



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

October 19th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 25th October 2021** at **2:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 South Eastern Trust

- Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive
- David Robinson, Director of Hospital Services
- Naomi Dunbar, Interim Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics

4.0 Southern Trust

Shane Devlin - Chief Executive

Correspondence

5.0 Letter dated 6 September from Health & Social Care Board

- ▢ *Health Working Groups - Letter from S Gallagher to M Ward NMD District Council - 6 September 2021.pdf*

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6.0 Letter dated September from Southern Health Trust

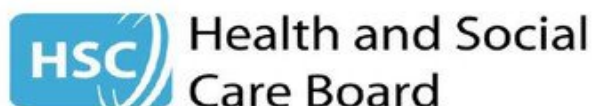
- ▢ *Marie Ward Chief Executive NMD District Council re Health Working Groups 8 September 2021 - signed version.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Mr Alan Beggs
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Ms Kate Bingham
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Cllr Patrick Brown
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Cllr Robert Burgess
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Mrs Dorinnia Carville
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Cllr Charlie Casey
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Dermot Curran
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Mr Eoin Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Sean Doran
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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Cllr Hugh Gallagher
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Mr Conor Haughey
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Mrs Janine Hillen
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Mr Michael Lipsett
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Gavin Malone
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Cllr Cathy Mason
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Mr Johnny Mc Bride
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Colette McAteer
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Cllr Harold McKee
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Patricia McKeever
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Cllr Karen McKevitt
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
.....
Donna Starkey
.....
Cllr Gary Stokes
.....
Sarah Taggart
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr John Trainor
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
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From the Chief Executive

**Health & Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST
BT2 8BS**

Via Email Only

Mrs Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Tel: 0300 5550115
Web Site: www.hscboard.hscni.net

council@nmandd.org

Email: Sharon.gallagher@health-ni.gov.uk

Date: 6 September 2021

Dear Mrs Ward

HEALTH WORKING GROUPS

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 August 2021. I understand that there is ongoing collaboration between the Council and both the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and the Public Health Agency (PHA) and I welcome the continued engagement of the Council.

In response to the questions posed:

1. WHAT IF ANY GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE HEALTH SERVICE REGARDING THE ONGOING PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THOSE "WITHOUT SETTLED STATUS" (EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME) AFTER 30 JUNE 2021?

On 9 July 2021 the Department of Health (DoH) issued letter HSS (MD) 45/2021 regarding EU, EEA and Swiss citizens resident in Northern Ireland (NI) by 31 December 2021 and their rights to access healthcare after 30 June 2021. This letter can be accessed from the link below,

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-hss-md-45-2021.pdf>

and was issued to the following bodies:

- Chief Executives, Health & Social Care Board/ HSC Trusts;
- Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health & Social Care Board;
- GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board;
- All General Practitioners and GP Locums;

- Medical and Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (for onward distribution to all independent prescribers); and
- Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, Health & Social Care Board/Trusts.

Further information can be sought via the EU Exit Transition Team at:

eu.exit@health-ni.gov.uk

2. THE COMMUNITY TREATMENT CENTRE IN NEWRY IS A £40M PROJECT – ARE GP CONTRACTS IN PLACE AND CAN AN UPDATE BE PROVIDED WITH REGARD TO PROGRESS ON THIS PROJECT?

The Newry Community Treatment and Care Centre (CTCC) has been given DoH approval to move to Full Business Case development. This stage includes finalisation of detailed design and contract fine tuning. Subject to approval of the business case, the contract is expected to be awarded in spring 2022, followed by a 2 year build programme which expects to complete in summer 2024. Commissioning of the services within the building is expected to take 6 months and current projected timescale for the opening of the new centre is early 2025.

As the 3 practices who had expressed an interest in relocation to the hub (at Appointment Business Case stage) have been unable to extract themselves from the ownership arrangements within the Newry Health Village, it is not expected that any of the GP practices currently located within the Newry Health Village will relocate to the hub in their entirety. However the CTCC Hub creates a unique opportunity to relocate services from hospital to the community, in turn helping to alleviate the ever increasing pressures at the Daisy Hill Hospital site and improving accessibility to services for patients as well as delivering improved integration of a wide range of Trust led services.

