



27 March 2009

Western Trust Efficiency Proposals to be forwarded to Health Minister

The Western Health and Social Care Trust (Western Trust) at its Trust Board meeting today (Friday 27 March) has agreed a range of savings proposals for consideration by the Health Minister aimed at releasing money for reinvestment as the modernisation of healthcare moves forward.

Like all Health and Social Care Trusts, the Western Trust is required to deliver efficiencies to meet the requirements of the Comprehensive Spending Review, as laid down in the Programme for Government (2008 – 2011).

The Western Trust's efficiency target over the 2008-11 period is £36 million across all its service areas. During the same period the achievement of these savings will lead to a reinvestment of £36.2 million to invest in earmarked areas.

At a meeting of the Trust Board on Friday, March 27, Trust Board agreed to forward its recommendations to deliver efficiencies, which have been subject to equality screening and consultation, to the Health Minister for his consideration.

Western Trust Chairman Gerard Guckian said: "I would like to thank all those who have taken the time to consider the Trust's savings proposals and who have taken part in the Trust's consultation process. These proposals will now be forwarded to Health Minister Michael McGimspey for his consideration.

"An extensive consultation process in relation to two of the original savings proposals - relating to statutory residential care provision and day care provision for older people - was carried out over a three month period up to March 10. It is positive that this consultation has significantly helped to bring the care needs of older people to the fore, not only in the Western area but across Northern Ireland.

"Trust Board has taken account of the strength and depth of feeling expressed during the consultation, particularly by residents, their relatives and others on behalf of the residents in Foyleville Home, Londonderry; Gortmore Home, Omagh; Greenfield Home, Strabane; Drumhaw Home, Lisnaskea.

"Having listened to and carefully considered all the views expressed, Trust Board has recommended that these homes should continue to offer residential care to existing residents for as long as it meets their care needs (for example, if a resident's needs change to the point where they require nursing home care, alternative provision will be made).

"It is further recommended that there should be no further permanent admissions to Foyleville, Gortmore and Drumhaw Residential Homes, taking into consideration a number of factors including the reducing level of demand

for residential care and alternative accommodation options within these localities. Where current residents wish to avail of suitable alternative accommodation Trust staff should support residents and relatives in exercising choice.

“In relation to Greenfield Residential Home, it is recommended that the Trust will still offer permanent admissions to this home. However the Trust recognises that Greenfield does not offer the standard of accommodation that we would wish to and therefore it is recommended that Trust staff should work with housing providers to progress the development of care and accommodation alternatives within this locality. This is unlikely to take place within the current Comprehensive Spending Review period. Where current residents wish to avail of suitable alternative accommodation Trust staff would support residents and relatives in exercising choice.

“Each of the four residential homes will continue to offer respite placements.

“The Trust is faced with a considerable challenge in attempting to balance the passionate regard residents and their families have for our homes with the need to develop modern and improved ways of delivering care and accommodation services for older people across the Western Trust area. The Trust is committed to developing a range of new services to meet the care needs of older people locally that have the capacity to grow in response to the demand which is forecast.

“The Trust has also listened carefully to the views expressed in relation to the proposal to reform day care provision. It is recommended that the Trust:

- (a) proceeds to merge statutory day care provision between Strathroy and Gortmore Day Centres in Omagh and also between Greenfield and County Buildings Day Centres in Strabane. This can be achieved without any reduction in services to current users.
- (b) should not proceed with the proposed reduction in outreach centres.

“Regional access criteria have been agreed which apply to day care services. It is recommended that the Trust should use these criteria to ensure that older people are able to access day care services at a level to suit their care needs.

Mr Guckian concluded: “The engagement in relation to the Trust’s savings proposals has been very important in helping the Trust form its recommendations to the Minister for his consideration when making the final decision. I thank all those right across the Western Trust area who have taken the time to consider and respond to this process. We have been asked by the people to listen to their views and today’s recommendations show that we have listened.”

ENDS

Provided by Communications Department, phone 028 82835197.

Please see notes to editor below for further details

Notes for editors:

The Trust has considered fully the range of issues, views and concerns submitted during the consultation exercise. These views must be balanced with the Trust's responsibility to provide a range of services which effectively meet the assessed health and social care needs of its resident population. The overall service provision model must be in line with the strategic policy framework set out for service provision, ensure that the services provided are high quality, safe, effective and meet all legislative and regulatory requirements. The Trust must also consider alternative residential care provision within each of the localities which is equal or better than the current provision. It is within this context that the Trust has arrived at the following recommendation for each of the four homes identified within the Trust's proposal.

