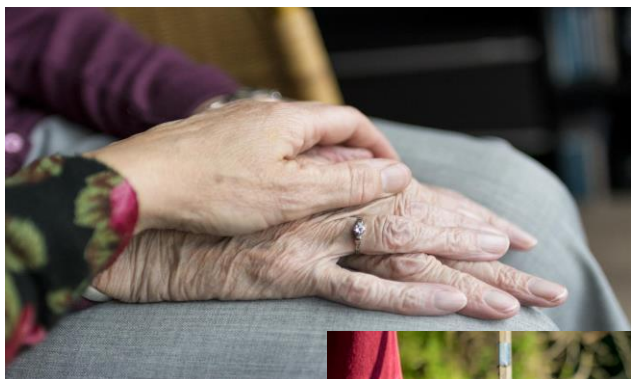


CAWT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2022 TO MARCH 2023



cooperation and working together
for health gain and social well being in border areas

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1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAWT's work would not be possible without the guidance and expertise of a range of organisations – we are appreciative of their ongoing support.

Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

The CAWT partner organisations are grateful for the financial support for cross border health and social care activity, received from the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Department of Health, Northern Ireland and Department of Health, Ireland

The commitment and support of both Departments of Health to cross border collaboration in health and social care is greatly appreciated.

The CAWT Partner Organisations

Progress in cross border health and social care is reliant on the commitment of the CAWT partner organisations. We acknowledge the valuable time and expertise dedicated to cross border health and social care by the frontline teams, managers and staff of the CAWT partner organisations:

- Health Service Executive (HSE)
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT)
- Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT)
- Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG)
- Public Health Agency (PHA)

EU INTERREG VA Project Partners

We recognise the collaborative effort of our project partners in the delivery of the EU INTERREG VA programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). These include delivery partners in the community and voluntary sector. Other delivery partners include Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, National Ambulance Service, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the Scottish Government, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Western Isles, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Tayside and the Scottish Ambulance Service.



2.0 CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Neil Guckian, Director General



I am delighted to take on the role of Director General of the CAWT Partnership, at a time when we marked 30 years since CAWT's inception. I look forward to working alongside the CAWT Management Board to prepare for future opportunities and to collaborate in the interests of our combined populations in our respective catchment areas.

The year has largely been one of transition for the CAWT Partnership as we complete one major programme of EU funded work and prepare for the next. Specifically we have intensified our preparations for the new EU PEACE PLUS programme, in anticipation that the programme will be launched by mid-2023.

During the past year we have been acknowledging and celebrating the 30 years of the existence of the CAWT Partnership. This culminated in celebratory event in March 2023, attended by a wide range of stakeholders, including government representatives and senior health and social care officials from Northern Ireland and Ireland, staff and former employees of CAWT, both past and present. I was honored to address the event, along with other key stakeholders, to outline the scale and impact of cross border health and social care activity over the past 3 decades, which has been driven by the needs of the border region and the health priorities of all the key partners.



[Click here for link to CAWT@30 event press release and video](#)

It was highlighted at the event that to date, more than 100,000 patients and clients, many of whom live in rural border areas, have benefitted from CAWT projects, more than 40,000 people have received training and over €70m of EU funding has been invested in health and social care in the border region.

I wish to acknowledge the essential support of EU structural funds administered by the Special EU Programmes Body, as well as the backing of the Departments of Health in

both jurisdictions, whose direction and oversight has been instrumental in progress made to date.

Implementation of EU INTERREG VA funded Projects

Our Project Boards continued to make steady progress in the implementation of the five CAWT EU INTERREG VA funded projects in the areas of acute services, community health & well-being, mental health, children's services, and primary care / older people's services. The CoH-Sync (Population Health), mPower (Primary Care and Older People), Innovation Recovery (Mental Health) and Acute services projects have now closed during this period, having achieved their overall target outputs. The MACE (Children's Services) project is in the final phase of implementation and has surpassed all target outputs to date.



Thanks to the grant funding investment from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) via the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, approximately 47,000 citizens have received interventions spanning acute, mental health, children's, older people's services and community-based health and well-being programmes. Over 3,500 staff from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors have received training to improve their knowledge, skills and competencies across a

diverse range of health, well-being and social care themes, which ultimately will impact positively on patient and client care.

As we continued to adapt to the impacts and legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic, the considerable progress achieved by CAWT projects would not have been possible without the contribution, dedication and commitment of many health and social care personnel, along with partners in the community and voluntary sector. I wish to commend each and every one for their endeavours and extend my thanks to them for their commitment to our service users.

As we all deal with the challenge of recovery from the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing financial and resourcing deficits, we know that continued cross border collaboration will contribute to rebuilding the sector and strengthening future resilience.

The CAWT Partnership's reputation in planning and managing collaborative cross border activity has been greatly enhanced by the tangible outcomes achieved in this latest EU funded programme of work and gives us a solid foundation for the future. Progress, achievements and future priorities for all our EU funded programme of work are outlined in this report.

PEACEPLUS

As already noted, the CAWT Partnership is strongly focused on the next EU funding measure. PEACEPLUS, is the successor European Union funding programme to the SEUPB's current PEACE IV and INTERREG VA programmes. PEACEPLUS is designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. In the expectation that PEACEPLUS will be launched and open for applications by mid-2023, CAWT cross border Strategy Groups have been meeting and are actively preparing project plans that will bring added value and benefits to the region by adopting a cross border approach. During Feb 2023, a total of nine Project Concept Notes were submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) for feedback in terms of suitability to go forward as full PEACEPLUS applications/business plans. Feedback and associated follow-up activity continues with a view to refining the current priority CAWT PEACEPLUS project portfolio and ensuring readiness for this EU funding measure, when it opens for applications.

Cross border emergency planning

Over the past 20 years, the CAWT Partnership has supported and assisted with the organisation of a variety of joint military/civilian training with a focus on emergency planning and Humanitarian Disaster Assistance Courses (HDAC) on an annual basis. In September 2022 a very successful cross border HDAC course was hosted by the United Nations Training School in the Curragh. Support and expertise was provided by a wide range of organisations, including the Royal Society of Apothecaries, Defence Forces Ireland, United Nations Training School and the Irish Air Corps. There is a real appetite by all involved, for the HDAC approach to continue as feedback indicates it is building valuable awareness, as well as the skills and knowledge of those who may need to be part of an emergency response. It is also contributing to the building of strong and resilient partnerships and networks across a wide range of agencies in both jurisdictions.

Governance

During 2022/23, CAWT partners continued to monitor governance as per the Governance Manual which serves as the primary source of the principles, policies and operating rules that guide the work of the Partnership in its entirety.

The Governance Manual is a key resource for use by staff, management and other stakeholders. It sets the standards for our collective operation and behaviours. It also establishes a framework for monitoring performance against these standards. We will continue to work collaboratively to ensure that the CAWT Partnership's governance and accountability frameworks complement and support each partner organisation's own governance processes and activities.

CAWT Partnership

In June 2022 I was honoured to accept the role of Director General and Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer of the HSE's Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) was confirmed as the Deputy Director General. In particular I wish to acknowledge my predecessor, Damian McCallion, Chief Operation Officer at the HSE, whose tenure as the CAWT Director General has been one of tremendous leadership in what has been probably the most challenging time for all health services. I would like to extend a warm welcome to those who joined us during the year: Dr Maria O'Kane, Chief Executive of the SHSCT who replaces Shane Devlin. I wish Shane well and thank him for his service to the CAWT Partnership.

In October, Bill Forbes, CAWT's Chief Officer left CAWT to take up a new position with National Ambulance Service in Ireland. I wish to thank Bill for his work in supporting the CAWT Partnership and I wish him well in his new role.

Appreciation

As always, I wish to convey my gratitude to the members of the CAWT Management Board and Secretariat for their strategic oversight and leadership of the work of the CAWT Partnership. To the members of the CAWT corporate functional groups, project boards and strategy groups, I extend grateful thanks for your professionalism and commitment to CAWT. I would also like to pay tribute to the Chief Officer and staff of the CAWT Development Centre, project managers and teams for their excellent work during a period of significant internal change and ongoing external instability. Your work in supporting and championing cross border collaboration deserves recognition and thanks.



We cannot deliver cross border healthcare in isolation, and so must acknowledge the contribution of our many community and voluntary sector partners, who have added so much value to cross border collaboration. Your knowledge, expertise and insight empower the CAWT Partnership to deliver on its EU funding objectives and targets within a constantly changing environment.

Looking forward

In my role as Director General of CAWT, I have had the privilege of engaging with many inspirational people committed to cross jurisdictional dialogue and working in health and social care, and also in other sectors. This passion and commitment encourages and motivates us in the CAWT Partnership to continue to further deepen and strengthen cross border engagement and co-operation, for the benefit of the citizens we serve.

Finally, the CAWT partners are committed to working with the Departments of Health in both jurisdictions, the North South Ministerial Council, Health Agencies and other stakeholders in facilitating and implementing cross border services for the benefit of patients and clients in the wider border region. We look forward to our journey in the months and years ahead in continuing to develop innovative and collaborative ways to improve health and well-being and access to quality health services in border regions.

3.0 OVERVIEW

Cathy McCloskey, Chief Officer



As the CAWT Chief Officer since December 2022, I would like to acknowledge the support and guidance received from an extensive network of partners and staff. This includes the CAWT Development Centre staff through to the Management Board and Secretariat, corporate functional groups, project boards and strategy groups. Individuals devote much time and contribute their expertise to cross border health and social care. This is greatly appreciated and is a key factor in the success of the CAWT Partnership to date.

As we continue on our mission to improve the health and well-being of the border populations, by working across boundaries and jurisdictions, I would like to highlight just a selection of key activities and milestones reached during the year.

Implementation of EU INTERREG VA funded projects

Our five EU INTERREG VA projects have been made possible by the European Union's INTERREG VA funding secured by the CAWT Partnership. I would like to thank the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), for their vital support in enabling the CAWT Partnership to continue to successfully deliver EU INTERREG VA funded cross border services, particularly during challenging COVID-19 pandemic times.

Earlier in the pandemic, each of the five projects had successfully adapted and continued to deliver on objectives and targets. I commend Project Board members, project managers and their staff teams for their determination and resilience to ensure projects continued to deliver on targets and outputs. This is a huge achievement and I am truly grateful for your continued commitment to ensure projects successfully delivered for people. Here is a short overview of those projects:

The **Community Health Synchronisation Project (CoH-Sync)** project concluded in June 2022 after, for the first time ever, the development and application of a common Health and Wellbeing plan across the Island of Ireland and parts of Western Scotland. The project was operationalised via a network of 8 community-based Health and Wellbeing Hubs in the border region of Ireland/Northern Ireland and South West Scotland. These hubs were resourced with Community Health Facilitators who supported individuals and groups to become more active in improving their own health and wellbeing, using a community 'assets based' approach.

According to the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH), who conducted an evaluation of the CoH-Sync Project: *'This cross border health and well-being project was*

successful at reaching and engaging around 12,000 citizens in areas of high deprivation, with many participants seeing a marked improvement in their mental well-being, their diets and their physical activity levels.' It was also noted by the evaluators that: 'Hub teams successfully pivoted to support the local emergency response to Covid-19' which is to be commended. The evaluation report, circulated to stakeholders, provides a broad independent overview of the project, analysis of qualitative and quantitative data on beneficiaries and their feedback, as well as an assessment of the structures and delivery mechanisms underpinning the project, most notably the use of localised community health and well-being hubs.

The cross border **Acute Project** successfully concluded in November 2022 and held a celebration event in the South West Acute Hospital in Co. Fermanagh to mark the completion and achievements of the project. At this event, it was highlighted that more than 17,000 people from Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland have benefited from a healthcare intervention delivered by the Acute cross border project. It was also noted that this EU funded project has improved access to health service facilities and enhanced care for those people living within the border corridor of Ireland / Northern Ireland and the West Coast of Scotland. Its valuable support during the Covid-19 pandemic was also acknowledged. Of note was the successful showcasing of the cross border Community Paramedic element of the CAWT Acute project at the European Public Health Week in May. The project has demonstrated that high volumes of chronic illness patients can have their care delivered outside of hospitals in their homes and communities by trained Community Paramedics and is therefore informing the planning of future services.

The cross border **Innovation Recovery Project** concluded at the end of March 2023 and celebrated the achievements of the project at a cross border event held in Omagh Co. Tyrone in February. At the event entitled 'Health and Hope in your Hands' it was acknowledged that over 8,000 people across Ireland and Northern Ireland, including those with lived experience of mental health issues, and also carers and health professionals have benefited from the services offered by the project. The project successfully met its targets in terms of beneficiaries of services, co-production and scale of the training offered, with over 850 staff trained in a range of bespoke programmes. The Innovation Recovery project was evaluated by the Leadership Centre which concluded that: 'Overall the passion felt about the Project, and underlying principles, when speaking with those involved is heart-felt and impactful. People spoke about the project with warmth and passion. Stories of the turmoil and challenges Covid-19 had on the delivery of the



project, the pride of the success through online offerings and personal impact this had on those involved, was immense.' It is also notable that mainstream planning for the project after the EU funding concluded at the end of March 2023 is well underway. It is hoped that the strong performance of the project will leave a longer term legacy on mental health recovery services.

The **MACE Project** has continued to transform the lives of vulnerable children and their families, most at risk from a range of challenges in their lives, by identifying, intervening early and providing support within their own homes and communities. The CAWT partner organisations, and Tusla as a project partner, are utilising the EU funding investment to implement practical supports and programmes, which directly benefit families and communities in the border region. By March 2023, 4,311 families had received a MACE project intervention. In total, a menu of almost 200 different support interventions for vulnerable families were made available through the new purchasing frameworks developed by the project with the expert support of HSE Procurement and BSO Procurement and Logistics Service (PaLs).

In addition, a range of training programmes has been delivered in support of developing the capacity of the statutory, community and voluntary workforce to identify vulnerable families experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences and to purchase the most appropriate intervention to address the adversities being experienced by families.

The **mPower Project**, which drew to a close in 2022, supported older people (age 65+) living with long-term conditions across the Ireland, Northern Ireland and the west of Scotland. mPower has worked with communities to enable people to take the steps needed to live well, safely and independently in their own homes by self-managing their own health and care in the community. A key aspect of the project was the Community Navigators who developed well-being plans and connected citizens to activities in their community. Technology was also used to enhance support for health and well-being. The mPower Celebration Event took place in Edinburgh in July 2022 and was attended by a wide range of stakeholders and policy professionals across the 3 jurisdictions.

The final evaluation of mPower was undertaken by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Rural Health and Wellbeing Division, which collected qualitative and quantitative evidence on the impact of mPower on beneficiaries and other key stakeholders. Some of the notable impacts and outcomes detailed in the evaluation report highlighted that there is evidence *'that interaction with mPower led to reductions in loneliness and social isolation..... that interaction with mPower contributed to maintaining or enhancing older peoples' mental wellbeing.* The report also highlighted that: *'There is evidence that engagement with the mPower project increased beneficiaries' confidence and sense of empowerment.....'*

PEACEPLUS Planning

PEACEPLUS is the successor to both INTERREG and PEACE funding programmes. It will build upon previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes and has



Special EU Programmes Body
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Special EU Skemes Boadie

six themes. During 2022 into 2023, the CAWT Partnership has been preparing for the opening of PEACEPLUS funding calls. Specifically, Strategy Groups have been meeting on a regular basis to agree services and initiatives that are suitable for cross border development and for inclusion in PEACEPLUS funding applications. Colleagues throughout our partner organisations have been scoping out possible collaborative, cross border projects for submission to the SEUPB as project concept notes.

