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NEWS

Carers group to host day-long conference to discuss ongoing crisis in stretched sector

Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People Jim Daly and HSE National Director of Human Resources Rosarii Mannion will both attend

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By [Aengus O'Hanlon](#)

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A voluntary group that represents almost 18,000 carers and healthcare assistants is to host its second conference at City North Hotel in Gormanstown this Thursday.

Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People Jim Daly and HSE National Director of Human Resources Rosarii Mannion will both attend the HCA and Carers Conference at the Co Meath hotel just off the M1.

The panel will discuss the latest HSE figures which highlight the crisis in Caring in Ireland.



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A recent ERSI report into the future needs of healthcare workers highlighted that it is amongst carers that the biggest increase in demand - a staggering 54% - is needed.



The City North Hotel

In addition, the Department of Health's own Health Service Capacity Review recommends a 50% increase in the primary care workforce.

Thursday's conference, which gets underway at 9am, will examine this shortage of carers as well as looking at other issues of concern to carers such as training and career prospects.

- Only conference run specifically for Health Care Assistants/Carers in Ireland
- Important line up of speakers on the topics that most concern carers
- Opportunity for carers to interact with stakeholders such as the HSE, private providers and training companies

Speaking at the launch of the Conference, HCA and Carers Ireland founder Allison Metcalfe said: "Poor pay, limited career pathways and uncertain employment conditions mean the sector is struggling to meet demand for carers.

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"HCA (Health care assistants) and carers are the backbone of any healthcare organisation. It is them who do all the hands-on care and know their clients best.



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"Unfortunately they are one of the lowest paid workers, work at times under 'favourable' terms and conditions of employment, especially those working in homecare and nursing homes.

"This conference will highlight those issues and show care staff that they are not alone."

Ticket sales are €10 covering tea/coffee and ID badge.

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