

Embargo: UNTIL 00.01HRS ON MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2006

Trust takes 1st steps to build New Omagh Hospital

Over 150 representatives from Europe's leading building contractors are expected in Belfast today to hear details of the new Omagh Hospital Complex. The £150million project will provide a new Hospital for Omagh, a Health and Care Centre and a Centre for Mental Health. The new, modern facilities are to be built on the site of the existing Tyrone & Fermanagh hospital in the town. The developments are a core part of Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's (DHSSPS) Infrastructure Investment programme that is investing £2.9bn to improve the delivery of Health and Social Services throughout Northern Ireland, and almost £400million in the South West alone.

The Omagh Hospital Complex will play a key role in the Department's Infrastructure Investment Programme for Northern Ireland as it presents a new model for delivering local healthcare. The Complex will provide a focal point for team working within a new integrated health network for the area. Under the new system, the Omagh Hospital will form close links with health professionals delivering care in a community setting and primary care services, as well as with the new acute and regional hospitals.

Supporting Sperrin Lakeland Trust in delivering the investment, Director of the Infrastructure Investment Programme, Dr Jim Livingstone said, 'The Department and the Strategic Investment Board are working in close partnership with the Trust to capture the substantial interest this innovative project is generating among potential investors and developers. Our collective aim is to make sure that the people to be served by these new facilities get maximum benefit for the £150 million investment made by the Government'.

Explaining the vision behind the project, Chief Executive of Sperrin Lakeland Trust, John Compton said, 'We aim to provide high quality services that are both safe and sustainable and deliver these from an environment that will benefit staff, patients and visitors. We are building our staff teams around the needs of patients and the new Hospital Complex will enable true multi-disciplinary team working. These developments will allow the Trust to

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meet our commitment of giving patients better access to a wide range of services as locally as possible. For example, the future will see better co-ordination of appointments and more tests available locally so patients will benefit from fewer trips to hospital and reduced waiting times”.

Highlighting the importance of today's information event for potential contractors, Mr Compton said, “Today is about finding partners who will share our vision and help us make it a reality by 2011”.

ENDS:

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

1. Description of the new Omagh Hospital Complex

Opening in 2011, the new Omagh Hospital Complex presents a new model for local health care delivery and consists of 3 core elements;

1. *The Omagh Hospital*
2. *Omagh Health and Care Centre*
3. *Centre for Mental Health.*

The £150 million Complex brings together members of the health care family, moving towards one-stop services while offering more services as locally as possible. The result for the patient will be better access to a wider range of services, fewer trips to hospital and reduced waiting times.

Omagh Hospital

Delivering a comprehensive range of services, the new Omagh Hospital will provide approximately 100 beds. Proposed services will include;

- Urgent Care & Treatment Centre with 24 hr, Emergency Assessment Unit & G.P. Out of Hours
- Inpatient Wards for General Medicine, Clinical Decisions Unit & Intermediate Care.
- Day Surgery Unit
- Imaging (X-Ray), Diagnosis & Clinical Investigations
- Outpatients Centre, Children's Centre and Women's Health Unit
- Renal Unit

Omagh Health & Care Centre

Enabling health professionals from many disciplines to offer an increased level of support to patients being cared for in hospital, the community or their own homes. Facilities for examination, treatment, assessment and administrative support will be provided. Proposed services will include;

- Health Visiting, Specialist Nursing, Health Promotion
- Social Work Teams; Health & Disability, Elderly Care, Mental Health, Family & Childcare
- Dental and Podiatry

Centre for Mental Health

The new, purpose-built Centre for Mental Health will facilitate the delivery of advanced methods of treatment to both inpatients and outpatients in a homely setting. Facilities will include;

- Wards for Adults and Older People with Acute Mental Health Illnesses
- Psychiatric Intensive Care
- Wards for Patients with Challenging Behaviours
- Addiction Treatment Unit
- Psychosexual Services
- Mental Health Day Hospital

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2. Pending DHSSPS approval of the Phase 2 Outline Business Case and Outline Planning consent from the Planning Service, an advertisement seeking potential contractors for the New Omagh Hospital Complex will be placed in the European Journal in November.

3. This project is part of the first of the wave of hospital projects to come forward from the Investment Strategy for NI, lead by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), and supported by the Strategic Investment Board Ltd. For more information on the SIB including the latest Annual Review and Accounts 2005 visit: www.sibni.org