To assist with this process the SEUPB hosted pre-application support workshop for each investment area. CAWT was represented at the Theme 4 / 4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care: Pre-Application Support Workshop held in December 2022 which provided preliminary guidance to help potential applicants build their project proposals, programme knowledge, and capacity so that they are best placed to make quality applications, with a strong focus on outcomes that meet programme targets and the overarching aim of peace and prosperity.

In total, nine project concept notes were submitted to the SEUPB in Feb 2023, on behalf of the CAWT Partnership. Although not part of the formal application process, the feedback on these concept notes is enabling the CAWT Strategy Groups to review and refine projects in preparation for the formal application stage opening for submissions, scheduled to commence in Spring/Summer 2023.

Looking forward

We marked 30 years of the CAWT cross border Partnership during 2022/23 and I have been heartened by the commitment to cross border health and social care. At our 30 year anniversary celebration event in March 2023, it was wonderful to have so many people present who helped to write the CAWT story to date. At the event we also looked to the future and the commitment of our stakeholders and partners to collaborative and practical cross border and north south engagement, in the interest of citizens, is as strong as ever. This is due in large part to all of those who have worked so hard to build relationships since the Partnership was established in 1992.

Finally, I wish to commend strongly the work of the CAWT Development Centre staff who are a committed and enthusiastic team, passionate about cross border. The achievements and successes in cross border work have been achieved through teamwork and true partnership across jurisdictions, which I and colleagues will seek to strengthen as we continue our journey.

[Click here for link to CAWT@30 event press release and video](#)

4.0 EU INTERREG VA PROJECT UPDATE



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie

During 2022 into the first quarter of 2023, all EU INTERREG VA funded cross border health and social care projects made significant progress. This is made possible with the continued support of the Special EU Programmes Body and EU grant funding awarded of €32.2m from the INTERREG VA Programme up to 2023.

The INTERREG VA Programme aims to overcome issues, which arise from the existence of a border, through greater levels of cross border co-operation. This includes access to health and social care services within the eligible area and serves Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland and Western Scotland. This geographic and cross-jurisdictional diversity is demonstrated across all four health and social care projects delivered by the CAWT Partnership under the INTERREG VA Health theme. CAWT has been a partner on a fifth project – mPower, led by NHS Scotland:

- Acute Hospitals Services Project
- Population Health: Community Health Synchronisation (CoH-Sync) Project
- Mental Health: Innovation Recovery Project
- Children's Services: Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (MACE) Project
- Primary Care and Older People: mPower Project

CAWT projects focus on improving the health and well-being of people living in the eligible region by enabling them to access health and social care services in a setting most appropriate to their needs. Successful implementation of these projects relies on effective partnership working across a range of thematic areas:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Tackling health inequalities
- Supporting independent living
- Building resilience and recovery within people and communities
- Technology as an enabler for change and to connect services
- Partnerships with the community and voluntary sector
- Improved use of existing health and social care infrastructure
- Upskilling and building staff resilience
- Overcoming barriers to mobility on a cross border basis

An overview of these EU INTERREG VA funded projects and their progress is detailed in the following pages.



cooperation and working together
for health gains and social well-being in border areas

CAWT | EU INTERREG VA Programme outputs

Interreg 
Northern Ireland - Ireland - Scotland
European Regional Development Fund



Special EU Programmes Body
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32.2 million awarded to
Cross Border health and
social care



Multi Project Partners
sharing a cross border &
cross jurisdictional vision



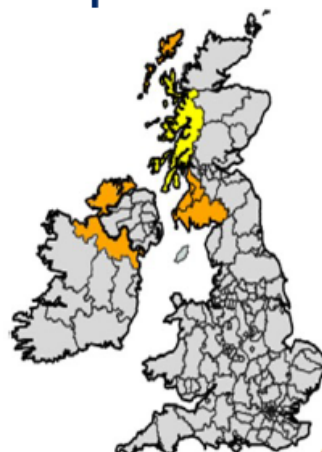
47,000 client/patient
beneficiaries against
target of 43,134 (March 2023)



62 Community,
Voluntary, Business
and other partners
involved



5 large scale cross
border projects
delivered



Project Partners

HSE- Community Healthcare Cavan,
Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo
HSE- CHO Area 8 (Louth)

WHSCT/ SHSCT

PHA/SPPG

TUSLA

NHS National Services Scotland

NHS Glasgow & Clyde

NHS Tayside

NHS Ayrshire & Arran

NHS Dumfries & Galloway

NHS Western Isles

Ambulances Services Northern Ireland,
Ireland & Scotland



83% of services
mainstreamed /
replaced in full, in part
or adapted.



Strengthened cross border
and cross jurisdictional
relationships and
networks.



3,909 staff trained across 5
projects



181 Employment
Opportunities

Acute Services
CoH-Sync (Population Health)
MACE (Children's Services)
mPower (Older People)
Innovation Recovery (Mental Health)

CAWT Acute Hospital Services Project



Bringing care and treatment nearer to you



**Community
Health
Sync
Project**



**innovation
recovery**
education for mental wellbeing

MACE
Supporting Families
Strengthening Communities

4.1 ACUTE HOSPITALS SERVICES PROJECT: 'CONNECTING SERVICES, CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES'



Commenced: June 2017

End date: November 2022

**EU INTERREG VA grant
funding: €10.485 million**

The Acute Hospitals Services project continued to deliver throughout 2022 and concluded at the end of November 2022. During the implementation phase, this EU funded project has improved access to health service facilities and enhanced care for those people living within the border corridor of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the West Coast of Scotland. It also provided valuable support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The project has treated 17,818 patients in total (across the three jurisdictions) during its five-year lifecycle in both scheduled and unscheduled care pathways.

Scheduled care initially focused on the specialties of dermatology, urology and vascular, while unscheduled care initiatives included the introduction of a new community paramedic service, clinical decision unit / direct access unit, community cardiac investigations and a community geriatrician led service. A Discharge Lounge service was also developed. When appropriate, innovative technologies were used throughout the project and some specialist training was delivered for staff.

Programmes of scheduled/unscheduled care took place throughout the three jurisdictions in the following geographic areas:

PROJECT STRAND	DELIVERY SITES/BASE
UNSCHEDULED CARE	
Respiratory Led Service	Ireland – Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan (HSE)
Cardiac investigations	Ireland – Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal (HSE)
Clinical Decision Unit (CDU)	Northern Ireland – Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Community Paramedic Hubs	Ireland – Buncrana and Monaghan areas (HSE)
	Northern Ireland – Castlederg (WHST)
	Scotland NHS – Mid Argyll area, West Coast of Scotland
Discharge Lounges	Ireland - Sligo and Letterkenny University Hospitals (HSE)
SCHEDULED CARE	
Urology	Ireland – Letterkenny University Hospital (HSE)
	Northern Ireland – Altnagelvin Area Hospital (WHST)
Vascular	Ireland – Letterkenny University Hospital (HSE)
	Northern Ireland – Altnagelvin Area Hospital (WHST)
Dermatology	Ireland – Letterkenny University Hospital (HSE)
	Northern Ireland – WHST
	Scotland NHS – NHS Scotland / West Coast of Scotland
General Surgery	Northern Ireland - South West Acute Hospital, Fermanagh (WHST)

Key Achievements

Framework 1: Reform and Modernisation of the Management of Unscheduled Pre-Hospital Care

Framework 1 aimed to reform and modernise unscheduled/pre-hospital care services by ensuring that the assessment and treatment of patients is delivered more effectively at the point of contact and, if appropriate, a referral made to an alternative care pathway. It also involved training staff in emergency response and where possible utilising technology to deliver these services.

The Clinical Decision Unit (CDU)/ Direct Access Unit (DAU) strand allowed patients to be treated using new pathways and resulted in reduced hospital admissions, thereby alleviating pressures on A&E and GP services. This strand was completed in 2021, with the CDU significantly over-delivering on the beneficiary target, due to a reform and modernisation plan implemented in the SHST in 2019.

