

# Refurbishment of the Robinson Memorial Community Hospital

**Consultation Document**

**May 2021**

## Foreword from the Director of Community Care



The Robinson Memorial Hospital, situated in Ballymoney, was opened in 1933 and in 1948 it was integrated into the National Health Service which then became responsible for running the hospital. Adjacent to the hospital is the Ballymoney Health Centre which accommodates two general practices together with a range of community health services. This has created a unique site for the town and the wider Causeway locality.

Community care covers a very wide range of service areas many of which are home-based however we know that there will be a continued need for bed-based community care provision (Intermediate care). The Robinson Hospital plays an important role in the delivery of community services. We aim to ensure our service users are supported within an appropriate bed-based facility to regain and maintain their skills of daily living and to achieve optimum levels of independence.

This consultation document sets out why we believe we need to modernise the Robinson Community Hospital. We hope through the proposed changes to be able to improve the experience for future service users and staff working in the Hospital. We look forward to the opportunity to engage with you and get your feedback on the proposed changes, which will help us to develop the service going forward.

**Roy Hamill**

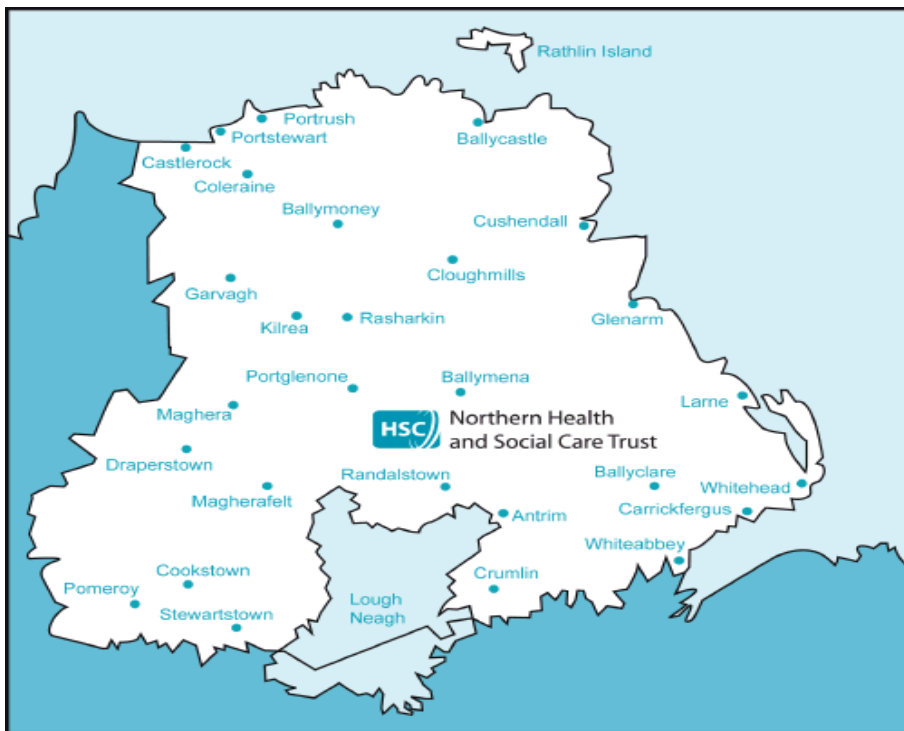
**Director Community Care**

## About the Trust

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust) was established on 1 April 2007 under the Northern Health and Social Services (Establishment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2006.

The Trust provides a wide range of acute hospital, community care, social services and services in peoples own homes across the whole of the Northern Trust area, which has a population of approximately 465,000. The map below shows the area covered by the Northern Trust. It is one of five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland.

## Map of NI Showing the Northern Health and Social Care Trust



Acute hospital services are provided from Antrim Area Hospital and Causeway Hospital in Coleraine. Services are also provided from the Mid Ulster, Whiteabbey, Braid Valley, Dalriada, Moyle and Robinson Hospitals. Holywell Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Antrim, is the base for a wide range of mental health and addiction services.

Delivering safe and effective services which are accessible and responsive to the needs of patients, clients and carers is central to the Trust's role.

## **Our vision**

We provide compassionate care with our community, in our community.

## **What community services are provided in the Robinson Hospital?**

The Robinson Community Hospital provides care for people who require inpatient rehabilitation. This can be a period of care and rehabilitation following fracture surgery, or for further assessment following an acute hospital admission. Patients with palliative needs are also admitted to this facility. Rehabilitation services are currently supported by community multidisciplinary teams who also manage patient discharge following assessment of their long term care needs in the community. A number of local GPs help manage the medical needs of patients who are admitted to this unit.

## **Why is refurbishment needed?**

The Robinson Hospital is almost 90 years old and whilst the building is in very good condition many of the systems and facilities are now outdated. The existing hospital layout provides only two single rooms that have en suite bathrooms which make it difficult to ensure patient privacy and maintain patient dignity. The storage of essential hospital aids and equipment is also an issue as some equipment has had to be kept in corridors and in other bedrooms due to the lack of appropriate storage space.

