

**From the Director of Healthcare Transformation**



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**BY EMAIL**

Pauline Shepherd  
Chief Executive  
Independent Health and Care Providers

Room D4.9  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 028 90522123  
Email: [mark.lee@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:mark.lee@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

[pauline.shepherd@ihcp.co.uk](mailto:pauline.shepherd@ihcp.co.uk)

11 June 2015

**REVIEW OF HSC COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS**

You may be aware that in January the previous Minister for Health announced a review of the arrangements for commissioning health and social care services in Northern Ireland. The terms of reference for the review are attached.

A small project team, led by the Department but with representation from the HSC Board and Public Health Agency, has been established and work is underway to produce a final report by August 2015. In undertaking the review, it will be essential that we have input from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible to inform our understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the current system as well as possible options for improvement.

Commissioning in this context refers to the process by which the health and care needs of a population are assessed, and services are planned and purchased to meet these needs and improve health and wellbeing. Independent providers have a key role in providing services to some of the most vulnerable in our population, and I would be very keen to hear the views of you and your members on the effectiveness of the current commissioning arrangements and how you think they might be improved.

I would therefore welcome short written submissions (up to a maximum of four sides of A4 paper) to the review from IHCP members for consideration by the project team. Should anything included in the submissions require more detailed discussions, I may get in touch with you again to arrange a short follow-up interview.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter, and the attached terms of reference, to your members and ask them to supply any written submissions to Jennifer Mooney (Room D3.21 Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, BT4 3SQ; <mailto:jennifer.mooney@dhsspsni.gov.uk>) by no later than Friday 24 July 2015.

Yours sincerely

Mark Lee  
Director of Healthcare Transformation

## **Review of Health and Social Care Commissioning Arrangements in Northern Ireland**

### **Terms of Reference**

To ensure that the commissioning of health and social care services is fit for purpose to meet the changing and growing needs of the citizens of Northern Ireland into the future, the Department has instigated a review of commissioning to identify opportunities for improvement.

This review will:

1. Undertake an assessment of how the commissioning process facilitates the delivery of high quality and efficient health and social care services in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to:
  - **Assessing** the health and social wellbeing **needs** of the population of Northern Ireland.
  - **Strategic planning** to prioritise needs within available resources, including the use of financial and other levers, to reshape services to meet future needs.
  - **Engaging** patients, users, carers / families and other key stakeholders at a local level in the commissioning of health and social care services.
  - **Securing, procuring, incentivising and agreeing** high quality, value for money service provision to meet the assessed and prioritised needs of the population.
  - **Ensuring** the delivery and outcomes from services commissioned.
  - **Evaluating** impact of health and social care services and **feeding back** into the commissioning process in terms of how needs have changed.
  
2. Bring forward recommended options to improve the effectiveness of the delivery of health and social care services in Northern Ireland.

It is expected that the review will report in the summer of 2015.