Achieving EU targets

‘Putting Patients, Clients and Families First,’ CAWT’s EU INTERREG IVA programme, is meeting the client/patient targets, as agreed with the Department of Health and the Special EU Programmes Body. To date, almost 14,000 people have benefitted from EU funded cross border health and social care programmes via CAWT. CAWT is aiming to exceed a target of 25,000 people by the end of the EU INTERREG IVA programme.

CAWT’s communication strategy of engaging directly with as many groups and organisations as possible continues to be a priority. In recent months, CAWT has presented to a variety of stakeholders and elected representatives including the Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly; North West Region Cross Border Group and Sinn Fein’s conference in Newry. In general, there is a strong desire by those in attendance to explore how cross border health and social care can deliver services for people in more rural areas and the potential opportunities to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale by planning services on a cross border basis.

2012 marks the 20 year anniversary of the establishment of the CAWT cross border health partnership. In July 1992, the ‘Ballyconnell Agreement’ came into force and committed the health services to working together for the benefit of the border population as a whole. It facilitated the partner organisations to collaborate and develop services across boundaries in order to improve the health and social well being of the border population.

The Ballyconnell Agreement formalised cross border linkages and paved the way for health and social care to develop into the vibrant and dynamic partnership that exists today. The current CAWT partner organisations are the Southern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts, the Health and Social Care Board in Northern Ireland. During 2012 we plan to recognise and celebrate the many achievements in cross border health and social care over our 20 year history.

Minister for Health at the launch of the CAWT ‘UP4IT!’ Obesity project in the Southern Trust area (l to r): Shirley Hawkes, Community Development, Early Years; Siobhan Fitzpatrick, CEO, Early Years; Edwin Poots, MLA, Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety; Cllr. Alan Carson, Mayor, Craigavon Borough Council; Mairead McAlinden, Chief Executive, Southern Trust and Tom Daly, HSE and Director General of CAWT
Outcomes for Children project

The four local planning groups, established as part of the CAWT Outcomes for Children Project, have recently rolled out programmes to improve outcomes for children and young people living in South Armagh, Fermanagh, Cavan and South West Donegal. To date over £130k has been spent on 29 programmes ranging from children and youth activity based programmes, to more specialist services to support children and young people living in families affected by drug and alcohol misuse and by domestic violence. The project also launched two resources to support those planning and providing services for children and young people. The website www.outcomesforchildren.org has features to enable both high level and more localised information to be accessed more easily by those planning services for children and young people.

The second resource is an information management tool aimed at helping people to access and utilise meaningful information for the purposes of planning, implementing and measuring activity. To date, over 50 participants involved with outcomes based planning have availed of training on how to use the website. Further sessions will be rolled out across the CAWT region over the next few months. Work is on-going to develop a family support database for the CAWT HSE border counties similar to the new Northern Ireland Family Support database.

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Diabetes project

There is good progress in relation to the two aspects of the CAWT cross border Diabetes project. Help is now available to families and children to manage their diabetes more effectively with the introduction of the CHOICE programme, originally developed by Dr David Chaney, from the University of Ulster. This new programme is being rolled out across all Trust areas and HSE border counties and is delivered over a four week period. The aim of the programme is to give children, young people and their families / carers, the skills and knowledge they need to manage their diabetes and to reduce the impact of the condition on daily activities and lifestyle. Also underway is the establishment of diabetes pre-pregnancy care clinics within all Trust areas and HSE border counties. These clinics aim to help women with diabetes to achieve the best possible outcome for both mother and baby.

The majority of staff for all clinics have been appointed. Both the CHOICE and pre-pregnancy clinics are provided by Diabetes Specialist Nurses and Diabetes Specialist Dietitians.

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Citizenship for People with Disabilities

Day Opportunities Service: This service is helping people with Disabilities aged 18 to 64, to access activities and opportunities, in order to enable them to enjoy more fulfilling lives and foster independence. People with disabilities have begun to benefit from the Day Opportunities Service in areas such as accessing training, employment, leisure, recreational, social and educational opportunities. In the Western Trust area, the service was launched recently in Omagh and Derry.

Community Awareness Programme (CAP): Donegal County Council and Strabane District Council hosted the area’s first joint Disability Awareness Week at the end of November. The theme of Disability Awareness Week was ‘Celebrating Citizenship’ and a total of 17 events were held to raise awareness of disability and to highlight and celebrate the inclusion of all people. The Week was enthusiastically supported by the local community and many of the events featured professional performances and exhibitions by people with disabilities, which was the foundation and focus of the theme ‘Celebrating Citizenship.’

