

Connected Health and Prosperity

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

**The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety,
and Invest Northern Ireland (Sponsored by the Department
of Enterprise, Trade and Investment)**



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1. Background

- 1.1 This document defines a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop Health, Social Care and Economic opportunities in Connected Health for Northern Ireland, through better coordination of public assets and funding. The signatories to this document are the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (“DHSSPS”) and Invest Northern Ireland (“Invest NI”), a Non Departmental Public Body charged with economic development in Northern Ireland, sponsored by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (“DETI”).
- 1.2 The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment have agreed on greater co-operation between the DHSSPS and Invest NI in taking forward Connected Health solutions, which would contribute to improved health and well-being, patient care and support the wider economic development strategy.
- 1.3 The MOU identifies where the organisations can work collaboratively on the Connected Health agenda, whilst recognising that other health and economic development activities may be taken forward outside this remit, particularly where these have been identified in the draft Northern Ireland Economic Strategy. Specifically the MOU includes:
- (i) Definition of Connected Health;
 - (ii) The strategic policy interest that both organisations have in the development of Connected Health;
 - (iii) The respective role and responsibilities of DHSSPS, including its Arm’s Length Bodies (ALBs), DETI, Invest NI and aligned organisations;
 - (iv) Details of how these responsibilities can be further developed through collaboration;
 - (v) Proposals for implementing a Strategic Action Plan; and
 - (vi) Management and monitoring arrangements for the Memorandum.
- 1.4 This MOU does not attempt to address all the potential areas for co-operation between Health and Social Care and Economic Development. Existing opportunities not covered at this stage include R&D and Innovation work outside of Connected Health. These will be subject to future exploration to determine whether they will form part of this MOU in due course or whether they will be subject to separate agreements.

2. Definition of Connected Health

- 2.1 Connected Health is a term used to describe a new model for healthcare delivery that uses technology to provide healthcare remotely. Connected Health aims to maximize healthcare resources and provide increased, flexible opportunities for patients (and often families/care-givers) to engage with clinicians and better self-manage their care.
- 2.2 Connected Health encompasses telehealth, remote care (such as home care), disease, and lifestyle management. While it is not limited to managing chronic diseases such as Congestive Heart Failure (CHF); Coronary Heart Disease (CHD); Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); and diabetes, Connected Health can contribute to management of these diseases, and should lead to reduced unplanned admissions to hospital (along with associated cost savings), and improved outcomes for patients and their families.
- 2.3 In the commercial arena, Connected Health is attracting significant investment as the sector recognises that health systems (private and public) and consumers are very interested in this new model of healthcare delivery. In Northern Ireland health and social care services are subject to a continuing programme of modernisation and Connected Health can contribute significantly to this programme. Management of chronic disease is a particular priority and there is recognition that existing models for managing chronic disease are not sustainable, due to significant growth projected in the proportion of older people in the population and increasing budgetary pressures.
- 2.4 In March 2011, DHSSPS awarded its first major Connected Health contract, valued at £18m, which is designed to manage up to 20,000 patients over a 6 year period. This is one of many early-adopter projects throughout the world.

3. Strategic policy interest

- 3.1 The draft Programme for Government (PFG) 2011-15 sets the strategic context for both the Budget and the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The Executive's over-arching aim is to build a peaceful, fair and prosperous society. To ensure that Government is clearly focused on achieving that aim, the Executive has set out in the draft Programme for Government five key strategic and interdependent priorities as follows:

- **PRIORITY 1:** Growing a Sustainable Economy and Investing in the Future;
- **PRIORITY 2:** Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Well-Being;
- **PRIORITY 3:** Protecting Our People, the Environment and Creating Safer Communities;
- **PRIORITY 4:** Building a Strong and Shared Community; and
- **PRIORITY 5:** Delivering High Quality and Efficient Public Services.

- 3.2 Commitments in the draft Programme for Government which set an important context for this MOU are:

- Press for the devolution of Corporation Tax and reduce its level;
- Increase the value of manufacturing exports by 15%;
- Aid liquidity of Small and Medium Size Enterprises through a £50 million loan fund;
- Ensure 90% of large scale investment planning decisions are made within 6 months and applications with job creation potential are given additional weight;
- Allocate an increasing percentage of the overall health budget to public health; and
- Invest £7.2 million in programmes to tackle obesity.

3.3 This MOU will help contribute to the following specific Programme commitments:-

- Support the promotion of over 25,000 new jobs;
- Achieve £300 million investment through Foreign Direct Investment;
- Support £300 million investment by businesses in R&D, with at least 20% coming from Small and Medium sized Enterprises;
- Reform and modernise the delivery of Health and Social care to Improve the provision and quality of services;
- Reconfigure our network of health and social care services to improve patient outcomes and access to new treatments; and
- Enrol people who have a long-term (chronic) condition, and who want to be enrolled, in a specialist chronic condition management programme.

