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**Southern Health  
and Social Care Trust**



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

**Date: Mon 14 Feb 2011**

## **Cross border Social Inclusion Project targets 'at risk' groups**

A new cross border project is delivering health-focused education and training programmes to vulnerable and 'at risk' groups across the border counties. Funding totalling £1.75 million has been secured from the European Union's INTERREG IVA programme by Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT), the cross border health services partnership. The funding has enabled this 3-year project to get off the ground, which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of groups such as vulnerable women and Travellers right across the border corridor.

The project will be delivered in selected geographical areas which have been chosen on the basis of a wide-ranging mapping exercise which helped to identify the areas with greatest need. In the Southern Health and Social Care Trust region the delivery of the project will target primarily the South Armagh rural areas including Keady, Crossmaglen, Cullyhanna and Newtonhamilton. To date three programmes have been delivered to 42 women this includes two mental health programmes and a carers support programme for mothers living with a disabled child.

Welcoming the funding Melanie McClements, Assistant Director for Health and well being in the Southern Trust and Project Board chairperson said: "this considerable EU investment enables us to work in close partnership with the community and voluntary sector who are delivering a range of targeted health improvement programmes to some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded people in the Southern Trust area. We are delighted that this cross border project is underway and, based on initial feedback, is already making a real difference to participants' lives."

Training and Programme Officer for the CAWT Social Inclusion project in the Southern Trust area, Duana McArdle said: "We are linking in with the community and voluntary sector to deliver these programmes throughout the Southern Trust target areas. Our highly skilled and experienced facilitators are delivering relevant and accessible programmes for women who would benefit from participation in community health based programmes. We are also working closely with local community and voluntary groups, as well as the Southern Trust to ensure appropriate referrals to our programmes. So it is a genuine statutory and community partnership approach."

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, welcoming the project said: "The EU's INTERREG IVA Programme places great emphasis on improving access to services to promote the quality of life for those living in the eligible area and promoting co-operation between public bodies and other partners. This project is delivering on both these elements and I look forward to hearing about the results of the project as it is rolled out."



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**-Ends-**

## Photographs captions

**CAWT 3:** At a recent CAWT Social Inclusion project workshop (l to r): Karen Meehan, Project Manager, CAWT Social Inclusion project, WHSCT; Fergal O'Brien, Promoting Well-being Manager for Newry and Mourne, SHSCT; Melanie McClements, Assistant Director of Health and Well Being, SHSCT and Martin O'Neill, Senior Community Development Co-ordinator, Health and Social Care Board.

**Duana McArdle**, Women's Training and Programme Delivery Officer, CAWT Social Inclusion project, SHSCT

## Notes to Editor

1. The CAWT Social Inclusion project is 3 years in duration and is part of CAWT's 'Putting Patients, Clients and Families First' initiative funded by the European Union INTERREG IVA programme. The amount of funding secured for the cross border Social inclusion project is £1.75 million for the whole of the CAWT border region. Project delivery sites agreed include
2. **WHSCT:** City of Derry (Ballymagroarty, Hazelbank, Rosemount & the Glen); Castlederg (via Derg Healthy Living Centre, Churchtown Community Group).  
**HSE West:** Donegal (Castlefin, Inishowen, Lifford).  
**SHSCT:** South Armagh (Rural Armagh, Keady, Crossmaglen, Cullyhanna, Newtonhamilton).  
**HSE DNE:** Monaghan Town and Castleblayney.  
Over the project lifetime it is planned to deliver over 100 individual Health Improvement Programmes to 1,000 women across the border region. A 40 week Community Health Worker Training programme will be delivered to 20 Travellers. A cross border traveller Community Health Worker network will be established.  
Project website: [www.cawt.com/socialinclusion](http://www.cawt.com/socialinclusion)
3. Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) is a cross border health and social care partnership comprising the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland, the border counties of the Health Service Executive (HSE) in the Republic of Ireland and the Southern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland. CAWT is managing a range of cross border health and social care programmes, part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA cross-border Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.
4. The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU structural funds Programmes PEACE III and INTERREG IV designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society. The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. The INTERREG IVA 2007-2013 Programme is worth



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€256 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders. It has two distinct priority measures to create co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable cross-border region. For more information on the SEUPB please visit [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)