A workshop has taken place to discuss structures and functions which will support the delivery of mental health, learning disability, and physical disability and sensory impairment services within the Southern Trust.

The event was attended by 110 senior members of staff and has identified key issues the Directorate needs to address over the next 1-2 years.

Francis Rice, Director of Mental Health, Disability Services and Nursing says an action plan will be drawn up to implement the outcomes from the workshop.

“During the morning session we discussed design principles and options for structures and functions at tier 4 level within the Directorate,” said Francis. “The afternoon session explored ideas and approaches to ensure the delivery of high quality, innovative and standardised care in the future.

“I was delighted that so many programme, ward and facility managers, consultants, allied health professional staff, and administrative staff could attend and make valuable and creative contributions.”

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Focus on Mental Health and Disability
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Find Out First

Don’t forget you can keep up to date with all the latest Trust news, views, jobs and RPA updates on the intranet at http://shsctintranet.hpss.n-i.nhs.uk. Many of you have been contacting the Trust senior team directly with your questions and comments. Get in touch by e mailing transition@shsst.n-i.nhs.uk.

Mairead McAlinden, Director of Planning and Reform says: “I would like to thank the IT staff from across the Trust who worked hard to develop our temporary intranet within a very tight timeframe. This facility enables us to keep in touch with staff right across the Southern Trust area and of course people can use it to contact us during this period of transition.”

Representatives from the IT team who developed the intranet Richard O’Grady and Gerry Mallon demonstrate the facility to Mairead McAlinden.
Meet Jim McCall
Director of Acute Services
Unified System of Acute Hospital Services within the Southern Trust

Jim McCall is the Director of Acute Services for the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. He has an extensive and varied background in health and social care, training initially as a social worker, then working as a Director of Social Services before taking up post as Chief Executive of the Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust in 2001 until his recent appointment to the Southern Trust.

He takes this opportunity to share his plans for a unified system of acute hospital services across the Southern Trust.

“I believe the merging of two well-established organisations in Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital creates a solid foundation on which to build an acute hospital service that can meet the challenge of providing top quality care in a rapidly changing and developing environment.

“This is a time of extensive reform and modernisation within acute hospital services. We have already witnessed unprecedented demand for, and reorganisation to, emergency and elective care.

“That change is running alongside the broader transformation in health and social care management as part of the change programme under the Review of Public Administration. Undoubtedly the whole process can seem rather daunting yet in my meetings with staff I am both impressed and encouraged that while there is a great deal of uncertainty, there is also the realisation that we have a great opportunity to forge a partnership that can have a positive impact on acute hospital care in this area.

“The unified system of acute hospital services will be based on five fundamental principles:

- Enhanced patient experience
- Improved performance (particularly in clinical outcomes and key targets)
- Strong clinical governance
- Clear accountability
- Value for money

“I am committed to ensuring that we achieve our targets, meet the challenges set for us at ministerial level as part of the Northern Ireland network of acute care and that we make best use of the considerable financial investment in acute hospital services.

“There is no doubt that the drive to improve access for patients has already radically altered the culture of acute hospital care.

“These issues will now be taken forward in a system that allows for even greater co-operation between our two main hospitals.

“Further integration of acute and community based services will mean that patients, whatever their point of access to care, can expect a seamless network of health and social services that provides them with the support they need.

“The current uncertainty surrounding the new management is being addressed as key posts within the acute services directorate are currently being recruited.

“The structure I have outlined will ensure robust clinical governance and a vehicle for all professional staff to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our services. The commitment of all staff will be the dynamic to reform and modernise our services.

“Every member of staff has a contribution to make. I am sure that we now have a great opportunity to create a unified system of acute hospital services that will enhance patient care and become a model of co-operation and good practice. I look forward with confidence to the many challenges ahead.”
Non Executive Directors Appointed

Mrs Deirdre Blakely BA lives in Newry. She is a self-employed management consultant, providing consultancy services to the voluntary and community sectors. Prior to this, Mrs Blakely was a project director of a range of Community Health Projects, including the Women and Family Health Initiative in Newry. She was a non-executive director of Newry & Mourne HSS Trust.

Mrs Roberta Brownlee MSc lives in Loughgall. A former Chief Executive of the Sandown Private Nursing Home Group, Mrs Brownlee is now a self-employed healthcare consultant. She is a Director of a nursing home in Castlederg, a member of the Board of Governors of three schools and a former Executive member of Help the Aged. She is a former member of the of the SHSS Board and a current member of the Southern Education and Library Board.

Mr Edwin Graham BSc lives in Lurgan. Mr Graham is an Authorised Officer for the Parades Commission. He is also a member of the Pharmacy Practice Committee of the Southern HSS Board. In a voluntary capacity, Mr Graham acts as Treasurer of Enable NI, a voluntary organisation providing respite services for young people with learning disabilities.

Mr Alistair Joynes CIPD lives in Portadown. He is the Managing Partner in a training and business consultancy and has been an arbitrator with the Labour Relations Agency since 2001. He is also a governor of Upper Bann Institute of Further & Higher Education and a member of the NI Housing Executive board.

Mrs Hetty Kelly RGN lives in Dungannon. Mrs Kelly was a Staff Nurse at South Tyrone Hospital and, latterly, Craigavon Area Hospital, until her retirement in 2001. She was a governor of three local schools until 2006. Mrs Kelly was a non-executive director of Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust.

Miss Elizabeth McLoughlin BA lives in Armagh. She is Financial Director of a Belfast-based heating equipment company and General Manager of MacFarlane Environmental. Miss McLoughlin is Chair of the Belfast Club of Business and Professional Women and was a non-executive director of Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust.

Dr Raymond Mullan MSc OBE lives in Warrenpoint. He is a former Director and Chief Executive of Newry & Kilkeel Institute of Further & Higher Education, a post which he held since 1991. Dr Mullan is a member of Newry Chamber of Commerce and a past Chairman of the Association of NI Colleges. He is also a NI Judicial Appointments Commissioner and has been a member of the NI Economic Development Forum for the past five years.