



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resource Committee
Subject:	Proposal from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to provide Member information Clinics in the City Hall on a trial basis.
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager, ext. 3361
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is one of the largest in Western Europe. Not only does it have 3 major hospitals located within the city, it is also responsible for a larger number of local health centres (some of which are health and well being centres), community based health services, social services, children in care and older people's services (including nine residential homes). The Trust also commissions a wide range of services in local areas and has taken an increasing role in prevention over recent years.
1.2	The vast majority of residents in Belfast access the Trust's services, many on a regular basis. The Trust has a number of mechanisms for engaging with its users, including a Personal and Public Involvement Programme. There is also a regional Patient, Client Council, which aims to glean the views of users and ensure that they are brought to the attention of the Trusts.
1.3	There have been, and will continue to be, significant changes to health services in Belfast. The Committee recently received presentations on changes to acute service provision, to Accident and Emergency provision and the Compton Review will bring further reform.
1.4	The Trust wishes to have an ongoing relationship with the Council, and specifically with the Elected Members. In addition to presentations to Committee on major changes to services, it wishes to be more accessible to Members, particularly in dealing with constituency issues.

2	Key Issues
2.1	To improve accessibility for Members to the Trust in respect of constituency issues, the Trust has proposed that it sets up a dedicated 'Member Information clinic' in BCC once a month. The Trust has asked for permission to use a room in City Hall to provide these clinics and will use their Public Affairs staff.
2.2	It is intended to plan these clinics around the Strategic Policy and Resources meeting dates and to operate them on a trial basis for 2 -3 months. Members will receive regular information to promote the time and place.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Recommendations
4.1	The Committee is asked to agree that the Belfast Health and Social Services Trust can use a room in the City Hall to provide a 'Member Information Clinic' once a month on a trial basis.