

The Ballyconnell *Agreement*

The Ballyconnell Agreement was made on 10th July 1992 between the North Eastern Health Board and the North Western Health Board in the Republic of Ireland and the Southern Health and Social Services Board and the Western Health and Social Services Board in Northern Ireland. It is reviewed at each Annual General Meeting of Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT), which is the cross border body, created by the Agreement. Such reviews resulted in revisions to the Agreement in October 1998 and September 2002.

1. The agreement now includes the Southern Health and Social Services Board, the Western Health and Social Services Board, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and the Western Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland it includes the border counties of the Health Service Executive regions of the Dublin North East and the West. The CAWT area embraces the whole of the land boundary between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Between them they comprise a population of over 1.26 million, 21% of the island and some 25% of the land area.
2. All of the CAWT partner organisations have as their primary aim the improvement of health and social well-being of their resident populations. In the European context they are unique in providing an integrated range of health and personal social services.
3. The CAWT partner organisations will pursue opportunities for co-operation by looking beyond their own geographical boundary when planning and providing services and by offering direct support and encouragement to work being undertaken on a cross border basis. This cooperation seeks to overcome the special development problems of the border population arising from its relative isolation both geographically and within national economies and within the European Union as a whole.
4. The CAWT partner organisations will seek to avail of the opportunities for joint working and additional financial assistance from the European Union and other sources in furtherance of its aims to improve health and social well-being. CAWT will promote Government and European awareness and support for this Agreement.
5. The Chief Officers and Chairpersons from the Southern Health and Social Services Board, the Western Health and Social Services Board and the Chief Officers from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and the Western Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland, together with the nominated officers from the Health Service Executive will form the Management Board of CAWT. This will be the main decision making forum and will meet at least three times each year, overseeing the strategic direction and operational plans, and will monitor and evaluate progress.
6. Every second year, at the AGM, a Director General will be appointed, or re-appointed from the members of the Management Board. The normal term of office will be two years. The Director General will chair meetings of the Management Board, represent CAWT where appropriate and oversee the work of the CAWT Chief Officer and the CAWT Secretariat in implementing the decisions of the Management Board.
7. The Secretariat will comprise senior nominated Officers from each of the CAWT partner organisations. The Secretariat will bring their own experience and talents, together with the interests of the Organisations they represent and will work closely to exploit the potential for cross border co-operation across all Programmes of Care. They will implement the decisions of the Management Board.
8. Both the Management Board and the Secretariat will be supported by the CAWT Development Centre headed by a Chief Officer who will report directly to the Director General.
 - 8.1 The CAWT Development Centre will drive the implementation of the cross border strategic and operational plans of the CAWT partner organisations.
9. The Development Centre will ensure that all CAWT activities are underpinned with sound finance, HR, ICT and project management and monitoring practices.
10. A meeting in the spring of each year will review the Agreement, take stock and assess progress.

