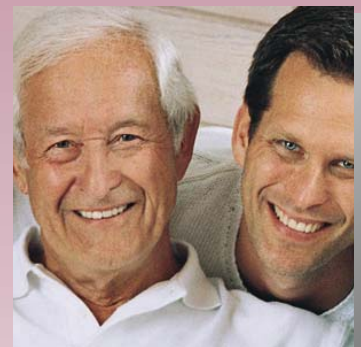




Our future – your say

**The future of care
for people living
with dementia**



About the Trust

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust became operational on 1 April 2007. The Trust covers ten local council areas and provides services for a population of approximately 460,000, including approximately 63,000 people aged 65-84 and a further 8,000 people aged 85 or more.

The Trust provides a range of health and social care services, the majority of which are provided in peoples' own homes. We also provide community based health and social care services including day centres, health centres and residential care, from approximately 150 locations.

Our mission statement:

“To provide for all, the quality of service we expect for our families and ourselves.”

Research and learning in the care of people living with dementia

The knowledge and understanding we have in relation to caring for people living with dementia has grown significantly over the past 20 years. Evidence through research has highlighted the importance of paying particular attention to the environment.

What are we consulting on?

The ongoing implementation of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's dementia strategy 'Adding Life to Years', will allow us to deliver the latest models of care based on national guidance and research for people living with dementia.

‘The environment within which older people live can profoundly affect their health, well-being, independence and quality of life, particularly when they are vulnerable’.

(Phair and Heath, 2001).

We want to hear your views in relation to one aspect of the dementia strategy; meeting the accommodation needs of people living with dementia. We want to improve the way we provide care for people living with dementia who need a higher level of care than can be provided in their own homes.

We want everyone; people living with dementia, carers, local people and voluntary organisations and our staff, to tell us what they think of our plans.

Kitwood and Benson (1995) also point out the importance of paying particular attention to environmental issues such as vision, hearing, lighting, colour contrast, floor covering, furniture, hazards and the use of prompts to make environments which are best suited to caring for people with dementia.

How we currently meet the needs of people living with dementia who need specialist residential care

Research tells us that the demand for accommodation based care in the future is more likely to come from people living with dementia who are no longer able to stay within their own home.

We know that:

- 1 in 20 people over the age of 65 will develop dementia
- 1 in 5 people over the age of 80 will develop dementia
- The total number of people living with dementia is projected to rise by 80% over the period until 2030

A key element of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's Dementia Strategy (2011) is that people living with dementia should be able to live independently for as long as possible. We propose to work in partnership with individuals and their carers to support people living with dementia to live in their own home for as long as possible, with appropriate care and support including the use of assistive technology and appropriate housing adaptations to meet the particular needs of the individual.

In the Trust area, the majority of people who require residential and nursing home care are cared for by the independent sector and this will continue to be the case.

Ferrard House, Antrim

Until 29 June 2012, the Trust operated a residential home, Ferrard House, at Station Road, Antrim. Ferrard House provided care for 20 permanent residents and four temporary residents (three respite and one assessment bed) along with a daycare and a sitting service.

In June 2012 the building was flooded and given the serious risk to residents the decision was made to evacuate them to alternative accommodation.

Ferrard House provided care in a traditional residential setting, with a number of shared rooms, narrow corridors and limited toilet facilities. It was based on a 'race track' model of care which is no longer considered good practice. It does not meet current standards either for dementia accommodation design or for registration.

'The physical environment in an aged care residential facility can become a challenge to people with dementia. In an environment designed to specifically meet the needs of people with dementia they are more likely to be able to utilise their retained abilities with minimal frustration, and experience the highest possible quality of life'.

*Alzheimer's Australia,
(2004)*

Despite working closely with Water Services to try to protect the building, Ferrard House has experienced flooding on several occasions in recent years. The flooding in June was the most extensive and given the damage to the building, the risk of further flooding and the unsuitability of the accommodation it is clear that Ferrard House is not suitable as a residential home and should remain closed.

The Trust currently manages two other facilities that provide specialist care and support for people living with dementia, Moylinney in Monkstown, Newtownabbey and The Brook, Coleraine.

Moylinney, Monkstown

Moylinney was opened in 1974 and provides residential care for 23 people living with dementia and has, on an interim basis, five respite beds and one intermediate bed. An additional nine people come each day Monday to Friday for day care.

Moylinney is an old building that was designed on an outdated model where people could continually walk in a circle through out the day. Research undertaken by the Alzheimer's Society, Australia (2004) shows that this is not a good design; people can become exhausted by continually walking.

