

Press Release

2 November 2017

Extension to HSCB consultation period - Proposed relocation of Dalriada Urgent Care to the Mid Ulster Hospital site

The Health and Social Care Board's (HSCB) public consultation on the proposed permanent relocation of Dalriada Urgent Care's premises in Moneymore to the Mid Ulster Hospital, Magherafelt is to be extended until Monday, 11 December 2017 to allow for further engagement with local voluntary and community groups.

Dalriada Urgent Care (DUC) provides urgent GP services out of hours to patients from the Mid Ulster area. Currently, patients who are required to attend an appointment at an out of hours centre before midnight attend the Moneymore premises. After midnight, patients are seen, approximately five miles away, in the Mid Ulster Hospital. There are no plans to change DUC's current service which also includes initial advice over the phone and home visits, as appropriate.

It is now proposed that the Moneymore base is relocated to the Mid Ulster Hospital, meaning that all GP out of hours attendances will be at the Mid Ulster Hospital. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has identified a suitable location in the Outpatients Department of the hospital where all out of hours patients could be seen.

The proposed relocation is considered necessary because the Moneymore premises are no longer fit for purpose as major works need to be carried out.

The proposed move to the Mid Ulster Hospital would bring a number of advantages;

- Dalriada Urgent Care could move directly into the Mid Ulster Hospital with only minimal adaptations required and there would be no disruption to the GP out of hours service.
- The Mid Ulster Hospital site is accessible, well lit and offers ample parking for patients out of hours.
- There would not be an issue with 'lone working' as is currently the case on the Moneymore site when the GP is not on site and other staff are on their own.
- Another service moving into the Mid Ulster Hospital site will help demonstrate the commitment to that site as a hub for local services.
- The relocation of DUC to the Mid Ulster Hospital would be in keeping with the Mid Ulster Community Plan commitment to co-locate health and well-being services in each of the three main towns (which includes Magherafelt).

- Closer working between DUC and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust may open up other opportunities for joint projects and collaboration to benefit local communities.

The GP out of hours service is for people who need urgent medical treatment but cannot wait until their doctor's practice is open.

The consultation period on the proposals will end at 5pm on Monday, 11 December 2017. All comments are welcomed during this period.

The consultation documentation can be accessed in the consultation section of the HSCB's website <http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/get-involved/consultations/> Responses and requests for information or alternative formats should be emailed to Siobhan.Millar@hscni.net or in writing to Siobhan Millar, HSCB, County Hall, 182 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, BT42 1QB or by telephone on (028) 9536 2843. You can also respond by completing the online questionnaire on the website above.

Following the end of the consultation period, all responses will form the basis of a report which will be considered by the Health and Social Care Board, Dalriada Urgent Care and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.