

Report of Meeting in Mater Hospital, Belfast: April 24th 2007

This meeting was arranged by Sharon Martin, dietitian at Belfast City Hospital. On 1st April 2007 the 14 Trusts in Northern Ireland became 5 so there has been and will be lots of reorganisation. Each hospital was asked to send a team of three (doctor, nurse and dietitian) to the meeting and twenty three people representing 9 hospitals were present. South Tyrone were unable to attend but were attending training for next 2 days.

The morning programme consisted of teams sharing their experiences so far of structured education. Unfortunately our flight was delayed by nearly 4 hours and we missed these presentations! The overview is that 2 centres are DAFNE trained and the other teams have done the BIDAC course and are in the early stages of providing structured education.

Royal at Belfast is a DAFNE centre, they have a waiting list and providing a programme every 2 months

Altnagelvin Hospital have run 1 course so far but having problems with venues

Craigavon Hospital have run 2 courses so far and have another planned for August

Belfast City Hospital have run 5 programmes so far and have a waiting list of 70 patients

Causeway Hospital have planned a paediatric programme for July 2007

Downe and Lisburn is the other DAFNE centre and started in July 2006 and have so far run 3 programmes and have another 3 planned in 2007. They run this programme in a community setting

Mater Hospital have planned 4 programmes and the first is May 2007

Newry and Mourne have just completed their first course with 10 participants in a community setting

Ulster Hospital have their first course planned for May 2007.

All reported problems of resources, funding and clerical help

In the afternoon, David Cavan and Joan Everett talked about the T1EN. This consisted of the history, achievements and future plans. The audience then split up into three groups and were asked the following questions

1. Do you want to have a regional T1EN group?
2. How do you see this being taken forward?
3. Are you willing to help take this forward

All groups answered yes to question 1 and definitely wanted to be part of T1EN

It was agreed that each Trust would provide a link person to disseminate information but individuals would join T1EN

They will plan 2 meetings a year. One would be a small group consisting of team of three from each hospital and the other would be a larger meeting inviting all members. They asked if members of steering group would be prepared to attend and we agreed on your behalf! All groups were willing to help to take regional meetings forward. The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 2nd October and possibly at Craigavon but this will be confirmed. Sharon will be link person to T1EN steering group

The main topic at this meeting will be peer review but Sean Dinneed to be invited to explore north/south link, the chair of Diabetes Federation to talk about current issues and also David McCance (DUK) to update on developments and Diamond User's group.