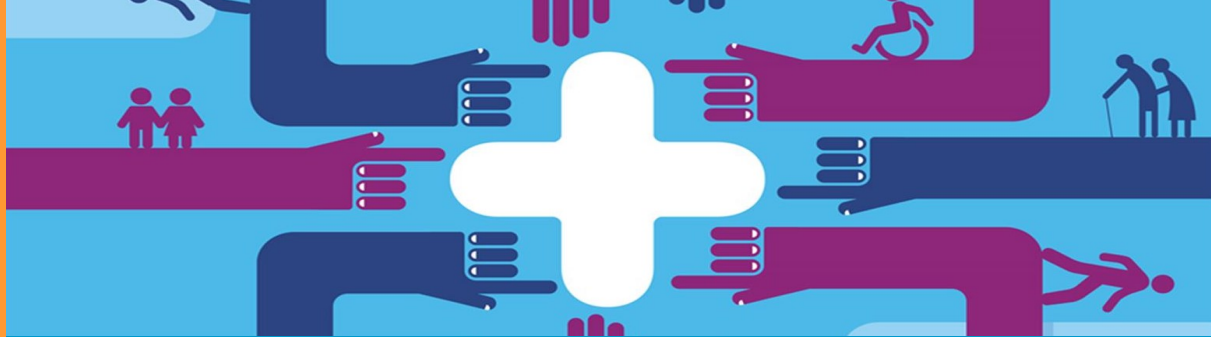


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CAWT in ACTION

The CAWT Cross Border Health and Social Care Newsletter

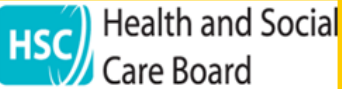
Summer | issue 47 | 2018



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



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



A trio of launches!

In recent months, CAWT has co-ordinated three separate launch events for the new EU INTERREG VA funded projects, to mark their commencement. This includes the Innovation Recovery project in March, the Acute Hospitals Services project in May and the Community Health Synchronisation (CoH-Sync) project in June. There has been significant progress with all projects operational and well advanced in terms of recruitment to project posts.

As part of CAWT's communications strategy, political parties and local councils have been offered the opportunity to hear about CAWT's EU INTERREG VA project progress, and other cross border and north south activities. This has resulted in formal presentations to a range of groupings including SDLP, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the Boards of the Western and Southern Health and Social Care Trusts, Department of Health NI, Monaghan County Council, Louth County Council, Ulster Unionist Party, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Cavan County Council. Good discussion and engagement has been a key feature of many of these presentations.



Pictured at the CAWT Acute Project launch. Back row (l to r): Louise Potts, CAWT Acute Project; Dr Ray Nethercott, WHSCT; Bernie McCrory, CAWT and Gina McIntyre, Special EU Programmes Body. Front row (l to r): Alastair Campbell, Dept of Health NI; Dr Margaret Whoriskey, Scottish Government and Sean Murphy, Letterkenny University Hospital, HSE.

Interest in the potential impacts of Brexit in the border region continues to be a prominent issue and CAWT has contributed to the debate in relation to the health and social care sector. In recent months



CAWT was invited to meet with the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament as part of their fact finding mission to Northern Ireland. In May, the CAWT Innovation Recovery project was selected to participate in a Special EU Programmes Body exhibition at the Houses of the Oireachtas, Dublin, which featured a number of funded projects under the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. CAWT Development Centre and project staff briefed a number of TDs and Senators, including An Tánaiste, Simon Coveney, TD pictured here with CAWT representatives.



Projects supported by the European Union's
INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the
Special EU Programmes Body



An Roinn Sláinte
Máinystrie O Poustie



13,000 patients to benefit from Acute Project

The CAWT cross border Acute Hospital Services project was successfully launched in Letterkenny in May with representatives from Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland present.

Both scheduled and unscheduled care services will be reformed and modernised as part of this project. Scheduled care will focus on dermatology, urology and vascular interventions. Unscheduled care initiatives being implemented include new advanced community paramedic services, clinical decision unit, community cardiac investigations and a community geriatrician-led service. It is also planned to establish an integrated clinical dermatology network using telehealth technologies. Specialist training for staff across all of these areas will be undertaken to support the development and implementation of these new and innovative ways of working.



Pictured at the launch (l to r): Dr Margaret Whoriskey, Scottish Government; Bernie McCrory, Chief Officer, CAWT; Edel O'Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT; Gina McIntyre, CEO, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Alastair Campbell, Director of Secondary Care, Dept of Health Northern Ireland.



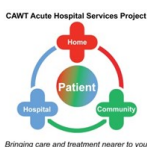
Brian McAleer, Commissioning, Health and Social Care Board and Sean Murphy, General Manager, Letterkenny University Hospital, HSE.

