



MK/pv

8 April 2005

Regional Strategy Team
Room C4
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Dear Sirs

**A HEALTHIER FUTURE: A TWENTY YEAR VISION FOR HEALTH
AND WELLBEING IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2005-2025**

Craigavon and Banbridge Community (HSS) Trust welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on 'A Healthier Future: A Twenty Year Vision for Health and Wellbeing in Northern Ireland 2005-2025'. The Trust appreciates the difficulties of trying to develop a strategy covering 20 years but recognised that the rationale is well founded.

The Vision appears to have been developed on the basis of interlocking themes. These themes are clearly identified within the document. It is considered that a clear understanding of the integrated nature of health and social care and the clinical and social pathways that patients will follow, have been adequately addressed within the strategy.

The Trust considers that there are several important themes that will help drive the new strategy. These include clinical networks and the development of an appropriate Workforce Strategy, to enable services to be delivered alongside the development of Primary Care. (Theme 3 Policy Direction 8).



The latter point will be helped by the document clearly defining core business for both the acute and community sectors.

Specific responses to questions raised in Appendix B are set out below, however the Trust would propose a number of additional points which it would also like considered.

The draft document needs to be cross-referenced to other developments such as 'Making it r World 2' and current proposals being developed for the Primary and Community Care Infrastructure.

The Trust considers that reference should be made to the Bamford Review and the potential it has to impact on mental health and learning disabilities. The development of community based alternatives to hospital admissions and a reduction in the need for inpatient beds have potential to serve as a useful outcome measurement. In addition any recommendations of the Appleby Review, which may also define outcome measures, should be integrated into 'A Healthier Future'.

A consistent theme during the Trust's consultation has been a view that patient centred services are the key building blocks to the development of the Regional Strategy. The outworking of the Review of Public Administration should therefore be included within the document particularly where changes may positively impact on the patient process and pathway.

Policy direction 8 focuses on developing multi-skilled teams based mainly in communities. These teams will need to have access to high quality accommodation. The 'one stop shop' ethos, where benefits are maximised through having a range of services, that are accessible at one location, will only become a reality through adequate investment in the HPSS estate.

The new strategy should be implemented in an integrated way. The theme of 'Investing for Health and Wellbeing' refers to the range of functions, which can influence the health of the population. It would be

important to ensure that existing arrangements such as Community Development Teams working with Investing for Health Partnerships are not lost.

Craigavon and Banbridge Community Trust has strong links with the local community and has mainstreamed the Community Development approach. The Trust would therefore recommend the Community Development model as the preferred approach for involving people.

The Trust recognises the significant resources invested in dealing with chronic disease and would therefore strongly support the development of the 'Expert Patient'.

Within the timeframe for the implementation of the Strategy significant decisions will be made regarding the long term funding of the HPSS. We believe, therefore, that the strategy should include reference to future investment.

Responses to the Consultation Questions

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

In broad terms the strategy does give an adequate description. However, more detail would be helpful about how this will be delivered, and within which structure.

2. A Healthier Future focuses on five major themes. Do you agree that it is appropriate to focus on these themes and are there others that should be addressed by the Regional Strategy?

The Trust supports the five major themes identified. However, it is recommended that developments in ICT could be added as another theme.

3. A Healthier Future identifies 16 future policy directions. Do you believe these are the right policy directions to achieve the vision set out in the document?

The Trust agrees with the policy direction but, as indicated above, the interface between these and other major policy reviews, currently in hand, should be taken into account.

4. A Healthier Future identifies a number of key actions and outcomes. Do you believe these are the right actions and outcomes to achieve the vision set out in the document?

The resources required to implement the strategy need to be identified. The Trust considers that 'Standards of Access' should be one of a number of tools used to measure the success of the strategy. Other outcome measures should also be considered, for example, the patient/client journey, their experience of treatment and services and the views of relatives and carers.

5. A Healthier Future identifies the need to reduce smoking as a key element in improving the health of people in Northern Ireland and sets out three main options.

The Trust welcomes the public consultation on smoking and supports Option 5c, namely the introduction of legislation to ban smoking in all enclosed public areas and workplaces. The Trust Board has recently introduced a revised policy on smoking to implement a smoke free workplace with effect from 1st April 2005.

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

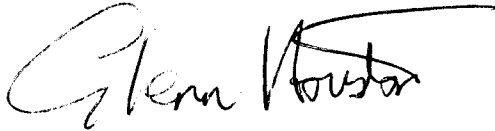
The Trust recommends that review dates for the strategy are implemented to ensure that the longer term targets do not slip.

Ref: A Healthier Future

7. Are the Equality issues addressed?

The Trust considers the equality issues were adequately addressed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Houston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

GLENN HOUSTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE