

CAWT in Action

www.cawt.com

ISSUE 44

Nov/Dec 2015



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

Inside this Issue

- ◆ European Union INTERREG VA funding
- ◆ Major all-Island transplant conference in Belfast
- ◆ Advanced Trauma Life Support course
- ◆ Excellence in cross border Nursing Award



HSC Health and Social
Care Board

HSC Public Health
Agency

HSC Southern Health
and Social Care Trust

HSC Western Health
and Social Care Trust

European Union INTERREG VA funding



The first stage of the EU INTERREG VA Programme's Health Measure opened in Oct 2015 for applications. Approximately €53 million in funding is available to support cross border health and social care initiatives over the next seven years. The Measure aims to *'improve the health and wellbeing of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs. It will result in an increased number of episodes of care delivered on a cross border basis.'*

Some of the indicative actions outlined include, supporting positive health and well-being and the prevention of ill health, better life outcomes for people with disabilities, mental and emotional resilience and recovery, early intervention for vulnerable families, new models of delivery of scheduled and unscheduled care, e-health initiatives, involvement of community and voluntary organisations, training interventions to meet new ways of working and healthcare trials.

This is an open and competitive measure for which the CAWT partner organisations (the HSE, the Western and Southern Health and Social Care Trusts, the Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board) have been actively preparing. CAWT's six cross border



At the CAWT e-health workshop are (l to r): Sean Murphy, General Manager, Letterkenny General Hospital; Fergal Marrinan, Electronic Health Records Programme Manager, HSE and Sean Donaghy, Director of eHealth and External Collaboration, Health and Social Care Board.



CAWT Strategy Group members at a workshop in Armagh to explore how e-health and technology could be utilised in cross border activity. From left: John Hayes, HSE; Damian McCallion, HSE; Yvonne McWhirter, Western Health and Social Care Trust and John Meehan, HSE.

Strategy Groups have been developing projects that will bring added value and benefits to the region by adopting a cross border approach. Thus, a range of practical, innovative initiatives suitable for cross border development have been submitted by the November closing date. Should these applications be successful in the first stage then the next stage will involve the submission of a full business plan in early 2016 to the Special EU Programmes Body, the managing authority for the EU INTERREG VA Programme. Thanks to all those who are contributing their time and expertise to the process which is additional to their day-to-day roles.

Supported by the European Union's
INTERREG IVA Programme managed
by the Special EU Programmes Body
and delivered by Co-operation and
Working Together



Major all-Island transplant conference in Belfast

The Titanic Centre in Belfast was the location for the first all-island transplant conference in September 2015. Organised by CAWT in partnership with the National Transplant Society, the event brought together some of the most renowned global professionals in the field of transplantation. Up to 15 speakers from the USA, Northern Ireland, UK and Ireland addressed the 250 strong audience.

As well as sharing best practice from both parts of the Island of Ireland, the opportunities and challenges of developing closer ties between both jurisdictions was discussed. Speakers included Bob Montgomery, Professor of Transplant Surgery, The John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, USA; Chris Watson, Professor of Transplant Surgery, University of Cambridge, England; Mike Nicholson, Professor of Surgery, University of Cambridge, England; Dr Dale Gardiner, Assistant UK Clinical Lead for Organ Donation, NHS Blood and Transplant Authority; Dr Aisling Courtney, Consultant Transplant Nephrologist, Belfast City Hospital and Prof. Jim Egan, Director of the National Organ Donation and Transplantation Office, Ireland.



250 delegates from across Ireland and Northern Ireland attended the All Island Transplant Congress held in the Titanic Centre in Belfast.

Speaking on behalf of the National Transplant Society, Dr David Healy, Consultant Cardio-thoracic Surgeon at St Vincent's and Mater University Hospitals Dublin and co-organiser said: *"The purpose of the congress was to discuss increasing rates of organ donation, as well as improving access to transplantation for those on the Island of Ireland. It provided health care professionals with a forum to meet and explore areas of co-operation that make sense between two geographically and culturally close systems. The needs of transplant patients should always be put first. The*

broader global transplant experience has demonstrated that patient needs transcend national boundaries and where co-operation has flourished, these patient needs are better met."