3.4 The successful delivery of the strategic priorities will, in many cases, be dependent on greater collaboration and working across Government Departments and their Arm's Length Bodies. This has been recognised by both the DHSSPS and Invest NI where engagement across the organisations can not only harness improvements in the way technology, R&D and innovation are taken forward but also contribute to economic development. This relationship is also recognised in the NI Executive's draft Economic Strategy.

4. Role and responsibilities of DHSSPS and Invest NI

DHSSPS

4.1 The overall aim of the DHSSPS is to improve the health and social well-being of the people of Northern Ireland. The Department has three main responsibilities:

- (i) Health and social care - which includes policy and legislation for hospitals, family practitioner services and community health and personal social services;
- (ii) Public Health - which covers policy, legislation and administrative action to promote and protect the health and well-being of the population; and
- (iii) Public safety - which covers policy and legislation for fire and rescue services.

4.2 Several health policy issues are reserved to the UK Government and are not devolved and are outside the scope of this MOU. They are as follows:

- Xenotransplantation;
- Surrogacy;
- Human fertilisation and embryology; and
- Human genetics.

4.3 The Health, Social Services and Public Safety system in Northern Ireland includes the following Arms Length Bodies: -

Northern Ireland-wide:

Regional Health and Social Care Board	HSC body responsible for commissioning performance management and service improvement and resource management of the HSC
Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Wellbeing	HSC body responsible for improvement in health and social well-being health protection and service development
Regional Business Services Organisation	HSC body responsible for providing a broader range of support functions for the health and social care service, bringing together services which are common to bodies or persons engaged in providing health or social care
Patient and Client Council	HSC body provides a powerful, independent voice for patients, clients, carers, and communities on health and social care
Northern Ireland Ambulance Health and Social Care Trust	HSC Trust to provide goods and services for the purposes of health and social care and, in particular, to provide and manage ambulance and associated services; and such other services as can reasonably be carried out in conjunction with the provision and management of ambulance and associated services
Northern Ireland Social Care Council	NDPB responsible for helping increase public protection by improving and regulating standards of social care workers' conduct, training and practice
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority	NDPB independent body responsible for monitoring and inspecting the availability and quality of health and social services in Northern Ireland and encouraging improvements in the quality of those

services

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service	NDPB responsible for responding to fires, road traffic collisions and other specialist rescue incidents and providing community safety education and advice
Northern Ireland Guardian ad Litem Agency	HSC Special Agency responsible for providing a 'voice' for children who are subjects of public law and adoption proceedings before the courts in Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency	HSC Special Agency responsible for funding, managing and supporting postgraduate medical and dental education within Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council	NDPB responsible for improving the quality of health and care by supporting the practice, education and performance of nurses and midwives
Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service	HSC Special Agency responsible for collection, testing and distribution of blood donations each year. The main aim of the NIBTS is to fully supply the needs of all hospitals and clinical units in Northern Ireland with safe and effective blood, blood products and other related services

Sub-regional Health and Social Care Trusts:

- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust;
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust;
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust; and
- Western Health and Social Care Trust

The five HSC Trusts are established to provide goods and services for the purposes of health and social care and are also responsible for exercising on behalf of the HSCB certain statutory functions which are delegated to them

Invest NI

4.4 Invest NI is Northern Ireland's regional economic development agency. It is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

(DETI). DETI's overall aim is to promote the development of a globally competitive economy. Its objective is to encourage the development of a high value added, innovative, enterprising and competitive economy, leading to greater wealth creation and job opportunities for all.

4.5 DETI has four agencies, established as non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), to assist in strategy implementation:

- The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), which is responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Northern Ireland as a tourist destination;
- The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI), which is responsible for health, safety and welfare at work;
- The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (GCCNI), which is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the interests of consumers and campaigning for the best possible standards of service and protection; and
- Invest NI.

4.6 The department is responsible for Economic Development Policy including:

- Enterprise;
- Innovation ;
- Telecoms;
- Energy;
- Social Economy; and
- Tourism.

DETI is also responsible for business regulation, health and safety at work and mineral development.

5. How these responsibilities can be further developed

5.1 Invest NI provides significant funding to the Health and Life Sciences sectors, to promote R&D and innovation and to support high-quality job creation. This includes support to local business, Foreign Direct Investors and local research groups, mainly (if not exclusively) in the academic sector.

5.2 As highlighted in section 3 above, DHSSPS and other NI Government Departments, have a key role in contributing to the delivery of the Programme for Government and Economic Strategy and are playing an increasingly supportive role, in assisting Invest NI to deliver its objectives.

5.3 In relation to Connected Health, DHSSPS can build on its role by:

- (i) Supporting clinical research on Connected Health in Northern Ireland;
- (ii) Supporting clinical collaborations including clinical trials relevant to Connected Health;

- (iii) Supporting the development of a Connected Health ecosystem to stimulate innovation, application of connected health solutions and private sector investment;
- (iv) Encouraging the private sector to invest in the delivery of Connected Health solutions for health and social care;
- (v) Participating in international collaboration with equivalent organisations, the private sector and academic research groups; and
- (vi) Using innovative procurement processes to encourage new Connected Health solutions to meet clinical and business needs.

5.4 This will support Invest NI to promote Northern Ireland as a pro-business region in the Health and Life Sciences sector in the following project areas:

- Shared services;
- ICT / Software;
- Clinical services;
- Connected Health; and
- Service innovation.

5.5 Invest NI can also support the role of the DHSSPS, by targeting mobile Connected Health R&D and innovation projects, which address the priorities of DHSSPS, and other health authorities in the UK (and beyond). Currently, this would include particularly the management and prevention of chronic disease, such as:

- Congestive Heart Failure (CHF);
- Coronary Heart Disease (CHD);
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD);
- Diabetes; and
- Stroke.

5.6 These conditions are linked to the proportion of people in the population who are ageing, which is expected to double by 2025 and it is recognised by health service providers in the UK and the western world generally that it can account for approximately 70% of present health service budgets. It is generally recognised that current service models are unsustainable, which necessitates a different approach through Connected Health. This however requires investment in R&D and service innovation, met by the private and public sectors alike.

5.7 Invest NI can play a role in targeting world-class Connected Health R&D and innovation investment to enable the DHSSPS to provide world-class solutions, which will deliver a modern high-quality and efficient public service.

5.8 The responsibilities of the DHSSPS and Invest NI will therefore be further developed through wider collaboration and will be detailed in a Strategic Action Plan agreed by both organisations.

6. Agreeing activity across the organisations – Priorities and Strategic Action Plans

6.1 This MOU will facilitate both DHSSPS and Invest NI to develop and agree annually a programme of work in Connected Health for a strategic action plan. In the first year the programme of work and the strategic action plan will take account of 4 priority areas:

- (i) Targeted Connected Health R&D and innovation funding, including optimising assets across the various organisations;**
- (ii) The development of the NI Connected Health Eco System, along with international linkages;**
- (iii) Collaboration with international regions, particularly within Europe and North America, for mutual gain; and**
- (iv) Promoting the Connected Health agenda internationally, particularly within Europe and North America.**

6.2 In subsequent years DHSSPS and Invest NI, in consultation with DETI, will jointly agree the continuation, or replacement, of these priority areas and associated strategic action plans. DHSSPS, DETI and Invest NI will also be responsible for strategic oversight of progress against the strategic action plans.

6.3 The first strategic action plan will be produced and agreed within six months of the signing of this MOU.

7. Reviewing the MOU

7.1 The MOU and Strategic Action Plan will be reviewed each year jointly by DHSSPS and Invest NI starting 12 months from the date of signing.

8. Management and monitoring arrangements

8.1 The following project management structures and processes will be established to manage and monitor work in support of the implementation of the MOU and the delivery of the strategic action plan:

- **Project Sponsors** - The Permanent Secretary of the DHSSPS and the Chief Executive of Invest NI will act as the project sponsors and will jointly chair a Project Board.

The Project Sponsors will be responsible to the Health and Economy Ministers for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan and specifically for the delivery of Health, Social Care and economic benefits from the initiative.

- **Project Board** - The Board will meet twice a year to oversee the work of a Project Team and the delivery of the Strategic Action Plan.

The Project Board will be chaired by the Project Sponsors and will comprise 2 additional senior representatives from DHSSPS and Invest NI. The Board may be supplemented with external advisers as necessary and as agreed by both parties.

- **Project Team**
 - The Project Team will meet at least once a quarter (and more frequently if required) to implement the delivery of the Strategic Action Plan.

The Project Team will be led by a Project Team Leader from DHSSPS and Invest NI on an alternative 12 monthly basis and will be comprised of four representatives of each organisation. The Project Team Leader will be responsible for preparing project reports for the Project Board and attending Project Board meetings as required.

The organisation providing the Project Team Leader (on a 12 month basis) will be required to provide such secretariat support as required, to the Project Team.

9. Signatures

On behalf of Invest NI:



Arlene Foster MLA
Minister
Department of Enterprise, Trade
and Investment

6th December 2011
Date

On behalf of the DHSSPS:



Edwin Poots MLA
Minister
Department of Health, Social Services
and Public Safety

6th December 2011
Date