

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Clr. Arthur McDonald
Regional Health Forum South

MINUTES **MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH**

Thursday, 5th October 2023 at 2pm
Venue: council Chambers, Cork County Council

Present:

Clr Ann Marie Ahern
Clr Audrey Buckley
Clr Peter Cleere
Clr Danny Collins*
Clr John Coonan
Clr Caroline Cronin*
Clr Michael Doran*
Clr Pat Dunphy
Clr Pat Fitzgerald*
Clr Michael Foley*
Clr Pat Hayes*
Clr Stephanie Keating*
Clr Niall Kelleher*
Clr Roger Kennedy

Clr Donal Kenny*
Clr Garry Laffan
Clr Mary Lenihan Foley*
Clr Eileen Lynch
Clr Michael McCarthy
Clr Susan McCarthy*
Clr Arthur McDonald
Clr John McDonald
Clr Richie Molloy
Clr Norma Moriarty*
Clr Sean O'Donovan*
Clr Jody Power*
Clr Mikey Sheehy*
Clr Ted Tynan

***Attended online**

Apologies:

Clr Declan Burgess
Clr John Sheehan

In Attendance:

Dr Ger O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group
Ms Gabrielle O'Keefe, Head of Health & Wellbeing, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Ms Anna Marie Lanigan, Head of Primary Care, South East Community Healthcare
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 15th June 2023

On the proposal of Cllr Michael McCarthy seconded by Cllr Peter Cleere, the minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, 15th June were approved and adopted by the members.

2. Chairperson's Correspondence

No Correspondence

3. Committees

The next Committee Meetings will take place on:

- South East Committee Meeting on 17th October 2023 in Kilkenny
- South West Committee Meeting on 19th October 2023 in Tralee

4. Notices of Motion

(a) Cllr Susan McCarthy moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"Requesting an update on the HSE Centre on Main Street, Castlemartyr. It is in a prime location in the centre of a bustling village with a fast-growing population, which currently has no designated community meeting space. What are the plans for this building going forward?"

A written response from Mr Alan O'Connell, Assistant National Director, HSE Estates South, was circulated to members and noted.

Ms Gabrielle O'Keeffe advised that HSE accommodation needs are being reviewed for Castlemartyr and the East Cork area. This building needs significant work. There is no health service requirement for the building - and therefore it will be offered to other state agencies and then private.

(b) Cllr Mikey Sheehy moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That this Forum supports patients currently receiving Clozaril in our region. What plans are in place to facilitate these patients receiving their medication in the community where they live."

A written response from Ms Tess O'Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted. Cllr Sheehy thanked HSE Management for the reply was pleased to see some movement on this.

Cllr Sheehy outlined the need to have resources (staffing) available to administer this in community settings as opposed to individuals having to travel to UHK every month to get their prescription which can be difficult. It is important to have ease of access for service users. Kerry MHS are exploring options for dispensing through a designated community pharmacist in North Kerry.

(c) Cllr Audrey Buckley moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"To create a dedicated First Aid Schools officer in Cork, tasked with giving ALL primary schools & Secondary schools access to funded First Aid training for their pupils. Hands-

on training and an increase in awareness will help save lives and give students confidence and a greater sense of wellbeing”

A written response from the Irish Heart Foundation was circulated to members and noted. This course is not mandatory on the curriculum. Currently The Children and Young People Programme is being carried out in post primary schools and includes the CPR 4 schools programme. The CPR 4 Schools programme is up and running in 86% of post primary schools. It is not provided in primary schools for a number of reasons including the fact that children do not have the strength to perform CPR.

(d) Cllr Eileen Lynch moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

“Can the HSE advise as to what measures will be put in place following the publication of the Nowhere to Turn Report by the Office of the Ombudsman for Children in terms of how can supports for children with disabilities be improved, will the HSE be adopting the recommendations in that report and will the HSE be working more closely with TUSLA in this regard.”

Cllr Eileen Lynch

A written response from Ms Tess O’Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and Mr Michael Morrow A/Chief Officer South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted. Cllr Lynch asked for more specific information including timeframes for engagement, details of how HSE will engage with TUSLA i.e. how does that work in practice. Ms O’Keeffe in response outlined that there is already joint working with TUSLA in community health areas through the Interagency Joint Protocol. There is engagement with TUSLA at various levels in relation to cases which have been escalated and decisions are made at appropriate levels. This process has been in place for a number of years. Ms O’Keeffe agreed to provide a copy of the Joint Working Protocol to Cllr Lynch and would update her further in relation to specific timelines. Cllr Lynch also requested detail if available on funding for this. Ms Gabrielle O’Keefe advised that she would follow-up on this.

