

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Elaine Way, Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Care Trust, has advised that in response to a request from the DHSSPS, she is arranging for an assessment of the services currently being provided in Tyrone County Hospital.

In a statement to staff, Mrs. Way said:

“Safe, effective and high quality services are a priority for the Western Health and Social Care Trust. To ensure such services are available to all patients in the western area, I have been asked by Dr Andrew McCormick, Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS, to undertake an assessment of the services currently being provided at the Tyrone County Hospital, which are an essential element of the entire acute service provision in the western area.

Now that the Urgent Care and Treatment Centre and the Clinical Decision Unit have been in place for a year, the Department is seeking a fresh assurance that these services continue to be safe and sustainable,” she added.

Mrs. Way emphasised that staff and patient representatives would be involved in the assessment.

“This work should be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and during this process we will engage with staff and user representatives to guide our work,” she said.

Mrs. Way continued:

“A further step in this process has been the confirmation by Dr McCormick that work should commence on the commissioning of the new local hospital in Omagh. This is a welcome development in improving services for our patients and clients.”

A steering group, chaired by Margaret Kelly, Director of Acute Services for the Western Trust, will lead the assessment process.

“The steering group will make recommendations for the modernisation and reshaping of services in line with the strategic direction described in ‘Developing Better Services’, said Mrs. Way. “This will include ways in which Tyrone County Hospital can contribute further to networked services,” she added.

Mrs. Way continued: “Tyrone County Hospital, and in the longer term, the new local hospital, will continue to play a major role in the provision of hospital services to people in the south west.”

Deleted: Elaine Way also advised that confirmation had been received from the Department that work should commence on the commissioning of the new local hospital in Omagh, which she described as a welcome development.

#### **ENDS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007**

**Provided by the Communications Office, Western HSC Trust, phone 71611429**

#### **Note to editors:**

1. ‘Developing Better Services’ (DBS) is changing the way in which health care services are provided to patients throughout Northern Ireland. These changes are taking place at local, sub-regional and regional levels and are reflected both in where and how these services are being provided.

Under DBS the Health and Care Services are working to develop a model of health care which will provide high quality, safe, accessible services for the patient wherever he or she may live. DBS is a modernisation programme which puts the patient first. It is based on the belief that the people of Northern Ireland deserve the best possible health care system – one which is safe, effective and efficient within the limits of available resources. Of the many and varied projects which make up DBS, the overall goal remains the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland.

Further information on DBS is available on the DHSSPS website.

