

**SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the One Hundredth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on  
Tuesday 18 September 2001 at 10.00 am**

**100/1          PRESENT:**                      Mrs Fionnuala Cook, Chairwoman  
   Mrs June Allister  
   Mr Sydney Anderson  
   Mr Pat Brannigan  
   Mrs Margaret Campbell  
   Mr Jim Cavanagh  
   Mr Robert Cummings  
   Mr Brendan Curran  
   Mrs Roisin Foster  
   Mrs Angela Gray  
   Mr Isaac Hanna  
   Mr Joseph Loughran  
   Mr John F McArdle  
   Mrs Mary McNally  
   Mr David Simpson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**                      Mr Seamus Magee, Chief Officer  
   Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager

**APOLOGIES:**                              No apologies

**100/2          MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the previous meeting which were circulated were agreed and signed.

**100/3          MATTERS ARISING**

**99/6          Targeting Social Need**

The Chairwoman informed members that the re-register of members' interests would be carried out when all new members were in office.

## 100/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

### 1 New Members

The Chairwoman welcomed new members Mr John McArdle, Newry & Mourne District Council and Mr Sydney Anderson and Mr David Simpson, Craigavon Borough Council. She also welcomed the reappointment of Mr Curran and Mr Hanna, Newry and Mourne District Council, Mrs Mary McNally, Craigavon Borough Council and Mr Cavanagh, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council. Appointments for Armagh City and District Council and Banbridge District Council had yet to be confirmed.

The Chairwoman paid tribute to Mrs Joan Baird who had represented Banbridge District Council for the past 9 years and was not eligible for reappointment because she had already served two terms. She said Mrs Baird had given excellent service to the Council over the years. She had a keen involvement in a wide range of issues and was committed to her work in representing the interests of the Banbridge and district population in all aspects of the health and social care. The Chairwoman said she would be writing to Mrs Baird to thank her for her contribution to the work of the Council.

### 2 Get Well Wishes

The Chairwoman welcomed all members back after the summer break and wished Mr Cummings and Mrs Cunningham well after their recent illnesses.

### 3 Chief Officer's Resignation

The Chairwoman informed members that Mr Magee, the Council's Chief Officer would be leaving his post at the end of October to take up a new post as head of the Electoral Commission Office in Northern Ireland. She said the Chief Officer had served the Council for almost 10 years during which time he had articulated the interests of patients and the public in all aspects of health and social care. On behalf of the Council she thanked Mr Magee for this contribution to the work of the Council.

Regarding a replacement, the Chairwoman said shortlisting of candidates would take place on 8 October and interviews were scheduled for 7 November. The panel would comprise Mr Cunningham, Chief Executive

of the Southern Board and herself and another member. Mr Cummings agreed to assist in the appointment of a new Chief Officer.

#### 4 Trusts' Annual Public Meetings

The Chairwoman said a schedule of Trusts' Annual Public Meetings had been circulated. Members were encouraged to attend.

#### 5 Craigavon Area Hospital - A & E Department

The Chairwoman read a letter from Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust outlining details of a major extension and refurbishment programme for the A & E Unit at the hospital. She said the £1m project would begin on 17 September and be completed by March 2002. It would provide a dedicated waiting and treatment area for children, an upgraded reception and waiting area. The current treatment area and X-ray facilities would also be extended and improved.

Attention was also drawn to a letter copied to the Council from Dr Kellett, Chairman of the Local Medical Committee (LMC) to the Health Minister conveying the Committee's concerns about the current inadequate and deteriorating secondary care services and the added pressures placed on GPs. The Council noted the contents of the letter.

#### 6 Local Disability Discrimination Advice Service

The Chairwoman said the Equality Commission had invited 2 representatives from the Council to the launch of the disability outreach service in Craigavon Civic Centre on Wednesday 19 September from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm. Miss Hart, Complaints Officer would be attending and a place was available for one member. Mrs Allister agreed to attend.

#### 7 Children's Hospice

The Chairwoman informed members that the Chief Officer, herself and 4 other members had been invited to visit the Children's Hospice on Monday 1 October at 11.00 am. Mrs Gray and Mrs Campbell agreed to attend.

#### 8 Casualty Watch - 17 September 2001

The Chairwoman reported on 'Casualty Watch' which was conducted at 4.30 pm on Monday 17 September in Craigavon and Daisy Hill Hospitals.

Results from Craigavon indicated that 20 patients were waiting in A & E. 12 of these were awaiting admission but no beds were available. 2 patients were waiting over 15 hours and one patient was waiting over 13 hours. 6 of the patients waiting for a bed were aged between 78 and 85 years. In Daisy Hill Hospital 12 patients were waiting in A & E but no problems were encountered.

