

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

**Chief Executives of HPSS Trusts – new and existing
For cascade to:**

- Directors of Nursing
- Medical Directors
- Trust Pharmacy Managers
- Directors of Social Care
- Clinical & Social Care
- Governance leads
- Directors of Planning/Commissioning/Operations

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SR
Tel: 028 90 520563
Fax: 028 90 520574
Email: michael.mcbride@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 1 March 2007

**Chief Executive of HSS Boards
For cascade to:**

- Directors of Public Health
- Directors of Nursing
- Directors of Social Care
- Directors of Pharmacy
- Directors of Dental Services
- Directors of Primary Care
- Clinical & Social Care Governance leads
- Directors of Planning/Commissioning/Operations

GP, Community Pharmacy, Dental and Optometry Practices
Chief Executive, Health Promotion Agency
Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
Director, Clinical & Social Care Governance Support Team
Members of CREST, RMAG and NICE Guidance Review
Group
Chief Officers, Health & Social Services Councils
Chief Executive NIMDTA
Chief Executive NIPEC
Chief Executive NIPPET
Chief Executive NISCC
Mr David Sissling, Chief Executive Designate, HSSA

Dear Colleagues

RE: DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICE FRAMEWORKS

The Department has commenced development of a range of service frameworks, commencing from January 2007. These service frameworks will set specific standards for health and care which will be capable of being measured.

Service frameworks are an opportunity to:

- further integrate health and social care;
- enhance public health and wellbeing, to include identification of those at risk and prevent and protect individuals and local populations from harm and disease;
- promote evidence informed practice;
- focus on safe and effective care; and
- enhance multi-disciplinary and intersectoral working.

Methodology

Service Frameworks will link to key policies and strategies already developed and will draw on evidence from established sources e.g. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and Social Care Institute for Excellence. They will not seek to reinvent the wheel; where appropriate, they will include standards which have been developed elsewhere. Each service framework will use a common template which will include a care pathway from prevention, promotion, protection of health and wellbeing, to appropriate assessment, diagnosis, treatment and care provision, rehabilitation and end of life care.

Timed Objectives

Development of service frameworks will be undertaken in partnership with the HPSS, and users and carers. Where appropriate, it will be undertaken in collaboration with established networks and groups. Each service framework will use a multidisciplinary approach, recognising that the majority of care is delivered in the primary/community sectors with active participation of individuals and carers. In addition service frameworks will recognise that care can go beyond traditional HPSS boundaries.

Each service framework will require formal consultation. Following this, there will be analysis of consultation responses with a final document being produced in summary format for public use, with further information and detail on the standards, rationale, criteria, performance indicators and audit criteria being publicly available on the internet.

The timetable for development is as follows:

Phase	Framework	Lead	Commencement date	Anticipated date of completion
Phase 1	Cardiovascular health and wellbeing	Dr David Stewart, Director of Public Health, EHSSB and Chair, Regional Cardiology Network	January 2007	April 2008
Phase 2	Respiratory Health and Wellbeing	Dr Carolyn Harper, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, NHSSB and Chair, Regional Respiratory Forum	February 2007	June 2008
Phase 3	Cancer Treatment and Care	Northern Ireland Cancer Area Network (NICAN), presently chaired by Mr Stuart McDonnell	March 2007	August 2008
Phase 4	Mental Health	To be confirmed	May 2007	September 2008
Phase 5	Learning Disability	To be confirmed	June 2007	November 2008
Phase 6	Trawl for other Service Framework topics against specific criteria			June/September 2007
Phase 6	Commencement of further Service Frameworks following outcome of trawl		November 2007 onwards	End 2008 onwards

Conclusion

The development of service frameworks is a major element of the Service Reform Programme. They will be used by the public, HPSS commissioners, the HPSS and other providers, and those organisations which are required to report on the performance and quality of services and care.

Your assistance in the development of this important programme of work is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer



MR ANDREW HAMILTON
Deputy Secretary