Contact for further information: Teresa McMonagle, Project Office,  
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w: www.cawt.com/citizenship
‘UP4IT!’ Obesity project

With Obesity on the rise and in the spotlight, support is now at hand for families to enable them to make healthy choices, through the free ‘UP4IT!’ programmes across the border area. Programmes for families are available in Craigavon, Castleblaney, Derry, Omagh and Letterkenny. In Craigavon, the Minister for Health, Edwin Poots, recently lent his support to these programmes by formally launching the Southern Trust version of ‘UPFORIT!, called ‘Healthier Choices Healthier Families’ which is being delivered by Early Years. In Monaghan, Border Counties Childhood Network staged a major conference on obesity, where the ‘UP4IT! Cavan/Monaghan Families Getting Healthy Together’ was formally launched by local TD, Heather Humphries, who commented: “We know that children are the best advocates for the healthy lifestyle message so we need to target children and young people as a priority.” To book a place on the ‘UPFORIT!’ programmes in January 2012 contact:

Craigavon ‘Healthier Choices, Healthier Lifestyles’ – Diane at 077 91334012
Cavan, ‘UP4IT! Cavan/Monaghan Families Getting Healthy Together’ – Colette at 086 7307304
Creggan, Waterside and Omagh, ‘Safe, Wellbeing, Exercise & Eating Together’ (SWEET) – George at 028 71373870
Letterkenny, ‘Motivate, Educate & Exercise Together’ (MEET) - Finghin at 074 9123078

Feedback from families who are participating has been positive - many have commented on the fun aspects of the programme, which is helping them to develop healthy lifestyles for their families and the benefits of having professional advice on hand.

Contact for further information: Claire McGinley, Project Manager  t: 00 44 (0) 28 7186 0086  e: claire.mcginley@hscni.net
w: www.cawt.com/obesity

Cross border workforce mobility

The three elements of the project have all made great strides in recent months. The first step in establishing a coaching network was launched in Monaghan recently. ‘The Connect Programme’ programme will see a total of 75 health and social care staff from the border region trained to undertake coaching and phase 1 will be completed in June 2012. The cross border standardised e-learning Manual Handling & Display Screen Equipment training programme was also successfully launched in Armagh in Oct, with attendance by representatives from Health & Safety Executive (NI), Health and Safety Authority (RoI), National Back Exchange and Ambulance Services. The Leadership Development Programme for Social Work Team Leaders working in Family & Child Care has recently been extended to Social Work Team Leaders in the Northern and South Eastern Health & Social Care Trusts. Feedback from participants and their managers on the programme continues to be extremely positive.

Contact for further information: Marianne Walsh, Project Manager  t: 00 44 (0) 28 7127 2100  e: marianne.walsh@westerntrust.hscni.net
w: www.cawt.com/mobility

Cross border Acute project

The CAWT acute project co-ordinated a cross border workshop recently to showcase the latest techniques used to treat varicose veins. The workshop, held in the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen, was delivered by vascular surgeons with clinical staff from the Western Trust, the Southern Trust and the HSE in attendance. Commenting on the event, Linda Saunderson, Acute Programme Manager at CAWT said: “This workshop has given participants, from both sides of the border, an opportunity to experience the practical, clinical aspects of using the VNUS varicose vein treatment system and to see the day surgery in action. It has also facilitated networking between the healthcare professionals involved and supports the work of the CAWT cross border acute project.” Overall the CAWT acute project is progressing well with 6,700 patients having benefitted by the end of Sept 2011 from one of the three cross border services underway: ENT, Vascular and Urology.

Contact for further information: Linda Saunderson, Programme Manager  t: 00 44 (0)28 6662 8740  e: linda.saunderson@westerntrust.hscni.net
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Erne Hospital staff pictured at the recent CAWT / Western Trust cross border Vascular workshop in Enniskillen
Fermanagh Older People’s project event

Attendees at the CAWT Older People’s project event Belcoo, Co Fermanagh which enabled service providers to explain the services they provide and how to access them. Pictured are: Pauline O’Hagan, CAWT (on right) with (seated, from left) Molly Cassidy, Derrygonnelly Senior Citizens; Rosie Johnston and Pauline Smyth, Letterbreen Tea Break Club (back row) Stuart Young, Land & Property Services and Hilary Doherty, A2B.

Artistically Autistic' Art Exhibition in the Southern Trust

Pictured at the 'Artistically Autistic' Art Exhibition in Portadown as part of the CAWT Autism project. Back row (l to r): Lisa Polland-O’Hare, Southern Trust; Louise Potts, CAWT Autism Project; Lesley Waugh, Southern Trust and Mel McConville, Project 1825. Front row (l to r): Christopher McSherry, project participant, Armagh; Justine, Support Worker; Dermot McConaghy, Art Director; Dominic Flynn, project participant, Lurgan and Catherine Corrigan, Southern Trust.

Launch: CAWT Older People’s project — event to mark Middletown Community and District Development Association receiving grant funding

Venue: Market House, Middletown, County Armagh
Date: 12 Dec 2012
Contact details:
Brenda Toal
t: 00 44 (0)28 3741 2767
e: brenda.toal@southerntrust.hscni.net

Workshop: CAWT Strategic Planning Day

Venue: Border region
Date: Feb 2012 (to be confirmed)
Contact details:
Edel O’Doherty
t: 00 44 (0)28 7127 2100
e: edel.odoherty@westhealth.n-i.nhs.uk

Conference: CAWT Sexual Health / GUM project — Sexual health in the border region

Venue: Border region (venue to be confirmed)
Date: 27 April 2012
Contact details:
Marian Martin
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w: www.cawt.com/gum

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