

**Health Committee Visit South West Hospitals****Embargo: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008, 3PM**

The Western Health and Social Care Trust today welcomed representatives of the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety on a visit to the South West hospitals. The visit began at the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen where a tour of the hospital included a presentation on the plans for the New Acute Hospital, planned to open in 2012. Committee members then travelled to view the site for the new hospital at Wolf Lough, located just off the Irvinestown Road, en-route to Omagh.

The Health Committee delegation were then welcomed to the Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh where they spent the afternoon visiting the hospital and meeting with a range of staff from a number of hospital departments. A presentation was also provided on the plans for the new Omagh Hospital Complex that includes the Enhanced Local Hospital, Centre for Mental Health and the Health and Care Centre. The delegation concluded their visit by viewing the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital where the new hospital complex will be built by 2013.

Commenting on the importance of the occasion, Trust Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning and Performance, Joe Lusby who hosted the visit said, "Today presented a great opportunity for the Western Trust to demonstrate to our Health Committee the high standards of care and dedication provided by our staff here at the Tyrone County and Erne Hospitals. We have taken the opportunity to illustrate to Committee Members the need for new, modern healthcare facilities and technologies to support and strengthen our staff to enhance the services we provide to our patients in the southwest. Today, I am proud of the staff that we have had the pleasure of introducing to the Health Committee delegation and who demonstrated how the £450 million investment in new southwest hospitals will be money well spent".

**ENDS....**

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