

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 04 November 2020, which considered a range of issues.

The Board received an overview of the development of a new planning model for HSC Services. On 14 October 2020, I granted approval for the development of an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI, which will establish a new regional approach to the planning and delivery of health and social care services supported by new governance, finance and accountability structures. A Project Board will be established with senior representatives from key areas to facilitate the early stages of this work. Phase 1 proposes the development and implementation of an ICS prototype across all five Trusts by 31 March 2022.

The Board also received an overview of the Trusts' progress in delivering planned activity as set out in the Trust Phase 2 (July – September 2020) Rebuilding plans published on 10 July 2020. On the whole, Trusts have exceeded the planned levels of activity as set out in the data annex to the Phase 2 Rebuilding plans.

The Board received an update on Service Delivery Innovation in respect of the three themes being progressed (use of virtual technology to support virtual visiting during COVID 19, use of technology to support virtual consultations during COVID 19 and supporting staff psychological safety during COVID 19). Going forward, Trusts are in the process of agreeing regional aims and measures for each theme.

The Board also received an update on Pharmacy Services Surge & Rebuild Plans which detailed how pharmacy services responded to the first surge to ensure delivery of services, in the three areas of; supporting reconfigured services, securing critical medicines and delivering redesigned patient pathways.

A number of ongoing system wide programmes will take forward the strategic leadership for further rebuilding in pharmacy services - Medicines Safety; Medicines Optimisation Regional Efficiency (MORE); Pharmacy Workforce Development; Trust pharmacy infrastructure review; Innovation and E-pharmacy.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', is positioned below the closing text.

Robin Swann MLA
Minister for Health