The vision for Newry would be for the CTCC to act as a hub collectively in a managed clinical network, where access to out of hospital services is provided from the hub which will have linkages with peripheral GP practices, to support the future model of primary and community care service delivery. The Trust is strongly committed to the establishment of such linkages between the Newry CTCC and the GP practices in the Newry area, including direct access to diagnostic pathways, as well as the development of other direct referral service pathways where viable opportunities are identified. This is similar to the successful arrangement that exists within the Banbridge Health and Care Centre, whereby although there are no GP Practices physically located within the Trust hub facility itself, the GP patients are benefitting from direct referral to plain x-ray and ultrasound within the hub, alleviating pressures on the Trust's acute sites and enabling patient care closer to home.

Recent developments through the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) and local GP Federations, as well as the more recent joint implementation of the primary care Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) initiative have provided increased opportunity to promote integration of care across Trust and GP led services, improving the access to and

quality of care to patients. The Newry CTCC, by virtue of bringing together the Trust primary and community care services in one location, will further enable these networks to support a more patient centred model of care.

It is also planned to provide access to bookable clinical and seminar space in the hub for use by the GP Federation and local GP practices for the likes of elective care reform work and GP Trainee / Undergraduate Medical Training. The introduction of improved technology and fit for purpose meeting / seminar room space within the CTCC facility shall also help facilitate integration between the GP Practices, Federation, and Trust primary and secondary care services, e.g. to facilitate multi-disciplinary case conferences and video conferencing.

3. WILL GP SURGERIES REVERT TO OPERATING THE WAY THEY DID PRE-COVID-19 BECAUSE THIS IS A MATTER BEING RAISED BY CONSTITUENTS REGULARLY?

The Covid-19 situation has placed all elements of Northern Ireland's healthcare system under immense strain. This has been the case for all GP Practices across Northern Ireland. GPs and GP Practice staff have worked hard to ensure that all GP Practices have remained open throughout the pandemic. Covid-19 created an opportunity for General Practice to put alternative strategies in place to ensure social distancing, to maintain effective infection control measures and ensure patient safety.

GP Practices continue to provide a range of appointments which include telephone consultations, video consultations and face to face appointments. As GP Practices are independent contractors, it is a matter for the practice to determine how they plan and implement the provision of services to their registered patients going forward.

The HSCB would envisage that practices will continue to offer a range of access appointments to meet the needs of their registered practice population. As previously corresponded, if constituents have access issues there is a complaints process. Patients need to make the complaint directly to their GP Practice who will deal with the complaint appropriately. If the patient is not satisfied with the action of the GP Practice they can complain in writing to the HSCB Complaints Department at:

Health and Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast BT2 8BS
T: 028 9536 3893
E: Complaints.hscb@hscni.net

4. THERE IS A LACK OF TRAINING, THE RED TAPE NEEDS TO BE REMOVED THAT IS PREVENTING PEOPLE ACCESSING MEDICINE AND NURSING COURSES. MORE COURSES AND BURSARIES NEED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR MEDICINE AND NURSING.

The HSC relies upon a broad range of healthcare professionals in order to deliver services including doctors and nurses. Workforce planning is undertaken by specific teams within the DoH who have provided the following response:

Medicine

- Ulster University has just welcomed its first intake of students into its new School of Medicine. This will provide a further 70 places per year for NI domiciles. These additional places will help to address a recommendation from the Department's Medical Student Places Review, published in 2019, which proposed an expansion of medical student places in NI by 100 per year.
- NI-domiciled students undertaking their studies at a UK Medical or Dental school are provided with tuition fee support and may also be eligible for grants towards their living and travel costs on entering the 5th year of a first degree course in medicine. Support may also be available to Medical students undertaking a one year, intercalated degree as part of their undergraduate degree course.
- The evidence available demonstrates that medical courses in NI are extremely attractive, very heavily oversubscribed courses which the vast majority of individuals see through to graduation under the current support arrangements.

Nursing

- For eligible Nursing and Midwifery students studying in NI, the DoH pays tuition fees and provides a non-means tested bursary of £5, 165 per annum (£430 per month). Students may also be eligible for a range of means-tested bursaries including disabled students' allowance, childcare support and maintenance allowance.
- The Department has increased the number of places on the pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes commissioned annually from Queen's University, Ulster University and the Open University, by 87% since the 2015/16 academic year to a record high of 1,325 in 2021/22.
- Despite this substantial increase the local universities continue to receive multiple applications for each place across all their programmes; indeed overall interest has increased by nearly 30% for 2021 entry. They also report very low levels of attrition out of these programmes.

- While these support arrangements are kept under continuous review, the evidence shows that the current financial support arrangements in NI continue to be very effective in attracting and retaining high quality nursing and midwifery students.

5. WHAT PLANS HAVE THE TRUSTS AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS WHICH HAS BEEN EXACERBATED DUE TO COVID-19

The DoH published a Mental Health Action Plan (MHAP) for Northern Ireland 2021-2031 on the 29 June 2021. The MHAP is built on a vision of a society which promotes emotional wellbeing and positive mental health for everyone, supports recovery and seeks to reduce stigma and mental health inequalities. One of the outcomes identified was the provision of a regional mental health crisis service to provide effective help and support for people in crisis, through a regional crisis service (outcome 137).

To support the development of a regional crisis service, the DoH has undertaken a review of crisis services in NI. This review recognises that a balance is needed between an equitable, consistent regional service model and supporting local needs/service development and innovation. On 24 August 2021, Health Minister Swann announced a new regional mental health crisis service in line with the Mental Health Action Plan.

The new service has 3 clear outcomes:

- a regionally consistent crisis service that will provide effective help and support for people in a crisis;
- a reduction in the number of people who have to wait longer than two hours for crisis support as laid out in the Regional You in Mind Mental Health Care Pathway; and
- a reduction in the number of people who attend Emergency Departments in crisis.

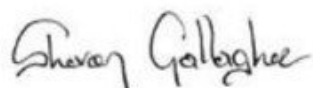
It is also expected that implementation will help reduce the demand on mental health services, which are currently under extreme pressure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HSCB and PHA will lead on the implementation of the new crisis service through the 10 actions in the policy, with HSC Trusts responsible for the implementation and delivery of regionally consistent mental health crisis services. An implementation plan for the new service is expected to be completed November 2021.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/new-regional-mental-health-crisis-service>

Yours sincerely



SHARON GALLAGHER
Chief Executive

cc: Cathy Harrison, CPO, DoH
Elaine Hunter, HSCB
Dr Margaret O'Brien, HSCB
Mark Browne, DoH
Colette Rogers, PHA
Louise McMahon, HSCB
Joe Brogan, HSCB





Quality Care - for you, with you

Chair
Eileen Mullan

Chief Executive
Shane Devlin

Our ref: SD/jmck/ew

8 September 2021

BY EMAIL: aisling.murray@nmandd.org

Ms Marie Ward, Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Dear Marie

HEALTH WORKING GROUPS

Thank you for your letter dated 2 August 2021 received in my office on 10 August 2021. In advance of the Special Council Meeting on 21 September 2021, please find below response to the issues raised by your Health Working Group.

- 1. Given that Daisy Hill Hospital will have a key role in meeting the ongoing stress on waiting lists, members are concerned that decentralisation plans to establish 5 super hospitals will impact on emergency surgery provision at Daisy Hill Hospital. Can you provide assurance that emergency surgery services will be retained at Daisy Hill Hospital and not referred to one of the 5 super hospitals? Proximity to emergency surgery services is vital to Newry Mourne and Down District given the rural nature of the area.**

Work is progressing locally and regionally to develop plans for surgical services in Northern Ireland. The recruitment and retention challenge facing surgical services is an issue for all Trusts and work is going to scope solutions both regionally and locally in order that patients are provided with the best outcomes.

At present, we have 2 out of 6 general surgery posts at DHH filled, with the rota covered from surgeons based in Craigavon and through locums. General surgery posts are less attractive to the surgery workforce. We continue to work to maintain a comprehensive surgical service for the Southern Trust, which includes access to emergency surgery for the Newry Mourne and Down District.

