

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. Arthur McDonald
Regional Health Forum South

MINUTES **MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH**

Thursday, 15th of June 2023 at 11am
Venue: Council Chambers, Cork County Council, Co Cork

Present:

Cllr Ann Marie Ahern
Cllr Declan Burgess
Cllr Cathal Byrne
Cllr Peter Cleere
Cllr Caroline Cronin*
Cllr Pat Dunphy
Cllr Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr Michael Foley
Cllr Damien Geoghegan
Cllr Pat Hayes*
Cllr Roger Kennedy*
Cllr Donal Kenny
Cllr Garry Laffan

Cllr Mary Lenihan Foley*
Cllr Eileen Lynch
Cllr Michael McCarthy
Cllr Susan McCarthy*
Cllr Arthur McDonald
Cllr John McDonald*
Cllr Norma Moriarty*
Cllr Sean O'Donovan
Cllr Jody Power
Cllr John Sheehan
Cllr Mikey Sheehy

* Attended online

Apologies:

Cllr Stephanie Keating
Cllr Richie Molloy
Cllr Ted Tynan

In Attendance:

Ms Bridie O'Sullivan, A/Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group
Ms Tess O'Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Ms Anna Marie Lanigan, Head of Primary Care, South East Community Healthcare
Mr Gearóid Rennicks, Senior Press Officer, Ireland East Hospital Group*
Members of the Regional Health Forum Office staff

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 18th of May 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr Garry Laffan seconded by Cllr John Coonan, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, 18th of May 2023 were approved and adopted by the members.

Cllr Garry Laffan queried the Minutes of the September 2022 meeting – discussion on Travel Expenses. Cllr Sheehy, Chairperson, stated that he would arrange for the Minutes of the November 2022 meeting to be reviewed to see if there were any objections or points made with regard to the approval of the September 2022 minutes by members.

2. Chairperson's Correspondence

2.1 Election of Chairperson

Cllr Mikey Sheehy thanked the members for their support over his year as Chairperson. He enjoyed the year, he found HSE Management to be very open during the year that saw the retirement of Mr Gerry O'Dwyer, CEO, South/South West Hospital Group and Mr Michael Fitzgerald, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare both of them with a vast amount of knowledge and experience of the Health Services. He welcomed Ms Tess O'Donovan and Ms Grace Rothwell in their new roles and the ongoing work of Dr Ger O'Callaghan with the Forum and Ms Mary Fitzgerald, General Manager of UHK in her new role.

Proposed: Cllr Arthur McDonald

Proposer: Cllr Anne Marie Ahern

Secunder: Cllr John Coonan

2.2 Election of Vice Chairperson:

Proposed: Cllr Niall Kelleher

Proposer: Cllr Anne Marie Ahern

Secunder: Cllr Gary Laffan

Cllr Arthur McDonald took the Chair and thanked his proposer, secunder and the members for their support. Cllr McDonald also thanked the outgoing Chairperson for his work during the year, he was an excellent Chairperson who did credit to the Councillors and the Forum. Cllr McDonald suggested a minute of silence for those members who have passed away over the last number of years.

3. The next Committee Meetings will take place on:

- South East Committee Meeting held on 11th of July 2023 in Kilkenny
- South West Committee Meeting held on 13th of July 2023 in Tralee

5. Notices of Motion

(a) Cllrs Pat Barden, Cathal Byrne, Donal Kenny and Garry Laffan moved the following Motion, standing in their names:

"We call on the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly T.D. to immediately put in place under the new HSE Service Plan 2023 a multi-agency approach to provide permanent Palliative Care measures for terminally ill children in the South East so that they can be cared for by their families at home in their final days."

A written response from Ms Grace Rothwell, Chief Officer, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Laffan queried if there were any changes due in the near future to the Model for Paediatric Palliative Care 2017. Ms Lanigan said that significant progress is being made throughout the South East in relation to Paediatric Palliative Care.

Cllr Donal Kenny thanked Ms Lanigan for her response stating that it would be of comfort to those families effected.

(b) Cllr Norma Moriarty moved the following Motion, standing her name:

“That the agreement to provide for a two year pilot scheme for the provision of a Mental Health and Intervention Support Nurse for the South West Kerry area be realised in full.”

A written response from Ms Tess O’Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Moriarty thanked Ms O’Donovan for the detailed and very positive response.

(c) Cllr Declan Burgess moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

“A report/assessment of the HSE owned lands at Palmer’s Hill Cashel was due back the end of May. This assessment was conducted to see if lands were a viable option for the proposed 60 bed community nursing unit for Cashel. Can management please outline the findings of that report? “

A written response from Mr Ciarán Ruane, Estates Manager, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Burgess stated that he was very disappointed with the response provided, he felt it did not respond to the query set out. Cllr Anna Marie Lanigan stated that she would relay his point of view to the Chief Officer and the Estates Department with a commitment to direct follow up on this. Cllr Burgess thanked Ms Lanigan he also pointed out the positive point that the project is in the Capital Plan just recently released. Cllr Kennedy agreed with the points made by Cllr Burgess.

(d) Cllr Norma Moriarty moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"That the HSE would outline the number of adults and children currently in receipt of disability respite services in Cork County, the number of adults and children on a waiting list for adult and children disability respite services and the approximate wait time between initial applications for said respite and active receipt of said services."

A written response from Ms Tess O’Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Lynch acknowledged the written reply and said the response was very detailed and comprehensive. She had subsequent queries on the response these were responded to by Ms O’Donovan. Ms O’Donovan explained that she has been engaging with the providers

and business case development. Cllr Lynch stated that she understood the limited funds available and would send further follow up queries to Ms O'Donovan. Ms O'Donovan suggested that this topic be brought back to the next Committee Meeting for more detailed discussion.

6. Questions

(a) Cllr. Cathal Byrne put forward the following question:

“To ask the HSE to provide the number of persons by age on waiting lists for speech and language therapy in County Wexford and the numbers waiting more than 12, 24 and 52 weeks respectively.”

A written response from Ms Anna Marie Lanigan, Head of Primary Care Services, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Byrne thanked Management for the reply and had two follow up queries as follows: the patients under the category – Paediatric Waiting Intervention - have they received any supports to date and the second; in terms of classification of Paediatric – what age does that go up to. Ms Lanigan said she will revert to Cllr Byrne with the responses.

(b) Cllr. Norma Moriarty put forward the following question:

“What if any arrangements can be made for a dentist to make house calls to people who are for various reasons confined to their homes?”

A written response from Ms Tess O'Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Moriarty thanked Ms O'Donovan for the response and stated that she was looking forward to National Oral Health Policy.

(c) Cllr. Eileen Lynch put forward the following question:

"Can the HSE provide an update in relation to works on Macroom Community hospital as they are listed for completion in 2023 under the HSE 2023 Capital Plan and confirm the status of the development of an elderly day care centre on that same site."

A written response from Ms Tess O'Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Lynch queried HIQA timelines, staffing levels, the design and tenders and whether the hospital was placed on the National Plan 2024. Ms O'Donovan responded to her queries and said she would revert with regard to the National Plan.

All members who spoke at the meeting congratulated Cllr Arthur McDonald on his position as Chairperson of the Forum and wished him well for the year.

7. Date and Time of next meeting – 21st September 2023 at 11am. **Venue:** Council Chambers, Cork County Hall, Co Cork.