Opening the launch event, Project Chair Sean Murphy, General Manager of Letterkenny University Hospital said: **“It is a great privilege to be part of the CAWT cross border group that has secured this additional investment for communities and services. The collaborative working required to deliver this suite of initiatives, with the support of the EU funding, will provide patients with additional quality services and in many situations, enable them to be treated much closer to home.”**

He added: **“This project will also help to further strengthen and consolidate cross border and north/south co-operation in health and social care.”**

Welcoming the launch of the project, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body said: **“This highly innovative EU INTERREG VA funded project will deliver real efficiencies in vital health and social care services for the benefit of thousands of people on a cross-border basis. It will utilise some of the latest advances in e-health technology and enhance access to essential medical care used in the treatment of a wide range of life-threatening illnesses.”**

The CAWT Acute Hospitals Services Project partners are the HSE, Western Health and Social Care Trust; Southern Health and Social Care Trust; Public Health Agency, Health & Social Care Board, and the Ambulance Services of the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The CAWT Acute Hospitals Service Project has been offered a grant of up to a maximum of €8.8 million from the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, and match funded by the Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government and the Scottish Government.



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Community Paramedic project commences.....

May saw the formal launch of the €1.1 million EU INTERREG VA funded cross border Community Paramedic Project involving the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, the Scottish Ambulance Service and the HSE's National Ambulance Service. This new collaboration between the three national ambulance services has been warmly welcomed and has resulted in the establishment of new Community Paramedic services in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Community Paramedics associated with this project are undergoing specialised training accredited by Glasgow Caledonian University. This is enabling Community Paramedics to provide safe and effective care to patients in their own homes and communities and is already reducing unnecessary ambulance transports to emergency departments.



.....in four pilot locations

The Community Paramedic Project's four pilot localities are Buncrana, Co. Donegal and Clones, Co. Monaghan in the border region of Ireland, Castledearg, Co. Tyrone in Northern Ireland and the Argyle & Bute region in SW Scotland.



The EU funding is also being used to invest in new rapid response vehicles for the pilot areas in the three ambulance service regions. These vehicles are fitted out specifically to provide care to patients in their homes or their community.

Mentoring Programme for Anaesthetists

As part of the CAWT Acute project, the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (CAI) has run its first Mentor Development Programme. Fifteen doctors, including consultants and senior trainees from across Northern Ireland & the Republic, are now trained as mentors and plan to utilise their skills within their local hospitals. Based on Gerard Egan's 'Skilled Helper' model, the course concentrates on developing skills such as actively listening, knowing when to challenge assumptions, how to help broaden horizons and supporting those being mentored in setting clear goals and achieving them.



The next steps are to run a further programme, ideally multi-professional, with people from other medical disciplines, nursing and hospital management. This will build up a sustainable group of trained mentors. It is hoped that these early steps in developing a mentoring network, will lead to improvements in working environments and support high quality care, stimulating innovation and value added benefits for the health and social care services.

Participants in the Mentoring for Anaesthetists Programme drawn from both jurisdictions including the Western and Belfast Health and Social Care Trusts and the HSE.

CoH Sync to improve health of 10,000 people



Pictured at the launch (l to r): Dr Margaret Whoriskey, Scottish Gov; Elaine Colgan, Primary Care Directorate, Dept of Health NI; Paul Boylan, Acting Director Joint Secretariat, SEUPB; Brigid McGinty, CoH Sync Project Manager, CAWT; Dr Maura O'Neill, CoH-Sync Project Chair, WHSCT; Bernie McCrory, Chief Officer, CAWT; Seamus Ward, General Manager, Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum; Edel O'Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT and Louise Kenny, International and Research Policy Unit, Dept of Health (RoI)

The four year, €5.01 million EU INTERREG VA CAWT Community Health Sync (CoH-Sync) Project, recently launched in Antrim, will develop a network of Locality Health and Well-being Hubs in the border region of the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and SW Scotland. These community-based and locally run Hubs will support individuals and groups to become more active in improving their own health and wellbeing by making better use of existing resources and facilities in their local areas.

The CoH Sync project partners are the HSE, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, the Western Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency, the Health and Social Care Board

and NHS Dumfries and Galloway. A public procurement exercise was undertaken in recent months and a number of providers were appointed to manage the Locality Health and Well-being Hubs as detailed in table below:

Health and well-being Hub Location	Provider
1. Letterkenny/North Donegal, Rep of Ireland	Donegal Local Development Company
2. Ballyshannon/South Donegal, Rep of Ireland	Donegal Local Development Company
3. Co. Cavan/Co. Monaghan, Rep of Ireland	Donegal Local Development Company in partnership with Monaghan Integrated Development
4. Londonderry - Derry / Strabane, Northern Ireland	Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum
5. Enniskillen/West Fermanagh, Northern Ireland	Arc Healthy Living Centre
6. Armagh/Dungannon, Northern Ireland	To be appointed
7. Dumfries, Scotland	NHS Dumfries & Galloway in partnership with third sector
8. Stranraer, Scotland	NHS Dumfries & Galloway in partnership with third sector

The CoH-Sync Project will encourage people living in disadvantaged areas and in more rural outlying areas to sign up to a health and well-being plan. Those who sign up will receive support from a health facilitator in relation to key risk factors for chronic illness such as physical activity, nutrition, smoking, alcohol consumption and mental health resilience. Commenting, the Minister with responsibility for Health Promotion in the Republic, Catherine Byrne TD, said: **"We welcome this EU investment in promoting health initiatives and reducing health inequalities in communities on both sides of the border. All of the new health and wellbeing hubs, including three in the border region, will bring a new focus to working together at community level in supporting those people who are at risk of poor health."** Match-funding for the project has been provided by both Departments of Health in Ireland and Northern Ireland with support from the Scottish Government.

