

Open Days 2008
Health Village Sessions EHealth: from early promise to
sustainable solutions
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Developing a connected health economy in Northern Ireland

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Strategic Context: Key Issues Facing Health And Social Care In Northern Ireland

- Increasing Demand (Demographic Change)
- Quality, Safety, Accessibility And Cost
- Performance Management

Strategic Context: Policy Response

- Pursuit of public health promotion/disease prevention strategies
- Development of early intervention strategies, promoting and securing community alternatives to hospital referral and admission
- Introduction of innovative approaches to manage demand better
- Better use of ITC, combined with reform of care delivery system

Developing A Connected Health Economy In Northern Ireland: Initial Commitments

- A Strategic Focus
- Commitment of Major Investment in Chronic Disease Management
- Improving Infrastructure: Roll out Digital Picture Archiving System across Northern Ireland
- Major Procurement of Remote Monitoring Service for 5000 people with Chronic Disease commenced
- Implementation of a number of Telehealth and Telecare Pilots to increase Clinician and Patient experience of new approaches
- Development of 5-7 year Connected Health Strategy

Achieving Sustainability: Learning Points To Date

- Ministerial support
- Aims and objectives aligned to existing policy framework
- Need to demonstrate effectiveness through the evidence base
- Buy-in at operational level – clinicians and managers
- Acknowledge that it takes time
- Support of Professional Bodies (BMA/RCN etc)
- Focus on Quality, Safety and Patient Experience (Efficiency is a Bye-Product)

Achieving Sustainability: Learning Points To Date

- Pilots helpful but need to be strategically aligned and of sufficient scale
- Service design process must be clinician-led and user focused
- Identification of Clinical Champions vital
- Early engagement with industry to inform thinking is invaluable
- Ensure specification is 'owned' by commissioners and service providers
- Need to build process into system accountability framework
- Acknowledge that this takes time

Where to next?

- 5-7 year, connected health and care strategy - Community programmes
- Contributing to the evidence base to demonstrate effective
- Sharing our experiences with others
- Develop better links with other Health Economies, Industry and Academia



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