The paramedic strand has become an example of best practice through the incorporation of new developments in the field of community paramedicine. This strand has demonstrated that high volumes of patients with chronic illness can have

their care safely delivered outside of hospitals in their homes and communities by trained Community Paramedics. During peak Covid – 19 times, the Community Paramedic service proved invaluable in reducing attendance and admissions to hospital, particularly among frail elderly. One of the notable trends is that the most vulnerable group of patients – those aged 81-90 were consistently the highest volume of patients seen and treated by the Community Paramedics.

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) provided the Specialist Paramedic Training Programme availed of by some of the Community Paramedics participating in this project.

Since the paramedic strand concluded, all 3 regions have integrated & further developed the Community Paramedic role.

Awards/recognition received by services supported by CAWT's Acute Project:

- DG REGIO Regiostar's 2019 award (Europe's label of excellence for EU-funded projects) - *Finalist in the 'Modernising health services' category*
- 2019 Irish Healthcare Awards – *Winner of the 'Sustainable Healthcare Project of the year' category*
- At NIAS Staff Recognition Awards Ceremony in March 2019, Caroline French (Community Paramedic based in Castlederg and a CAWT Community Paramedic project staff member) - *announced as the Paramedic of the Year.*

Interoperability

The project successfully developed and tested out a mechanism for cross border interoperability, demonstrating that Vascular patients data could be safely shared with other EU countries. This ground-breaking work can be further replicated and scaled up as part of project partner mainstream activities.

Training

The CAWT Acute project also delivered specialised training and development programmes during its lifetime. The overall target for the project of 338 training beneficiaries has been greatly exceeded with 813 training beneficiaries achieved. Training has been provided in a broad range of areas including paramedicine, mentoring development, patient flow, dermatology specialist practice, leadership etc.

Human Factors Masterclass

A specialist training initiative, which was developed by Public Health Agency's NI Improvement Hub for Health and Social Care Quality Improvements and the Health Service Executive's National Quality Improvement (QI) Team, to support health and social services to lead sustainable improvements for safer, better healthcare, concluded in 2022. The Centre for Innovative Human Systems at Trinity College Dublin,

provided a bespoke fully online Human Factors Masterclass, developed specifically to respond to the needs of the health and social care systems in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Across both jurisdictions, 192 clinical and support staff attended the highly interactive training which was designed to increase knowledge of the range of human factors that affect performance at different levels and to increase understanding of the methods to address human factors challenges at each level.

Framework 2: Reform and Modernisation of Outpatient Services and Supporting the Relocation of Specific Diagnostic Activities to Outpatient Settings

This strand of the Acute Hospitals Project focuses on scheduled or planned care, specifically the dermatology, urology and vascular specialties.

For example, an integrated clinical Dermatology Network using telehealth/digital technologies was newly established and treated patients both within and outside of acute hospital settings and operated in three jurisdictions of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The cross border Dermatology strand also facilitated the development of new education and training resources for dermatology nurses in the three jurisdictions.

The cross border Urology Service, delivered by consultants employed in Northern Ireland and Ireland, provided services in both jurisdictions. The service delivered initial outpatient, day case and inpatient interventions to patients throughout the border region.

Vascular Services were provided to patients in both the Western Trust area of Northern Ireland and at HSE's Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH), with outpatient and day case patients able to access vascular services closer to where they live.

Framework 3: Reform and Modernisation of the Delivery of Minor, Intermediate, Major Operations and Procedures

Framework 3 focus was on the more complex medical interventions. The project initially delivered specialised surgical procedures in the fields of Urology, Vascular and Dermatology, provided within hospital locations. Later, this was expanded to General Surgery delivered in the South West Acute Hospital in the WHSCT area. Where clinically appropriate, day-case, endoscopy and main theatre facilities were utilised in the treatment of patients to maximise efficiency.

The learnings and experiences gained has been shared at a cross border level between managers and clinicians, via the CAWT Partnership

Celebration

The Acute Hospitals project concluded in November 2022 with a Celebration event held in the South West Acute Hospital in Co. Fermanagh. At the event the value of cross-border working in the delivery of acute services, particularly in light of the challenges of the Covid -19 pandemic, was highlighted. The event also acknowledged the importance of the EU INTERREG funding investment, secured from the Special EU Programmes Body, in supporting the CAWT Acute Project to meet its objectives and in furthering cross border and North/South activity in health and social care in general. The match funding from the Departments of Health was also acknowledged.



Addressed by both Ministers for Health in Ireland and Northern Ireland, Stephen Donnelly TD Minister for Health commented: *"As the Acute Hospitals Services Project 'Connecting Services, Citizens and Communities' concludes, it is good to reflect on how it has adapted cross-border delivery of acute services to respond to the pandemic. In challenging times this project has highlighted the added value of cross-border working in the delivery of acute services; one example involved providing a new form of community-based healthcare which allowed paramedics to assess patients and provide appropriate treatment there and then. This approach aligns well with our Sláintecare Strategy to deliver the Right Care in the Right Place at the Right Time. Often the right place to provide and receive care is in a community setting. Having benefitted over 17,000 people, this project shows what can be achieved when we work together and support North South co-operation."*

Northern Ireland Minister for Health Robin Swann MLA said: *"The scale, reach and outcomes of the Acute Hospital Services' Project are impressive. During its five-year life-cycle three new cross-border pilot frameworks for patients accessing acute services were established.....A significant factor in facilitating the project's achievements has been the excellent partnership working with colleagues in Ireland and the West of Scotland. Input and support from patients and service users have similarly played a vital role in the project's success. I look forward to ongoing cooperation with partners through the PEACE PLUS Programme which will enable us to build on the admirable legacy of previous PEACE and INTERREG programmes."*

Project partners continue to network and further develop cross border relationships and plans in preparation for the INTERREG VA successor EU funding programme, PEACEPLUS, scheduled open for applications in 2023.

[Click here for link to Acute Hospital Services Project closure event press release](#)

4.2 POPULATION HEALTH: COMMUNITY HEALTH SYNCHRONISATION (COH-SYNC) PROJECT



Commenced: July 2017

End date: April 2022

**EU INTERREG VA grant
funding: €5.01 million**

Community Health Sync project partners: HSE, Western Health and Social Care Trust; Southern Health and Social Care Trust; Public Health Agency and NHS Dumfries and Galloway.

The EU INTERREG VA Community Health Synchronisation (CoH-Sync) Project completed on 30th June 2022. As a cross border and community-based project, CoH-Sync enabled people to achieve a healthier lifestyle by supporting them to develop personal health and well-being plans and to take action to meet health goals.

The project focused on addressing the known risk factors associated with long-term conditions/chronic disease. These risk factors are physical activity, smoking, mental health, nutrition and alcohol. The project was delivered in the border region of Ireland/Northern Ireland and SW Scotland in eight Hub locations. These eight Hubs were staffed with trained Community Health Facilitators, who assisted clients to develop and action their own health and well-being plan. This enabled participants to take health into their own hands by identifying areas in their lifestyle, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, nutrition or physical activity, which needed to be modified in order to improve their overall health status.

Participants benefitted from a wide range of classes and activities including physical activity classes, online cookery classes, mindfulness, life coaching, online book clubs, creative writing classes, art and craft tutorials.

