



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	BELFAST HEALTH and SOCIAL CARE BOARD: Consultation on the Future of Emergency Services Departments in Belfast
Date:	Friday 8 th March 2013
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health & Environmental Services
Contact Officers:	Russell Connelly, Policy and Planning (6197)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of Members, details of a consultation by the Belfast Health and Social Care Board on **the Future Configuration of Emergency Department services in Belfast** and to seek their agreement to invite the Board to brief the SP&R Committee on the proposed options for the future configuration on emergency services in Belfast.
2. The consultation will last for 13 weeks and the deadline for all responses is Friday, 10 May 2013.

Relevant Background Information

3. The Council have been invited to participate in the public consultation on the future organisation of Emergency Department services in the Belfast area which was announced by the Health Minister Edwin Poots on Tuesday, 5 February 2013. The consultation document and draft Equality Impact Assessment are available from: www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult/
4. The consultation document considers a number of options for the future configuration of Emergency Department services.
5. The options are to have either one, two or three Emergency Departments in Belfast. Given that the Royal Victoria Hospital is the Regional Trauma Centre, any option for just one Emergency Department would, by necessity, be located in this hospital.

The four potential options are set out below:

- Delivery of Emergency Department services in Belfast in **three** Emergency Departments at the **RVH, Mater & BCH**.
- Delivery of Emergency Department services in Belfast in **two** Emergency Departments at the **RVH & BCH**.
- Delivery of Emergency Department services in Belfast in **two** Emergency Departments at the **RVH & Mater**.
- Delivery of Emergency Department services in Belfast in **one** Emergency Department at the **RVH**.

Preferred and Recommended Option

6. The preferred and recommended option proposed is that Emergency Department services should be delivered at the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Mater Hospital.
7. Under this option, direct access to the Belfast City Hospital would be available for patients who have been assessed by their GP as requiring medical assessment or admission to hospital without the need to go via an Emergency Department. These arrangements would be complemented by the enhancement of acute care at home with 24/7 nursing in the community and a range of specialist support to the primary care teams.

Consultation Response

8. The closing date for feedback to the consultation paper is Friday 10th May.

Recommendation

9. Members agreement is sought to invite the Belfast Health and Social Care Board to brief the SP&R Committee on the proposed options at a date to be agreed in the near future.

Documents Attached

None