

Report on	Draft Response to Consultation - Northern Health & Social Services Trust Future Model for Acute Paediatric Services
Reporting Officer	Mark Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members of the development of a consultation response on behalf Mid Ulster District Council to the Northern Health & Social Care Trust Consultation-Future Model for Acute Paediatric Services in Northern Trust hospitals.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Northern Health and Social Care Trust is currently consulting on plans to develop a future model for Acute Paediatric Services in Northern Trust hospitals.
2.2.	At the December meeting of meeting it was agreed that the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure would oversee development of a response on behalf of Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In November 2016, the Department of Health in Northern Ireland published a regional strategy for paediatric services called 'A Strategy for Paediatric Healthcare Services Provided in Hospitals and in the Community 2016 - 2026'. The strategy set out a vision for further development of paediatric services outside of hospital and strengthening links between community services and hospital services.
3.2	<p>The Trust's Strategy provides guidelines in relation to waiting times and the grade of doctor who should assess children who present for treatment. In relation to the implementation of this strategy the consultation document sets out the Northern Trust's proposal for Mid Ulster Hospital, as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust states that analysis of the current activity at the Mid Ulster SSPAU (Standard for Short-Stay Paediatric Assessment Units) indicates that most patients (approximately 90%) could be safely managed in a rapid access clinic, with a same day or next day service available in the majority of cases at the hospital. This new service would accept referrals from local GPs, with a dedicated clinic running two to three times weekly, depending on demand. The expected impact of this change in the service model would mean the following. The Trust states that a small number of children (estimated to be 50 to 100 per year) who required a longer period of observation or short stay treatment would have to travel to the SSPAU in Antrim for this care. This would have travel impact for families.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust states that Children requiring potential admission are already usually referred directly to the paediatric service in Antrim at present, so this option would result in no change to this practice. The Trust states that implementing this approach would allow for a portion of the highly experienced Mid-Ulster nursing workforce to work within an enhanced Antrim SSPAU, which would enable us to extend its opening hours and capacity.
3.3	While the Trust has indicated that they believe the approach set out above supports a balanced approach to providing quality, efficient and sustainable service, these aims will be delivered by reducing the current level of service provision available at Mid Ulster Hospital.
3.4	Concerns in relation to this reduction of services and the associated impact of this are reflected in the draft response, attached as Appendix A.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Financial: N/A Human: N/A
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> Not applicable
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> Not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members consider and approve the consultation response for submission to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Draft Response