

25 February 2011

## **McGimpsey launches Cancer Services Framework**

Health Minister Michael McGimpsey has today launched the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care.

The Framework sets out standards for cancer services in relation to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, ongoing care, rehabilitation, and palliative and end of life care. It takes into account individuals and communities who currently have cancer or are at greater risk of developing it.

The Minister said: **“Cancer is one of the most significant causes of ill health and disability in our society. It is estimated that as many as one in three of the population in Northern Ireland will be develop a cancer by the age of 75, with almost 10,000 new cases being diagnosed each year. Thankfully, advances in diagnoses and therapies mean that many of these cases can be successfully treated. Nonetheless, it places a very heavy burden on the individual, families and carers and society as a whole.”**

The Minister continued: **“The Service Framework is extremely important as it aims to improve the health and wellbeing of our population. It looks at improving areas such as health promotion, preventative services and the quality of cancer care. It will also set out the standards of care and treatment that patients can expect to receive”.**

The Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care can be accessed at [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-standards-service-frameworks/sqsd\\_service\\_frameworks\\_cancer.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-standards-service-frameworks/sqsd_service_frameworks_cancer.htm)

**Notes to editors:**

1. This is the third Service Framework produced by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, following on from those relating to cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases.
  
2. Service frameworks aim to improve health and social care outcomes, reduce inequalities in health and social wellbeing, and improve service access and delivery. They set out the standards of care that patients, clients, carers and families can expect to receive and will be used by commissioners, HSC providers and RQIA. The standards and associated performance targets aim to drive improvements in HSC performance over the next 3-4 years. Performance targets detailed in the document will be reviewed in light of the resources made available for the next 3-4 years in the CSR 2010 Budget settlement for DHSSPS.
  
3. Media enquiries to DHSSPS Press Office on 028 9052 0571. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Office via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.