



Title of Paper: [Primary Care Multi-Disciplinary Teams]		
		<p>For Noting</p> <p>Contains information Members should be made aware.</p>

1.0 Background

The Primary Care Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Programme commenced in late 2018. At present, the model is fully complete in the Down GP Federation (13 GP practices) and is well developed in 6 more GP Federations. These include Derry, West Belfast, Causeway, Newry & District, Ards and North Down GP Federations.

The MDT Programme aims to transform the planning and delivery of primary care services by:

- Better meeting existing demand for primary care services.
- Providing a platform for service reform – supporting the shift of care into primary and community settings.
- Boosting capability and capacity for early intervention, prevention and focus on wellbeing.

To date, over 190,000 patients have access to an element of the MDT in the South Eastern Trust area.

2.0 Key Issues

The Health Minister published on 30 July 2025, an implementation plan for further expansion of the MDT programme. The plan will see the MDT model rolled out in full across all areas of Northern Ireland, over the next 8 years. The implementation will proceed in two phases:

- Phase 1 will run from 2025/26 to 2028/29, this phase will see the MDT rollout completed in the seven existing areas where implementation has already commenced (including Ards and North Down areas), and expansion to a further 5 Federation areas.
- Phase 2 will run for a further four years from 2029/30, and will see the MDT completed in the remaining 5 GP Federation areas, to include the Lisburn area.

3.0 Resources Implications (inc Organisational, Financial, Human Resources)

Following Ministerial approval on 30 July 2025, a regional business case covering the MDT Implementation Plan for Phase 1 and 2, will be issued by the Regional MDT Programme to Co-Chairs of local MDT Project Boards, for approval.

South Eastern MDT Recruitment Plan – 25 June 2025:

Federation	Population	Number of practices	Whole Time Equivalent as per model	Staff In Post @ 31/03/25	Yearly Totals								
					Year 1 Total 2025/26	Year 2 Total 2026/27	Year 3 Total 2027/28	Year 4 Total 2028/29	Year 5 Total 2029/30	Year 6 Total 2030/31	Year 7 Total 2031/32	Year 8 Total 2032/33	
Down Federation	79,977	13	32.00	38.50	0.6	-3.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ards Federation	82,678	12	33.20	10.90	12.4	6.3	2.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
North Down Federation	85,175	12	34.00	12.10	7.8	12.3	1.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lisburn Federation	96,905	12	38.80	-	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	12.5	8.3	0.0	0.0

On the 18 August 2025, the Trust received allocation letters for 2025/26.

A regional working group will be established to consider communication and engagement requirements. Local areas should align with the regional communications plan.

4.0 Impact on Safety, Quality and Experience (SQE)

MDT key indicators have been agreed, to ensure the provision of safe, high quality, evidence-based services, that deliver optimal outcomes for service users; that take into consideration availability of data, lessons learned to date and priorities for embedding these new ways of working in primary care. Indicators will be monitored quarterly:

- How much did we do? Implementation: recruitment plan and staff in post. Financial: budget and spend. Timely access to services: additional patients that have access to new services and number of additional consultations.
- How well did we do it? Maximising efficiencies in care navigation within GP Practices. Providing services closer to home looking at onward referrals and signposting within primary and community care settings. Understanding of any change in referral demand into secondary care services as a result of MDT's in primary care.
- Is anyone better off? Patient Experience. Staff Experience. GP Practice Experience.

It is anticipated that annual MDT consultations will increase to over 1 million by March 2033, across Northern Ireland.

5.0 Key Risks and Proposals to Mitigate

The MDT implementation will be monitored by the Regional MDT Project Board and locally by the South Eastern MDT Project Board, to ensure that recruitment progresses in line with the plan, and programme benefits are realised.

The South Eastern MDT Project Board will agree the local GP Practice running order for incremental staff deployment over Phase 1 & 2, in conjunction with SPPG Primary Care Capital Team's premises and ICT readiness.

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