



GP Liaison Forum



Alan Corry-Finn
Director of Primary Care & Older People's Services
Chairman of GP Liaison Forum

A GP Liaison Forum has been established in the Western Trust area. The Forum will meet every two months and the notes of the meetings will be sent to every GP practice in the area.



The Terms of reference for the Forum were agreed at the first meeting which took place on 23 June 2008.

The Forum has now met on two occasions and has discussed and addressed a wide range of issues including Intermediate Care Arrangements; Discharge and Outpatient Information; Dermatology and Neurology arrangements; staffing in treatment rooms; Radiology reporting times; GP prescribing of Antibiotics; GP Remuneration and Consultant appointments.

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Welcome to GP Links

Welcome to the first edition of GP Links, a newsletter by the Western Health and Social Care Trust for GPs practising in the Western area.

The Western Trust aims to produce and issue GP Links every quarter. The newsletter will also be available on the Trust Website: www.westerntrust.hscni.net under the links section.

GP links is designed to provide information about the Trust and its services. It will feature news about the Trust and its appointments, average waiting times for access to services and share and promote best practice across the Western Trust area.

Please send your feedback or suggestions for future content to the Trust's Head of Communications, Oliver Kelly, at (028) 7161 1188 or (028) 8283 5253 or email: oliver.kelly@westerntrust.hscni.net



I hope you find this edition both informative and enjoyable and please take the time to share your comments with us through our Communications Team.

Elaine Way
Chief Executive

Pictured are those GP's who attended the most recent GP Liaison Forum Meeting, left to right Dr Brian Gallagher, Dr Martin Mc Closkey and Dr Ian Gordan. Not pictured are Dr Eugene Haigney and Dr Kieran Deeny GP Representatives on the Forum.



Family Liaison Service

Supporting families bereaved by suicide

One of the objectives of the 'Protect life' Suicide Prevention Strategy is to ensure that accessible information and timely support, both at community / voluntary and statutory level is available to all those bereaved by suicide and to encourage the development of support groups/networks

When asked what would have helped, one family said: "Someone to talk to who knew about suicide." In response to this the Western Trust has initiated the Family Liaison Services throughout the Western area.

Those bereaved by suicide are considered to be a vulnerable and high-risk group and area priority for support within the strategy.

What support is provided by the Family Liaison Service?

We carry out a needs assessment. We provide practical support and guidance re: the feelings experienced, the investigation of the death and the sorting out of affairs. We provide short term follow up support. We

provide reading materials. We refer to statutory and/or voluntary helping services. We invite bereaved family members to join the local support groups, which we facilitate.

Who can be referred to the family Liaison Service?

Any one directly affected by a death by suicide can avail of this service.

- Any one can self refer to the service
- GP referral
- Statutory service
- Community / voluntary service

How to make a referral to the service

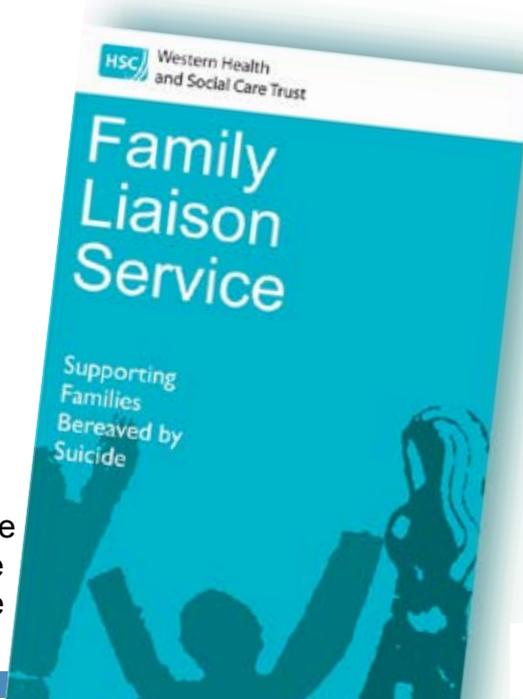
Phone your local suicide liaison Officer giving a brief history and contact details and we will arrange an initial meeting within 48 hours to help identify support

Who to contact:

Barry McGale
Suicide Liaison Officer
Western Health & Social Care Trust
Old Bridge House
Glendermott Road
L'Derry
BT47 6AU
T: 02871 320138
M: 07714 098117

Dermot Lynch
Suicide Liaison Officer
Western Health & Social Care Trust
Omagh Community Mental
Health Team
41a Dublin Road
Omagh
BT78 1HE
T: 02882 252202
M: 07949914144

The new 24 hr LIFELINE service provides support and referral to face-to-face counselling or other alternative therapies to those who are feeling low, anxious, depressed or in despair
0808 808 8000 (Calls are free from all landlines and mobiles)





Outpatient Waiting Times

The Trust is currently working hard to meet the PFA target of 9-weeks for first outpatient appointment before the end of March 2009.