Innovation Recovery

The Innovation Recovery project is focused on empowering people with experience of mental illness to better manage their condition, instead of or in tandem with traditional medical intervention. People with lived experience will work collaboratively with mental health practitioners to co-produce and co-deliver a range of educational courses. A range of staff have been appointed and courses are beginning to be rolled out in target areas. In recent months the Project Manager and Project Board have been concentrating on filling the posts and procuring specialised expertise required for the successful operation of the project.

In May, a series of information events was held across the border region to update on the establishment of local multi-agency groups/hubs for three areas: 1. Fermanagh-Cavan-Monaghan-Sligo-Leitrim; 2. Belfast-Armagh-Newry-Dundalk; 3. Derry-Donegal. Local organisations have been invited to formally tender to establish and manage a local multi-agency group within the Hub areas. Successful applicants will work closely with the Recovery College team to guide the planning and delivery of the local implementation of the project and ensure that it is responsive to the mental health needs of local people and communities.



Pictured (l to r): Mary Leonardo, Recovery College Co-ordinator (South); Edel O'Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT; Brenda Toal, Project Manager, CAWT Innovation Recovery Project and Lisa McCrystall, Recovery College Co-ordinator (West).



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MACE 'Breaking the Cycle'



The Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (MACE) 'Breaking the Cycle' project is developing a comprehensive assessment tool to identify children and families most at risk. The project will focus on children within the age ranges of 0 to 3 years and 11 to 13 years. Those requiring support will be enabled to access appropriate targeted interventions. Five cross border community networks of excellence will be established to deliver the interventions required and training will be delivered to a broad range of groups regarding the use of the tools.

Project Board members have been focusing on raising awareness of the project within their organisations and across local and regional networks. This has included presenting on the project at key events and briefing people on the project at internal and external meetings.

Sean McGrory has been appointed as Project Manager and took up post on 3 July 2018. Sean has been working in youth services in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland for over 15 years. He recently developed and managed an 'early and brief' youth mental health service for JIGSAW in Donegal. Sean will be responsible for the day-to-day management of MACE on behalf of the Project Board and the CAWT Development Centre and will play a key role in ensuring the success of this EU funded project in achieving its targets and objectives, as agreed with the Special EU Programmes Body. The project is planning a major conference on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) approach to intervening early and supporting vulnerable families. Specialist clinical psychologist and author Dr. Karen Treisman has been confirmed as the keynote speaker at this event. As part of this conference, scheduled for the 28 September in the Millennium Forum in Derry City, the MACE project will be formally launched. Registration for this cross border ACEs conference can be made by contacting Fiona Lafferty in the CAWT Development Centre:
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mPower

The EU INTERREG VA mPower project is currently being rolled out across seven deployment sites within Northern Ireland, the border counties of the Republic and the West of Scotland. Within the CAWT region, the mPower delivery sites include South/East Fermanagh (WHSCT), Castlefin, South Leitrim and Carrickmacross (HSE CHO1), Drogheda (HSE CHO8) and Newry/Armagh in the SHSCT area. The project is aiming to support 2,500 people to self-manage their health and well-being more effectively in the community, deliver 4,500 eHealth interventions and assist people to connect with activities in their communities.

In the CAWT region, Primary Care teams within each of the deployment sites have come together to identify cohorts of older people who are most likely benefit from participation. Recruitment of project staff is ongoing with Technical Implementation Leads appointed as well as a number of Community Navigators due to commence employment in the coming weeks. Each of the deployment sites is examining priorities for ehealth which will enhance service delivery. These will include systems to help older people with long term conditions to adhere to medicines and improve self-management. Other initiatives will see training to improve digital literacy amongst older people with chronic illness using virtual consultations / video-conferencing to support health care professional and patient engagement. Other ehealth solutions will include mobile phone apps to support well-being.



Left to right: Danielle McLaughlin, HR Manager, CAWT; Gina McIntyre, CEO, SEUPB; Edel O'Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT and Alan Connor, mPower Project Manager.



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Cross border Humanitarian Disaster Response Course



Once again in May 2017, a CAWT sponsored cross border Humanitarian Disaster Response Course was held in the United Nations Training School Ireland in the Curragh Camp in Co. Kildare. The annual event was organised in association with a number of statutory and non-Governmental bodies, north and south, including Irish Aid and the Department of Defence. Health service personnel, including some military reservist doctors and nurses, participated in an intensive 3-day intensive specialist course for those who may be deployed to international disaster zones worldwide.

Commenting, CAWT's Chief Officer, Bernie McCrory said: **“Such specialist courses are valuable because they enable our medical doctors and health care professionals from both sides of the border to engage in practical training alongside each other. Our support for this event is just part of the work of the CAWT cross border partnership, which comprises the health services in both jurisdictions. Our role is to improve access to health services and to facilitate greater integration between both health services in the border area.”**