

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the Eighty-eighth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings on Tuesday 18 April 2000 at 10.00 am.

88/1 PRESENT:

Mrs June Allister
Mrs Joan Baird
Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Margaret Campbell
Mrs Sue Cunningham
Mr Gordon Frazer
Mrs Angela Gray
Mrs Mary McNally

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Seamus Magee, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Miss Karen McCoy, Research Officer and
Miss Caroline McKenna, Assistant Research Officer [for
part of the meeting]
Mr B Cunningham, Chief Executive, SHSSB [for part of
the meeting]
Mrs R Moore, Director of Mental Health & Disability
and Mr C Donaghy, Director of Planning, Craigavon &
Banbridge Comm HSS Trust [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES:

Mrs Fionnuala Cook
Mr Jim Cavanagh
Mrs Roisin Foster
Mr Isaac Hanna
Mr Joseph Loughran
Mr Charles Smyth

In the absence of the Chairwoman Mrs Fionnuala Cook, who was ill, Mrs Cunningham agreed to chair the meeting.

88/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting which were circulated were agreed and signed. It was agreed to make minor amendments requested by Miss Stanley, Chief Executive of Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust.

- 87/6 - page 3 - second paragraph to read "She reported the development of a private residential and nursing care facility".
- Page 4 - fourth paragraph to read "Miss Stanley said services were not sustainable as they were at present beyond 31 July 2000".
- Page 4 - eighth paragraph to read "Replying to Mr Cummings question about the disquiet over services in Annvale, Keady, Miss Stanley said that as the residential

element at Annvale would be closed it was necessary to replace the integral day care with a new facility. This would incorporate the health clinics currently provided in a cramped site in Keady, at a cost in excess of £150,000”.

88/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 87/5 Equality Scheme for SHSSC

In relation to contact names for ‘Talking Newspapers’ Mrs Gray said she was not aware that she had to provide names for all areas. It was agreed that Mrs Gray, Mrs Allister and Mrs Campbell would provide the information for Newry, Portadown and Banbridge.

2 87/4.1 Conference - Better Health for All - Tackling Health and Social Inequalities

Mrs Baird said the conference was very good and interesting but because it got off to a late start she felt some of the speakers had to cut short their presentations. She said Mrs Ruth Sutherland, Director of Community Development and Health Network was to be congratulated on her presentation. In relation to the workshops she said she would have liked the audience to have had the opportunity to make comment on each group’s key points.

Mrs Baird was interested to know why the drugs issue was not considered in the survey. The Chief Officer informed her that the four Boards had limited control over the questions contained in the survey which was funded by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

88/4 CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

1 Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Zone

The Chairwoman informed members that the Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Zone was seeking a nomination for one of its sub-groups entitled ‘Healthy Food and Local Regeneration’. The remit of the sub-group is to examine ways in which local healthy food can be promoted in the Armagh and Dungannon area. This includes a focus on consumers, producers and suppliers. No nominations were put forward.

2 Membership

The Chairwoman advised members that due to the ongoing delay in the political situation members whose appointment was due to expire on 31 May 2000 (following a six month extended term of office) had been invited to continue serving for a further term of one year until 31 May 2001. This applied to Mrs Cook, Mr Cummings and Mr Loughran. All had confirmed their willingness to continue to serve.

Mrs Cunningham reported that Mrs Foster and herself would complete their first term of office (with a 6 month extension) on 31 May 2000 but they had indicated that they were willing to continue for a further term.

It was agreed that an election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman would be conducted at the Council meeting in June.

3 Equality Schemes - Seminar

The Chairwoman informed members of a joint seminar organised by the four Health and Social Services Councils in conjunction with Community Development and Health Network (NI). The seminar would take place in the Oaklin House Hotel, Dungannon on Friday 19 May 2000 from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm followed by a light buffet lunch.

She said the objective of the seminar was to discuss the Council's draft equality scheme and to consider the issues raised by the statutory duty to consult. All members were encouraged to attend.

88/5 ACUTE MEDICAL SERVICES AT SOUTH TYRONE HOSPITAL SHSSC 2000/17

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2000/17.

The Chief Officer referred members to the Southern Board's paper, on the provision of acute medical services at South Tyrone Hospital, which was considered at its meeting on 11 April 2000. He said the Board voted unanimously to support the recommendations :

- (1) "That the Board supports the interim solution proposed by the Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust and asks the Trust to prepare a comprehensive plan for the implementation of this proposed interim arrangement. This should be completed no later than the end of the eight-week consultation period associated with the plan" and
- (2) "That the Board approves the contingency plan and issues it for an eight-week period of public consultation".

On receipt of the Board's contingency plan members of the Council would be provided with a copy for consideration. A response would be prepared following consideration of the contingency plan.

88/6 SHSSB - UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS

The Chairwoman invited Mr B Cunningham, the Southern Board's Chief Executive, to update members on developments.

Mr Cunningham thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting. He said that although he had no particular agenda the three issues he had in mind were; additional financial resources indicated to the Board by the Minister for Health and Social Services, the general resource situation and acute services at South Tyrone Hospital.

In relation to financial resource allocations he said the Minister for Health and Social Services indicated a few weeks ago that an additional £53 m, £8 m of which had been previously earmarked for cancer services, would be made available to Northern Ireland. He indicated that some discussions had already taken place between the Minister, Boards, Councils etc but no definitive letter had yet been received. However, it seemed that

£10 m would be allocated to community care, hospital services £18m (£10 m to cancer services and £8 m to other services). In recognition of the problems associated with recruiting staff and in particular nurses and pharmacists £3 m would be provided for general training and staffing issues. Ambulance services would receive an additional £2 m this year; children's services would receive additional money and other small amounts would be allocated to capital, information technology, fraud and general medical services. Mr Cunningham said he welcomed the £53 m on a regional basis on what was a very tight allocation. He said there were considerable pressures in relation to waiting lists and programmes of care including children's services and retention and recruitment of staff.

Mrs Baird's asked Mr Cunningham if the total £53 m would be directed to the care of the patient and what percentage would be used for administration. In replying he said there would be money within the allocation for capital works and recruitment of staff but all would be used in the care of patients and better facilities. Regarding administration, he said he was not aware of anything that would increase such costs. However, £1 m had been allocated to deal with fraud on a Northern Ireland wide context. Mrs Baird said fraud should be highlighted as a big issue in the health and personal social services. Mr Cunningham agreed.

Replying to Mr Brannigan's question about resources to increase the number of Occupational Therapists (OTs) to deal with Housing Executive referrals, Mr Cunningham said a considerable amount of money had been allocated to the recruitment of therapists to deal with the matter. The policy decision of the Housing Executive to install oil heating systems instead of solid fuel had increased demand. The Board was currently working with the local district manager of the Housing Executive to look at the possibility of a fast tracking system. Mrs Cunningham said she felt that anyone requiring minor adaptations costing less than £500 should not be subjected to a full OT assessment.

Mrs Baird expressed concern about the number of complaints in the Banbridge district in relation to long waiting times for a bed in Craigavon Area Hospital. Patients have to endure long periods of sitting on chairs or lying on beds in casualty. Mr Cunningham said he was aware of a recent casualty watch undertaken by the Council in January and no one was waiting for a bed.

The Chief Officer reported that a casualty watch was conducted on Monday 17 April at 4.30 pm and of the 23 patients recorded 8 were waiting for beds and some had waited a significant length of time. Mrs Cunningham asked for a breakdown of the allocation for community care and in particular residential care. Mr Cunningham said he would be happy to discuss, with the Council, the breakdown of the budget once confirmation was received.

Reporting on the issue of acute services at South Tyrone Hospital, Mr Cunningham said the situation was that the Trust had made proposals for an interim solution to allow for the retention of acute medicine and associated services until July 2001. He said the Board welcomed the proposal and requested that the Trust develop a detailed plan for the implementation of the proposed interim arrangement. In the event of the Trust not being able to implement its proposal within the timescale, the Board would proceed to issue a draft contingency plan for public consultation over an eight week period.

Members proceeded to question Mr Cunningham in relation to the possibility of extending the range of services available at South Tyrone, when it was likely the contingency plan would be implemented and the impact the contingency plan was likely to have on Craigavon Area Hospital. Mrs McNally raised concerns about the physical and verbal abuse that nurses had to endure from psychiatric patients who were unsupervised and allowed to wander freely in the medical wards of Craigavon Area Hospital.

Mrs Baird referred to the recent visit to the medical wards by Council members. She said the group met with four of the nursing staff and all indicated that the arrangements were working well and the door to the psychiatric ward was kept locked. Mr Cunningham noted the issue and said he would be raising it with the Trust.

In reply to the Chief Officer's question about the consultation period for the contingency plan, Mr Cunningham said the date of the June Board meeting had been changed to 27 June in order to consider responses.

Mr Cunningham said members had brought to his attention a number of issues which he would follow up. Mr Cunningham said he would like to have the breakdown of the allocations completed before the summer break. The Chairwoman thanked Mr Cunningham and he left the meeting.

88/7 QUALITY OF CARE PROVIDED IN NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES

The Chairwoman invited the Research Officer and Assistant Research Officer to present topline findings from the research project, 'Quality of Care Provided to Older Residents (over 65) in Nursing and Residential Homes'.

Miss McKenna, Research Assistant, commenced by explaining that the objectives of the research was to examine relatives' experiences and perceptions of the care provided to residents (over 65 years) of nursing and residential homes and to make recommendations for improvement. She then outlined the methodology and its different stages.

Miss McKenna then provided members with an overview of the findings in relation to the response rate, gender and age of the relative or resident, frequency of visiting, attention of staff, views on staff by type of home, quality of personal nursing care, activities, religious services, housekeeping, complaints and knowledge of Registration & Inspection Unit and Southern Health and Social Services Council. She also outlined the positive and negative aspects of the project and the general overview of issues which emerged.

The Chairwoman congratulated Miss McKenna on her first presentation to the Council.

Miss McCoy, Research Officer responded to questions raised by Mrs Baird in relation to participation of homes in the Banbridge area. Miss McKenna said a list of all the homes that participated in the project would be included in the final report.

The Chairwoman thanked both officers and they left the meeting.

88/8 PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR PERSONS WITH LEARNING DISABILITY - LURGAN LOCALITY
SHSSC 2000/18

The Chairwoman welcomed Mr C Donaghy, Director of Planning and Mrs R Moore, Director of Mental Health and Disability, Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust to provide members with details of the Trusts' proposals for the future provision of residential care for persons with learning disability in the Lurgan area.

Mr Donaghy commenced by focusing on the Trust's development plan published in 1998 which considered the NIHPSS Regional Strategy, the Southern Board's Commissioning Plan and the Trust's Needs Assessment. At the time the Trust used a number of consultation techniques including a search conference and focus groups and meetings with individual clients, relatives and staff. The development plan for 1997 - 2002 included phase 1 - Forest Lodge and Phase 2 - Re-development of Lurgan.

Mrs Moore said a project team and a project board had been established and carers had been actively involved in the consultation process with the Trust.

Referring to Edenvale and Riverside, Mrs Moore said Edenvale was a very old, three storey, category C building and there was need for a modern solution. It had 10 permanent places and 1 respite and at present housed 6 permanent residents and catered for 12 respite users. The strategy formulated by the review group included locality focused residential care, one nursing home, residential care and respite in each locality and supported housing.

Mrs Moore said the redevelopment plan for the Lurgan locality - phase 2 included the securing of properties Bowen's Close and Nightingale Project. Bowen's Close would be run in partnership with Ulidia Housing Association to accommodate 6 permanent residents and Trust care staff would be transferred with residents from Edenvale. The Nightingale Project is a registered charity, formed by parents of adults and children with learning disability, which would be run in partnership with the Fold Housing Association. This will be a 2 bedded respite unit. The cost of these would be within the Trust's existing revenue and would provide a more satisfactory resolution for Edenvale.

The consultation process would run for eight weeks from 10 April to 5 June and following consideration of responses would be considered at the Trust Board meeting on 26 June 2000.

Members raised a number of issues in relation to the involvement of carers, the employment of an advocacy scheme, the Ulidia Housing Association and the future of Riverside.

In reply to the Chief Officer's question about the Board's plans for learning disability, Mr Donaghy said the strategy was entirely consistent with the Trust's development plan which was approved by the Southern Board. He believed that it was possible for the Trust to achieve the plan within its existing resources.

The Chairwoman thanked Mrs Moore and Mr Donaghy and they left the meeting.

88/9 SHSSB EQUALITY SCHEME

SHSSC 2000/19

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2000/19.

The Chief Officer referred members to the Southern Board's draft Equality Scheme which was issued for consultation. He said the closing date for comments was 2 June 2000. A number of other Equality Schemes had been received by the Council and these were available on request.

Members were asked to consider the Board's draft Scheme.

88/10 SHSSC - GUIDE TO REPLYING TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

SHSSC 2000/20

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2000/20.

Mr Magee introduced the Guide which was produced by the Southern Health & Social Services Council to assist voluntary and community groups respond to the plethora of consultation documents currently 'doing the rounds', the Equality Schemes being the most recent.

He said the Guide was intended to be both practical and user friendly and its contents had been approved by the Plain English Campaign. The Guide had been distributed to relevant organisations within the area served by the Council. Members were asked to advise any relevant organisations of its existence. Copies were available on request.

88/11 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

SHSSC 2000/21

1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting on 15 February and Agenda for meeting on 21 March 2000

2 Craigavon & Banbridge Community HSS Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting on 31 January and 28 February and agenda for meeting on 27 March 2000

3 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting on 15 February and Agenda for meeting on 18 April 2000

88/12 FOR INFORMATION

88/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

88/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16 May 2000 in Quaker Buildings at 5.30 pm

Signed:

Date: