



March 21st, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Thursday, 24th March 2022** at **2:00 pm** in **Zoom**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 South Eastern Trust

Attendees:

Roisin Coulter (Chief Executive)

David Robinson (Director of Hospital Services)

📄 *Newry Mourne.pdf*

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📄 *Response to NMD South Eastern Health Working Group 18_03_22.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Mr Alan Beggs
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Ms Kate Bingham
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Mr Caolain Boyd
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Cllr Patrick Brown
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Cllr Robert Burgess
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Mr Gerard Byrne
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Mrs Dorinnia Carville
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Cllr Charlie Casey
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Dermot Curran
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Mr Eoin Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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Cllr Hugh Gallagher
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Mr Conor Haughey
.....
Mrs Janine Hillen
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Mr Colum Jackson
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Miss Veronica Keegan
.....
Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
.....
Cllr Alan Lewis
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Mr Michael Lipsett
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Mrs Regina Mackin
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Gavin Malone
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Cllr Cathy Mason
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Mr Johnny Mc Bride
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Colette McAteer
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Jonathan McGilly
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Cllr Harold McKee
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Patricia McKeever
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Cllr Karen McKeivitt
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Catrina Miskelly
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
.....
Mr Kevin Scullion
.....
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
.....
Cllr Gary Stokes
.....
Sarah Taggart
.....
Paul Tamati
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr John Trainor
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

3rd March 2022

Roisin Coulter
Chief Executive
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
Trust Headquarters
Ulster Hospital
Upper Newtownards Rd
Dundonald
BT16 1RH



Dear Roisin,

Re: South Eastern Health Working Group

Following a recent meeting of the above group I have summarised the key issues raised by members. These issues will be raised at the Special Council meeting on 24 March 2022.

To allow those who may not be able to attend this meeting to be fully informed on the matters raised, I would be grateful if you could provide your response on these issues in writing by 16th March 2022.

The Downe Hospital

1. It is understood the NIAS are only managing 1 in 11 patient handovers to hospital staff. What steps will be taken to address this situation and identify what hospital this is happening at?
2. Given recent discussion regarding car park charges at Daisy Hill Hospital, are there any plans to introduce car park charges at Downe Hospital?
3. A community consultation will start on 01 June 2022 at Lagan Valley Hospital about changes to the Emergency Department - why is there not a similar consultation planned for Downe Hospital – is this because a full A&E service will be restored at Downe Hospital?
4. What steps are being taken to recruit Emergency Doctors for Downe Hospital.
5. When will an appointment system be restored at GP Surgeries as was in place prior to the covid pandemic?
6. Given the pressures on A&E services, are GPs reconsidering how they are currently operating?
7. What is the delay in issuing details regarding plans for urgent and emergency care?

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O'Hagan House
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Newry BT35 8DJ

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Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



8. What are the Trust doing to assist with community-based solutions to address lower level mental health issues and introduce social prescribing where GPs can refer people to community interventions and how committed are the Trust to such an approach?
9. Are there any plans as in the Republic of Ireland for new consultant contracts?

I look forward to your response on these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorinnia Carville".

Dorinnia Carville
Deputy Chief Executive

Chairman (Acting)
Jonathan Patton

Chief Executive
Roisin Coulter

18 March 2022

Via Email: linda.o'hare@nmandd.org

Ms Dorinnia Carville
Deputy Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Downshire Civic Centre
Downpatrick
BT30 6GQ

Dear Dorinnia

RE SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH WORKING GROUP

I refer to previous correspondence received requesting information on the above matters for members and those who are unable to attend the Special Council meeting scheduled for 24 March 2022.

Please see below comments in relation to information requested. The Trust will further expand on the information provided at the meeting scheduled on 24 March 2022.

The Downe Hospital

- 1. It is understood the NIAS are only managing 1 in 11 patient handovers to hospital staff. What steps will be taken to address this situation and identify what hospital this is happening at?**

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and hospitals are facing continued and sustained pressure, resulting in delays in responding to calls from the community, and then in handing over care to the receiving hospital. It is widely recognised that the inability for an ambulance to offload a person into an emergency department is mostly outside of the remit of the emergency department, it is due to high numbers of people waiting for admission to hospital. The South Eastern Trust is no different in that respect. The Trust is therefore working on improving flow through and out of our hospitals, by working with our clinical teams, as well as our nursing and care home teams to support the timely discharge of people from hospital when they are ready to leave. The Trust works closely with Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, and other partners to ensure those who come to hospital, but are unable to offload to the emergency department, are assessed to ensure they are clinically stable, and are prioritised based on clinical need. There is a regional Unscheduled Care Escalation plan that supports the ambulance service to attend any appropriate emergency department with a person to support turnaround of ambulances as quickly as possible.

2. Given recent discussion regarding car park charges at Daisy Hill Hospital, are there any plans to introduce car park charges at Downe Hospital?

There are no plans to introduce parking charges at the Downe Hospital within the next 18 months. The Trust is also conscious of the Hospital Parking Charges Bill currently going through the Assembly and the outcome of this will determine our longer term strategy for managing parking capacity on our larger sites such as the Downe.

3. A community consultation will start on 1 June 2022 at Lagan Valley Hospital about changes to the Emergency Department – why is there not a similar consultation planned for Downe Hospital – is this because a full A&E service will be restored at Downe Hospital?

The Trust launched a public consultation on temporary changes to Lagan Valley Hospital Emergency Services on 23 February 2022. The changes we are consulting on were primarily driven by a shortage of medical staff.

The changes made to the Downe Hospital over the last 2 years, including the temporary closure, reinstatement as a nurse led minor injuries service in August 2020, the provision of a consultant-led Urgent Care Centre in October 2020 and access via Phone first were all made as part of the South Eastern Trust Covid-19 response in order to support and protect the provision of Trust services during the pandemic.

Due to the imminent risk to life, and the immediate need to implement measures to protect and safeguard the greater public health interest from the Covid-19 virus in March 2020, it was not possible to complete a full Equality Impact Assessment, Rural Needs Impact Assessment or to publicly consult on plans.

These enhanced arrangements at the Downe Hospital are temporary decisions in response to Covid-19 and the Trust remains committed to establishing a Health & Care Partnership Forum and to undertaking relevant public consultation in due course.

4. What steps are being taken to recruit Emergency Doctors for Downe Hospital.

The Trust has undertaken a recruitment campaign to appoint specialty doctors in Emergency Medicine. The Emergency Medicine team work across the three South Eastern Trust sites, and appointments to this team will work across the three sites, reflecting the model that the emergency department consultant team use. However, the number of suitably trained and qualified doctors in this category is low, and will not make a significant difference to the overall cover available across all three hospital sites. The interim model in Downe Hospital currently has seen a significant drop in unfilled shifts and locum dependency. Monday to Friday, there is currently a consultant with at least two other specialty doctors, emergency nurse practitioners, and at times, advanced nurse practitioners.

5. When will an appointment system be restored at GP Surgeries as was in place prior to the covid pandemic?

The Trust has no responsibility for GP practices and therefore cannot comment on the above query. Concerns relating to access to these services is a matter for discussion with the Health and Social Care Board.

6. Given the pressures on A&E services, are GPs reconsidering how they are currently operating?

The Trust has no responsibility for GP practices and therefore cannot comment on the above query. Concerns relating to access to these services is a matter for discussion with the Health and Social Care Board.

7. What is the delay in issuing details regarding plans for urgent and emergency care?

The Minister of Health, Robin Swann, launched a Department of Health public consultation on the findings of the Review of Urgent and Emergency Care on 16 March 2002. This document sets a clear way forward for urgent and emergency care services, it is envisaged that the proposed reforms will help to ensure that all citizens in Northern Ireland have equal access to safe urgent and emergency care services, tailored to their specific needs, at the right time and in the right place. The consultation will run until 15 June 2022.

8. What is the Trust doing to assist with community-based solutions to address lower level mental health issues and introduce social prescribing where GPs can refer people to community interventions and how committed are the Trust to such an approach?

The Trust is aware of the ongoing increase in demand for mental health services and is committed to ensuring safe and effective services are provided to address mental health issues within community settings. One of the ways the Trust continues to do so is through the ongoing development of Well-being Hubs across localities (see more information below):

Wellbeing Hub

A new operating model has been developed whereby all stakeholders (South Eastern Trust, Primary Care Multi-Disciplinary Teams, Healthy Living Alliances and Community Networks) work together to create and develop a new Wellbeing Hub for Ards, North Down and Down Localities to maximise both accessibility and the support provided to people / patients with mild to moderate mental health difficulties. The Hub operates with a single point of referral from Primary Care and Multi-Disciplinary Teams. Since the Wellbeing Hub was launched we have received 1342 referrals to date (February 2021 to March 2022).

The new Wellbeing Hub incorporates the following main elements / teams:

- 1) Primary Care based / Multi-disciplinary Mental Health teams comprised of mental health practitioners. This team is already established within the Down Sector. The Multi-disciplinary Mental Health teams undertake the following key tasks:
 - Primary care assessment / wellbeing discussion with GP patients;
 - Brief Intervention and psycho-education/advice for a range of mental health conditions with GP patients;
 - Ability to directly access specific Step 2 Talking Therapies for GP patients;
 - Overseeing the governance arrangements of all Talking Therapy providers within the local provider Consortium;
 - Ability to escalate directly to Mental Health Assessment Centre (Secondary Care) and vice versa (step down) for GP patients or for those who have been brought to their attention by the Healthy Living Centre 'Get Help Here' team (to reduce demand on GP practices);
 - Agree other wellbeing support options for GP patients, such as art / music therapy / social prescribing in consultation with the Healthy Living Centre 'Get Help Here' team;

- Where there is capacity, due to full Multi-Disciplinary Teams funding, there will also be the delivery of direct patient Step 2 treatment (including extended brief intervention) and therapeutic group work e.g. SET (South Eastern Trust) Outdoors for children as well as direct referral pathways e.g. Barnardos NOVA Trauma Support Service and Action Mental Health New Life OKAY (Only Kids & Youth) service contracts;
- Engage with wider Multi-Disciplinary Teams colleagues in relation to the delivery of further wellbeing programmes such as the Multi-Disciplinary Teams Social Work team delivering lower-level wellbeing sessions for children with moderate levels of anxiety via SET (South Eastern Trust) Outdoors.

2) Healthy Living Centres & Network

Healthy Living Centres & Network are an integral part of the Hub and practitioners/ Wellbeing Hub Coordinator can refer / signpost to a wide range of services and initiatives that are delivered or coordinated by these partners. Self-referral to the Healthy Living Centres and Networks is also encouraged. These services include the delivery of specific programmes that support self-care and recovery including play, music, art and outdoor therapy. Other supports relating to specific areas such as pain management, trauma and hazardous drinking are included. There is also close working with the Recovery College and Family Support Hubs, as well as the delivery of Positive Steps courses etc.

The Healthy Living Alliance through their South Eastern Trust Mind Matters Health & Wellbeing Hub (which has recently being launched and is funded for two years) also provides support to individuals, families and carers who are experiencing mental health issues or living with a mental health condition.

To address the emerging need identified, and to provide equality of services across the South Eastern Trust Area, the Trust were able to secure £210k (£180k from Covid funding and 30k from Health Improvement) to enhance current contracts with Providers to ensure that the service was operational in a timely manner. Discussions are on-going with partners (Trust, Local Commissioning Groups and GP Federations etc.) to secure funding to enable the Hub to continue as is and to enhance the service provision.

It is hoped that a consortium will be established with key organisations to oversee and operationalise the delivery of the Hub going forward.

3) Recovery College

The Trust's Recovery College offers educational courses about mental health and recovery that are designed to increase knowledge and skills and promote self-management. These courses are now online. Each course is co-produced and co-facilitated by Recovery College Tutors. At least one Tutor will have lived experience of mental health recovery and the other will have worked in the subject area. The Recovery College is accessible to everyone, including mental health service users, their families/friends; Trust staff and South Eastern Trust partnered organisations. The College is Trust wide with mini-campuses in North Down & Ards, Lisburn and Downpatrick.

4) Wellness Recovery Network

The Mental Health Recovery Network is led and run by people with mental health lived experience. The Network runs wellness group meetings once a month and the aim for every meeting is to give hope to those who attend. Groups discuss self-help strategies with those who attend and focus on their strengths not their weaknesses. A singing group "The Voice of Hope" is

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also facilitated on a weekly basis. The networks operate in the Ards, Downpatrick and Lisburn areas.

9. Are there any plans as in the Republic of Ireland for new consultant contracts?

There are currently no plans to change Health and Social Care Consultant Contracts.

I hope that the information provided above will be useful. Once again, the Trust will further expand on the information provided at the meeting scheduled on 24 March 2022 if necessary.

Yours sincerely



ROISIN COULTER

Chief Executive

cc: Ms N Dunbar, Interim Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics
Dr D Robinson, Director of Hospital Services
Ms C Fox, Temporary Engagement & Involvement Manager