

CAWT in Action

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cooperation and working together
for health gain and social well being in border areas

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



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Southern Health
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Western Health
and Social Care Trust

EU Visitors Welcomed to the North West



Members of the EU delegation, along with representatives from health and social care, community and voluntary sectors, pictured at the recent EU funded 'Leonardo Da Vinci' project visit to the North West.

As part of an EU programme called 'Leonardo Da Vinci,' a delegation of 20 health and social care professionals from Poland, Romania, Italy, and Greece met with representatives from the Western Health and Social Care Trust and the HSE, to share best practice in protecting and promoting child health and wellbeing. The visit to Northern Ireland was co-ordinated by CAWT, who had been successful in securing EU funding to become involved in the Leonardo Da Vinci programme which enables organisations from European countries to collaborate on education and vocational training initiatives.

Over the 3-day visit, the EU delegation met with a range of people including Martina Anderson, MEP; Western Health and Social Care Trust representatives from Social Work, Safeguarding Children, Early Years, Fostering and Adoption, Looked After Children and TUSLA - the Child and Family Agency. Extern, Shantallow Family Partnership, Fermanagh Women's Aid also supported the successful visit. Commenting, Marzena Kordaczuk, Child Protection Police Officer from Poland said: *"We have been extremely impressed by the level of statutory, community and voluntary sector organisations working together to provide optimal support to vulnerable families. This visit has provided us with insights and a host of new approaches which we are keen to develop in our own countries."*

New EU Funding - INTERREG VA



The European Commission has formally adopted a new INTERREG cross-border co-operation programme for the Border Region of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland for 2014-2020. The total value of INTERREG VA is €283m. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) will invite applications for funding on a phased basis during 2015. The new INTERREG Programme has four key priority areas including research & innovation, the environment, sustainable transport, and health. €53m has been allocated to health interventions delivered on a cross-border basis. CAWT's six Strategy Groups have been focused on developing their proposals in preparation for submitting an EU funding application to the health theme which is expected to open in late Summer 2015. Click here to view a [citizen's summary](#) of INTERREG VA which provides an overview of the programme.



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An Roinn Sláinte
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

European Union INTERREG IVA Project Update

CAWT Acute Project - Ophthalmology Services

Patients in Louth, Monaghan and Cavan areas are benefiting from a new Eye Service recently established in Louth County Hospital with EU INTERREG IVA funding secured by CAWT. The new treatment service supports existing Ophthalmology Services and in particular, provides specialist eye operations and procedures locally. The new service, which has been under development over the past 12 months, is providing cataracts and eyelid surgery and treatment for other eye conditions on a day case basis in Louth County Hospital. Also the Eye Service is providing the most modern treatments for patients with 'wet' age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic eye disease and retinal problems.

The new service is making a significant impact on local waiting lists. Frank Duffy from Dundalk had been waiting 2 years for cataract treatment in both eyes before the new service. Frank had both cataracts removed and says he hasn't looked back since the surgery. He said *"I was*

among the first people to be treated when the new Eye Service started in Louth County Hospital. It is like a miracle. Before the surgery, if I passed someone in the street who said hello to me I would only know them by their voice as my eyesight was so bad with the cataracts. I recovered well from the surgery and I now can take my dog for a walk and see the mountains and wee houses around me. This surgery has made a big difference to my life and I am grateful for the excellent service I received in my local hospital." Mr James Morgan, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Louth County Hospital highlighted the positive feedback he is receiving from patients. He said: *"I am delighted that we have been able to introduce and develop this new service which is enabling us to treat an increasing number of patients, provide specialist eye surgery locally which will result in reduced surgical waiting times. Patients are very pleased to be able to access eye services closer to home, which is much quicker and more convenient for them than multiple trips to the city."*



Frank Duffy, from Dundalk, one of the first patients to undergo cataract surgery as part of the new Eye Service in Louth County Hospital (seated left) and Mr James Morgan, Consultant Ophthalmologist (seated right). Also pictured are (left to right): Linda Saunderson, CAWT and Louth County Hospital staff: Shay Englishby, Manager; Yvonne Burke, Director of Nursing; Geraldine Forrester, Clinical Nurse Manager; Ciaran McDonnell, Secretary; Lou O'Hare, Hospital Administrator & Kim Carragher, Healthcare Assistant.

