

**Press Release
25 September 2007****Western Trust nurses lead the way in developing people and practice skills**

Nursing and midwifery staff from the Western Health and Social Care Trust (Western Trust) were applauded recently at a celebration event to mark development in clinical leadership. Last year, the former Sperrin Lakeland Trust, which is now part of the Western Trust, invested in a Clinical Leadership Programme for Ward Managers and Nurse Team Leaders. The year long leadership programme was tailor-made to the leadership skills of nursing staff who lead teams in the provision of frontline patient care and services.

Twenty managers from community, mental health and acute services nursing in the southern sector of the Western Trust have now successfully completed the clinical leadership programme

Speaking at the celebratory event, Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Care Trust, Elaine Way, congratulated participants and officially marked the closing of the programme, saying: "This unique programme enables nurses to respond more effectively in complex and ever changing health care environments. The former Sperrin and Lakeland Trust, and now the new amalgamated Western Health and Social Care Trust, is committed to preparing nurses to lead in a healthcare system undergoing extreme change."

She continued: "This programme has supported our nurses in a very practical way and will help them deliver safe and effective patient care."

Chairman of the Western Trust, Gerard Guckian, added: "Today's programme is an example of money well spent. This is clearly visible through the range of tremendous projects on display and through the valuable skills which are now evident in all of the nurses who completed the training. The nurses, over the past year, have demonstrated development professionally, personally and on a team and organizational basis."

Commenting on the programme the Executive Director of Nursing for the Western Health and Social Care Trust, Alan Corry Finn said: "Nursing makes up the biggest staff group in health and social services. Investing in training to enhance effective professional practice and leadership is key to

ensuring the excellence that we continuously strive to achieve. We, as a profession must continue to ensure the personal and professional development of all of those for whom we are responsible.”

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