Pictured at the all-Island Transplant Congress held in the Titanic Centre in Belfast. Front row (l to r): Tim Brown, Belfast City Hospital & David Healy, St Vincent's and Mater University Hospitals, Dublin. Back row (l to r): Bernie McCrory, CAWT and Prof. Bob Montgomery, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, USA.

Commenting, event co-organiser Tim Brown, Consultant Transplant Surgeon at Belfast City Hospital said: *"The turnout for the event was excellent and provided us with a platform to consider how the two health systems on the island could further collaborate to improve services for the entire population. In Northern Ireland we are fortunate to have a population and system that supports the very best live donor rates and outcomes, not just in the UK, but in the whole of Europe and continental United States. This conference provided an opportunity to share our expertise and consider possible ways we could further develop organ donation opportunities across the Island."*

For further information:
Web: www.transplantation.ie
Email: info@transplantation.ie



THE NATIONAL
TRANSPLANT
SOCIETY

Advanced Trauma Life Support course

A very successful Advanced Trauma Life Support course was held in the United Nations Training School, the Curragh, County Kildare in September 2015. This course was attended by medical and nursing personnel from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Health Minister, Leo Varadkar attended the evening reception and had the opportunity to meet with participants and organisers. The reception was hosted in the Officers' Mess of the UN Training School.

Commenting on the course, Damien McCallion, HSE and CAWT Management Board member said: *"Specialised training opportunities are extremely valuable because they enable our ambulance and other medical staff, from both sides of the border, to engage in practical exercises and to build up a better*

understanding of each other's systems and processes. I want to acknowledge the superb team effort by all those involved in organising and supporting this cross border training." The training was observed by a number of Independent assessors who evaluated the exercises and provided feedback to participants.



Pictured at the cross border Advanced Trauma course in Kildare are (from left): Damien McCallion, National Ambulance Service, HSE; Mr Paul Fry, Irish Air Corps; Maj Gen Kieran Brennan, Defence Forces Ireland; Mr Leo Varadkar, Minister for Health; Bernie McCrory, CAWT and Vice Admiral Mark Mellett, Defence Forces Ireland.

Excellence in cross border Nursing Award



Excellence in Cross Border Nursing Award winners receiving their CAWT trophy (from left): Edel O'Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT; Dr Siobhan O'Halloran, Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health, Ireland; Anne Gallen, Director of Nursing, HSE North West; Alan Corry-Finn, Director of Nursing, Western Health and Social Care Trust and Charlotte McArdle, Chief Nursing Officer, DHSSPS Northern Ireland.

A Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland collaboration, the 'Cross Border Senior Nurses and Midwives Forum,' has been announced as winners of the Chief Nursing Officers' Award for Excellence in Cross Border Nursing for 2015.

The winner was announced at the annual All-Ireland Chief Nursing Officers' Conference held in Belfast on Wednesday 18 Nov 2015. The Award is sponsored by CAWT and recognises innovation and excellence in patient care, either within the border region or on an all-Island basis.

Anne Gallen, Director of Nursing at the HSE and Alan Corry Finn, Director of Nursing at the Western Health and Social Care Trust established the cross border Forum in 2013, after both agreed that there were mutual benefits to be gained by co-operating and collaborating on a more formal basis. Consequently, both Directors set up the Cross

Border Senior Nurses and Midwives Forum, which has been actively progressing initiatives and sharing practice. Dept of Health Chief Nursing Officer, Dr Siobhan O'Halloran and DHSSPS (NI) Chief Nursing Officer, Charlotte McArdle presented the Award on behalf of CAWT. The Award winner also receives a £1,000 bursary from CAWT to utilise for professional development activities. The winners accepted the Award on behalf of all the nurses and midwives involved in the cross border Forum and both Anne and Alan agree that: *'Given the close proximity of our health and social care services to each other in the NW border region, it makes sense for us to collaborate and learn from each other for the benefit of patients and the services.'*