The building is out-dated and does not meet current accommodation standards. It is our intention to develop a replacement supported living scheme in the Newtownabbey area specifically designed for people living with dementia. This scheme will be designed to meet modern best practice for people living with dementia with the ethos of supporting people that the Trust has developed in The Brook.



The Trust has identified a site and is currently working with a housing association to develop a supported living scheme of 24 units.

The Brook, Coleraine

The Brook opened in 2004. It provides accommodation for 60 people living with dementia, six of which are residential care

places, with the remainder in supported living in independent bungalows and flats.



The Brook is a modern purpose-built facility and reflects many of the good practice ideas such as creating personal space as well as ensuring people living with dementia can be provided with dignity and privacy when they need help with their personal care. It has been designed to support people living with dementia maintain their independence for much longer than they would have done in a traditional residential care setting or in fact their own family homes. It provides opportunities to engage with other people living with dementia and a safe environment similar to their own homes. People living with dementia and their families are encouraged to personalise their own homes and use the space available to engage positively with the community.

The Trust works closely with service users and their families to ensure each person living in The Brook has their care and support needs met individually.

Supported Living

Supported housing schemes, called 'Supported Living', extend the range of options for people. In these settings the person is a tenant provided with high quality accommodation and access to 24 hour care and support services. This option can offer a greater degree of safety and community than staying at the former family home. This provides an additional option for

people who otherwise may have had to move to a residential care home.

Many supported living schemes designed to meet a range of needs have been built throughout Northern Ireland in the last number of years. However, within the Northern Trust area there is a gap in this service provision for people living with dementia, with The Brook being the only scheme in operation.

Our ambition for meeting the accommodation needs of people living with dementia

It is our ambition, based on our learning from The Brook, to further develop supported living accommodation designed specifically for people living with dementia in the Trust area. Although it will not have been a person's lifelong home, we aim to make it a home environment for each individual. There will be space where family will be able to spend quality time with their relative in a personalised environment where the person living with dementia feels comfortable and safe.

When people living with dementia live in accommodation that is designed to meet their needs they can adjust more readily to the new environment. They can then be supported to remain there for a relatively longer settled period of their life.

The National Dementia Strategy recommends providing more suitable physical environments. We intend to create a more therapeutic and dementia appropriate environment working in partnership with other providers. There is evidence that this could also support a reduction in the use of medications to manage behaviours that challenge.

In addition, we will also use assistive technology to ensure the safety of people living with dementia but in a manner that is unobtrusive and enables them to have choice.

We will be working in partnership with people living with dementia, their families and service providers, to develop appropriate settings for people living with dementia.

A natural environment

People living with dementia tend to respond

“Identify areas where people’s independence is being undermined in the service and look for ways to redress the balance.”

Dignity in care. The Dignity Factors: Choice and Control.

more positively in surroundings with natural light, natural ventilation, a view out onto nature and easy access to the outdoors. We aim to provide all these elements.

- The reprovided units will have direct access to safe outdoor space using designs successfully introduced in other dementia care settings.
- We will ensure that there is easy access to gardens.
- Buildings will be planned to maximise natural light, views out and natural ventilation.

Ethos and welcoming surroundings

We want to make sure that people living with dementia live in surroundings where they feel as close to being at home as possible. This will make it easier for people to adjust to their new home and feel safe and supported.

- People will have the dignity of being supported as tenants in their own home and be supported within their capabilities to undertake routine tasks of living.
- People will have their own bathroom and bedroom along with cupboards and space for belongings.
- People will be able to make drinks and snacks.
- There will be quiet spaces and areas for recreational activities.
- People will have a space to meet visitors and their families.

Our planning process

In June 2010 we set up a group to look at how we provide our current residential care for people living with dementia. Membership of the group included carers, staff from our two residential dementia units (Moylinney and Ferrard), and representatives from the voluntary sector. We also worked with the Alzheimer's Society Advocacy Service to gather the views of service users.

Having gathered advice from our team of advisors, which includes architects, engineers, cost consultants and planners we explored a number of options for the future accommodation needs of people living with dementia. Full details of the options explored are in the paper entitled EMI Reprovision which can be found on our website www.northerntrust.hscni.net.

The timeframe for the period of transition for the Moylinney reprovision is difficult to predict, however we acknowledge that it is important to

be as clear as we can about this for residents living in Moylinney and their families.

Moylinney is a large building comprising of 29 bedrooms and 5 communal areas. During the period of transition there will be a reduction in resident numbers, which would mean many of these areas will be unused. We propose that when permanent resident numbers reduce below 10 it will make the use of the building untenable, as over 60% of the bedrooms will be unoccupied and many of the communal areas will be unused. This environment would not comply with best practice when working with people living with dementia.

