

STRICT EMBARGO: Thurs 25th May 2006 at 2PM

Details of New £150m Omagh Hospital Complex Announced

The Board of Sperrin Lakeland Trust at its meeting today approved the Phase 2 Outline Business Case for the proposed new Omagh Hospital Complex. The proposal now includes plans for a Health & Care Centre and Mental Health Facilities at a total estimated cost of £150 million. The outline business case will now be forwarded to the Department of Health, Social Services and Personal Safety for approval.

It is believed that the entire project will bring additional jobs to the Trust, bringing the total number of staff based on the new Omagh site to over 1000. The new Complex is expected to have around 200 beds in total, with 100 beds in the new Omagh Hospital providing intermediate care, general medicine, renal and day surgery. The plans also include a similar number of mental health beds.

The new Omagh Hospital Complex is a core element of the Trust's plan for modernising health and social care within the area. The plans mark a change in how care is traditionally delivered, that will see a wider range of health services offered from other than a hospital setting. As well as local hospital services, the new complex will bring together community services such as District Nursing, Elderly Care, Specialist Nursing and Health Visiting, onto the site of the new Hospital.

Within the new Hospital itself, there will be 3 core elements. These are an Urgent Care Centre with Emergency Assessment Facilities, inpatient medical and intermediate care wards and a Day Hospital and Outpatient Facilities. The new profile of services has been designed to cut patient waiting times and provide better access to senior clinical staff, as well as to the latest diagnostic techniques and technologies.

The 24-hour Urgent Care Centre with Emergency Assessments will include a Clinical Decisions Unit, and a Minor Injuries Unit. The Centre will be located beside the GP Out of Hours Service, and will be supported by a full X-ray and Imaging suite, ambulance service and mobile cardiac unit.

News Release



A well as a comprehensive Outpatients Department that will offer specialist clinics such as diabetes, dermatology and ENT, the new hospital will offer a range of day services. These will include Day Surgery, a dedicated Women's Health Unit, Children's Centre, sub-regional Renal Unit and a Clinical Investigations Suite offering heart scans and lung function testing, among other services.

The inpatient wards will include General Medicine and will cater for adults suffering from a range of non-life threatening conditions such as pneumonia and other infections, breathing problems and diabetes. There will also be intermediate care wards offering active rehabilitation and palliative care.

The range of mental health facilities will include acute adult and elderly mental health care, challenging behaviour units, an addiction and treatment centre, psychiatric intensive care and a day hospital.

According to Medical Director, Dr Diana Cody, the ultimate aim of the new purpose built hospital is to improve the patient experience. She said, "We can ensure that patients coming to the hospital can receive the most appropriate treatment quickly. Patients should find that they will make fewer trips to the hospital as they will receive more treatments from one planned and co-ordinated visit. We will also have close links to the supporting community care services, so that patients will continue to receive a co-ordinated approach to their care after leaving hospital. The vast majority of care for the local Omagh community will be provided from the Omagh Hospital Complex and networks of care across services in the West and elsewhere in Northern Ireland.

Modern Technologies such as X-rays, scanning and clinical investigations will also be available, including the use of telemedicine. Overall, the community will benefit from a fully integrated local care package."

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Vincent Ryan, Director of Community and Elderly Care for the Trust explained that the aim is to bring more care to the patient, either in their own home, or as close to home as possible. This will mean more team working across the Health professions. This will include all community services such as Health Visiting, Specialist Nursing, Elderly care Teams, Mental Health Services, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Podiatry and Social Work. The new Health & Care Centre will become the focal point for care co-ordination and planning to provide a seamless transition between care in hospital and the community.

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For Further Information please contact;

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Attachments include:

- **Staff Newsletter including profile of services for the New Omagh Hospital Complex**
- **Document on Health & Care Centres and future community care.**
- **Visuals of proposed design for new facilities.**