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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST

(established Jan 1st 2006)

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Foreword

I was delighted to be again elected as Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum – West in 2010.

The Forum met on six occasions during 2010 and a range of health and social care issues were raised and debated. This report sets out the activities of the Forum to 31st December 2010.

I wish to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of all members to the work of the Forum.

I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the HSEs' Consumer Affairs and Regional Director of Operations Offices for providing administrative support. This was at all times carried out in an efficient and courteous manner and I commend them for this.

I also wish to thank HSE staff and other persons invited by the Forum to make presentations for their efforts and professionalism.

I look forward to working with you in 2011 to further progress the work of the forum which is;

“To make such representations to the Executive as the Forum considers appropriate on the range and operation of the health and personal social services provided within its functional area”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Padraig Conneely'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Councillor Padraig Conneely

March 2011

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Health Service Executive

The following is the Regional Health Forum West Membership.

Clare County Council

*Cllr. Joe Cooney
Cllr. Tom McNamara
Cllr. Brian Meaney
Cllr. Paul Murphy*

Donegal County Council

*Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Jimmy Harte
Cllr. Frank McBrearty Jnr
Cllr. Bernard McGuinness*

Galway City Council

*Cllr. Pdraig Conneely **Chair**
Cllr. Catherine Connolly
Cllr. Michael Crowe*

Galway County Council

*Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Colm Keaveney
Cllr. Michael Mullins
Cllr. Malachy Noone*

Leitrim County Council

*Cllr. Gordon Hughes
Cllr. Sean McGowan
Cllr. Gerry Reynolds*

Limerick City Council

*Cllr. Ger Fahy
Cllr. Michael Hourigan **Vice Chair**
Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin*

Limerick County Council

*Cllr. Rose Brennan
Cllr. Richard Butler
Cllr. Jerome Scanlon
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan*

Mayo County Council

*Cllr. Tom Connolly
Cllr. Austin Francis O'Malley
Cllr. Annie May Reape
Cllr. Seamus Weir*

North Tipperary County Council

*Cllr. John Carroll
Cllr. John Kennedy
Cllr. John "Rocky" McGrath*

Roscommon County Council

*Cllr. Laurence Fallon
Cllr. John Kelly
Cllr. Tony Ward*

Sligo County Council

*Cllr. Declan Bree
Cllr. Imelda Henry
Cllr. Gerry Murray*

Background

The Health Act 2004 and associated Statutory Instruments, provided for the establishment of the Health Service Executive, and also for the system of four Regional Health Forums. The RHF West establishment date was January 1st 2006. The Forum comprises of 40 appointed representatives of the 11 local authorities of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway City and County, Clare, North Tipperary, and Limerick City and County.

The other 3 Regional Health Forums are:

- Regional Health Forum, Dublin-Mid Leinster (40 members)
- Regional Health Forum, Dublin and North East (29 member)
- Regional Health Forum, South (39 members)

The function of each RHF is “to make such representations to the Executive [of the HSE] as the forum considers appropriate on the range and provision of health and personal social services provided in its functional area.”

In line with Section 42(7) of the Health Act 2004, the Health Service Executive (HSE) provides the administrative services required to enable the Regional Health Forum to perform its function. In the case of the HSE West area, these administrative services are provided by the staff of the Parliamentary Affairs West Office under the auspices of the Consumer Affairs Department, Merlin Park, Galway.

Meetings of Regional Health Forum West and its Committees

The Regional Health Forum West completed its 5th year of operation in 2010. The Forum met 6 times during the year at its designated venue; the Education Room, Merlin Park, Galway. The meeting dates were February 23rd, April 27th, May 25th, June 22nd, September 28th, and November 23rd.

The Forum when established in 2006 decided that, its two Committees (as per SI 797 of 2005) would comprise of one dealing with hospital services (Hospital Committee) and one with community-based services - Primary Community and Continuing Care (PCCC Committee) with relevant population health issues addressed by each. The Hospital Committee met on April 13th, May 11th, September 7th and December 14th and the PCCC Committee met on April 13th, May 11th, September 7th and December 7th.