Staff find it difficult to assist patients with their personal needs and to manoeuvre larger items of equipment essential for patient care. In order to provide the highest standards of environmental cleanliness the hospital must be reconfigured to increase the en suite facilities for patients as well as the space and handwashing facilities for staff.

## **What do we wish to achieve?**

On behalf of the Robinson Trustees, the Trust would like to implement a major refurbishment of the existing Hospital to maximise the number of en suite facilities and to improve the patient, family and staff experience.

The refurbishment will reconfigure the existing footprint of the Hospital to provide 16 inpatient beds which will be made up of:

- Six single bedrooms complete with en suite facilities

- One two-bedded room complete with en suite facilities
- Two four-bedded gender-specific wards complete with en suite facilities

The hospital will undergo extensive updating throughout, improving storage, office and all patient areas.

### **How do we plan to achieve this?**

The Robinson Board of Trustees (a registered charity) has funding available for investment and take a keen interest in the strategic development of the Hospital and the site. The Robinson Board and the Trust endeavour to work in partnership, where possible, to enhance the site for the benefit of the community.

We have established a project team and developed a business case and outline plans. It is anticipated that the redevelopment will take 18 months which will involve temporary re-provision of the hospital bed-based services for a six month period. The impact will be mitigated by re-providing services in part across the other three community hospitals in the Trust area and through the use of additional nursing home beds in the Causeway area. It is expected that the building works will commence in May 2022 and will be completed in October 2022.

### **Impact on service users**

The final outcome of this project will have a major positive impact on service users and their carers in relation to environment for care delivery. The Trust recognises that during the six month refurbishment period, families and carers may have to travel further to visit relatives. We will engage with service users, families and carers to discuss preferences and to accommodate these where it is possible to do so.

### **Impact on staff**

Staff from this service area may be temporarily redeployed to other service areas. The Trust will meet with staff to identify their preferences for redeployment. We value and respect all of our staff and throughout this process staff will be kept fully informed and supported.

The principles of the Trust's Management of Change Human Resource Framework provide a robust and transparent process for supporting staff through any change process. The principles of fairness, dignity and equity of treatment will be applied in the management of staff

undergoing this temporary change process. Existing arrangements such as reasonable adjustments and consideration of specific circumstances for individual staff will remain.

## **Promoting equality and rural needs**

The Northern Trust is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, good relations and human rights in all aspects of its work. In keeping with the commitments in our Equality Scheme we have carried out an equality screening of this proposal the outcome of which was to subject the implementation of the proposal to '*on-going screening*'. At this stage, no major adverse impacts have been identified and the outcome of this proposal will result in positive impacts on Section 75 groups. This screening will be kept under review.

The Rural Needs Act 2016 requires the Trust to have due regard to rural needs when developing plans, and when designing and delivering public services. The Trust has also carried out a Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

A copy of the equality screening template and Rural Needs Impact Assessment can be found on the Trust's website [www.northerntrust.hscni.net](http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net).

The Trust invites views on these assessments and will consider all feedback received during the consultation period.

## **Tell us what you think**

We are committed to improving and modernising the Robinson Community Hospital but we need you to help us to do this. We believe that the people who use the service, their families, carers, communities and the staff who deliver the service are best placed to tell us what the new facility should look like and we are keen to involve these groups specifically in the process.

The Trust will consult over a 12 week period commencing 28 May 2021 and ending 20 August 2021.

The Trust wishes to consult as widely as possible on this document as follows.

- Correspondence will be issued to all consultees listed on the Trust's consultation database detailing the consultation process – a list of consultees can be found on the Trust's website or by contacting the Equality Unit (contact details below).
- A copy of this consultation document is available on the Trust's website at <http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net>.
- Meetings will be held with all staff affected by the change.

For those who wish to provide written feedback, a comments form is available on the Trust Website at <http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net>. However we welcome your feedback in any format. You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail, letter or fax as follows:

Equality Unit  
Route Complex  
8e Coleraine Road  
Ballymoney  
Co Antrim  
BT53 6BP

Tel: 028 2766 1377 Fax: 028 2766 1209

Mobile Text: 07825667154

E-mail: [equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net)

The closing date for responses is 20 August 2021.

Before you submit your response, please read the section on Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises at the end of the comments form.

If you have any queries about this document, and its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk and audio cassette, and in minority languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English) then please contact the Equality Unit.

In compliance with legislative requirements, when making any final decision the Trust will take into account the feedback received from this consultation process. A consultation feedback report will be published on the Trust web site.


## Our Vision

**We provide compassionate care  
with our community, in our community.**

If you would like to give feedback on  
any of our services please contact:

**Email:** [user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net)

**Telephone:** 028 9442 4655

 Northern Health and Social Care Trust

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