

# News Release

**31 August 2017**

**Joint Press Release NM&D District Council and Southern Health & Social Care Trust  
re: Daisy Hill Hospital Pathfinder Project**

As part of the current Daisy Hill Hospital Pathfinder Project, Dr Anne Marie Telford and her team have had individual meetings with a number of interested parties served by the Hospital. The engagement has been very positive.

The Pathfinder Project now needs to identify community representatives to sit on the main Pathfinder Group and its subgroups.

Feedback from the engagement process indicated that selection of these representatives would be facilitated by the establishment of a Pathfinder Community Forum. This Forum would also help to ensure that the wider community remains involved in the Pathfinder work.

In order to support this process the Chairperson of the Council, Roisin Mulgrew, has agreed to host the Forum and also to co-Chair along with Maeve Hully, Chief Executive of the Patient and Client Council.

The first meeting of the Pathfinder Community Forum will allow members of the community – service users, carers, community & voluntary sector representatives and health and social care interest groups to make expressions of interest for positions on the Pathfinder Project. Independent support to the selection of representatives will be provided by the Northern Ireland Council on Voluntary Action (NICVA).

Four representatives are required for the main Pathfinder Group and a wider number for a range of sub-groups.

**The first meeting of the Community Forum will take place on Tuesday, September 5th 2017 at 7pm in Newry Arts Centre. We would be grateful if you could respond to [ehealth@nmandd.org](mailto:ehealth@nmandd.org) to confirm your attendance. Subsequent meetings will again be hosted by and facilitated by the Council.**

Councillor Mulgrew said: “I stated at the start of my term that Daisy Hill Hospital and the provision of front line hospital care is a priority for me this year. I therefore welcome this opportunity to be at the forefront of this vital project.”

While Trust staff and political representatives have been part of the community engagement process to date, the aim is this Forum should represent the wider community. Staff and political representatives will be able to continue to contribute to the process through other Trust and Council engagement processes.

**-Ends-**