

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



DOH ALB Chairs

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

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Dear Colleagues,

REBUILDING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Following on from my commitment to update you all following the weekly meeting of the Management Board, please find below my update following the Management Board meeting on Wednesday 30 September 2020 which considered a range of issues.

The Board received an update on the progress of the Nightingale Project, which remains on track to deliver. Work is underway to finalise the staffing model.

The Board also discussed Surge and Rebuilding Plans. Members received an update on the performance of Trusts against the targets outlined in their July – September plans, with Trusts on track to meet the projected level of activity. Members also discussed Surge Plans developed by the Trusts to address operational resilience for winter pressures and Trust Rebuilding Plans for October – December and agreed to recommend the plans which will be submitted to me for my consideration.

The Board also received an update on the Review of Commissioning and ongoing work to finalise the draft Bill to give effect to closure of the HSCB in March 2022.

The Board also received an update from the Service Delivery Innovation workstream which has identified the areas of virtual visiting, virtual consultations and supporting staff psychological safety as key priorities. Members agreed the way forward subject to the availability of funding.

The Board received an overview on the benefits of the full implementation of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Clinical Response Model. Following approval of the introduction of the new call categorization code in November 2019 which has enabled NIAS to better identify and prioritise their response to life threatening category 1 calls, work is ongoing to identify the resources required to complete the implementation of the Model.

The Board received an update on the progress of the Rebuilding of General Medical Services (GMS) which outlined how GMS adapted in response to the COVID-19 outbreak earlier in the year as well as the challenges and priorities in preparing for a second wave.

The Board also considered current bed occupancy across Trusts. It was highlighted that additional pressures due to COVID-19 outbreaks would present further challenges. The Board agreed that an update on bed occupancy should be a standing agenda item for future meetings going forward so that consideration can be given to repositioning of the Board if required in the context of rapidly growing pressures.

I trust that you find this update helpful and I look forward to our continuing discussion on the vitally important work of rebuilding HSC services in the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', written in a cursive style.

Robin Swann MLA
Minister for Health

