

## FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



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Dear *Chairs,*

### 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 07 October 2020 which considered a range of issues.

The Board received an overview on how general Acute Hospital Bed Occupancy figures are currently collated and reported on and considered proposals to move to the use of data which more closely correlates with that used by Trust control rooms. The proposal recommended the introduction of a daily 9am Bed Occupancy Rate analysis and a daily Projected Bed Occupancy Rate to include the occupancy rate for COVID patients.

The Board received an update on the progress to date on the first Action Plan of the workforce strategy (implementation of the strategy is split into three Action Plans covering the periods 2018-2020, 2021-2023 and 2024-2026). Progress was noted in relation to the EU Exit, the Single Employer model for doctors and dentists in training, the Regional HSC Careers Service and the commissioning of Education and Training across a range of specialities with an increase in commissioned undergraduate places. The Board noted the challenges which face the successful implementation of the strategy. Going forward, a second Action Plan (Strategy 2021 – 2023) will be developed. Proposals for the prioritisation of key elements of the strategy will be submitted to the Board for consideration.

The Board also received an overview on the positive progress to date on the Leadership strategy and proposed way forward. A set of HSC Values and Behaviours have been agreed and implemented across the HSC system and a Collective Leadership Framework has been developed and embedded into the leadership programme with the Team based Working model being fundamental in moving forward to embed the practice of collective leadership in teams.

The Board considered proposals for the short term stabilisation of surgical services in SWAH. Medical Directors have agreed to work together to stabilise the Emergency Surgical Service in SWAH, to identify solutions for the continuation of services in parallel with the development of longer term solutions. The Management Board will receive an update on progress at next week's meeting.

The Board received an overview of the Royal College of Surgeon's document 'Protecting Surgery through a Second Wave' which was published on 06 October 2020.

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,



**Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister for Health**