



# DEVELOPING A CONNECTED HEALTH ECONOMY IN NORTHERN IRELAND:

*JUST DOING “IT”*

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# Structure of presentation



- Key issues for the Health and Social Care system in Northern Ireland
- The policy response
- Giving effect to policy
- Looking forward – developing a connected health economy



# Key Issues for health and social care in Northern Ireland



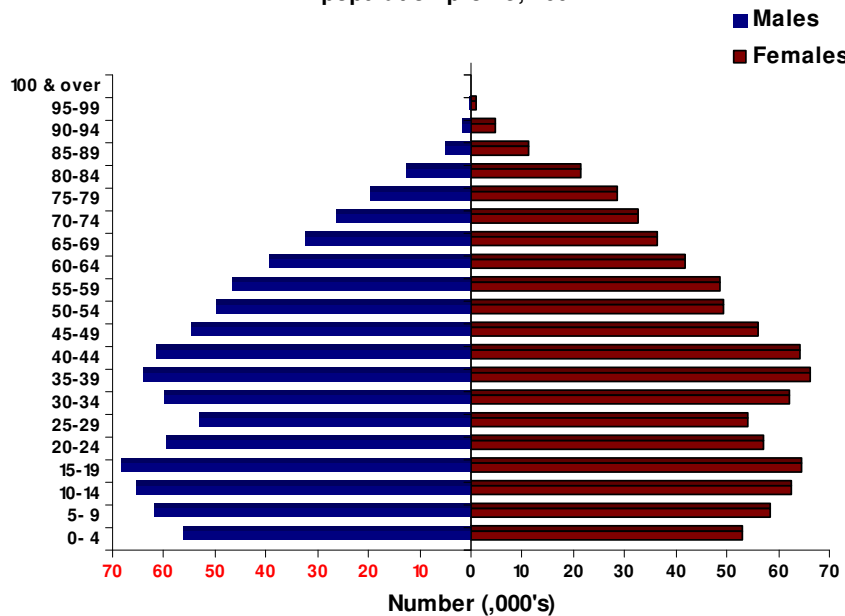
- Increasing Demand
- Supply Side Factors
- Performance