No patient is currently waiting longer than 13-weeks for their appointment (PFA target at end of March 2008) and most specialities are making good progress towards the achievement of the 9-week target.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to remind GPs of the process for referral to the Consultant Services. There are two Central Referrals Offices in the Trust: the first is based in Altnagelvin Hospital for the receipt of referrals for the northern sector and the second is based in Tyrone County Hospital for the receipt of referrals for the southern sector. The Central Referrals Offices then register the referrals and commence the process for the patients being appointed. It would be appreciated if referrals direct to Consultants could be stopped as they, or their secretary, could be on leave thus delaying the process and disadvantaging your patients.

GP Browser

A GP Browser has been installed in all GP practices within the Western Trust area. This was carried out by the Western Trust in conjunction with the WHSSB and Practice Managers. A presentation was given to Practice Managers on the 22nd October 2008 and all Practices in the Southern sector are being given to access to view Altnagelvin's system. This is currently in the process of being actioned. The Western Trust also has an ongoing project for Immediate Discharge letter being piloted in Ward 3 Altnagelvin and are planning to implement it also in Erne Hospital, Cardiology in December 2008. In the next edition there will be a feature on the GP browser to highlight what it is and how it will be useful for GP practices.

Colorectal Service Arrangements

New arrangements for Colorectal Services have been put into operation this September 2008 by the Western Trust. These arrangements will run until the second consultant is appointed.



Mr Roger Lawther

Mrs Margaret Kelly, Director of Acute Care for the Western Trust, commented: "We are pleased to announce that our recent recruitment process has been successful with the permanent appointment of Mr Roger Lawther in the post of Consultant in General Surgery with specialist interest in colorectal surgery. Mr Lawther has taken up this appointment from 1 September 2008."

She continued: "The Western Trust has now in place collaborative arrangements with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. An agreement has been reached with the South Eastern Trust to provide an outreach service at Altnagelvin Area Hospital, to support this new appointment until the appointment of a second consultant." "Patient care and the high quality of the services we provide are of the utmost importance to the Western Trust. We believe the measures now put in place will guarantee that these standards will not be affected during this interim period. The Western Trust is fully committed to developing a Colorectal Service for our patients both now and in the future."

Mrs Margaret Kelly concluded: "These interim arrangements will start from early September and the full local service will resume upon the appointment of a second Consultant."

Treatment Room Nurses

A briefing on treatment room nurse provision was provided at the October 2008 GP Liaison Forum. The Western Trust values the significant contribution of its treatment room nurses who work alongside their nursing colleagues and GPs in providing health care across the Western area. There has been ongoing dialogue with the Western Health and Social Services Board's following their £98,000 additional investment for treatment room services. The Western Board has determined that this investment should be allocated on a population basis.

The Western Trust must live within the resources allocated and the services for which treatment room nurses are resourced were discussed at the GP Liaison Forum meeting. Any GP who would like to discuss this further should contact their Locality Services Manager or Geraldine Hillick, (Assistant Director of Primary and Community Care with the Western Trust) at (028) 7127 2120.

We are keen to hear your views on the 1st edition of GP Links. Does it contain the right information? Is GP Links relevant and concise? Have you any suggestions for further content? Please send your comments to Oliver Kelly on oliver.kelly@westerntrust.hscni.net or call (028) 7161 1188



Focus on... Trauma and Orthopaedics

The Trauma and Orthopaedic service in the Western Trust continues to develop in terms of size and range of services offered.

Following a regional review of T&O services during 2007, the Western Trust has received significant additional recurrent funding for T&O services. A plan of service redesign is being implemented by staff across many departments in the Western Trust.

Key Aims

Key aims are to further reduce the access times for both orthopaedic elective and trauma patients.

- At present 75% of all fracture patients are treated within 48 hours where clinically appropriate, this will increase to 95% by March 2009.
- Currently patients requiring outpatient orthopaedic appointments wait no longer than 13 weeks; this will reduce to 9 weeks by March 2009.
- For elective inpatients who currently wait no longer than 21 weeks this will reduce to 13 weeks.

Key Achievements

These and other improvements are being realised through the work of teams in the Trust to redesign patient pathways. For example:

- All fracture patients are now admitted directly to the fracture unit and not the referring hospital.
- Increased theatre sessions and associated staff have been introduced.
- New role developments for trauma co-ordinators, nurse specialists and rehab staff have been influential in improving the patient's journey.
- Development of step down fracture rehab services in both nurse led units and in

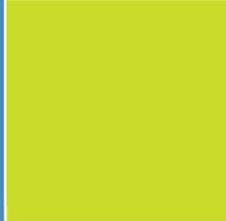
community rehab teams are also planned for the latter part of this year.