Cross Border Acute Project - Telepresence robot



Pictured at the demonstration of the new Telepresence Robot in Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh (from left): Wesley Henderson, Project Manager, WHSCT; Sister Joyce Leary, WHSCT; Mrs Bernie McCrory, Chief Officer, CAWT; Kay Gartland, Ward Manager, Urgent Care, WHSCT and Mr Joe Lusby, Deputy Chief Executive, WHSCT.

edge technology in the border region will enable the health services to make best use of existing resources for the benefit of patients. The robots will support those hospitals who operate in networks and will also facilitate cross border collaboration between hospitals. It is a great example of how the EU and CAWT are supporting hospitals in the border region and bringing innovative technology to more rural areas for the benefit of citizens."

As part of the CAWT Acute Project, three hospitals in the border region have installed Telepresence robots, which enables hospital clinical specialists to remotely assess and monitor patients. The border region hospitals who have recently benefitted from the EU INTERREG IVA investment in new technology are: Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh (WHSCT), Letterkenny General Hospital (HSE West) and Daisyhill Hospital (SHSCT).

The Telepresence robot allows clinicians to observe and examine patients remotely and to facilitate interactions between staff in different locations. A range of patient monitoring information can be relayed via the robot on a 24/7 basis. Commenting on the successful project, Bernie McCrory, CAWT's Chief Officer said: *"This EU investment in cutting-*

European Union INTERREG IVA Project Update

CAWT Diabetes Project

The CAWT Diabetes Project concluded at the end of April 2015, leaving a tremendous legacy that will benefit people with diabetes long into the future. The successful project has been responsible for developing two new services across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland border counties. As at the end of March, 3,965 people will have benefited from either the CHOICE Structured Patient Education programme or the Pre-pregnancy Care clinics. Both the CHOICE programme and the Pre-pregnancy Care clinics have now been incorporated into regular health services on completion of the EU funding phase. This means that children and young people with diabetes will continue to receive high quality diabetes education services provided by specialist nurses and dietitians in established clinics across the border counties of the HSE and within all Health Trust areas of Northern Ireland. Additionally, through the Pre-pregnancy Care clinics, women with diabetes will continue to have access to expertise and support when planning their pregnancy, increasing their chances of having a healthy baby.



Diabetes Structured Patient Education Programme participant Jenson Cannon (right) from Co. Antrim with his dad Alvin. Alvin & Jensen had attended the CHOICE Programme in the NHSCT.

Participant feedback has been very positive. For example Alvin Cannon from Glenavy in Co. Antrim, explained how the CHOICE programme has helped the family to deal with his son Jenson's diabetes. He explained: *"When we first found out about Jenson's diabetes we went through a bit of a denial and we were a little scared of how it would change the family dynamic. However, on the advice of the paediatric diabetes clinic staff at Antrim Area Hospital, we signed up to attend this new programme called CHOICE as we wanted to get to grips with Jenson's condition as early as possible. The staff managing CHOICE were fantastic. They made sure that the programme was fun, informative and easy to follow. They reassured us that diabetes can be managed and I have no doubt that without the CHOICE programme it would have been a lot harder to get through."*

CAWT Eating Disorder project



Another successful CAWT project has reached the finishing line! The CAWT Eating Disorder project, which has directly treated 993 clients across the border region, concluded at the end of April 2015. The Project Board had their final meeting during the last week of April at which they reflected on the project's challenges and achievements. One of the main successes of the project has been the continuation of the new services in each of the four CAWT areas after the EU funding phase. As the project specifically targeted those people with mild to moderate symptoms, the likelihood of such people needing more expensive, specialised support in the future has been considerably reduced. This early intervention approach adopted by the project was critical in achieving a more positive longer-term outcome for clients with an eating disorder.

The project also had a focus on training - a range of health professionals including GPs, consultants, nursing staff, dietitians and health visitors received specialist training to enable them to identify patients with a potential eating disorder. Overall the project has effectively addressed gaps in service provision within the CAWT region and demonstrated value for money, which has led to its successful mainstreaming into core services. A comment received from one client, serves to bring hope to others. She explained: *"I was scared because I thought people would have a negative impression of me for having an eating disorder. I found it really hard to take that first step to getting help. My family have been so supportive and made me realise that I needed help. Once you take the first step, then there is hope and recovery is possible. The main thing is that you want to get better and therapy really works if you participate fully. I am now fully recovered and enjoying my life."*

Next issue of CAWT in Action: **Sept 2015**