



Angela Smith, MP

Ministerial Foreword

Having good health and a positive sense of wellbeing is fundamental to us all, as individuals, families or communities. Virtually all of us have had, at some time in our lives, to turn to a local health or social care professional when we need help. They are part of that extensive array of dedicated people, including family doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, social workers and many others, who provide an excellent service, which sits at the heart of our integrated system of health and social care and invariably provides a first point of contact to the system as a whole. But there is so much more that we could do in primary care and change is needed.

Government is committed to developing our primary care service for the future in order to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities. This service needs to be high quality, seamlessly integrated, responsive and provide effective, and indeed immediate, access to a wide range of services close to where people live. To this end, my Department has developed this Strategic Framework to guide the development of policy and service delivery for the future. This sets out a long-term vision that together we can all work towards.

The Framework sets out how primary care services should be developed and provided over a 20-year time span. The Vision described in the Framework is challenging and is designed around principles and values that should underpin the nature of a future primary care service that we would all aspire to.

I am pleased to present the Department's proposals, which I believe offer the potential to firmly establish a common understanding and sense of direction for the long-term development of primary care services. In commending these proposals to you, I would encourage you to consider and comment on them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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