High Quality Care

These many changes alongside the development of the orthopaedic ICATS service and appointments of new orthopaedic consultants specialising in upper limb conditions means that residents accessing service in the Western Trust areas, as well as part of the Northern Trust Area, are assured of a high standard of T&O service from the Western Trust.

Mr Phil Charlwood lead clinician for T&O and Cathy Glass T&O Unit manager for the Western Trust are leading these processes. Cathy would be happy to be contacted regarding any further enquires regarding developments in our service her email is cathy.glass@westerntrust.hscni.net.





Consultant Appointments

The Western Trust has appointed the following consultants:

Dr David Morgan
Cardiology, Erne Hospital

Dr Eugene Campbell
Gastroenterology, Erne Hospital

Mr Brian Swinson
Oral & Maxillofacial, Altnagelvin

Dr John Riddell
Cardiology, Altnagelvin

Dr Jacqueline Cartmill
Obs & Gynae, Altnagelvin

Dr Iris Menniger
Obs & Gynae, Altnagelvin

Dr Stephen Clenaghan
Emergency Medicine, Altnagelvin

Dr John Doherty
Anaesthetics Altnagelvin

Dr Ruth Conroy
Radiology Altnagelvin

Mr Roger Lawther
General Surgery with an interest in
Colorectal Surgery, Altnagelvin

Dr Terence McManus
Respiratory Medicine and General Internal
Medicine Erne/Tyrone County Hospitals

Please keep an eye out in future editions of GP Links for additional consultants appointed to the Western Trust and their specialties.

News in Brief

The Western Trust Launches Equality Screening Consultation

The Western Health and Social Care Trust has started its Equality Impact Assessment Screening Consultation on the Comprehensive Spending Review programme 2008-11. The Equality Screening document is available on the Trust's website www.westerntrust.hscni.net. The Trust welcomes all views on the screening consultation and would invite you to respond through the Western Trust's Equality and Human Rights Unit by calling (028) 8283 5278 or emailing: Email: equality.admin@westerntrust.hscni.net

Annual Report

The Western Trust has launched its 2007/08 Annual Report. The report can be accessed on the Trust's website (www.westerntrust.hscni.net) under the 'published information' section.

GP Out of Hours

GP Out of Hours Services, in the Derry City Council area, have relocated from Great James Street Health Centre to a new location at the new Outpatients building in Altnagelvin Hospital from Tuesday 30 September 2008.

South West Hospital Tenderer Appointed

Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey, announced that Northern Ireland Health Group has been appointed successful tenderer for the new £267m acute hospital in Enniskillen on the 17 September 2008. The Western Trust will now work with the Northern Ireland Health Group, a private sector consortium, to take the project forward through contract conclusion and construction in accordance with EU procurement rules.



AMU on the move

The AMU (Acute Medical Unit) at Altnagelvin Area Hospital will move from its current location over the weekend commencing Friday 24th October.

From 24th – 25th October AMU will move from the Ground floor Altnagelvin Area Hospital to Ward 2 (2nd floor) where it will newly reside on a permanent basis. The name of AMU will remain the same, however Ward 2 will be renamed 'Medical Ward Ground Floor'.

Margaret Kelly, Director of Acute Care for the Western Trust commented: "This change is a result of service developments within the Western Trust, which will improve the quality of care received by patients. Additional capacity has been

created as part of this move to develop AMU. Once this move is complete it will allow the Trust to reconfigure the acute medical bed base to provide greater assessment and throughput of patients and also provide and improve services for our patients.

She continued: "The benefits of this change include: reduced unnecessary admissions; reduce delays in A & E for patients waiting to be assessed; reduced length of stay; improved discharge planning, more effective assessment and treatment of patients and also an increase from 14 beds currently to 21 beds plus four trolleys."

We would also appreciate, when appropriate, your help

informing any patients who may be affected during this period of transition. If you require further information please contact Colleen Coyle, Service Redesign, Programme Manager on 028 71345171 ext 3625.

Pictured below are members of the AMU Move Project Team who coordinated the recent move of AMU to Ward 2 at Altnagelvin Area Hospital. L to R: Maeve Brown, Divisional Nurse Emergency Care & Medicine; Bronagh Hegarty, Principal Pharmacist of Patient Services; Sharon Patton, Head of Nutrition and Dietitian Services; Morris McCarter, Estates Services; Elaine Grant, Sister Ward 2; Tracey McKeever, Dietitian and Chris Devlin, Site Management.