Members expressed concern about the lack of security provided to staff in the A & E Department at Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospitals especially at weekends. Concern was also expressed that porters were being used as security officers. Mr Simpson said he had met with Management of Craigavon Area Hospital and the police to discuss the situation. He said he felt the Southern Board should consider contracting a private security firm for the hospitals.

The issue of staffing in the Craigavon Area Hospital was raised by Mr Anderson. He said he knew of young nurses who had graduated and were unable to secure posts in Craigavon but could elsewhere. He raised concerns about the cost of employing agency nurses.

The Chairwoman informed members that Mr Templeton, Chief Executive of the Craigavon Area Hospital would be attending the October meeting and members would have the opportunity to raise a member of issues with him.

**100/5 THE DELIVERY OF CANCER SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND - SHSSC's Submission to the HSSPS Assembly Committee SHSSC 2001/33**

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/33.

The Chief Officer informed members that the Health, Social Services and Public Safety Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly recently conducted an inquiry into the delivery of cancer services in Northern Ireland and the Council had prepared a submission which was forwarded prior to the closing date of 27 July 2001.

He said the Council, in its submission, had tried to address all issues the inquiry had looked at, including the building of a new cancer centre in

Belfast; staff recruitment / workforce planning; cancer fast tracking; prevention and awareness; cancer registry; and palliative care services.

Mrs Foster said she felt that it was inappropriate that there was such a reliance on charitable donations to fund palliative care services in Northern Ireland. She said Northern Ireland should be like Great Britain and move away from this reliance.

Mrs McNally congratulated the Chief Officer on the report but expressed concern that patients had to wait too long for first appointments. Mr Cavanagh said he was grateful that the point had been raised in relation to routine procedures being carried out in the community or at a local hospital rather than the patient having to travel long distances for simple procedures.

## **100/6 ACUTE HOSPITALS REVIEW GROUP - REPORT**

**SHSSC 2001/34**

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/34.

The Chief Officer referred members to the report of the Acute Hospitals Review Group. He said the report made a number of recommendations regarding the future shape of hospital services and the organisation of all health and social services.

In July this year the Minister for Health invited the public to identify the areas of agreement or opposition to what the Review Group had proposed. The closing date for responses was 31 October 2001. Following this exercise the Minister planned to issue a paper for consultation on the proposed way forward. Members were asked to consider how they would respond.

It was agreed to set up a small working group to formulate a response on issues of concern to the Council in the Southern Board's area. Members who agreed to participate in the group included Mrs Foster, Mr Cummings, Mr Cavanagh and Mr Loughran. It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the group as soon as possible.

**100/7 DHSSPS - PROPOSED PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES  
(AMENDMENT) BILL SHSSC 2001/35**

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/35.

The Chief Officer referred members to the Proposed Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill (formerly referred to as the Carers and Disabled Children Bill) which the Health, Social Services and Public Safety Committee would consider in the near future. Members were invited to make comments on its content.

Mrs Foster said direct payments had not been properly supported in Northern Ireland and people were not taking up the opportunity to avail of the service. Mrs Campbell was concerned that people were not aware that on taking up direct payments they became an employer. Mrs Gray said the direct payments gave people more choice, especially young people. Mr Anderson queried the extent of training provided for carers.

Ms Foster said she was aware that in England, Scotland and Wales there were new care standards for residential and nursing homes for vulnerable adults but this was not so in Northern Ireland. It was agreed to seek clarification from the Board about the situation in the Southern Board's area and Northern Ireland generally.

Mr Curran left the meeting at 11.10 am.

**100/8 ARMAGH & DUNGANNON HSS TRUST - Proposal for Interim Use  
of Void Residential Child Care Capacity at Drumglass Children's  
Home, Dungannon SHSSC 2001/36**

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/36.

The Chief Officer made reference to the document entitled, '**Interim Use of Void Residential Care Capacity at Drumglass Children's Home in Dungannon**'.

He informed members that the Armagh and Dungannon Trust required a new home in Armagh for children with longer term care needs. This would take up to 2 years to provide and because of the urgency of the situation the Trust has planned to upgrade a section of Drumglass House for

temporary use as an additional 6 place unit. This would result in two separate living areas with different entrances, one with 8 beds and one with the temporary 6 beds.

Members were invited to express their views on the proposal after which a response would be forwarded to Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust.

The Chief Officer said additional money had been made available for the development of children's homes. Mrs Foster said she understood urgent action was required but felt short term solutions were expensive and there was a clear need for longer term planning. Generally, members were in favour of the Trust proceeding with an interim solution provided costs were reasonable.

**100/9 SHSSB - RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE BUDGET FOR 2002/03 SHSSC 2001/37**

The Chairwoman referred to the Southern Board's response to the Programme for Government and the budget for 2002/03.