COMMUNITY HUB LOCATION		COMMUNITY HUB PROVIDER
IRELAND		
Letterkenny, North Donegal	Donegal Local Development Company	
Ballyshannon, South Donegal	Donegal Local Development Company	
County Cavan and County Monaghan	Donegal Local Development Company in partnership with Monaghan Integrated Development, Breffni Integrated Development (Cavan)	
NORTHERN IRELAND		
Derry and Strabane	Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum in partnership with Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership, Strabane Health Improvement Project and Derg Valley Healthy Living Centre	
Enniskillen, West Fermanagh	Arc Healthy Living Centre in partnership with Oak Healthy Living Centre, Fermanagh Rural Community Network and Lakeland Community Care	
Armagh and Dungannon	Connected Health	
SCOTLAND		
Dumfries, Nithsdale	NHS Dumfries and Galloway in partnership with third sector organisations	
Stranraer – Wigtownshire	NHS Dumfries and Galloway in partnership with third sector organisations	

Key Achievements

Project Achievements		
8 Health and Well-being Hubs established	10,052 unique beneficiaries achieved	60 (48 Unique) staff trained

Evaluation

The CoH-Sync Project utilised the Data Collection and Reporting Service (DCRS) as a repository for client health and well-being data and to prepare the information so that it can be reported upon in detail once sufficient numbers of plans had been uploaded and verified. DCRS is a bespoke, standardised, national Health Trainer reporting system owned and licensed by the NHS Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit.

Using the combined expertise of NHS Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit and the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH), a qualitative & quantitative evaluation was undertaken of CoH-Sync Health and Well-being project.

The CoH-Sync Project Evaluation Report was published in June 2022 and details the key results, challenges and recommendations for future planning and activity. The report showcases the sterling working undertaken by the community-based hub providers who were fundamental to the success of this cross border health and well-being project. The report highlights how well the CoH-Sync Hubs adjusted to the Covid-19 pandemic providing important and much needed support and assistance to many people, particularly when their mental health and well-being was more vulnerable.

In her foreword the author, Nelly Araujo (Royal Society for Public Health) clearly articulates her enthusiasm for the project structure, resource materials and mode of delivery where she notes: *"The results of this approach are clear to see in that, even amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the CoH-Sync Project helped people see a significant improvement in their emotional wellbeing; and even under strict lockdowns, people's physical activity and diets both saw marked improvements. Under such circumstances, many projects would have come to a sudden halt. It is testament to the support from the central team and the commitment of the Hubs and Community Health Facilitators involved that the CoH-Sync programme both continued to operate and achieved impressive outcomes for beneficiaries, project staff, institutions, and communities."*

Legacy

The project has been recognised as an exemplar cross-jurisdictional model for supporting population health and tackling health inequalities across the region. Project Board members were keen to ensure the project experiences and learnings are shared widely. Thus a number of key activities was undertaken during the final phase of the project in 2022 including:

- Production and delivery of a communications plan to sharing the learnings of the project with partners and stakeholders;
- Issuing of the evaluation report to project partners networks, departmental contacts, funders and other key stakeholders;
- Highlighting the findings and recommendations from the evaluation report and the Hub experiences to inform future health and well-being policy and practice.

[Click here for link to CoH-Sync Project closure event press release](#)

4.3 MENTAL HEALTH: INNOVATION RECOVERY (I-RECOVERY) PROJECT



Commenced: November 2017

End date: March 2023

**EU INTERREG VA grant funding:
€7.6 million**

The Innovation Recovery project concluded at the end of March 2023. The project's rationale was to establish a cross border Mental Health Recovery College Network, covering 12 the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It aimed to assist people who have experienced mental health issues to self-manage their own recovery. Through participation in the Recovery College process, people who had experienced mental illness came together with health professionals to co-produce and co-deliver a wide range of free, local, educational training and support programmes to enhance mental well-being and personal resilience.

The Innovation Recovery project complements and enhances mental health services, delivered by the health services and community and voluntary sector stakeholders, by empowering and supporting individuals and their families and the wider community through a learning, educational approach. At the heart of the recovery college approach is that the participants engage with and learn alongside those who have experienced similar mental health issues.

The project represents a radical shift from the medical model of treatment of mental health difficulties to a social/educational and collaborative model. It has offered an unprecedented opportunity to scale up and extend mental health recovery education. Its success is reflected in the solid achievements of the projects.

By the 31st March 2023, 9,043 people had benefited from Innovation Recovery's approach to improving mental health and well-being. That represents 113% of the target of 8,000 beneficiaries established for the project by the EU funders. This is a tremendous achievement and great credit is due to project staff who continued to

deliver in order to maximize project participants, in a climate where mental health needs had increased considerably.

The project has been delivered across three cross border regions as follows:

LOCATION	INNOVATION RECOVERY HUBS	
Area 1: West (Western)	WHSCT: Derry, Limavady and Strabane	HSE Community Health CDLMS: Letterkenny and West Donegal
Area 2: South (Southern)	WHSCT: Fermanagh	HSE Community Health CDLMS: Cavan, Leitrim, Monaghan and Sligo
Area 3: East (Eastern)	BHSCT: Belfast City SHSCT: Armagh and Newry	HSE CHO Area 8: Dundalk and Louth

Key Achievements

1 cross-border area community and voluntary sector infrastructure developed to support clients who have recovered from mental illness	9,043 unique clients supported in receipt of recovery programmes including individual recovery learning plans.	A variety of specialist training and development programmes delivered to 1,006 staff
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- The project represents a radical shift from the medical model of treatment of mental health difficulties to a social/educational and collaborative model.
- Innovation recovery has offered an unprecedented opportunity to scale up and extend mental health recovery education.
- The project has successfully developed a Recovery College infrastructure with the vital support of a range of community and voluntary sector partners.
- The project developed an all-island online Recovery College, the first of its kind, which provides a modern, flexible learning experience and includes a range of support, training and practical tools to promote hope, optimism and recovery.
- The training element has offered a range of bespoke programmes including 'Train the trainer', 'Recovery Orientated Methods' and 'Coaching for Recovery' – all of which build knowledge and awareness of the recovery ethos and help people with lived experience of mental health difficulties to reframe the narrative around their lives, to one of strength and survival.
- The Project has complemented and supported reforms currently underway within the two jurisdictions and is informing the development of submissions for future EU funding programmes such as PEACEPLUS.

Evaluation

The Leadership Centre undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the project, which determined it successfully developed a Recovery College infrastructure in tandem with a range of community and voluntary sector partners. The Covid-19 pandemic prompted its services to be adapted with a switch to free, online and interactive learning. This flexible learning experience offered a range of support, training and practical tools, all of which was critical during Covid-19.

The evaluation report noted that: *'Furthermore, the greater than expected achievement of the quantitative targets set, reinforce the multifaceted success of the I-Recover Project. Key focus of the feedback into this evaluation was on the benefits of co-production, localised delivery, and co-facilitation. This approach, alongside further consideration of the recommendations set out, could enhance the effectiveness of further programmes offered.'*

The evaluation report provided a useful summary of recommendations and future potential in the areas of strategic direction and focus, cross border dimensions, target audiences, measurements applied, healthcare professionals engagement, project staffing, blended solutions, terminology used etc. This provides much rich learning for future developments in relation to mental health recovery education and approaches.

Celebration

To mark the forthcoming conclusion, the Innovation Recovery project held a cross border celebration event in Omagh in February 2023. At the event entitled 'Health and Hope in your Hands,' it was acknowledged that, at that particular time, over 8,000 people across Ireland and Northern Ireland, including those with lived experience of mental health issues, and also carers and health professionals have benefited from the services offered by the project. The project successfully met its targets in terms of beneficiaries of services, co-production and scale of the training offered, with over 858 staff trained in a range of bespoke programmes, by February 2023.



Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People at the Department of Health in Ireland, Mary Butler T.D., and Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health in Northern Ireland both provided a video address at the event.

