

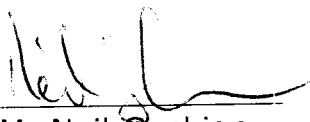
25 March 2005

Regional Strategy Team
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Room C4.22
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**PUBLICATION OF A HEALTHIER FUTURE: A TWENTY YEAR
STRATEGY FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**

I refer to Dr Denis McMahon's letter inviting comments on the Regional Strategy and now enclose the response of Causeway H&SS Trust.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Neil Guckian
Chief Executive (A)



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CORONARY CARE UNIT
PODIATRY SERVICES

Introduction

We view the document as a positive step, and would commend those responsible for its' completion, particularly given the consistency of the vision with other regional documents. It provides reasonable flexibility for the way forward, which will be needed, given the time horizon involved.

Given the many policy directions and aspirations in the document, we would recommend that clear action plans are developed to ensure the strategy is implemented as intended. There will, however, be a risk if the HPSS uses the policy directions to focus all management attention, as sustaining existing services can have equal importance to the public and service quality.

Resources

Many of the themes, and Policy Directions, will require significant resources, either to create/increase services or to assist in the management of the change agenda ahead. The strategy can be used to guide resource allocation, particularly capital, however flexibility may be useful to ensure best practice can be supported either locally or regionally.

It will be important that a new approach to Priorities for Action is developed, so that the Policy Directions and themes are highlighted as the key messages for the HPSS.

Specific Consultation Questions:

1. *Does the vision adequately describe the health and social services that will meet our future needs and aspirations?*

Given the demographic predictions, we feel that the future service demand should not be underestimated. Significant modernisation will be necessary to meet the rising expectations of the population.

2. *A Healthier Future focuses on five major themes:.....*

We feel that these themes represent a significant change agenda for the HPSS. Investing for Health and Wellbeing will require an entirely different ethos to ensure Health & Wellbeing promotion/disease and accident prevention is maximised. Whilst this will not rest solely with the HPSS, we will be expected to take the lead.

With regard to Responsive Integrated Services, as an integrated Trust, we would endorse this model of service delivery. To put patients and clients at the centre of all our services, will require cross sector,

professions and organisations working. The integrated model provides a framework for this and can ensure best practice models are shared across professions. Acute care must now be seen as a support to care in the community and vice versa. We would suggest that Improving Quality could become more real by linking to both modernisation and governance arrangements.

3. *A Healthier Future identifies 16 future Policy Directions.....*

We would commend the policy directions as providing a focus for the modernisation of the HPSS whilst retaining some flexibility to ensure the service is responsive to the changing needs of the population.

The only issue we would have is to ensure future action plans provide a little local flexibility to respond to the particular, often unique, demands of local populations.

4. *A Healthier Future identifies a number of key actions and outcomes.....*

We would suggest that the Actions identified whilst providing flexibility, are a little non-specific and may not drive change as quickly as required.

We would particularly highlight the need for the HPSS to develop mechanisms to identify best practice in all areas of service provision, and to promulgate such lessons throughout the service. There has tended to be a reluctance to highlight positive developments, and to focus on the drivers/critical success factors associated with each success.

We would highlight Partnership working, which needs to become more formal, to ensure both integration across sectors and real engagement with the public.

5. *A Healthier Future identifies the need to reduce smoking as a key element....*

Causeway Trust would strongly support option C to introduce legislation to ban smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces. The HPSS has led the way on this issue, and all evidence shows that this is the only option that will protect the Health and Wellbeing of employees and the general public.

6. *Are the proposals for taking the strategy forward adequate?*

We would highlight the need for robust action plans to ensure the spirit of the strategy is implemented. This will present a major challenge to the HPSS, however the Themes and Policies are sufficiently

fundamental to require action plans/project management to deliver the outcomes our population deserves.

Action plans and improved performance management arrangements will assist in achievement of the vision; however new legislation, e.g., smoking and fluoridation will be required.

7. *Are the equality issues adequately addressed?*

The current inclusive process should ensure that all communities and groupings are embraced.