

**Username**

Maria Barry

**Please indicate your sector of involvement/interest**

Acute Care

**Location**

Tipperary

**1. What changes in models of care and in the way we deliver care are (a) most urgent, and (b) what implications will this have on capacity requirements?**

The most urgent change required is the support for the older person, this community does not have a community geriatrician, multidisciplinary teams with HSCPs and a facility to manage such patient.: In the 2016 Census the population of County Tipperary was 159,553 residents. This figure shows an increase of 6.69% on the previous census of 2011.

People in Ireland are living longer with the result that the population is growing, and the age profile is increasing. In the 2016 Census 15.3% of County Tipperary residents were over 65 years, an increase of 2% since 2011. This figure was higher than the national percentage for over 65s (nationally 13.4%). Those over 80 years represent 3.3% of the Tipperary population compared to a national figure of 2.8%.

There are 15 care of the elderly facilities in the area, which in turn increases the age profile of service users.

In 2011 census, 29.4% of the population were classed as disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged compared to a national figure of 23.3%. The region also has the highest percentage of workers nationally who are semi/un-skilled or agricultural workers at 16.0% (national 11.7%). 60.2% of the South Tipperary population are categorised as deprived based on current deprivation indicators

Population projections for the South Eastern region suggest there will be a 7% overall increase in population with a 58% increase in the over 65 group and a 105% increase in the over 85 age group between now and 2031

Regional Population Projections (2016-2031) by the Central Statistics Office projects that the number of older people will almost double by 2031. All regions are expected to see rises in the Old dependency ratio (those aged 65 years and over as a percentage of those aged 15-64) during the projection period. The South-East region will have the highest, at 63.6 per cent based on the M2F2 Traditional scenario\*.

South Tipperary General Hospital continually experiences exceptionally high bed occupancy rates and is routinely at capacity levels. The average ward occupancy runs at 103%-112%. General Medical bed occupancy rate is 67% of total hospital beds available and has an ALOS of 8.54 days. (Jan-July 2017)

In light of the patient profile, STGH is now treating older, frailer patients, with increased complexity and many co morbidities.

The hospital's Full Capacity Protocol has been in place for the past 20 months (since January 2016). The national Acute Bed per 1000 Population ratio is 2.6 : 1000, in STGH this figure is well below the national ratio at 1.5 : 1000 and will continue to reduce with the increasing population in the area.

Consideration needs to be given to developing services in the community to meet the needs of the

population, provide additional bed capacity to allow acutely ill patients be treated with dignity in the right care environment.

Better streaming of patients need to be considered with functional resources assessment units with the required diagnostics to support assessment and management of patients.

**2. How can current capacity be more effectively used?**

Improved patient streaming, requires a consultant led service with the appropriate resources in place such as diagnostics

**3. What do you consider to be the priorities for capital investment over the next 15 years?**

Correct the acute hospital bed deficits especially in all Model 3 hospitals, Hospitals need parity to ensure HIQA compliant.

Invest in Community with units that meet the needs of the local population.