She said that despite the proposed increase of £153.5m in the budget for health and social care in Northern Ireland it was anticipated that there would be a shortfall and developments in key services such as cancer, renal and cardiac surgery would not be progressed in full. Other fundamental developments would also be placed on hold. Members were disappointed to note that despite an increase in resources, waiting lists were likely to increase further.

The paper was noted.

**100/10 SHSSC - RESPONSE TO 'BEST PRACTICE - BEST CARE' SHSSC 2001/38**

The Chairwoman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 2001/38.

The Chief Officer said the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety issued a consultation paper in April on the framework. This was to raise the quality of services provided to the community and to tackle issues of poor performance across the HPSS. It sought views on proposals to set

standards for the HPSS, secure accountability at local level for the delivery of services and improve monitoring and regulation of services.

Following discussions with members the Chief Officer had prepared a written response and forwarded it to the DHSSPS by the closing date of 18 July 2001. Members noted the response.

**100/11 ELDERLY SERVICES IN THE SOUTHERN BOARD'S AREA - REPORT OF USER AND USER REPRESENTATIVES STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE - JULY 2001 SHSSC 2001/39**

The Chief Officer referred members to the report on Elderly Services in the Southern Board's area and in particular the users and user representatives' stakeholder conference on 2 July 2001. The views expressed by users and user representatives at the conference were encapsulated in a report prepared by Professor McCormack, University of Ulster.

The Chief Officer reported that a Stakeholder Forum had been established to consider the way forward for elderly services in the Southern Board's area. Its first meeting would be held on 19 September and the Southern Board would make available a representative for the second meeting in October to discuss its paper 'Laying Foundations'. It was expected that a third and final meeting would be held in November. It was agreed to keep members informed of developments.

**100/12 SHSSB - NEWRY AND MOY OUT OF HOURS SURVEY REPORT**

The Chief Officer drew members attention to the report entitled, 'Evaluation of GP Out of Hours Service at Newry and Moy'. He said three members of the Council, Mrs Baird, Mr Brannigan and Mr Cavanagh were part of the steering group and had provided assistance with questionnaire design and methodology for the survey.

He reported that the University of Ulster had been commissioned to undertake the survey. A full report and a summary report of the findings were now available. The reports detailed a series of recommendations for bringing about improvement in the current service. The Chief Officer said the recommendations were being addressed by the Southern Board in conjunction with other key stakeholders.

Mr Cavanagh and Mr Brannigan expressed concern at the average distance of 8 miles being used and said this meant nothing because people living

closer to the centres were likely to be more satisfied than those living 25 miles away in places like Derrynoose or Ballyward. The Chief Officer said the report clearly demonstrated that people who used the service during the survey period were generally happy with it. Mrs Foster said it would be useful to survey those who did not use the service and their reasons for doing so.

The reports were noted.

Mrs McNally and Mr Loughran left the meeting at 12.06 pm.

## **100/13 TRUSTS' BUSINESS**

**SHSSC 2001/40**

### **1 Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust**

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 6 June and agenda for meeting on 8 August 2001.

### **2 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust**

- a) Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 15 May and agenda for meeting on 19 June 2001.
- b) Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 19 June and agenda for meeting on 21 August 2001.

### **3 Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust**

- a) Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 4 June and agenda for meeting on 25 June 2001.
- b) Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 25 June and agenda for meeting on 3 September 2001.

### **4 Newry and Mourne HSS Trust**

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 19 June and agenda for meeting on 21 August 2001.

## 2001/14 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSC - Equality Scheme
  - 2 SHSSB - Minutes of meetings held on 12 June and 13 August 2001.
  - 3 Schedule of Trusts' Annual Public Meetings
  - 4 Waiting Lists for first appointment for Community PAM
  - 5 Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust - 'All Told' - Newsletter
- Minutes of other Health and Social Services Councils' meetings available on request.

## 2001/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 1 Craigavon Area Hospital - Pain Clinic

Mr Hanna expressed concern that the pain clinic at Craigavon Area Hospital was no longer available as the consultant had left the Trust. He reported that a member of his family who used the service now had to pay privately for pain relief. It was agreed to raise this matter with Mr Templeton at the October meeting of the Council.

### 2 Orthopaedics

Mr McArdle raised concerns about fracture services in the Southern Board's area. He felt young people with sports injuries were being given priority at the expense of older people who had to wait, on occasions, for days before being treated for fractures. It was agreed to raise the issue of Craigavon's business case for a fracture service with Mr Templeton at the October Council meeting.

### 3 R & I Unit

Mrs Campbell highlighted a report which suggested that homes in the Southern Board's area should have a staff complement of 35% qualified staff and 65% unqualified staff. Mrs Campbell was concerned that this could lead to a diminution in services. She was asked for clarification on where the document had come from and whether it was a proposal or was a consultative document. Mrs Campbell also raised concerns about waiting lists for OTs.

## 2001/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16 October 2001 in Quaker Buildings at 10.00 am.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_