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

“That all possible be done to provide additional adult respite services in Kerry to accommodate the numbers of young men and women who need to access such a crucial service. Please also provide a breakdown of numbers of children who have accessed disability service respite care over the last five years and the numbers of those who at age 18 move out of that provision and are then to be catered for in adult services. (The comparable lack of adult provision to child provision highlights the need for more investment in the adult area.)”

Cllr Norma Moriarty

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

Cllr Moriarty thanked HSE Management for their written reply and noted the detailed response provided. She highlighted concerns in relation to the availability of adult respite provision. Scheduled respite is a necessity for all families and their lives and ability to continue caring improves immeasurably when they have regular access to respite services. Ms O’Keeffe acknowledged the need for respite services and also increasing service demands. She advised Members that Cork Kerry Healthcare has invested in respite service provision in recent years for children and adults and continues to advocate for additional funding for these services.

(f) Cllr Mikey Sheehy moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

“What is the update on the Primary Care Centres that are due to be developed in Kerry and the time scale for them to be open to operation. Will the Killarney Primary Care clinic have a minor injuries clinic?”

Cllr Niall Kelleher

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

Cllr Kelleher acknowledged the written reply and hoped there would be a positive outcome from ongoing discussions in relation to the development of a Primary Care Centre in South Kerry/Caherciveen. He also raised Rathmore area and whether this would be identified as a location for a Primary Care Centre into the future.

Gabrielle O’Keeffe advised that Primary Care Centres are operated in partnership with GPs. Ms O’Keeffe stated that Minor Injury Units are not within the remit of Primary Care/Community services. Ms O’Keeffe advised that she was unaware of any proposal for the development/provision of a Minor Injury Clinic in Killarney. However she agreed to bring the queries raised back to her colleagues for review and would endeavour to provide an update at South West Committee meeting.

6. Questions

(a) Cllr. Mikey Sheehy put forward the following question:

“How many active legal cases are currently being taken against the HSE in Kerry regarding the inappropriate care and prescribing of medication by CAMHS in the County?”

A written response from Ms Tess O’Donovan, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted. Cllr Sheehy noted the content of the response and asked HSE Management why figures requested could not be provide in format requested. The National Treasury Management Agency who maintain this information can only comment on number of clinical claims being taken.

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

“Can the HSE please provide an update in relation to the completion of the extension and refurbishment works in St Joseph’s Community Hospital, Millstreet.”

A written response from Mr Alan O’Connell, Assistant National Director, HSE Estates South, was circulated to members and noted.

(c) Cllr. Pat Hayes put forward the following question:

“Can the South/South West Hospital Group provide increased funding to employ more interns as in some specialities there are 60 to 80 patients to 2 interns. Interns are working up to 65 hours per week and find it difficult to get cover if they want to take leave.”

A written response from Dr Ger O’Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group was circulated to members and noted. Cllr Hayes thanked HSE Management for their reply.

(d) Cllr Norma Moriarty put forward the following question:

“Can a regular podiatry clinic be set up for south west Kerry?”

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

Cllr Moriarty in acknowledgement of the written response provided asked where podiatry clinics would be located in the South West region. Gabrielle O’Keeffe advised that in line with the Enhanced Community Care Programme it is intended to have such clinics provided in community settings situated close to the population centres. However, the ongoing challenge remains in the Cork Kerry area and across the country in recruiting suitably qualified podiatry staff to address increasing service demands. The HSE needs to be able to, successfully, recruit podiatry staff in the first instance in order to provide clinics.

(e) Cllr. Niall Kelleher put forward the following question:

“What's the HSE current plan regarding St Finians, and will there be a plan for St Columbanus and the Killarney District Hospital once the New Killarney Community Hospital is open.”

A written response from Ms Tess O’Donovan, Chief Officer Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted. Cllr Kelleher thanked HSE Management and stated that the District Hospital would be an ideal location to provide services such as a Minor Injury Unit in the Killarney area.

Ms Gabrielle O’Keeffe advised that there is no definite timeline at present in relation to the future use of St Columbanus Hospital Buildings. Once the new Community Nursing Unit opens, a scoping exercise will need to take place to match available space to service needs.

7. Date and Time of next meeting – 23rd November 2023 at 2pm. Venue: Cork Council Chambers, Cork County Hall.