

Tuesday 25th January, 2011

IMAS Report: an overview

In summer 2009, the Health and Social Care Board approached IMAS (Interim Management and Support) and asked them to share the improvement approach they use in English NHS organisations to see if this could be of interest to HSC organisations in NI.

Following this approach, in December 2009 IMAS made a presentation to senior representatives of the NI HSC Trusts and the HSCB. It was agreed that IMAS support would be of value to HSC organisations.

The IMAS visit to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children was undertaken in February 2010, with a view to impart best practice suggestions for its urgent and emergency care programme for children, and to identify opportunities for improvement and modernisation. A letter detailing their observations from their one day visit was sent to the Belfast Trust in March 2010 and has been published with this overview on the Board's website. Joint work by the Board and the Trust has continued since then to address the issues identified by the visit. An agreed investment plan to further enhance the A&E service through the recruitment of additional senior medical and nursing staff is now well underway.