

STATEMENT FROM HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

There has been an increased demand for Dementia services in Northern Ireland. This is due in part to changing demographics, a population which is growing older and also to greater awareness. Over the last 18 months, the HSCB and PHA have supported several high profile Dementia awareness campaigns.

In the last 2 years, we have worked with the PHA to review the operation of memory services across all 5 Trusts and to consider how best these services might be improved in line with recommendations contained within the regional dementia strategy.

As a result of the review, a new Dementia Care Pathway and Service Model have been developed to improve access to earlier intervention and improve integrated working between Primary Care and Specialist Dementia Care Teams.

The new pathway and new services model was presented to the Department of Health in March 2017, and subject to ministerial approval and the required investment to support implementation, the new pathways will be implemented over a five year period.