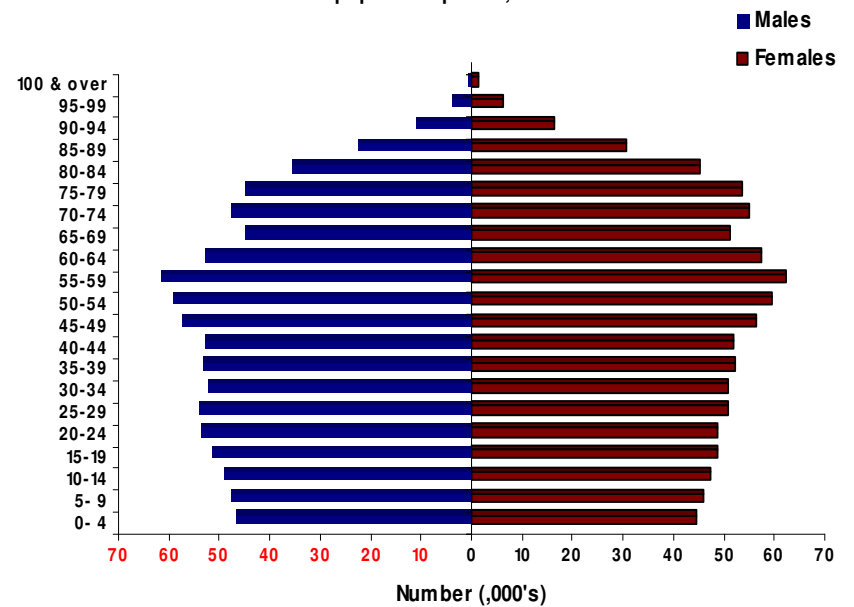
# NI Demography, 2004 - 2044



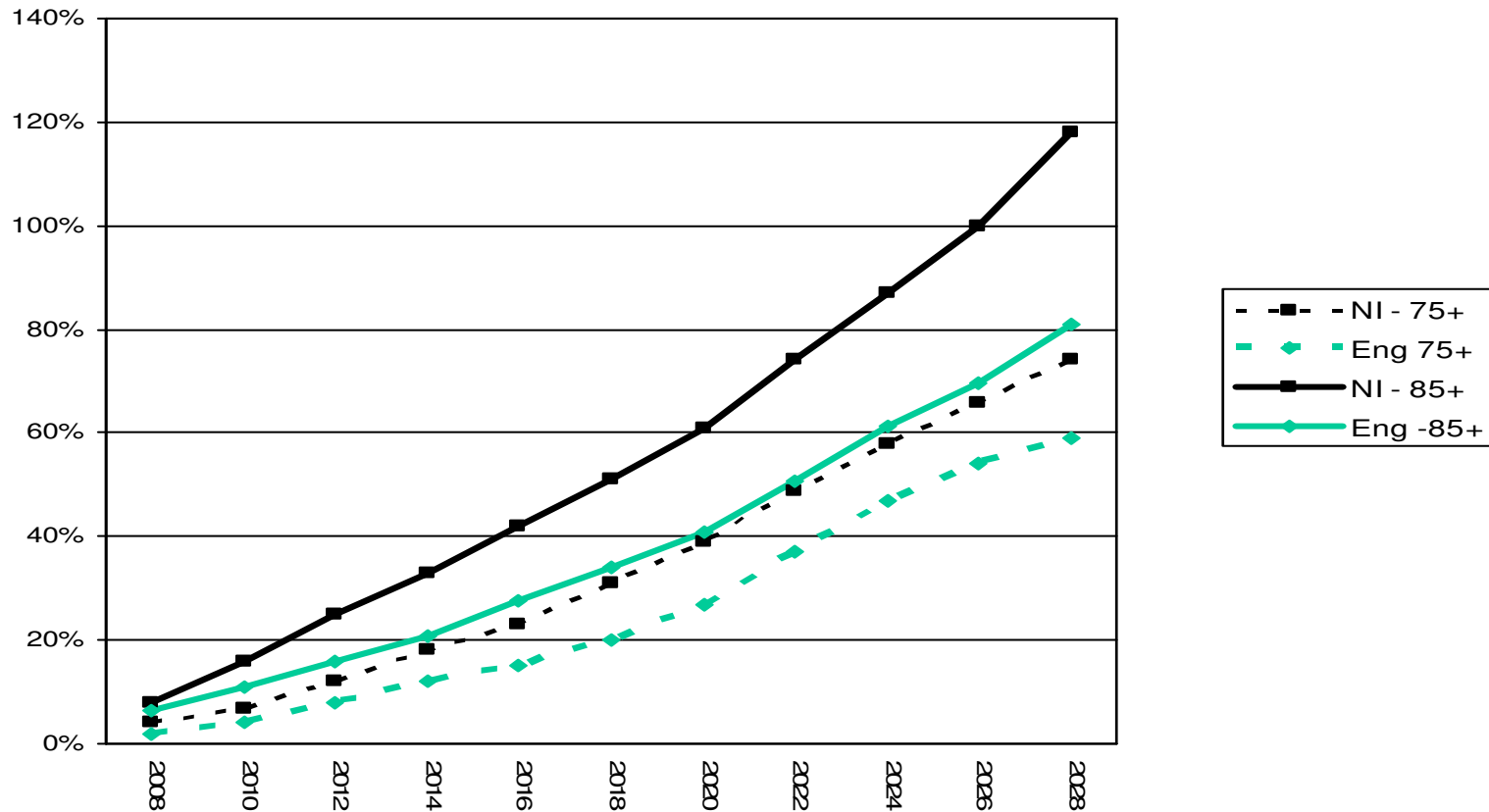
NI population profile, 2004



NI population profile, 2044



# Projected % increase in elderly population (relative to 2006)



# Major reform of the delivery system is required



“The way healthcare is presently delivered has to be deeply reformed. The situation is becoming unsustainable and will only worsen in the future as chronic diseases and the demographics change place additional strains on healthcare systems around Europe.

“A new healthcare delivery model based on preventative and person-centred health systems is needed. This new model can only be achieved through better use of ICT in combination with appropriate organisational change and skills.”

*European Commission*



# 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 ICT, combined with reform of care delivery system



# E-health can make a big difference



- Strong evidence to support the linking of accepted clinical approaches with new technological approaches
- Yet many European and American health economies are struggling to introduce a scale application of these approaches
- A clear strategic focus is needed – using public authority to address obstacles



# Giving effect to policy: Just Doing “IT”



- ✓ Establishment of European Centre for Connected Health
- ✓ Major investment in chronic disease management over next three years
- ✓ Roll out of Digital picture archiving and communication system across Northern Ireland by 2010
- ✓ 5-7 year cross-government strategy for developing NI as a connected health economy to be completed by December 2008
- ✓ Electronic health care record
- ✓ A major procurement exercise



# Just Doing “IT”



- Currently Remote Monitoring:
- Almost 500 patients with ICDs
- 100 children with congenital heart disease
- 170 patients with chronic disease



# Just Doing “IT”: Planned Developments



- NIPACS award, summer 2008
- Remote Telemonitoring of Chronic Disease
  - 500 patients by 2009
  - 3000 patients by 2010
  - 5000 patients by 2011
- Electronic Care Record – pilot later this year
- Other potential initiatives:
  - Teleneurology; palliative care; nursing homes; cancer
- Strategy for Connected Health



# Next steps – the procurement process



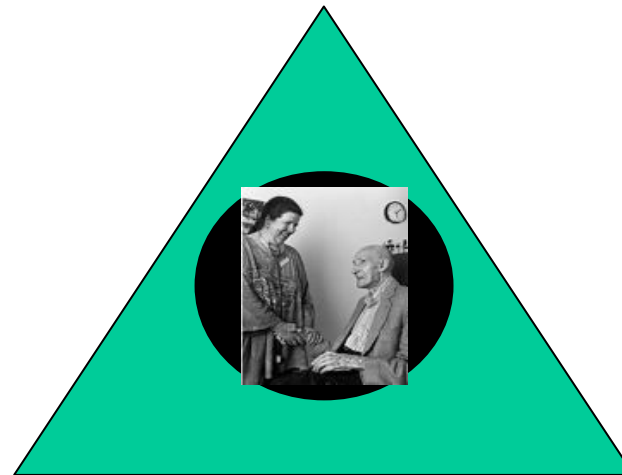
- Aim: 5000 people on remote monitoring by 2011
- Technology is not the constraining factor
- Need to build capacity, commitment and buy-in from local professionals
- Process already started
- Also wish to have early engagement with suppliers
- Formal notice in OJEU later this month
- Anticipated commencement of formal procurement exercise during summer 2008



# Giving effect to policy - the role of the European Centre for Connected Health



Leadership and  
Co-ordination



Promoting linkages  
and economic activity

Strategic design of  
systems of care



# LOOKING FORWARD: developing a connected health economy



## *Our particular strengths:*

- Cross government approach
- Our size
- Our capacity and track record
- Our universities and skills base
- Our innovation
- Our openness to partnerships
- Our motivation...and so...
- Our potential to be an exemplar population





**WATCH THIS E-SPACE!**





# eHealth without frontiers



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008  
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008  
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZDRAVJE  
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



European Commission

