirdre Scully, Area Manager, Community Services – Cork

Ms. Deirdre Scully, Area Manager, Community Services – Cork welcomed a number of significant initiatives in Palliative Care Services which include the opening of 20 additional beds in Marymount Hospice which sees the total completion of the Marymount Hospital development at Curraheen. She explained that this initiative will also double the palliative care consultant input to Cork University Hospital, provide consultant input to Mallow General Hospital and facilitate the establishment of a satellite base in Mallow for community palliative care services in North Cork. Recruitment of a Children's Outreach Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist at CUH will also be progressed to support children with life limiting conditions when they are in-patients and at home in the community.

Within the Disability sector Ms. Scully referred to the implementation of the new congregated setting policy '*A Time to Move On*' whereby HSE South in collaboration with COPE Foundation will complete 'assessment of needs' plans for all residents in Grove House and begin the relocation of the first group of 10 residents from Grove House into alternative appropriate community based services with the support of COPE. Also in partnership with COPE, HSE South will open an 8 bedded specialised unit for adults with behaviour challenges based in Cork which will provide a significant support to all agencies across the Cork and Kerry area. In partnership with Genio and the voluntary sector and as part of the implementation of the new congregated setting policy, Ms. Scully outlined the implementation of 11 demonstration projects, 7 of which are in Cork. These are being established by service providers running in parallel with current services and will commence migration towards a person centred model of service to support people within the community.

In Mental Health Services Ms. Scully explained Cork will move to the next phase of implementation of the change programme and outlined a range of services that will be expanding and developing. A number of these include development of a new replacement acute in-patient unit on the campus of Cork University Hospital with construction due to commence in March, development of the general adult community mental health teams and the child and adolescent community teams. Community mental health teams will be further enhanced from 2013 additional National €35m funding. There will also be reconfiguration of acute in-patient services in line with the recommendations of a 'Vision for Change' which will free up resources.

Services for Older People will see developments such as the full opening of Heather House and Farranlea House Community Nursing Units. A specialist PHN tissue viability wound care clinic supporting the Primary Care Team will provide further training in complex wound management for clients in North Cork.

With regard to Primary Care Services, Ms Scully provided detailed information on a list of projects/developments which are specific to the Cork Area. Some of these include the opening of new primary care centres in Carrigtwohill and Schull and development of four new Primary Care Teams. Three of these teams will be in Carrigaline and one in Millstreet bringing the establishment of Primary Care Teams to a full complement of 63 teams. There will also be further enhancement of Primary Care Teams from 2013 national additional funding. Ms. Scully also referred to the commencement of the specialised footwear supply project to address the waiting lists for prosthetics and orthotics in Cork and Kerry and the roll out of the regional Bone Anchored Hearing Aid Programme at the South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital.

Ms. Scully also informed members that the additional funding for Addiction Services in Cork City will ensure targets for assessment and treatment of opiate addiction will be achieved and waiting lists for methadone treatment will be eliminated. Two additional methadone clinics were established.

Briefing from Mr. Ger Reaney, Area Manager, HSE Cork

Mr. Ger Reaney, Area Manager, HSE Cork explained that the significant restructuring of acute hospitals in Cork has resulted in stream-lining of services to allow patients attend the most appropriate hospital for treatment with complex, acute and emergency care being centralised at Cork University Hospital (CUH) and Mercy University Hospital (MUH). He outlined that Mallow and Bantry Hospitals have an agreed role and will continue to provide services appropriate for the hospitals and for the local population with the South Infirmarary/Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH) well developed into an elective surgical hospital with a particular concentration on day surgery.

To support this re-organisation Mr. Reaney outlined a number of key developments taking place in 2013 in CUH to include the opening of 29 surgical beds, a 6 bedded Surgical Assessment Unit which is currently open with a Dedicated Emergency Theatre in CUH to open in March. In order to provide the required capacity identified by the Acute Medicine Programme Mr. Reaney explained that 46 additional beds will be provided at CUH, 20 already open with 26 to open in 2013. MUH will open 10 additional medical beds which will strengthen the operation of its acute medical assessment unit. He also outlined that work will commence on the development of a regional centre for gastroenterology in MUH and in 2013 the hospital will deliver a colonoscopy screening service as part of the National Colorectal Screening Programme. The Ward accommodation for the opening of a Stroke Unit in CUH is complete and the recruitment process for staffing is underway. Mr. Reaney also informed members that the infrastructural upgrade for a 4 bedded Epilepsy Unit in CUH has been completed.

With regard to Mallow General Hospital Mr. Reaney informed members that day case surgery to include general, dental, gynaecology and urology will transfer from Cork city hospitals to Mallow General Hospital which will result in larger volumes of surgical activity. A new Medical Assessment Unit and replacement Endoscopy Suite are being built at Mallow at a cost of €4.5m and are due to be completed in July 2013. The current day surgery service provided in Bantry General Hospital will increase with consultants providing additional outreach services from the city hospitals. He also explained that the existing 24/7 Emergency Departments at Bantry and Mallow will be replaced by Urgent Care Centres. These will comprise of a Local Injury Unit and a Medical Assessment Unit both of which will open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week.

Mr. Reaney outlined that the development of Cancer Services will see the establishment of a Chair in Cancer research to be known as the 'Gerald O'Sullivan Chair' named after the late Professor Gerry O'Sullivan, Consultant Surgeon in the Mercy University Hospital and one of cancer research best known pioneers. This is in collaboration with Acute Hospitals in Cork and Kerry, UCC and the Cork Cancer Research Centre. A micrographic surgery for skin cancer (MOHS) will be developed in the South Infirmarary/Victoria University Hospital which is the first public service of its type outside of Dublin. Prostate, upper GI, gynaecology and rectal cancer services will transfer to the Cancer Centre.

Mr. Reaney referred to the commencement of the pilot phase of the National Electronic General Practitioner Referral Pilot Project which provides an electronic referral pathway for public out-patient appointments between GPs and 7 pilot hospitals. This will be rolled out in Cork Hospitals, Kerry General Hospital and Tallaght Hospital, Dublin.

Briefing from Mr. Richard Dooley, Area Manager, HSE Waterford/Wexford

Mr Richie Dooley, Area Manager, Waterford/Wexford informed members that in Palliative Care Services, HSE South in collaboration with Waterford Hospice Movement Ltd and Waterford Regional Hospital will progress to design stage a 20 bed Regional Specialist In-Patient Unit and Day Service in Palliative Medicine. He outlined that the revenue cost for this development on

completion will be provided by the HSE South with Waterford Hospice Movement Ltd significantly supporting the capital cost of the development. Mr. Dooley acknowledged the work and huge commitment given by Waterford Hospice Movement. He explained that the next steps will be to advertise for a design team which will take approximately 3 months and then proceed to secure planning and all the pre-tender stage work which will take approximately 12 months.

As part of the development of the National Clinical Programmes, Mr. Dooley outlined details of 12 new consultant posts for Waterford Regional Hospital during 2013. He referred to Waterford Regional Hospital capital developments which will see the transfer of Emergency Services to the new ED, transfer of the Regional Neo Natal Intensive Care unit to the new capital development which is a state of the art unit and transfer of the Delivery Suite and auxiliary accommodation to the new capital development which is almost complete.

Wexford General Hospital as part of the development of the National Clinical Programmes will open an additional 10 bed surgical short stay unit. The opening hours of the AMAU will be extended to include Saturday and Sunday and a satellite dialysis unit in Wexford will be developed in co-operation with the National Renal Office.

Mr. Dooley outlined a number of service improvements/initiatives in Mental Health Services/Older People to include the opening of Farnogue, a new purpose built 50 bed Community Nursing Unit on the campus of Wexford General Hospital. This will provide residential services for both the elderly and mental health clients and 20 patients from Ely Hospital will be transferred there. Havenview in Enniscorthy which is a new purpose built community residence will open in March. Millview, a new building providing 13 individual bedrooms with en-suites will open in March and this will allow for the closure of St. Senan's Hospital, Enniscorthy. Community Mental Health Teams will be further enhanced from 2013 additional national funding. Provision of home help and home care packages will remain at 2012 levels.

With regard to Disability Services Mr. Dooley provided details of 2 projects which will be implemented as part of the new congregated setting policy. Both of these projects are in Wexford, namely St. Aidan's Gorey and Wexford Community Workshop New-Ross.

He outlined the delivery of Primary Care services through 28 Primary Care Teams (PCTs), 12 in Waterford and 16 in Wexford with additional 2013 national funding provided to further enhance PCTs. The development of four additional Primary Care Centres will be progressed in Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross and Wexford and mental health out-patient services will be expanded in Tramore which will allow GPs to refer patients directly to the visiting consultant psychiatrist and community mental health nurse based in the Tramore Primary Care Centre.

