

SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ninety-seventh Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on
Tuesday 20 March at 10.00 am**

97/1 PRESENT: Mrs Fionnuala Cook, Chairwoman
Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Margaret Campbell
Mr Jim Cavanagh
Mr Robert Cummings
Mr Brendan Curran
Mrs Sue Cunningham
Mr Gordon Frazer
Mr Isaac Hanna
Mrs Angela Gray
Mr Joseph Loughran
Mr Jim McCammick
Mr Charles Smyth

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Seamus Magee, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Ms Heather Monteverde, Service Development
Manager, Macmillan Cancer Relief [for part of the
meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mrs June Allister
Mrs Joan Baird
Mrs M McNally

97/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting, which were circulated, were agreed and signed subject to amendment. Item 96/5 on page three - 5th paragraph should read, "Mr Cavanagh asked if there was a requirement for residential homes....." and not Mrs Baird.

97/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 96/9 Complaints Summary for the 6 months ending 31 December 2000

Mr Loughran asked if there was any further developments on the NHS complaints procedure. The Chief Officer informed him that UK wide research

into the complaints procedures was under way and a report would be published later in the year.

97/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 HPSS Bill - Public Access to Meetings

The Chairwoman referred to a letter from the Department in relation to public access to all meetings.

The Chief Officer informed members that the HPSS Bill which was due to be enacted in the near future required all HPSS Bodies to provide for meetings which were open to members of the public. He said the Council was meeting the identified criteria but would be unable to advertise Council meetings in all local newspapers because of costs.

As an alternative Mrs Cunningham suggested placing posters in Libraries and other public places in advance of the meeting. Mr Cavanagh proposed that a small advert of the schedule of meetings be placed in the local press at the beginning of each year. Mr McCammick suggested that a letter be forwarded to the Department asking if it was prepared to increase the Council's budget to pay for public advertisements. It was agreed to raise this matter with the Department.

2 Joint SHSSB/SHSSC Meeting

The Chairwoman reminded members of the joint meeting to be held in the Seagoe Hotel on Friday 30 March at 10.00 am. To allow sufficient time for discussion it was agreed that no further items would be added to the agenda.

3 Carers' Health Day in Craigavon Civic Centre

The Chairwoman informed members of the Carers' Health Day in Craigavon Civic Centre on Wednesday 21 March from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. She asked members to support the event.

97/5 NEW TARGETING SOCIAL NEED (TSN) - SHSSB AND SHSSC DRAFT ACTION PLANS SHSSC 2001/12

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/12.

The Chief Officer referred members to the new TSN Action Plans prepared by the Southern Health and Social Services Council and the Southern Health and

Social Services Board both of which reflected the guidance issued by the office of the First and Deputy First Minister's office and the DHSSPS. He said that both organisations had agreed to jointly consult on the contents of their Action Plans.

He said members' support in implementing the actions outlined in the Council's Plan was important and training would be provided to ensure that new TSN was embedded in the work of the Council. The draft Plan had been circulated to 400 groups and organisations within the Board's area. Members were asked to consider both plans in relation to timescales and targets.

Mr Cummings expressed concern that this was creating a lot of extra work for the Council whose resources were already stretched. Mr McCammick shared concerns about the whole approach. He felt that there should be a more integrated partnership approach to utilise the expertise in each field. Mrs Cunningham said it was important that the Government recognised that additional resources would have to be made available for the extra work and training.

In relation to the section on desired outcomes in the Council's Plan, the Chairwoman asked that an additional point - 'To work coherently with other agencies' be included. Mr Curran said it was essential that people were fully informed of all these initiatives through conferences, training or study days. Mrs Cunningham said it was important that new TSN, equality and social deprivation documents were all brought together to ensure there was 'joined up' policy making.

It was agreed to take on board members' views when preparing the final Plan.

97/6 DHSSPS - PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2001/2002 SHSSC 2001/13

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/13.

The Chief Officer made reference to the document entitled, 'Priorities for Action 2001/2002' which set out a detailed range of objectives and targets to deliver the Minister's planning priorities for the year and to provide the basis for strengthening monitoring and accountability. The priorities would replace previous targets set out in both the regional strategy and Service and Financial Framework documents. Priorities to be addressed included winter pressures, waiting lists, shortages of skilled staff, removal of the internal market, developing partnerships with statutory and voluntary agencies, giving local communities a greater say and developing North/South collaboration in A & E

and major emergencies. The timescale for submission of the Board's Service Investment Plan was 31 March and Trusts' Service Delivery Plans had to be submitted by 30 April 2001. He said the document had not been the subject of consultation and the Council had no opportunity to influence its contents.

Mr Cavanagh said he would like to know at the end of 2002 if the Government and Boards had achieved what they had set out to do. Mr Cummings said the document was aspirational but could simplify commissioning. Mrs Campbell expressed concern about the early discharge of patients from hospitals and the numbers having to be readmitted. Mr McCammick said he would have preferred the Board to have developed a three year plan with an agreed budget and quarterly monitoring of progress. Mrs Cunningham said she would like more information to be provided by Trusts.

The Chairwoman welcomed the document which identified precise actions which had to be addressed this year.

97/7 MOBILE PHONE MASTS

SHSSC 2001/14

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/14.

He drew members attention to a letter from the Minister for the Environment responding to the Council's letter of concern dated 15 February 2001. The letter indicated that a study by independent experts had concluded that there was no general risk to the health of people living near base stations and until revised guidance and legislation was in place the Department would continue to operate in accordance with that currently existing. Refusal of planning permission for masts could not therefore be met.

The paper was noted and it was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

97/8 MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF - Developments in the Southern Board's Area

The Chairwoman welcomed Ms Heather Monteverde, Macmillan's Service Development Manager to update members on developments within the Southern Board's area.

Ms Monteverde thanked the Council for the invitation.

She said Macmillan Cancer Relief was founded by Douglas Macmillan and has offered over 90 years of caring throughout the United Kingdom. Macmillan

was a substantial charity with 2000 nurses working across the United Kingdom. The charity has been operating in Northern Ireland since the 1920s and since then the number of people living with cancer had steadily risen. Approximately 8,500 people are diagnosed every year in Northern Ireland with cancer and a further 33,000 were living with cancer. She said Macmillan nurses were highly trained professionals who provided continuity of care between hospitals and home by ensuring that patients and families received the support they needed. The charity funded or partly funds the cost of building new cancer facilities to help transform the quality of patient care.

Macmillan provides grants to people who require financial assistance as a result of their illness. It also assists with increased costs such as travel to and from hospital, convalescent breaks, heating bills and appliances such as washing machines or tumble dryers.

Ms Monteverde reported that Macmillan Cancer Relief had 36 nurses in Northern Ireland, 11 of whom were located in the Southern Board's area. Of these 2 were in Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust, 3 in Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust, 2 in Newry and Mourne HSS Trust and 4 in Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust. She confirmed that other posts would be available shortly, one of which was a cancer genetics nurse.

With regard to medical cover in the Southern Board's area, she said Dr Humphreys, as Macmillan's lead Clinician, conducted 4 sessions per week in Craigavon Hospital. Macmillan also funded Dr Hull, Consultant Haematologist in Craigavon Hospital and Dr Morris who is based in Newry Hospice and contracted to work half time in Craigavon Hospital. Dr Millar had recently been appointed as GP facilitator for the Southern Board's area.

Ways of improving care to people who wanted to remain in their own homes outside Macmillan were looked at and as a result a network of GPs across Northern Ireland are working together. GPs work for 2 sessions per week to provide education for their colleagues and to improve care for cancer patients in the community. There will be a total of nine GP Facilitators; 4 in the EHSSB, 2 in the NHSSB, 2 in WHSSB and one in the Southern Board's area. There will be a lead GP for Northern Ireland to feed into the Cancer Centre from the primary care perspective.

Other areas Macmillan has become involved includes a PAMS post - a community palliative care pharmacist to be appointed for 2 years to work with the community pharmacists and families across the Southern Board's area. Carer schemes were also being developed by Macmillan. A study on the

potential for developing a patient information centre was funded last year at Craigavon Area Hospital.

Questions raised by members related to the lack of information being provided for patients when leaving hospital, patient held records, pre-chemotherapy investigations being done by the local GP, training for doctors to identify active cancer and the number of GP facilitators in other Boards compared with the Southern Board.

Ms Monteverde said Macmillan had a big problem recruiting specialist cancer nurses as it took 8 years to train one.