If residents continue to move from Moylinney at the current rate it is anticipated that permanent resident numbers will reduce below 10 in the next eighteen months. We will work closely with families during this time to ensure they are supported through the process.

Plans for the transfer of daycare services have been discussed with service users, carers and staff. We propose to examine a range of options to meet the current provision of daycare within Moylinney. This will include the use of existing statutory daycare services, direct payments and daycare provided in the voluntary and independent sector.

Following the flooding at Ferrard, we worked closely with service users families to ensure that all residents were transferred to alternative accommodation that appropriately met their needs. Family members have acknowledged this was a difficult process in very challenging circumstances but felt the level of support from Trust staff was of 'the utmost professionalism' with the situation resolved 'in a timely and sensitive manner'. It is our aim to replicate this process with Moylinney.

Involving you

We are committed to improving the way we provide services for people living with dementia and we need you to help us to do this. We believe that the people who use the service, their carers and communities and the staff who deliver the service are best placed to tell us what the new service should look like and we are keen to involve these groups specifically in the process.

“The design and layout of the physical environment helps to ensure that you can enjoy living in safe, comfortable, and homely surroundings.”

*National Care Standards Care Homes for Older people. 2001
The Scottish Government*

We will be guided by carers and families on how best to engage with their relatives and will agree individual arrangements to do so. We are aware the current clients may find the process stressful and have engaged with the Alzheimer’s Society to provide advocacy services. We will be advised by carers and professionals on the ground on how best to proceed.

We are aware that the voluntary sector have a wealth of knowledge and experience and will be seeking to use that experience. These plans have been developed in partnership with Alzheimer’s Society, Age Concern and the Dementia Services Development Centre and support our ambition to create a better environment for people living with dementia.

Affected staff

We value and respect our staff and will keep them informed at every stage. The principles of the Trust’s Management of Change Human Resource Framework provide a robust and transparent process for supporting staff through the change process. The principles of fairness, dignity and equity of treatment will be applied in the management of staff undergoing this change process. Steps will be taken to ensure that the implementation process in no way conflicts with the requirements of existing equality and anti-discrimination legislation. Existing arrangements such as reasonable adjustments for individual staff will remain. All staff will be kept fully informed and supported during this change process.

Promoting Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

The Northern Trust is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations in all aspects of its work. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires us to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:

- Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Men and women generally,
- Persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Persons with dependants and persons without

We are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Human Rights Act, which came into effect on 2 October 2000, makes it unlawful to act in a way, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

In keeping with these legislative requirements, we have completed an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on our proposals for future care home provision for people living with dementia. A copy of the EQIA report is available on our website at: <http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net>.

Your Views

We welcome your views on our proposals and our EQIA and a comments form is available on our website for you to complete, however, we welcome your comments in any format. We are consulting for 12 weeks and comments should be returned to the Equality Unit by 10 May 2013.

If you have any queries about this consultation document or the EQIA report, and its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk and audio cassette, and in minority languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English) then please contact:

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Following consultation a summary feedback report will be made available. In compliance with the legislation, when making any final decision the Trust will take into account the feedback received from this consultation.



Questions and Answers

Will there be enough care home places in the area if Ferrard and Moylinney close?

There has been an increase in the number of care home places in the Northern Trust area in recent years. When residents were evacuated from Ferrard, all were relocated to appropriate places in an area close to their family. There has been an increase in the amount of EMI residential beds in the Trust area in the last number of years.

Why is the demand for residential care decreasing when the numbers of older people are increasing?

We are seeing a reduction in demand for residential care across the country. This is due to a variety of reasons including the fact that more options now exist than in the past to support people within their own homes and also the development of supported living schemes, as proposed by the Northern Trust.

What will happen to residents currently in Ferrard and Moylinney?

The Northern Trust has been working closely with families and residents in Ferrard and Moylinney in order to keep them informed of the proposals. In the case of Ferrard all residents have been transferred to alternative accommodation. The Northern Trust will continue to work closely with families in Moylinney to ensure that any move is planned and in a location where families can continue to visit regularly. This process will be handled in a sensitive manner taking into account the specific needs of each resident and family.

What are the timescales for making final decisions?

The consultation started on 15 February 2013 and will finish on 10 May 2013. All the views gathered during this consultation will be considered before any final decisions are made. A consultation feedback report, detailing the feedback and how the Trust considered it, will be put on our website.