

This issue contains an update on some of the key areas of implementation happening now, including:

- Health Minister announces progress on Transforming Your Care
- Integrated Care Partnerships
- Electronic Care Records Launch
- Statutory Residential Homes

## Minister updates Assembly on the 'right path' to developing health and social care

The Health Minister recently made a statement to MLAs at the Northern Ireland Assembly stating that:  
*"Northern Ireland is on the right path to developing a health and social care service which will be sustainable into the future."*

That was the central message from Health Minister Edwin Poots as he briefed MLAs on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 on progress in taking forward transformation in health and social care. During an extensive statement to the Assembly entitled '**Taking Forward Transformation**', Mr Poots told members of measures being employed to tackle the challenges facing health and social care.

The Minister told MLAs: *"We have a growing and ageing population, a growth in chronic conditions, a growth in demand, and an over-reliance on hospital beds. All of this is set against a backdrop of economic and financial constraint. Given the challenges ahead, the way we work now is not going to work well in the future. This is not a criticism – it is a statement of fact. That is why I want to take this opportunity to report on what we said we would do, what we have done, and what we are going to do."*

The Minister's statement in full can be viewed at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/oralstatement250613](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/oralstatement250613)

## Bringing Care Together: Integrated Care Partnerships get going

**Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs)** are a key element of Transforming Your Care. They are a new way of working for the health service in Northern Ireland and will transform how care is delivered.

They **bring together** doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, hospital specialists, other healthcare professionals and the voluntary and community sector, as well as service users and carers, to design and coordinate local health and social care services.



ICP Project Director, Martin Hayes and Clinical Director, Dr Margaret O'Brien (front left & centre) pictured with ICP area Clinical Leads (Row 2, L-R) Dr Windsor Murdock; Dr Brian Patterson OBE; Dr Brian Dunn and Dr Brendan O'Hare, and Business Support Team Managers (row 3, L-R) Christine Breen; Anne-Marie O'Boyle; Margaret McDaid; Michael Megaw and (front centre) Michele Bekmez.



**Good progress** has been made in forming the supporting infrastructure for ICPs:

- Five small Business and Clinical Support Teams have been established to provide continuity and momentum to the work of all 17 ICPs across NI. Each team includes a Clinical Lead and a Business Support Team Manager to support the work of ICPs within their locality.
- All 17 Partnership Committees have held their first meeting and will operate in shadow form until the full membership is in place, including the voluntary and community sector and service users.
- Service development work is also underway in relation to the ICP Clinical Priorities 2013/14, namely services for the frail elderly and respiratory, diabetes and stroke care. Based on local commissioning specifications, ICPs will address the entire care pathway for each of these patient groups, from prevention through to end-of-life care.

## Electronic Care Record launched in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland's first Electronic Care Record (ECR) system is launched by Health Minister at Parklands Surgery, Grove Wellbeing Centre.

The NIECR **gives our doctors and nurses a window** into all the important health and care information that they need to provide the best care for a patient. They will be able to look at information currently held in a multitude of different systems across the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care sector, to see details of past or ongoing diagnoses and investigations or treatments.

This will enable **better, safer, faster care and treatment** for everyone whose care team uses the system.



Pictured at the launch of the Electronic Care Record (L-R) is Health Minister Edwin Poots, with ECR Project Chair Dr Carolyn Harper, Dr Jenny McAughey, Parkland Surgery at Grove Wellbeing Centre and patient Eilish

At the launch, the Minister commented:

*"Accurate and accessible patient records will improve the speed, quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery across Northern Ireland and this will benefit every person in Northern Ireland. More timely access by healthcare professionals to more complete information will benefit all patients, reduce duplication and wasted time, and improve safety – for example, doctors can check your x-rays and test results on the computer as soon as they are available so your treatment can start sooner."*



## Statutory Residential Homes



Fionnuala McAndrew, HSCB Director of Social Care and Children, has tea with a resident in supported living accommodation at Barn Halt, Carrickfergus.

In our last update, we featured an article by Fionnuala McAndrew, Director of Social Care and Children with the Health and Social Care Board, on her role in leading a regional process about the future of statutory residential care across Northern Ireland.

Since then, the Regional Planning Group has been set up and it meets every fortnight. This group includes representatives from the Health and Social Care Board and Trusts, as well as associate membership for AgeNI and the Patient Client Council. Its focus is on ensuring that any

engagement, consultation or changes in the future are taken forward with dignity and respect, and are focused very clearly on the needs of residents, their families, and older people in the community.

The Regional Planning Group have developed their draft Action Plan, and the team are currently finalising this with the DHSSPS, before it is submitted to the Minister for his approval. As part of this work, a regional framework and plan for future consultation about changes to statutory residential care homes, based on best practice guidance and evidence from elsewhere, will be developed over the summer.

To do so, it is critical that the team continues to speak to and respond to the concerns expressed by a range of people. Over recent weeks this has included meetings and correspondence with political parties and local councils. More meetings and communications are planned, including residents, families and staff, and this will continue throughout the process. Recently, Mrs McAndrew met residents in a supported living facility in Barn Halt in Carrickfergus (see picture).

## Making progress

In each update, we will give you a flavour of some examples of initiatives being taken forward to deliver on the TYC vision and other news items.

- In partnership with Marie Curie, the Health and Social Care Board is investing £250k, with Marie Curie investing a similar amount, in the development of the 'Delivering Choices' programme to enable people with palliative and end of life care needs to have choices in their place of care, better access to services and improved outcomes at the end of their lives.





- Additional orthopaedic staff are to be recruited to deal with increasing demands on the service. It is anticipated that new Orthopaedic consultants will be in post by early 2013/14. The Board is also expanding the capacity of Orthopaedic Practitioners with a specialist interest, as well as taking forward plans to establish a regional podiatric foot and ankle surgical service.
- There has been significant investment made in relation to expanding the Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) service in Northern Ireland which means that in the near future patients having a heart attack would be taken to a catheterisation laboratory centre that is capable of undertaking the procedure 24/7 365 days a year. In the last financial year £1.9m was invested to increase the number of cath lab sessions in the Belfast and Western Trusts. Further progress will be made in this financial year.
- Procurement has started for the Health and Care Centres in Lisburn and Newry. It is expected that the contract will be awarded in January 2015 with completion anticipated in 2016. Work is also underway to identify the next schemes to be included in the infrastructure development programme. Local Commissioning Groups are examining the current and future health needs for their local populations to ensure that the right care can be delivered in the right place. Once identified, these schemes will require business cases.
- The Minister for Finance and Personnel, Sammy Wilson, recently announced £9.4m transitional funding for TYC from the June Monitoring Round. The Health Minister, Edwin Poots, commented following the announcement: *"I welcome the £9.4million which will be put towards the cost of delivering Transforming Your Care in 2013/14 and the recognition that this area remains an important priority for the Executive as a whole. This allocation will play a critical role in facilitating the progress of key transformational projects across the health and social care sector."*

*"Change is **absolutely essential** to ensuring we all have improved access to safe, and high quality care in the future. With a growing and ageing population, a growth in chronic conditions and demand, and an over reliance on hospital beds, **leaving the system as it is, is simply is not an option.** We need to continue to transform our services, ensuring we have an efficient, effective and integrated service which puts patients and service users at the very heart of care."*

John Compton, HSCB Chief  
Executive.

For more information, or to send us your comments or feedback - please get in touch:



[www.tyconsultation.hscni.net](http://www.tyconsultation.hscni.net)



[tyconsultation@hscni.net](mailto:tyconsultation@hscni.net)



[@tyconsultation](https://twitter.com/tyconsultation)

