**Help Health and Social Care prevent infections and reduce inappropriate use of antibiotics**

Receiving healthcare, such as having surgery, being admitted to hospital, or seeing your GP can be necessary to investigate and treat an illness. However, sometimes people who are treated for illnesses can be harmed by the treatment itself or by getting an infection when being treated, even though the intention of the health professionals is to help improve people’s health.

For example, the use of antibiotics by people who don’t have a serious infection can cause harm to those people. When antibiotics are used, they do not kill all bacteria (germs), and the surviving bacteria can cause infections that are more difficult to treat with antibiotics. This is why we want to try and reduce the use of antibiotics where they are not necessary.

A group called the Healthcare-associated Infection and Antimicrobial Stewardship Improvement Board has been set up to reduce the amount of harm caused by infections associated with healthcare, and to reduce the amount of unnecessary antibiotic use. The group is particularly focused on delivering the Government’s goal of reducing a type of blood stream infection (‘sepsis’) by half, and the goal of reducing ‘inappropriate prescribing’ of antibiotics by half, by the year 2020.

The decisions that this group will make will have affect the health and wellbeing of many people in Northern Ireland, by reducing harm from infections.

We ask for a service user to provide their perspective about antibiotics and infections to our group to help us make well-informed decisions.

*To fulfil this role we are asking you to*

* Have experience of care in a general practice or hospital
* Participate in a group to join in discussions on the area of work from a service user or carer perspective.
* Identify and engage with wider service users and carers representatives as and when required, e.g. support or highlight the need for wider involvement of service users/carers in specific areas of the programme of work.

*To support you to fulfil the role, we will:*

* Provide an induction on the programme of work and your role in this work
* Host meetings via video conferencing facilities, if required
* Reimburse out of pocket expenses e.g. travel and childcare costs (in line with HSC Out of Pocket expenses policy)
* Provide support before and after meetings

**Commitment**

* Attend meetings every two months. The meetings will last about 3 hours.
* Prepare for the meetings by reading documents, which may take one or two hours before every meeting.
* **How to apply and contact details**

To apply for the role, please complete the recruitment form and return it to [Alison.mccusker@hscni.net](mailto:Alison.mccusker@hscni.net) by 31 July 2017. For further information, or to speak to a member of the group, phone Alison McCusker on +4428 9536 3386.