



Press Release
05 November 2007

**Doctors encouraged grasp the opportunities for
shaping health and social care provision**

Northern Ireland's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, during a recent visit to the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT), encouraged the Western Trust's Corporate Management and Consultant Teams to seize the opportunities for shaping the future of health and social care provision.

Dr McBride visited the Western Trust's Altnagelvin Area, Lakeview, Tyrone County and Erne Hospitals.

During his visit, Dr McBride met with Western Trust's Corporate Management Team and with over 60 of the Trust's Consultant staff to hear first hand about the experience of staff and patients during a time of unprecedented change in health and social care across the Western Trust area and indeed throughout Northern Ireland.

He spoke about the importance of building professional confidence and leadership and highlighted the important leadership role medical staff must play formally and informally in the new Western Trust. He said: "Doctors must and will play a vital role in shaping and developing patient and client focused services through integrated service delivery. They must influence thinking on matters of regional and national importance such as junior doctor training and the impact of access targets on service delivery."

He paid tribute to the Western Trust and its medical consultant team for their dedication and commitment to improving services for patients and clients. The success of this commitment is reflected in service developments such as Diagnostics at the Tyrone County Hospital, Paediatric Services at the Erne and Renal Dialysis at Altnagelvin Area and Tyrone County Hospitals.

The Western Trust's Medical Director, Dr Anne Kilgallen, said: "The visit provided a tremendous opportunity for the Chief Medical Officer to meet with our team of highly skilled and committed consultants. We are very fortunate to have access to such expertise here in the West and the Chief Medical Officer was very impressed with the medical consultant workforce. The Western Trust aims to make the West the best and the Medical Team will play a fundamental part in the successful delivery of this goal. We are experiencing unprecedented levels of change in health and social care and our doctors and consultants have a vital role in ensuring better outcomes for patients and clients. "

During his visit to the Western Trust's Erne Hospital, the Chief Medical Officer visited the Paediatric Inpatient Ward. The doctors and nurses at the Erne Hospital discussed the recent service developments at the Paediatric Ward and outlined some of the benefits received from the training provided to medical students, junior doctors and nursing staff.

At the Tyrone County Hospital, Dr McBride met with a group of doctors, visited the Radiology Department and theatres and discussed plans for the development of the Day Procedure Unit.

At Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Dr McBride visited the Renal Unit and the Endoscopy Suite and met with medical education leads and divisional clinical directors and associate medical directors. He was briefed on the plans for investment in Trauma and Orthopaedics and on the Western Trust's commitment to training and education of junior doctors.

Ends...

**For further information contact:
Oliver or Susan in the WHSCT Communications Office on 028 7161 1188
or 028 7161 1429**