

Appendix 1

BHSCT 2017/2018 Financial Planning Savings Plan

General Comments on the Consultation Document

Belfast City Council wants to make the following comments in respect of the consultation document “2017/ 18 Financial Planning Savings Plan”. The Council is committed to working in partnership to improve the quality of life in the city. Our shared community plan, the Belfast Agenda, is an exemplar of how partnership working between the Trust and the Council can bring real benefits and has at its core commitment to reducing health inequalities and ensuring people lead healthy lives.

Our shared vision is that, by 2035:

“Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of the conflict. A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone. A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region. A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world. A city people dream to visit.”

This vision is articulated through 5 outcomes that we jointly aspire for everyone in Belfast, namely that Belfast will be a city:

- Where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy;
- That is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all;
- That is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable;
- **Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing;** and
- Where everyone fulfils their potential.

Improving health and wellbeing is fundamental to all aspects of a better life for local people.

As a key statutory partner, the Trust’s contribution to delivering the Belfast Agenda will be invaluable. We hope that building on our history of successful partnership working we will address some of the challenges that both the Trust and local communities currently face.

The need for a focus on health and wellbeing is very obvious in Belfast – the average life expectancy for both males (75.9 years) and females (81.1 years) in Belfast is lower than the Northern Ireland averages and there is a difference in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the least deprived areas in the city (5.6 years for females and 9.2 years for men).

Eight of the ten most deprived wards in Northern Ireland are in Belfast. This has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents. For example, suicide rates in the 10% most deprived areas are almost five times higher than those in the 10% least deprived.

The “Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together” plan, published in October 2016, highlights the pressure health services already operate under. As you have identified, £13 million of your proposals will have further major or controversial impacts on the vital services the Trust provides, including lengthening waiting lists, reducing the number of beds available and postponing elective surgery. Whilst these are short term proposals, it will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on the most vulnerable of our residents, including those requiring access to residential home placements.

Belfast City Council strongly encourages you to look at alternatives to meeting the savings requirements of the Department of Health & Social Care. As a key partner we would welcome the opportunity to help explore any possible alternatives with you at the earliest possible opportunity.

SEHSCT 2017/2018 Financial Planning Savings Plan

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The “Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together” plan, published in October 2016, highlights the pressure health services already operate under. As you have identified, £2.05 million of your proposals will have further major or controversial impacts on the vital services the Trust provides, including lengthening waiting lists, reducing the number of beds available and postponing elective surgery. Whilst these are short term proposals, it will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on the most vulnerable of our residents.

Belfast City Council strongly encourages you to look at alternatives to meeting the savings requirements of the Department of Health & Social Care. As a key partner we would welcome the opportunity to help explore any possible alternatives with you at the earliest possible opportunity.

