

Overview

In Health and Social Services we are working in a constantly changing environment. This brings with it considerable challenges and opportunities. We need to develop services that are safe, reflect local needs and at the same time make most effective use of public funds.

In order to do so we want to:

- Develop community-based services in partnership with GPs and other organisations.
- Support people at home as far as is possible.
- Focus on our staff, developing our skills and standards.

Why change?

The Trust provides services to more than 450,000 people in ten Council areas. We employ nearly 14,000 staff and have an annual budget of around £500 million. Our older population is increasing and our services need to develop to reflect this. Public expectation is high and we need to modernise our services to ensure they are safe, effective and efficient.

In bringing together the three legacy Trusts (Causeway, Homefirst and United Hospitals) we are aiming to:

- Secure safe, effective services.
- Improve our services through best practice.
- Invest in new technology and new and more effective treatments.

Modernisation does not have a start and end date

but is a continuous process to ensure services are fit for the future.

Modernising Services

Services for children

There are 3000 children known to the Trust with 20% of these living with a disability.

We plan to consult on the following:

- Increasing the number of foster carers across the Trust.
- Reducing the number of residential and respite care places for children and offering more family based respite.

Services for people with a disability

Modernising services for people with a disability - as outlined in the Bamford Review, *Equal Lives* - aims to support people to enjoy full lives in their community. We need to move ahead with resettlement of people from care institutions and providing a range of services in community settings.

We plan to consult on:

- Developing a more flexible approach to respite care to reduce reliance on residential care.
- Developing a range of day services in the community such as Drop-in Centres, vocational training and social enterprise.

Mental health services

Since 2003 an ambitious modernisation and reform of mental health services has been underway.

We plan to consult on:

- Introducing a home treatment service to reduce hospital admissions.
- Establishing local services for people with personality disorders.
- Developing community rehabilitation mental health services.
- Developing community dementia services.
- Developing mental health services for older people.

Services for older people

The over-65 population is set to increase by 25% in the Northern Trust by 2015. The greatest portion of our budget is currently directed towards services in this area.

We plan to consult on:

- Developing supported living options for older people.
- Sourcing domiciliary care services from independent providers.
- Developing rapid assessment and treatment centres.
- Strengthening local palliative care services.

Acute hospital services

Developing Better Services reviewed the future of acute hospital services across Northern Ireland.

It proposed:

- Antrim Area and Causeway Hospitals would continue to provide a full range of acute services.
- Mid Ulster and Whiteabbey would become local hospitals.
- New Health and Care Centres (HCCs) would provide GP and community services.

We plan to consult on:

- Focusing acute inpatient hospital services at Antrim Area and Causeway Hospitals.
- Establishing high quality minor injury services at Mid Ulster and Whiteabbey Hospitals.

Modernising buildings and efficiency

The financial agenda is very challenging and we need to ensure we make the most effective use of public funding and to find savings where possible.

Areas we are looking to for greater efficiency or income:

- Improving energy consumption and managing waste.
- Reviewing management and administration costs.
- Working with independent providers to secure improved value for money.
- More efficient prescribing of medicines.
- Using new and more efficient technologies.
- Potential for car parking charges.

Your further ideas for efficiency are welcomed.

Consultation and Engagement

We wish to actively involve staff, service users and other stakeholders in developing future services.

All of the proposals outlined in this leaflet will be consulted on with stakeholders. We are also committed to section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and all proposals will be screened for equality impact.

The relevant consultation documents will be:

- Sent to those on our consultation database.
- Available at www.northerntrust.hscni.net
- Available on the Trust intranet.

The consultations will be reported on monthly at Trust Board.

Further information

Further information on the Modernisation Programme is available on the Trust intranet along with contact details.

Alternatively, speak to your Line Manager or feel free to raise any queries or comments you have through 'u-talk' at u.talk@northerntrust.hscni.net or telephone 9442 4670.

email: info@northerntrust.hscni.net

This document is available, on request, in accessible formats, including Braille, cd, audio cassette and minority languages.



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**Northern Health
and Social Care Trust**

Modernising Health and Social Care Services

The future of Health and Social Care Services in the Northern Trust

Information for staff