

HSC REFORM AND TRANSFORMATION

Expert panel: optimal configuration of health and social care services - Terms of Reference

In his speech of 4 November 2015 Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Simon Hamilton MLA, announced that in response to recommendation 1 of *The Right Time, The Right Place* report by Sir Liam Donaldson, he would appoint an expert, clinically led panel to consider and lead an informed debate on the best configuration of Health and Social Care services in Northern Ireland.

Sir Liam's report stated:

"A proportion of poor quality, unsafe care occurs because local hospital facilities in some parts of Northern Ireland cannot provide the level and standards of care required to meet patients' needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Proposals to close local hospitals tend to be met with public outrage, but this would be turned on its head if it were properly explained that people were trading a degree of geographical inconvenience against life and death. Finding a solution should be above political self-interest".

The Panel will draw on the experience of people working in Northern Ireland but will use international expertise as appropriate.

The Panel will:

- Produce a set of principles to underpin reconfiguration of health and social care services.
- Support and lead debate including at a political summit to be held in early 2016 to agree the principles.
- Use the results of the political summit to develop a clinically informed model for the future configuration of health and social care, which will ensure world class provision for everyone in Northern Ireland.

- Clearly quantify the specific benefits in health outcomes that will be derived from the new model, both for individuals and the Northern Ireland population as a whole.