The Chairwoman said she was very impressed by the work of Macmillan Cancer Relief. She thanked Ms Monteverde and she left the meeting.

**97/9 SURVEY - SHSS COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE IN ASSISTING
COMPLAINANTS SHSSC 2001/15**

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/15.

He referred members to the report of a survey undertaken by the Council examining complainants' views of the Council's performance in assisting with their complaints.

The report detailed the views of 51 complainants who had been assisted by the Council between March 1999 and June 2000. The Council intended taking action to address some of the issues raised by complainants. The report would also be circulated to relevant groups.

Mrs Cunningham asked if the report had been shared with the Trusts and the DHSSPS. The Chairwoman said she felt that the time spent, in Newry and Dungannon each month, by the Complaints Officer would be very effective. The pilot was scheduled to be up and running from April. Mrs Gray suggested that people in Newry could be informed through the Confederation of Community Groups' newsletter.

Members would be kept updated on developments.

**97/10 ARMAGH COMMISSIONING PILOT - LOCALITY NEEDS
ASSESSMENT REPORT SHSSC 2001/16**

The Chief Officer presented a report on locality needs assessment jointly conducted by the Armagh Confederation of Voluntary Groups and the Council

as part of the user involvement strategy of the Armagh Primary Care Commissioning Pilot. The methodology included 8 focus group discussions with 87 individuals in various locations throughout the Pilot's area.

A range of primary care issues were raised and a report detailing these was provided for members' information. A series of follow-up meetings were being progressed by the Council and the Confederation. These were designed to provide feedback on the issues identified and to facilitate discussions with participants and health and social service providers on how the issues could be taken forward.

Mrs Cunningham said she noted that every single focus group was critical of the out of hours service. The Chief Officer suggested that the matter be raised at the joint Council/Board meeting. Mr Curran asked if there was a maximum number of patients a GP could have. He requested further information on the length of time patients had to wait for a GP appointment in Northern Ireland. Mrs Gray raised concerns about the road surface outside the Newry out of hours centre and asked that the matter be raised with the out of hours centre.

The Chairwoman congratulated the staff on the innovative work on this project.

97/11 VISIT REPORTS

SHSSC 2001/17

Responses received from Trusts

- 1 Daisy Hill Hospital
- 2 South Tyrone Hospital and
- 3 Craigavon Area Hospitals.

All responses were noted.

97/12 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

SHSSC 2001/18

1 Craigavon Area Hospital

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 16 January and Agenda for meeting on 20 February 2001

Mr Cummings raised concerns about the shortage of nursing staff.

2 Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 29 January and Agenda for meeting on 26 February 2001

Mr McCammick referred to minute 829/01 on the Draft Policy on Confidentiality and Data Protection and asked if the Council had an opportunity to comment on this. It was agreed to request a copy of the policy document.

3 Newry and Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 12 December 2000 and Agenda for meeting on 20 February 2001

Mr Hanna requested further details on the restructuring of home helps and also clarification of who redundancy payments were being made to and how many.

97/13 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 EHSSC - Minutes of Meeting held on 18 January 2001
- 2 WHSSC - Minutes of Meeting held on 1 February 2001
- 3 NHSSC - Minutes of Meeting held on 7 February 2001
- 4 SHSSB - Minutes of Board Meeting held on 13 February 2001
- 5 SHSSB - Minutes of Special Meeting held on 28 February 2001
- 6 SHSSB - R & I Unit Annual Report 1999/2000 and Business Plan 2000/2001 (tabled)
- 7 Director of Social Services, SHSSB - Care Report - Annual Assessment of Need 2000 (tabled)

97/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 April Meeting

Mr Loughran proposed that, in view of the joint meeting with the Southern Board on 30 March and the fact that a lot of people would still be on holiday during the Easter week. the Council's April meeting should be postponed. Members voted in favour of the proposal.

2 Committee Involvement

Mr Cummings asked what the position was in relation to his involvement in the Cancer Care Committee in the Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust now that he was due to finish his term on the Council. The Chairwoman said this would be discussed at the May meeting.

3 Condolences

The Chairwoman expressed sympathy to Mrs Downard on the death of her mother in law.

97/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 May in Quaker Buildings at **7.00 pm**

Signed:

Date: