

**Issued on behalf of Developing Better Services Project  
Sperrin Lakeland Trust**

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**Sperrin Lakeland Trust plan new high-tech Hospitals**

Initial plans for new, leading edge Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services were approved by Sperrin Lakeland Trust today (Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006). This investment of £9million in ICT capital infrastructure, if approved by the Department of Health (DHSSPS), would see the Trust pioneering new technologies on a par with the best in Europe. The project covers a seven-year period, and would see the southwest playing a leading role in modernizing Northern Ireland hospital ICT systems. This initiative is part of the Developing Better Services programme that aims to provide new modern hospital services for the people of West Tyrone and Fermanagh. This investment that Sperrin Lakeland Trust is seeking would see some new systems in place as early as next year, before the move to the new hospital buildings.

In recommending the project to Trust Board, Chief Executive John Compton said that by introducing new technology now, they were preparing for the future. He said "Technology will play a crucial part in how we change the way we do things to offer patients a better and faster service in the future. It will give staff the tools to share information, knowledge and expertise and to link-up with our health care partners across the HPSS. By approving the business case for the new ICT systems, we can begin to train our staff now, and help to prepare for the move to the new hospitals in 5 years time."

The outline business case for the Developing Better Services ICT project is in the first phase of development, and seeks approval from the Department of Health (DHSSPS) to begin some early work on the project, as well as for the resources to move into a more detailed planning stage. When fully implemented, the proposals

would see significant changes in how our hospitals operate. For example, future ward rounds would see doctors replacing the paper record with wireless, mobile computer carts. Electronic records would replace paper based patients notes and Consultants would use video conferencing to link up with other consultants and specialist teams to aid diagnosis or set out care plans. GP's would be able to book a patient directly for an X-ray or an out-patient appointment.

Trust Chairman, Mrs. Gillian Shaw, thanked Project Director Briega Donaghy and her staff for the work and thinking that had gone into the development of the project so far. She said, "This is yet another example of how our staff in Sperrin Lakeland Trust is demonstrating - every day - the hard work and energy that they put in to get the best possible systems of healthcare for the community. They should be highly commended for their efforts".

**-ENDS-**

**The Phase 1, Outline Business Case for New ICT will be forwarded to the DHSSPS for approval, enabling the project to move to phase 2.**

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