Mr. Dooley referred to the investment of the additional €1.8m per annum for 2013 onwards for Addiction Services in HSE South and outlined that mainstreamed funding will be provided for the new methadone clinics established in Wexford town and Waterford city. He outlined that the Waterford service has increased by 400% over the last two years now providing treatment to over 80 individuals.

Briefing from Ms. Anna-Marie Lanigan, Area Manager, HSE Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary

Ms. Anna-Marie Lanigan, Area Manager, HSE Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary outlined for members that as part of the development of the National Acute Medical Programmes, South Tipperary General Hospital will be provided with 5 additional medical beds for 2013 with the allocation of 4 dedicated surgery beds from within the current complement as part of the Surgical Programme. She also outlined a number of other initiatives/developments at South Tipperary General Hospital for 2013 to include a new Stroke Review Clinic and provision of an Elderly Care day Hospital, both on the hospital campus site. 28 General Medical and 6 General Surgery specific beds will be allocated within the current bed complement for the provision of a specialist geriatric ward. Ms. Lanigan also referred to the full implementation of the NIMIS project for the

management of radiology services and implementation of the ENDORAD IT system for the scheduling and reporting of endoscopies.

11 additional medical beds will be provided at St. Luke's General Hospital. Construction of the Emergency Department Day Services Unit and MAU in St. Luke's Hospital will continue and is on target for planned opening in 2014. Ms. Lanigan also outlined a number of other initiatives and informed members that the Asthma Programme will be implemented with recruitment of the Consultant Respiratory Physician on a permanent basis.

In Disability Services Ms. Lanigan outlined details of two projects one in Carlow and one in Kilkenny namely Cheshire Ireland Tullow, Co. Carlow and St. Patrick's Kilkenny: Acorn Project Day Service both of which will be implemented as part of the implementation of the new congregated setting policy. She also outlined reconfiguration of staffing/resources from the Transitional Living Unit (TLU) in Clonmel for people with an Acquired Brain Injury and informed members that the Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII) voluntary agency will now provide services to clients who previously attended the TLU in Clonmel.

Ms. Lanigan outlined a number of priorities for Mental Health Services based on the 2013 funding allocation to include completion of the Mental Health Investment Programme of 2012, complete the recruitment of the remaining 2 posts from the 4 approved in 2012. Community Mental Health Teams will be further enhanced. Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams will be strengthened and Ms. Lanigan informed members that out of the 10 posts approved in 2012, 2 have been appointed and the remaining 8 will be appointed by the end of 2013. Review of High Support Hostels and continuing care bed capacity will continue and Positive Mental Health will be promoted with the expansion of a group of local voluntary and HSE agencies relevant to mental health to include additional stakeholders.

Priorities in Primary Care specific to Carlow, Kilkenny and South Tipperary were outlined. These will include working closely with GPs and HSE colleagues to develop the four remaining Primary Care Teams. There will also be further enhancement of Primary Care Teams from 2013 additional national funding with specifics to be confirmed. A Bone Health Education Programme will be delivered to 23 primary schools across the area. Ms Lanigan informed members that an Integrated Care Diabetes Nurse Specialist will be appointed to support implementation of the National Diabetes Integrated Care Package. The provision of mental health outreach clinics in Primary Care Centres will be expanded and initially the provision of this service will be in Carlow Town and Castlecomer Primary Care Teams.

Ms. Lanigan referred to the investment of an additional €1.8m per annum from 2013 for Addiction Services across HSE South and outlined that mainstreamed funding will be provided for the new methadone clinic established in Kilkenny and a new Methadone Treatment Centre will be established in South Tipperary. With reference to the mainstreamed funding for 8 adult residential detoxification beds and four adolescent residential detoxification beds in the voluntary sector across HSE South, Ms. Lanigan explained that 4 of the adult beds are in Kilkenny and the 4 adolescent beds are in Carlow.

Developments in services for Older People will include the reorganisation of the provision of respite and rehabilitation services from St. Patrick's Hospital Cashel to Our Lady's Hospital. Day Care Services at St. Columba's Hospital, Kilkenny will be enhanced with the reorganisation of the provision of services four days a week and a memory clinic will be held on the fifth day. Management structures and operations of community hospitals will be organised into clusters with the provision of two clusters, one for Carlow/Kilkenny and one for South Tipperary.

The Chairperson and Members thanked Mr. Pat Healy, Regional Director of Operations and his Management Team for the presentation and information provided and complimented them on the manner in which the Regional Service Plan was presented. It was followed by a Question and Answer session with the following queries and comments discussed. Members also agreed that if

further information was not readily available today, they were happy to discuss any outstanding issues at the local forum briefings: -

- Welcome the development of the 15 bedded Specialist In-Patient Unit in Palliative Medicine at Kerry General Hospital and clarification on next steps following the granting of a licence to Kerry Hospice Foundation
- Clarification on the location of the 4 Primary Care Teams for Killarney
- Compliments on the opening of 110 additional beds in acute hospitals across HSE South
- Request to elaborate on the additional services in St. Luke's General Hospital
- Clarification on the provision of Day Care Services at St. Columba's Hospital, Kilkenny and a request to reopen beds closed previously
- Concern on the reduction of 800 staff required on top of the 3,088 staff reductions since 2007
- Breakdown of available funding for the provision of home helps
- Future plans for St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire
- Request to ensure funding is in place for community hospitals in order to meet future HIQA standards
- Welcome the developments in Mallow General Hospital but concern regarding the replacement of the existing 24/7 Emergency Department with a 12 hour Urgent Care Centre which will close at 8pm
- Plans on the establishment of a Primary Care Centre in Fermoy
- Concern regarding the continuation of the medical observation unit at Bantry General Hospital
- Further information requested on the Diabetes Clinic in Cork University Hospital
- Question with regard to the effect of new wage agreements on the Service Plan
- With regard to the Grove House Community Inclusion project in collaboration with COPE, has there been an adjustment to the COPE budget?
- Concern that the clustering of community hospitals will remove choice for patients
- No mention in the Regional Service Plan regarding the proposed extension to Bandon Community Hospital
- Securing of future plans for Clonakilty Community Hospital
- Welcome the 12 consultant posts at Waterford Regional Hospital
- Will Waterford Regional Hospital become a treatment site for Diabetes Screening?
- Welcomed the approval to progress to design stage the development of Palliative Care Services 20 bedded Unit in Waterford Regional Hospital
- Current position regarding the building of a 50 bedded Community Nursing Unit on the grounds of St. Patrick's Hospital, Waterford and commitment to same
- Timeframe for the publication of the John Higgins Report
- Maintenance of the number of beds in Sacred Heart Hospital, Carlow
- Update on the development of Palliative Care Services at Carlow District Hospital
- Timeframe for the development of Clayton Hall and Graiguecullen Primary Care Teams
- Provision of an outreach clinic for mental health services at the Shamrock Plaza
- Request for update on the Mental Health School Link Suicide service
- Timescale for the provision of a 40 bed residential and rehabilitation Mental Health Unit in Killarney due to commence in 2013
- Clarification on the total spend for Waterford Regional Hospital from this Service Plan for the development of new services
- Welcome the development of 3 additional primary care centres in Waterford
- Concern regarding loss of Maternity Services in South Tipperary General Hospital
- With regard to the re-organisation of services from St. Patrick's Hospital Cashel to Our Lady's Hospital, will there be staff reductions?
- Location for the new Methadone Treatment Centre in South Tipperary
- Position with regard to capital funding for the development of the 20 bedded Palliative Care Unit at WRH
- With the appointment of a 3rd Cardiologist for Waterford Regional Hospital will this now provide a 24 hour Cardiology Service for WRH?
- Development of the Gastroenterology Service at Waterford Regional Hospital
- Charges for private patients in public hospitals

- Members raised concern that there was no mention of extra funding for nursing home beds or Fair Deal Scheme
- Question re HSE obtaining funding through delisting of drugs for Medical Card patients and the impact of this decision on clients
- Clarification on the appointment of 2 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Consultants and if this relates to one team
- Welcome the opening of the 20 additional beds in Marymount Hospice
- Surprise that the skin cancer surgery service is being developed in the South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital and not in CUH Cancer Centre
- Concern regarding the volume of services transferring to CUH and that the campus will be too large
- Clarification on the recruitment of the Children's Outreach Nurse, Cork University Hospital
- Delivery of Home Care Packages and provision of Home Help hours in 2013
- Request for a breakdown of €1.8m funding for Addiction Services in Waterford and breakdown of Addiction Counsellors for Waterford
- The possible involvement of GPs to administer Methadone treatment
- Cuts to mobility grants
- Welcome the relocation of clients from Grove House to more appropriate accommodation supported by COPE
- Waiting times for Orthopaedic and Neurology out-patient appointments and whether funding will be allocated to reduce the current waiting list
- Welcome the initiative to address the waiting lists for prosthetics and orthotics in Cork and Kerry

4. **Any Other Business**

No further items were discussed.

5. **Date and Time of next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum, South will be held on **Thursday 11th April 2013** at **2pm, Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.**