Reflecting on the importance of the project, Peter May, Permanent Secretary, for the Department of Health in Northern Ireland said: *“Those who participated in the Innovation Recovery Project, a first of its kind on a cross border basis, should be very proud of what they have achieved. The innovative approach of learning online and service user engagement will encourage people to communicate and get involved more directly. I know it will inspire work in other areas and contexts as we work together to address the common mental health challenges both North and South. This project will also serve to enhance and complement a number of key strategic objectives currently being delivered by the Department of Health and its key partners including the ten-year Mental Health Strategy which I know was a key focus for all Executive Ministers.”*

Mary Butler, Minister for Health Ireland said: *“The Irish Government’s commitment to enhancing mental health supports is demonstrated by the significant increase in funding for mental health services in recent years. The establishment of three cross border community-based recovery college hubs and the development of the Online Recovery College have real value in empowering people and communities to increase knowledge and skills for recovery and self-management of mental health. I truly believe that continued collaboration is essential if we are to successfully reduce the burden of mental health challenges and improve everyone’s wellbeing on the island.”*

[Click here for link to Celebration Event press release and video](#)

Legacy

The project continued to deliver right up to the end of March 2023 with as many people as possible benefiting from the services and supports offered by the project. A priority activity of the project, beyond EU funding, is the efforts of the project partners to mainstream project elements with their own organisational geographies and to continue to collaborate around the continuation of the Online Recovery College, which hosts 24 E-learning courses. This work will continue into 2023 and beyond. The experiences, challenges and learnings from the project continue to be widely shared to inform the planning and implementation of mental health recovery and education, in the future.

4.4 CHILDREN'S SERVICES: MULTIPLE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (MACE) PROJECT



Commenced: July 2018

End date: May 2023

**EU INTERREG VA grant funding:
€5.01m**

The MACE Project has made fantastic progress over the past 15 months. The MACE Project Team have worked hard to ensure that as many children and families as possible have benefitted from the project by keeping their focus primarily on delivery of interventions to vulnerable families.

Experiences of adversity and trauma occur in almost everyone's life at some point. Sometimes these experiences happen in our childhood when we are more sensitive to trauma and the effect can last longer. How we learn to cope with these negative experiences can help improve future outcomes for us, the children we care for, our families and friends and the wider community. Examples of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or negative experiences to which a child is exposed can include parental alcohol/drug abuse, domestic violence in the home, parental mental illness, bereavement within the home, disability etc.

Trauma informed practice toolkit

The MACE Project has developed a trauma informed practice toolkit for practitioners who work with families. The toolkit complements existing professional assessment processes by providing an easy-to-use system to identify 'risks and strengths' and in turn 'appropriate support interventions' for the individual family

There are five MACE Project cross border areas as follows:

- Derry/Londonderry and Letterkenny and Inishowen, Co. Donegal
- Strabane and West/South Donegal
- Fermanagh, Sligo and Leitrim
- Armagh, Monaghan and Cavan
- Newry, Co. Down, and Louth

At the outset of the project, each cross border area was supported by a MACE project coordinator. Since late 2020 there has been a gradual reduction in the number of MACE project co-ordinators in place, with just one in post since March 2022.

Jan 2022- Mar 2023: Key Achievements

- In the last 15-month period an additional 2,964 families have received at least one CAWT EU INTERREG VA MACE funded intervention, bringing the total to 5,405 families equating to delivery of 173% of the original intervention target (3,125).
- The Trauma Informed Practice Assessment Toolkit Training was delivered to an additional 264 practitioners, bringing the total at 31 March 2023 to 554 (282 Northern Ireland and 272 Ireland)
- The Trauma Informed Practice Assessment Toolkit 'Train the Trainer' was delivered to an additional 14, bringing the total to 25 practitioners (16 Ireland and 9 Northern Ireland) at 31 March 2023.
- For the first time every the MACE project has developed two innovative purchasing frameworks containing a diverse menu of interventions to choose from. These new purchasing frameworks allow partner organizations to test out and learn from a different more dynamic procurement approach, offering more choice to practitioners and families when selecting the most appropriate intervention to meet the immediate need of vulnerable families.
- In total, a menu of almost 200 different support interventions for vulnerable families has been made available through the new purchasing frameworks. Using these new dynamic frameworks, practitioners were able to provide timely interventions to help vulnerable children. Both the NI and RoI Purchasing Frameworks developed by MACE have been extended beyond the EU funded period.

April 2023 and Beyond

- Subject to availability of funding within the local partner budget areas – there will continue to be scope to deliver MACE Universal/Targeted/Specialist interventions to vulnerable families throughout Northern Ireland and Ireland via the purchasing frameworks developed by the MACE project, which have been extended beyond the EU funded period.
- Additional Toolkit Training planned in April 2023.
- The continued roll out of training on the Adversity Matrix and Risk Stratification Frameworks (the MACE assessment toolkit) through those that have received the 'Train the Trainer'.
- Continuing to share experiences and learning from the project.
- Plans are already underway to formally celebrate project achievements prior to its closure as planned at the end of May 2023. It is hoped that as many as people as possible associated with the project will be able to join the Project staff team and Project Board to hear first-hand the project successes, challenges and learnings from a range of contributors.

4.5 PRIMARY CARE AND OLDER PEOPLE: MPOWER PROJECT (LED BY NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND)



Commenced: November 2016

End date: July 2022

EU INTERREG VA grant funding: €10.1m in total (€4.1m for the NI/Ireland border region)

Focused on stimulating transformation in Primary Care and Older People's Services, the mPower project is a cross border service for older people (age 65+years) living with long-term conditions. The project supports people in self-managing their health and well-being more effectively in the community. It operates at seven sites across Scotland, Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

CAWT Partner Area	Deployment Site in the CAWT region
Western Health and Social Care Trust	Lisnaskea / Irvinestown/ Southeast Fermanagh
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	Armagh/Newry
HSE Community Health CDLMS	Finn Valley/South Leitrim
HSE Community Health Organisation: CDLMS & Area 8	Carrickmacross/Drogheda
Scottish Deployment Sites: NHS Western Isles, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Dumfries and Galloway Other Scottish Project Partners: NHS National Services Scotland; University of the Highlands and Islands and Scottish Council for Voluntary Services.	

Health policies and strategies from across all three regions served by the mPower project advocate for increased care delivery in people's homes and in their communities. Many people will have one long-term condition (or more) by the age of 65 years. Promoting self-care at home by enabling people to better manage these conditions is therefore a significant step in alleviating the pressure health and social

care services face. mPower works with communities to enable people to take the steps needed to live well, safely and independently in their own homes.

Within the project implementation areas, Community Navigators are employed to work with people to develop well-being plans and link them to activities in their community. Implementation Leads are employed to connect services and people to technology, which enhances support for their long-term conditions and overall health and well-being.

January 2022 opened with a project wide celebration as all three of mPower's target outputs were exceeded. The New Year also marked the start of the project's final year of implementation concluding in May 2022.

With the achievement of the project's targets, partners turned their attention to recording and evaluation the project's outputs and outcomes. Identification of the project's sustainable services concluded and further local, regional and national discussions continued throughout the year to embed those elements, supporting partners' strategic objectives.

In April 2022, the project hosted a two-day mPower Festival in Belfast, showcasing the achievements of the staff and the multitude of partners, internal and external, who made the project a success. We welcomed over 300 attendees and 200 virtual attendees to what was roundly received as an excellent event.

At the end of July 2022, the project formally closed with an event in Edinburgh. Nearly 100 people attended and celebrated the project's success in impacting over 7,000 citizens. At this event, the project's Impact Films were shown publicly for the first time. The four films captured the real voices of the project: the older people who benefited, the staff who learned new skills and the many community and voluntary organisations who contributed so powerfully. The films can be viewed on the project's legacy website <https://mpowerhealth.eu/> along with much more material.



The project closure event also saw publication of the Evaluation Report produced by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). There is much evidence that beneficiaries found their interactions with mPower to be positive experiences. They particularly discussed decreased social isolation, decreased loneliness, increased feelings of empowerment and confidence, increased digital literacy and a facilitation of self-management behaviours.

[Click here for link to mPower closure event press release](#)

By May 2022, all mPower Project Partners delivered 5,525 digital interventions; 2,742 wellbeing plans and 1,353 learning & development instances. For CAWT partners, the breakdown within the project wide total is outlined below:

Performance			
	Digital Interventions	Well-being Plans	Learning & Development
HSE Community Healthcare Area 8	316	85	159
Western Trust	129	121	25
Southern Trust	523	95	20
HSE Community Healthcare CDLMS	446	127	33
CAWT Total	1,414	428	237

2022/2023: Key Achievements

General

- Three Project Board meetings were held in 2022 - two were in person as Covid-19 restrictions lifted.
- The final two Project Assemblies took place - one virtually in February and the final one in-person hosted by HSE in Sligo at the beginning of May 2022.
- mPower Festival 27 – 28th April 2022 in Belfast.
- mPower Closure Celebration Event 28th July 2022 in Edinburgh
- Publication of Evaluation of the mPower Project 2017 – 2022.
- Presentation of mPower Impact Films 28th July 2022.

HSE

- HSE ended the project with a great deal of momentum as they sought to make up for time lost to Covid-19 and maximise the opportunities available. HSE contributed 23% of the project's digital interventions, and 18% of the wellbeing plans. Whilst the majority of digital numbers came from the team's celebrated support for the national 'Attend Anywhere' roll-out, there were considerable successes in supporting older people to embrace consumer technology. There was an enthusiasm to ensure the Community Digital Hubs will prosper beyond the project's lifetime.

WHSCCT

- Western Trust contributed 4% of the project's digital interventions, and 13% of the wellbeing plans. A remarkable achievement considering the unavoidable recruitment issues which had to be overcome. The staff supported the Trust's Covid-

19 response admirably and retained a focus throughout on mPower's objectives. The Community Digital Hub collaboration at Fermanagh House was an exemplar to partners in how to support access to clinical services in a person-centred way with community partnership.

SHSCT

- Southern Trust contributed 17% of the project's digital interventions, and 16% of the wellbeing plans. A stunning contribution which tells the story of the Trust's talented team who committed to the project from day one and exemplified the partners' perseverance and resilience across nearly six years. The Trust made a valuable contribution and set the agenda for making connections with our care home residents during Covid-19. Providing hundreds of tablets to citizens that were pre-loaded with bespoke resources to ensure people remained a part of their community.

mPower Learning Events in the CAWT Region

- As noted, earlier mPower's biggest learning event took place in Belfast and the final Project Assembly in Sligo. The former was undoubtedly one of the project's highlights and whilst there was sadness in Sligo at the end of the project, everyone could celebrate what mPower meant to them.
- Northern Ireland's Project ECHO® platform was instrumental in sharing the learning and experiences of mPower. Enabling the project to reach new stakeholders and be challenged by contributions from a host of subject matter experts.

2023 and Beyond

- The Lead Partner, NSS, remains in contact with mPower's project partners as everyone seeks to reclaim expenditure and close off their commitments to SEUPB.
- Collaboration is ongoing as the success of mPower continues to be highlighted at SEUPB PEACELUS events. It is hoped the proven qualities all the partners brought to mPower can work together again for the benefit of our citizens' health, care and wellbeing.

5.0 GOVERNANCE OF THE CAWT PARTNERSHIP



During 2022/23, the CAWT partners remained committed to good governance in the operation of the partnership and to making improvements on an on-going basis. Meetings of the Governance Sub Group has commenced, comprising Management Board representatives from both jurisdictions. This Group reviews progress in actioning any audit recommendations and oversee CAWT governance practices, to ensure in line with the existing statutory governance and accountability frameworks of the CAWT partner organisations. This continued focus on good governance helps to build the confidence of funders, statutory partner organisations and stakeholders.

A primary function of the CAWT Management Board is to set the strategic direction for the CAWT Partnership and to oversee the delivery of the CAWT Strategic Plan. Work has commenced on developing CAWT's next Strategic Plan (2013 to 2028) and will detail CAWT's purpose, vision, goals and actions required to support achievement of its strategic goals.

CAWT is responsible for identifying and maximising opportunities for joint working which seeks to improve access to health and social care services and reduce health inequalities in the border region. The CAWT partnership has benefitted from securing financial assistance from the European Union to bring added value to services and extra resources to the health and social care sector in the border region and beyond. In managing the current INTERREG VA funding, the CAWT partners have agreed to a shared liability arrangement in the management of this funding. Consequently, risks and responsibilities are shared equally among the CAWT partner organisations, embedding the principle that anything progressed by one CAWT partner on behalf of others becomes the shared responsibility of all.

The governance structures for the CAWT Partnership are:

- CAWT Management Board
- CAWT Secretariat
- CAWT Development Centre
- Corporate Support Groups
- EU INTERREG VA Project Boards
- Strategy Groups

CAWT Management Board

The CAWT Management Board is the policy and decision-making forum responsible for providing strategic direction to the Partnership. All CAWT partner organisations share equal status on the Management Board with respective CEOs/Senior Personnel responsible jointly and equally for all CAWT partnership activity.

Current CAWT Management Board Members (as at 31 March 2023)		
Neil Guckian	Chief Executive and Director General of CAWT	WH SCT
Damien McCallion	Chief Operations Officer	HSE
Dermot Monaghan	Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo	HSE
Tony Canavan	Chief Executive Officer, Saolta	HSE
Paula Keon	Assistant National Director	HSE
Maria O'Kane	Chief Executive	SH SCT
Sharon Gallagher	Deputy Secretary for Strategic Planning and Performance Group	DoH, NI
Aidan Dawson	Chief Executive	PHA

CAWT Director General

The Director General is nominated by the CAWT partner organisations to directly manage the work of the CAWT Partnership on behalf of all partners and works closely with the CAWT Development Centre in all aspects of its work. The Director General chairs the CAWT Management Board meetings, ensuring members make an effective contribution to the governance of the Partnership. From January 2022 to March 2023 the Management Board met four times, and the CAWT Annual General Meeting was held in June 2022.

CAWT Secretariat

The CAWT Secretariat has oversight responsibility for the performance and delivery of the Project Boards and reports directly to the Management Board. The Secretariat is delegated to provide detailed oversight, review progress and resolve operational issues and challenges in developing and delivering cross border activity. During 2022/2023, the Secretariat provided consistent support to the CAWT Chief Officer on the delivery and performance of EU INTERREG VA Projects, maximising potential for cross border co-operation across all programmes of care in both jurisdictions. Additionally, Secretariat members provided support within their respective partner organisations, to their Management Board representative, facilitating the implementation of the decisions of the Management Board in their partner organisations. Secretariat members met eight times between January 2022 and March 2023.



CAWT Development Centre



The CAWT Development Centre undertakes the administrative functions underpinning cross border co-operation in health and social care. The Development Centre is responsible, on behalf of the CAWT Management Board, for ensuring that European Union funded and other cross border projects are administered in accordance with the standards, conditions and procedures set out by the EU funders, CAWT partner organisations and other funders such

as the Departments of Health. The Development Centre is centrally involved in facilitating, developing and supporting cross border health and social care activity, including applying for and successfully implementing EU funded and other cross border projects. Throughout 2022 and 2023, the Development Centre's small, specialised staff team provided support in the areas of cross border strategic development and operational guidance. Practical support was provided in the areas of project management, procurement, HR, finance, communications and publicity and eHealth. Team members provided expert information, engaged in consultations

and research studies, developed and delivered presentations and participated in and organised stakeholder and funder events as appropriate.

CAWT EU INTERREG VA Project Boards

Cross border Project Boards, established for the individual EU INTERREG VA funded projects, are responsible for ensuring that projects deliver their objectives within the agreed time and budget and to a predefined quality standard. On an ongoing basis, the Project Boards report to the CAWT Secretariat, via the CAWT Development Centre, on progress made within the projects.

CAWT Strategy Groups

The CAWT cross border Strategy Groups comprises senior representatives from the CAWT partner organisations, as nominated by the CAWT Management Board. CAWT Strategy Groups are charged with identifying services and initiatives suitable for development into cross border projects, which are consistent with the strategic direction of the organisation that they represent, and in line with national and local priorities of their service area. Strategy Group members engage with colleagues in their in the other jurisdiction to ensure that collective expertise and resources are maximised and that best practice is shared to improve services in the border region. During the year, CAWT's Strategy Groups have been working intensively to develop projects that will bring added value and benefits to the region by adopting a cross border approach.

6.0 CORPORATE SUPPORT GROUPS

CAWT Finance Forum

The CAWT Finance Forum comprises senior finance representatives of the partner organisations.

It is the responsibility of the CAWT partnership to ensure there are adequate systems and procedures in place which will ensure that only eligible expenditure is incurred within approved limits, on approved projects. It is the responsibility of each organisation participating in the CAWT partnership and in specific CAWT projects to ensure that proper internal financial systems and procedures are in place for the management of the funds approved to be expended within its organisation.

The role of the CAWT Finance Forum is to provide assurances to the CAWT Management Board that the financial responsibilities outlined above are being met.

CAWT Human Resource Strategy Group

The CAWT Human Resource (HR) Strategy group met twice during 2022 and have also held their first meeting of 2023. The strategy group members provided HR leadership and guidance to the CAWT HR & Workforce Mobility Manager, as required, to ensure effective delivery of HR provision to CAWT's programme of work.

The HR Strategy Group members continue to work collaboratively to consider and manage cross border HR issues through working together, particularly in relation to staffing and arrangements required to facilitate staff to be employed and work in a cross border/cross organisational context. The members are committed to engaging with cross border Strategy Groups in preparation for PEACE PLUS funding applications to ensure the HR strategy submitted is achievable and deliverable within the governance of their respective organisations and to also meet funding requirements. The HR Strategy group members, working with the CAWT HR & Workforce Mobility Manager, have continued to review the existing CAWT HR Policy and bespoke arrangements for posts appointed to CAWT to ensure they satisfy the requirements of each partner organisation and that appropriate HR governance arrangements are in place.

CAWT Communications Group

The CAWT Partnership is committed to communicating effectively with its stakeholders, the general public and funders and also to keeping staff within the CAWT partner organisations updated on cross border developments. In support of this, a range of internal and external communications activities are implemented locally by the members of the CAWT Communications Group. This included the issuing of news releases to the media and other stakeholders, and ensuring the CAWT Partnership

activity is profiled internally. The CAWT Communications Group continued to support and provide guidance on cross border communications activity, ensuring the processes and protocols of the CAWT partner organisations were followed.

CAWT's Communications and Governance Manager, as designated lead on promoting and raising awareness of EU INTERREG VA funded health and social care cross border projects, ensured that the appropriate communication and information regulations in both jurisdictions, and of the EU funders, were met. Where necessary, advice and guidance was sought from the SEUPB Communications team to ensure adherence to good practice in the execution of events, issuing of project media releases and delivery of printed and digital material.

CAWT Procurement and Contracts Group

The Procurement and Contracts Group reconvened for the first time since COVID-19 pandemic in Feb 2022. The group, which is co-chaired by the Assistant Director of Procurement and Logistics Service (PaLS) NI and the Head of Procurement at the HSE, is comprised of senior representatives from the CAWT partner organisations who provide procurement/contract services.

Timely and professional procurement support has been provided by both procurement departments. This included tendering for new services for EU INTERREG VA projects and establishing processes for EU projects to purchase from existing procurement frameworks and contracts which meet EU funder requirements for claims and audit purposes. Various team members supported CAWT EU INTERREG VA project procurements and also provided important input to claims and audit activity.

Both procurement departments have indicated their strong support for efforts to secure new EU funding (PEACEPLUS) and will continue to collaborate at a cross border level in order to maximise the level of EU grant funding that can be secured for the eligible areas and border communities.

The group regularly updated the CAWT Finance Forum, Secretariat and Management Board on procurement and contract work progress and developments.

CAWT eHealth Steering Group

The eHealth Steering Group is comprised of senior eHealth representatives from the CAWT partner organisations who provide strategic leadership and co-ordination of eHealth initiatives within the CAWT EU INTERREG VA funded projects. Co-chaired by senior eHealth specialists from the HSCB/PHA and the HSE, the eHealth Group ensures that all eHealth systems and products are aligned with CAWT partner organisations ICT and eHealth strategic objectives.

Throughout the period, the eHealth Steering Group continued to support the INTERREG VA Project Boards in planning and implementing relevant eHealth initiatives, identifying opportunities for shared approaches and efficiencies across the projects.

Furthermore, eHealth group members have been engaging with CAWT Strategy Groups established to identify services and initiatives suitable for development into cross border project for submission to the PEACEPLUS funding programme. In addition to contributing to meetings and workshops, eHealth group members developed a paper outlining digital priorities from HSCNI/HSE for consideration under the new PEACEPLUS programme. The Group will ensure that new EU funded projects are harnessing appropriate and effective digital solutions which add value and are aligned to the digital strategies in both jurisdictions.

CAWT Governance Group

Established in 2021, the CAWT Governance Group provides advice and assurance to the CAWT Management Board on its governance responsibilities ensuring compliance with CAWT's governance framework, which has been developed to implement and safeguard decision-making processes.

In line with the existing statutory governance and accountability frameworks of the CAWT partner organisations, the Governance Group oversees CAWT governance practices which have been designed to complement and support each partner organisation's individual responsibilities. Reflecting the standards established in the partner organisations, the Group monitors the implementation of governance policies and procedures that are documented and accessible, ensuring these are observed by staff at all levels of involvement in the work of the CAWT partnership.

Chaired by the Deputy Director General, Group membership comprises senior representatives from the CAWT partner organisations.

7.0 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EU INTERREG VA Projects

Total EU INTERREG VA funding allocated to each project and total project expenditure claimed by the 31 March 2023 is summarised in the table below.

Project	Total Project Budget Awarded (€)	Total Expenditure claimed on eMS ¹ by 31.3.23 (€)
Acute Hospital Services Project	10,485,220	8,349,007
Mental Health: Innovation Recovery Project	7,614,750	5,321,740
Population Health: CoH-Sync Project	5,010,371	4,696,947
Children's Services: MACE Project	5,010,240	3,149,412
Primary Care Older and People's Services: mPower Project	4,116,544	3,324,196
TOTAL	32,237,125	24,841,302

¹ eMS is the SEUPB's monitoring/verification/project management system for EU funded projects

CAWT Development Centre

The Departments of Health in both jurisdictions have allocated the CAWT Development Centre funding to their respective agencies. Thus, the HSE in Ireland and the Western Health & Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland, route this funding to the CAWT Development Centre, with equal contributions made by both on an annual basis. The Western Health & Social Care Trust is the CAWT partner organisation that currently facilitates administration of payroll and non-pay services for the CAWT Development Centre. The table below contains an analysis of CAWT Development Centre expenditure up to 31 March 2023.

CAWT Development Expenditure up to 31 March 2023

CAPITAL COSTS	Budget for year ending 31/3/23 (£)	Actual for year ending 31/3/23 (£)
Plant and equipment	1,725	4,070
	£1,725	£4,070

STAFF COSTS	Budget for year ending 31/3/23 (£)	Actual for year ending 31/3/23 (£)
Senior Management	416,962	363,261
Functional support and administration	204,662	203,024
	£621,624	£566,285

RUNNING COSTS	Budget for year ending 31/3/23 (£)	Actual for year ending 31/3/23 (£)
General Administration	5,880	949
Travel and subsistence	6,000	5,724
Training and development	5,000	0
Printing and stationery	4,200	3,226
Conferences and events <i>(organised by the CAWT Development Centre)</i>	7,827	6,107
Rent and rates	3,600	3,300
Management Board meetings	333	557
Cross border project development activities	5,520	15,699
	£38,360	£35,562
TOTAL	£661,709	£605,917

I confirm that the above financial information provided is accurate.



Cathy McCloskey, Chief Officer, CAWT



Neil Guckian, Director General, CAWT