The HSE was represented at Forum and Committee meetings by the Regional Director of Operations, and by other relevant senior managers. Meetings were conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders adopted by the Forum.

AGM / Election of Chair & Vice Chair

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 22nd. Councillor Padraig Conneely (Galway City Council) was elected Chair and Councillor Michael Hourigan (Limerick City Council) Vice Chair. The Hospital Committee, which has a membership of 23 was chaired by Councillor Austin Francis O'Malley (Mayo County Council) with Councillor Rose Brennan (Limerick County Council) as Vice Chair. The PCCC Committee which has a membership of 17 was chaired by Councillor Tom McNamara (Clare County Council) with Councillor Michael Hourigan (Limerick County Council) as vice chair.

Questions

As per the Standing Orders, written Questions are submitted to the Regional Director of Operations Office by Members, seven clear days before each Forum meeting. Each member may submit four (4) written questions to each meeting of Forum. Written answers prepared by the appropriate Service are circulated at the meeting. The Member asking the question can ask one supplementary question; there is no debate. In 2010 members submitted 184 questions.

Motions

As per Standing Orders each Member may submit one (1) Notice of Motion ten clear days prior to a Forum meeting. The ruling of the Chairperson on the validity of a Motion is final. Motions are circulated with the agenda to each Member and debated at the meeting.

Presentations

In 2010 the following presentations were delivered to the Forum members.

- Service Plan 2010 and updates – Mr. John Hennessy, Regional Director of Operations, HSE West.
- Presentation on Medical Cards – Mr. Paddy Burke, Assistant National Director, PCRS.
- Presentation on Headshops – Dr Patrick O'Sullivan.
- Patients in HSE West – Hep C, lookback 2009/2010 – Dr. Breda Smyth.
- HSE and You – Ms. Mary Culliton, Director of Advocacy, HSE.
- Update on HSE financial position – Mr. Liam Minihan, Asst. National Director Finance, HSE West and Mr. John Hennessy, Regional Director of Operations, HSE West.
- Update on HSE financial position – Mr. Liam Minihan, Asst. National Director Finance, HSE West.
- Presentation on Procurement – Mr. John Swords.

Regional Health Forum meets in public

The Regional Health Forum West, and its two Committees, met in public, in the presence of the media. In 2010 there was extensive coverage, particularly in the local and regional media of the deliberations of the Membership.

Communication with Forum Members

The Agenda for each meeting, along with the minutes of the previous meeting and of Committee meetings, were issued by the RDO to Members. During 2010, there was increased use of both email and texting. The use of e-mail is promoted. Approved Minutes of Forum meetings are placed on the HSE website which allows access by the public, media, staff etc to the deliberations of members. The RDO provided information to members regularly including HSE Press Releases, new reports on health related topics, relevant information, new service initiatives and developments within the HSE and the wider health services and with particular reference to the HSE West. Local meetings between county- based managers and relevant Forum members take place on a regular basis to communicate with members and provide a suitable channel for updates and exchange of views.

Website

The HSE website www.hse.ie provides information on the organisation of the HSE and the services it provides.

Information and details relating to this and all other Regional Health Forums are available at www.hse.ie/eng/about/PersonalPQ/rhforums/

Contacting the Forum

All correspondence in respect of Regional Health Forum West should be addressed to:

The Chairperson,
Regional Health Forum,
HSE West,
Parliamentary Affairs West,
Consumer Affairs Area Office,
Merlin Park,
Galway.

Telephone: 091 775935/775934

Fax: 091 771318

Email: rhf.west@hse.ie

Forum Meetings 2011

Forum		Hospital Committee	PCCC Committee
22 nd Feb	21 st June	29 th March	29 th March
12 th April	27 th September	3 rd May	3 rd May
24 th May	22 nd November	6 th September	13 th September
		6 th December	13 th December