

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE BRIEFING ON TRANSFORMING YOUR CARE**

**1 FEBRUARY 2012**

- Thank you for inviting me here today to update the Committee on the Review of Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland – “Transforming Your Care”.
- When I last met with the Committee on 14 December it was the day after I had made my Statement to the Assembly announcing the publication of the Review Team’s proposals. Since that Committee meeting we have had a “Take Note” debate in the Assembly on the proposals. As I said in my Statement, and again during the debate, what is being presented through the Review’s proposals is a major change to our health and social care services, but change which is long overdue. It is crucial we get it right. I have been encouraged by the broad support given to the Review Report on the floor of the House and from across the sector.
- Designing and delivering a new model for health and social care services, one that is built around patient needs, will require engagement with patients and front line providers. Before we embark on that phase we need to ensure that everyone is clear on the intentions behind the proposals put forward in the Review.
- I am committed to ensuring an open and transparent process as we move forward. It is important that there is a shared understanding on the solutions and how they should best be implemented.
- Following the publication of the Report my Department has been assessing the proposals and how they would be taken forward by the Health and Social Care Board and others. This is an essential aspect of the overall process as it will allow us to consider the potential implications and how proposals could best be progressed, and the inter-relationships between them managed.

- I cannot say at this point whether we will end up implementing each and every proposal in the way it is described in the Report. Clearly much work needs to be done now with a process of engagement with the sector and others. What I can say is that we need to put in place the new model of care as presented in the Report if we are to provide safe, resilient and sustainable services for the long term. The model is explained fully in the report and outlined in the background briefing paper which has already been provided to the Committee.
- The Review challenges us to look at how we can improve service delivery and structure services around the needs of patients through more effective integrated services, with a greater emphasis on delivery in the primary and community care settings. We have a real opportunity to get the new integrated model right and it is important that changes of the magnitude being proposed are planned and managed in a co-ordinated way; and that the delivery of health and social care services retains the confidence of both patients and health and care providers. The last thing I, or any of us, want is to destabilise the service in implementing change. The Review Team also recognised this and I support their proposed timeline of 5 years to implement the changes.
- This is certainly not to say that it will be 2017 before we see any benefits from the Review. There are some proposals within the Review that should be able to be advanced now, others which will require longer to develop; and some we need to plan carefully as the extent of change required is complex. There will be engagement across the sector, staff and the public as necessary regarding proposals to change services significantly in their areas.
- To take this forward will require effective Programme Management and Governance arrangements to be put in place, and this is a priority. The details of these are being developed and I want to have these arrangements established and in place in the next few days. It will involve the setting up of a Strategic Programme Board chaired by Andrew McCormick as Permanent

Secretary of the Department, and it will report directly and regularly to me. This Programme Board will oversee the progress on the various workstreams, and be supported in its work by a regional quality assurance group, and an expert panel.

- This is my first priority as it will be important going forward to have strong governance and oversight arrangements in place. One of the first areas I will want the Programme Board to address will be to help provide clarity and direction to the LCGs so that they can commence the development of the Population Plans for each of their areas, working with their local Trusts. Population Plans will set out the specific changes to be taken forward to meet needs within an LCG area, and will take account of the principles and criteria set out in the Review. In developing Population Plans, LCGs and Trusts will engage with local communities, Councils, and others to ensure there is a full representation of views in the development of the Plans. The production of the population plans will be a major undertaking in the coming months and will need to take into account the criteria set out in the Review, and the relevant proposals for change contained within it.
- Implementation of the Review cannot be carried out in isolation and the work will be linked directly to the work for the Commissioning Plan for 2012-13 and the action needed in all parts of the HSC to deliver the savings required by the Budget. Work is in hand to ensure the service delivers costs savings of at least 4% in 2012-13 both to balance the cash budget, and absorb the ever-growing demands, on the service.
- There were a number of other proposals within the Review which I believe can and should be progressed sooner rather than later. I feel we can make progress on areas of work which had already commenced and which have been endorsed by the Review as supporting the future model. I would like to see the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnerships get underway, building on the benefits of the Primary Care Partnerships. The ICPs will have

an important role in supporting the delivery of a number of the Review's proposals.

- There are also several proposals in the Review where I feel early progress can and should now be made consistent with the longer term direction. This include:
  - maximising the opportunities brought about from telehealth for patients with long term conditions:– the new Telemonitoring NI service has already started to be rolled out; and
  - promoting mental health and wellbeing, with a particular emphasis on reducing the rates of suicide among young men.
- We need to consider the detailed work required for the other proposed changes and the priorities of each to ensure we deliver the model of integrated care presented in the Review.
- I would welcome the views of the Committee on the Review and the next steps.