

Planning approval important step for acute hospital

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Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey has welcomed the news that planning permission has been approved for the new £267million acute hospital for the south west.

He said: "This announcement is an important milestone in the development of world-class health and social care services for the population of the south west. I visited Enniskillen recently to launch an exhibition of the new hospital which will allow people to see how this new state-of-the-art facility will look when it opens in 2012. Once completed, this new hospital will be the first in Northern Ireland to provide 100% single rooms with en-suite facilities. This will mean greater privacy for patient, as well as reducing the risk of healthcare associated infections.

"The new hospital will have a range of acute services, including 24-hour accident and emergency; inpatient services including medicine, surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology and critical care; and a range of diagnostic services and outpatient services."

Enabling works are currently underway and construction of the new acute hospital is planned to start in Spring 2009.

For further information please contact DHSSPS Press Office on 028 9052 0575