Foyleville Residential Care Home for Older People

The Trust originally proposed that Foyleville would no longer provide residential care from the end of September 2009. Having listened to and carefully considered the strength and depth of feeling expressed by all respondents it is recommended that Foyleville should continue to offer residential care to existing residents for as long as it meets their care needs (eg if a resident's needs change to the point where they require nursing home care, alternative provision will be made). However there should be no further permanent admissions. Where current residents wish to avail of suitable alternative accommodation Trust staff should support residents and relatives in exercising choice.

The Trust has taken into consideration the following factors;

- The reducing level of demand for Residential Care evident within this locality.
- The proximity of William Street Residential Home for Older People.
- The plan to re-model an existing housing facility in this locality has now been adopted by the Western Area Supporting People steering group. This proposal will result in the development of a housing with care facility for older people and will provide 11 additional housing with care places in this area. It is proposed that this will be developed during 2010/11.
- The development of a new floating support scheme for older people will deliver low level care and housing support within this locality. This will commence in May 2009.
- The earmarked investment to enhance the provision of domiciliary care, further develop flexicare, services for carers and the development of telecare.
- The strength and depth of feeling expressed by residents that this is their home.

As at 4 March 2009 Foyleville Residential Care Home had eight permanent residents.

Gortmore Residential Care Home for Older People

The Trust originally proposed that Gortmore would no longer provide residential care from the end of September 2009. Having listened to and carefully considered the strength and depth of feeling by all respondents it is recommended that Gortmore should continue to offer residential care to existing residents for as long as it meets their care needs (eg if a resident's needs change to the point where they require nursing home care, alternative provision will be made). However there should be no further permanent admissions. Where current residents wish to avail of suitable alternative accommodation Trust staff would support residents and relatives in exercising choice.

The Trust has taken into consideration the following factors;

- The reducing level of demand for Residential Care evident within this locality.
- The extension of Hillview Nursing and Residential Home will provide residential care facilities within the Omagh area that complies fully with the environmental standards required of new nursing and residential care home facilities.
- The earmarked investment to enhance the provision of domiciliary care, further develop flexicare, services for carers and the development of telecare.

As at 4 March 2009 Gortmore Residential Care Home had 22 permanent residents.

Drumhaw Residential Care Home for Older People

The Trust originally proposed that Drumhaw would no longer provide residential care from the end of March 2010. Having listened to and carefully considered the strength and depth of feeling by all respondents it is recommended that Drumhaw should continue to offer residential care to existing residents for as long as it meets their care needs (eg if a resident's needs change to the point where they require nursing home care, alternative provision will be made). However there should be no further permanent admissions. Where current residents wish to avail of suitable alternative accommodation Trust staff would support residents and relatives in exercising choice.

The Trust has taken into consideration the following factors;

- The reducing level of demand for Residential Care evident within this locality.
- Engagement with a local nursing home provider in Lisnaskea, who now proposes to develop a further 20 places, 15 of which will be registered for residential care. This extension will comply fully with the environmental standards required of new nursing and residential care home facilities
- The planned development of a new housing with care and residential EMI facility within Enniskillen to meet the needs of people with dementia within Fermanagh.

- The earmarked investment to enhance the provision of domiciliary care, further develop flexicare, services for carers and the development of telecare.

As at 4 March 2009 Drumhaw Residential Care Home had 23 permanent residents.

Greenfield Residential Home for Older People

The Trust originally proposed that Greenfield would no longer provide residential care from the end of March 2010. Having listened to and carefully considered the strength and depth of feeling by all respondents it is recommended that Greenfield should continue to offer residential care to existing residents for as long as it meets their care needs (eg if a resident's needs change to the point where they require nursing home care, alternative provision will be made).

The Trust will still offer permanent admissions to this Home. However the Trust recognises that Greenfield does not offer the standard of accommodation that we would wish to and therefore it is recommended that Trust staff should work with housing providers to progress the development of care and accommodation alternatives within this locality. This is unlikely to take place within the current CSR period.

Where current residents wish to avail of suitable alternative accommodation Trust staff would support residents and relatives in exercising choice.

The Trust has taken into consideration the following factors;

- The level of demand for Residential Care within this locality.
- The limited range of alternative accommodation options within this locality.
- The earmarked investment to enhance the provision of domiciliary care, further develop flexicare, services for carers and the development of telecare.

As at 4 March 2009 Greenfield Residential Care Home had 23 permanent residents.

Day Care

Level 1 will be targeted towards those people with higher level support needs and will provide essential support to those suffering from dementia, those with complex physical care needs and those requiring time-limited rehabilitative support.

Level 2 services will be delivered by the community and voluntary sector through a range of service level agreements (to be reviewed and developed). This service will support those clients whose needs are assessed as falling within the moderate and lower categories of need as defined within the new 'Regional Access Criteria'. The new model of service delivery will ensure there is equal access to both levels of service across the Western Trust area.