2. What measures are being taken to address the acute shortage in theatre nurses? This is a vitally important issue in order to tackle waiting lists and emergency surgeries.

Current situation

The level of nursing vacancies across Acute services within SHSCT remains high, impacted significantly by a national shortage of nurses. This includes theatre nurses where there is currently a total of 26.92 wte vacant Band 5 nursing posts across our Theatre/Day Surgery Units.

Measure/Strategies to address the issue:

➤ **Pre-registration workforce strategies:**

Maximised student placements within our theatre environments, including implementing final placement nursing student practice placements to encourage recruitment into these areas.

Staff provided with Future Nurse Supervisor and assessor training to enable facilitation of maximum number of pre-registration nursing student placements.

Implemented communication boards, to provide further support and orientation to students during their theatre experience.

➤ **Recruitment:**

Participated in regional recruitment drive into perioperative areas in April 2021

Ongoing rolling recruitment for Band 5 nurses

Introduced a perioperative recruitment page on our SHSCT internet site

A targeted recruitment campaign is about to be released targeting vacant nursing posts within ATICS across all bands.

> Retention:

Robust preceptorship process in place for new registrants recruited into theatre environment.

Delivering Care Regional work:

- Reviewing Career pathways to promote retention
- Introducing Clinical Educator roles within the theatre environment
- Strengthening management and leadership within theatre environment by x10 wte Band 6 posts, and x3 wte Band 7 posts which are being recruited imminently

All staff who are leaving or retiring are facilitated with exit interviews.
Flexible working requests are fully considered and granted where possible.

3. An update on recruitment of staff would be appreciated. This is a major issue and members would like to see evidence of what is being done to secure the necessary resources to protect at Daisy Hill Hospital.

We continue to actively recruit for posts across all areas of Daisy Hill Hospital. There have been six recent consultant appointments covering a range of specialties. In addition, we are currently managing the pre-employment checks for 10 nursing staff to various areas within DHH and we continue our rolling advert to attracting Band 5 Nurses.

Work is on-going to attract staff to Daisy Hill, with social media activity planned to reach as wide an audience as possible.

4. What measures are in place to address security issues at Daisy Hill Hospital to ensure the protection of people and staff?

Security porters are on site 24/7; CCTV is available and work is ongoing to improve coverage across the site. Compliance officers are also working across the site as part of a pro-active approach to general site safety. Any support the Council can offer to re-enforce the message that abuse of staff or patients in any form will not be tolerated, would be welcome.

5. An update on numbers of postponed medical consultations and procedures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic would be appreciated. Please advise what action is being taken to address these waiting lists.

We have been able to maintain the majority of medical outpatient clinics and have utilised a high number of virtual consultations over the last 18 months to maintain contact with patients. The increasing demand on unscheduled care/emergency admissions may result in some short notice cancellations but we do our best to keep this to a minimum.

The Trust has doubled ICU capacity to manage the numbers of seriously ill COVID-19 patients during this latest surge. This is in line with regional Critical Care plans. Unfortunately this requires specialist staff to be redeployed, which does impact on our service levels. The Trust is working with regional and departmental colleagues to manage waiting lists but with such limited current capacity, this remains a significant challenge.

[Publication of Elective Care Framework \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publication/elective-care-framework)

6. What plans have the Trusts and Department of Health in place to address the mental health crisis which has been exacerbated due to COVID-19?

The Southern Trust recognises the importance of mental health and emotional wellbeing and actively encourages the public to be mindful of its mental health and the importance of Take 5. Like the Council, we are concerned about the anticipated increase in demand for mental health services. In the Southern Trust, we are reorganising the way in which we provide mental health services so that they become more accessible to the community in the future. We have increased the use of technology, and in the near future, will partner with another NHS provider to provide significantly increased levels of education and treatment to enable those with symptoms of anxiety, depression and trauma to access evidence based treatments more readily.

I trust you find this helpful, but as always please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely



SHANE DEVLIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE