

SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One Hundred and First Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on Tuesday 16 October 2001 at 10.00 am

- 101/1 PRESENT:** Mrs Fionnuala Cook, Chairwoman
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Margaret Campbell
Mr Robert Cummings
Mr Brendan Curran
Mrs Roisin Foster
Mrs Angela Gray
Mr Joseph Loughran
Mr John F McArdle
Mr David Simpson
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Seamus Magee, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
- APOLOGIES:** Mrs June Allister
Mr Jim Cavanagh
Mr Isaac Hanna
Mrs Mary McNally

101/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

101/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 100/15.1 Craigavon Area Hospital - Pain Clinic

The Chairwoman informed members that the Chief Officer and herself had met with Craigavon Area Hospital's Chief Executive and Chairman Trust on Monday 15 October.

She said Mr Hanna's concern about the discontinued pain clinic was raised with Mr Templeton. He explained that Dr McClean was no

longer employed by the Trust but efforts were being made to develop the service. GPs and nurses were being trained and it was hoped to have the service back on line soon.

2 100/15.2 Orthopaedics

In relation to Mr McArdle's concern about young people jumping the queue for sports injuries treatment, the Chairwoman said the Trust was concerned that this issue was related to Craigavon Area Hospital. Mr McArdle said it was actually the Royal Group of Hospitals. It was agreed to raise the matter with the Royal Hospitals Trust.

3 Cardiology

In reply to Mr Cummings question about cardiology services, the Chairwoman said the issue was not raised with Mr Templeton.

101/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 New Members

The Chairwoman welcomed the appointment of Mr Charles Rollston, a new member from Armagh City and District Council and also the reappointment of Mr Brannigan, Armagh City and District Council.

Regarding the appointment of new members from the voluntary and community sectors, the Chairwoman said 10 names had gone forward for approval by the Minister and it was hoped to have appointments confirmed in the near future.

She informed members that Councillor McFadden from Banbridge District Council had been nominated but as yet no confirmation of his appointment had been received.

The Chairwoman informed members that the November meeting would be the final meeting for Mrs Allister, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Gray, Mr Cummings, Mr Loughran and herself. In view of fact that the Council would be left with a very small membership at this stage, she suggested that the appointment of a new Chairperson should be deferred until the December meeting. This would give new

members the opportunity to have some input and would allow a wider spectrum of interest. Members agreed.

2 Quality of Care Provided to Patients in Hospital

The Chairwoman informed members of a survey being conducted by Professor McKenna and colleagues from the School of Nursing at University of Ulster to look at the quality of care provided to patients in hospital. As part of identifying the issues and validating their questionnaire they wished to conduct 2 focus groups with patient representatives. The meetings would involve 8 - 10 people and would last approximately 45 minutes. The date and venue of the meetings would be organised at the participants' convenience and travelling expenses would be paid. Members who agreed to participate comprised Mrs Cook, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Foster and Mr Cummings.

3 Review of Community Care for Older People

The Chairwoman said the Southern Board, in partnership with the four Trusts and Primary Care, wished to review community care for older people in its area, taking account of any issues relating to other programmes and the Regional Review of Community Care. The Board would plan to convene a Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Brian Dornan, Director of Social Services and sought a nomination from the Council to sit on the group. It was agreed Mr John McArdle would be the Council's representative.

4 CREST - Celebrating Success in Wound Care

The Chairwoman notified members of a half day seminar hosted by CREST on Monday 10 December 2001 in the ECOS Centre, Ballymena. The invitation was circulated and anyone interested in attending was asked to notify the Council office.

5 Diabetes - LVSAG

The Local Diabetic Services Advisory Group which was co-ordinated by the Board and chaired by Dr Farrell was trying to widen user involvement in its group. It has asked the Trusts to involve a parent or user and would also like a representative from the Council who was interested in the service. Mrs Gray expressed an interest

but it was agreed to seek clarification as to whether or not she could participate after leaving the Council in November.

6 Green Park Healthcare Trust - Public Access to Meetings

The Chairwoman referred members to a letter from Green Park Healthcare Trust confirming the Trust Board's amendment to its Standing Orders in relation to the attendance of Health and Social Services Council representatives at its Board meetings . The Trust Board had agreed to adopt the following format for its meetings. *It is good practice for: A HSS Council representative to be invited to sit at the board table and be able to participate in discussion (albeit without voting rights).* Accordingly, seats were available for Council representatives at the September Trust Board and would be at future meetings. It was agreed to seek clarification as to whether or not this applied to all Councils. If any member of Council wished to attend papers could be made available.

Referring to Craigavon Area Hospital Trust's Board meeting, she said this had been raised with the Chief Executive on Monday when the Chief Officer and herself met with both the Chief Executive and the Chairman. She said she was concerned that the Trust still had not made a decision on speaking rights for the Council. She said it was vitally important that the Council had speaking rights at Board meetings of such a large Trust. She recommended that the new Chairperson should press for an agreement on this issue and should appoint a panel of members, one of which should attend each Trust Board meeting.

7 Newry and Mourne Carers' Conference

Members were informed about Newry and Mourne Carers' Conference on 24 October in the Canal Court Hotel. Members who expressed an interest in attending were Mrs Campbell, Mrs Gray and Mr Curran.

**101/5 SHSSB - PLANS FOR WINTER 2001/02
Presented at 11.30am**

SHSSC 2001/41

The Chairwoman welcomed the Southern Board's Director of Public Health, Dr A M Telford to update the Council on the plans for winter 2001/02.

Dr Telford presented the Council with details of the Southern Board's plans for winter 2001/02. She said the Board had been requested by the DHSSPS to provide a detailed report on how it responded to the winter pressures in 2000/01 and what its plans were for winter 2001/02.

She outlined in detail the funding arrangements and allocations and also explained the proposals which had been submitted to the DHSSPS in September 2001. The proposals included plans for the influenza vaccination, primary care, HAS, pharmacy, community care, nursing, acute patients, ambulance, communications and contingency plans.

Dr Telford said the Board was awaiting the DHSSPS position on funding but in the meantime it would continue to develop plans and contingency plans if the funding wasn't made available.

In concluding she said the critical issues were funding, the need to improve community care capacity and nurse staff recruitment.

Members raised a number of issues with Dr Telford about the use of agency and temporary nursing staff, finance for community care, recognition of the role of carers, nursing staff recruitment at Craigavon Area Hospital, the 'flu vaccine, and the step down system for early discharge from hospital.

Mr McArdle said good work was being carried out throughout the year in the health service and the press failed to report this.

The Chairwoman thanked Dr Telford for her presentation.

**101/6 DHSSPS - CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIAC SURGERY REVIEWS
SHSSC 2001/42**

The Chief Officer referred members to paper SHSSC 2001/42. He said the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety had recently issued a consultation document which brought together the Cardiology Review (1999) and the Cardiac Surgery Review (September 2001). The consultation process was intended to provide the public, relevant interest groups and health service staff with information on the outcome of the two reviews and to invite comments on the findings and the recommendations. The consultation process was being undertaken to assist the Minister in reaching final decisions on the implementation of the recommendations. A copy of a report on the three consultation events facilitated by the Council in January this year as part of the Review of Cardiac Surgery Services was also provided to members. Members were asked for their views in order that a response could be prepared prior to the closing date of 4 January 2002.

It was agreed to establish a small working group to assist staff in formulating a response. Members who agreed to participate were Mrs Cook, Mrs Foster, Mr Brannigan and Mr McArdle.

**101/7 PATIENTS' FEEDBACK ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY
CLANRYE SURGERY, NEWRY, CO DOWN SHSSC 2001/43**

The Research Officer, Karen McCoy, presented paper SHSSC 2001/43. She informed members that Clanrye GP practice in Newry had approached the Council for some assistance in conducting a survey into patients' views of the services provided in the surgery. A questionnaire was drawn up and 200 were distributed to patients who had recently attended the surgery and 200 to patients in the surgery. Completed questionnaires were returned to the Council for independent analysis and a report was prepared.

The report has been provided to the Surgery and the Council is awaiting confirmation on how patient feedback will be taken forward.

The paper was noted.

**101/8 SHSSC - COMPLAINTS SUMMARY FOR THE QUARTER
ENDING 30 JUNE 2001 SHSSC 2001/44**

The Chief Officer reported that during the first quarter ending 30 June 2001 the Council assisted 33 complainants. The most frequent reason for complaint was about treatment and care and related to medical staff and GPs. Professions most complained about were medical, general management and GPs. Organisations most complained about were Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust , Newry and Mourne HSS Trust and Family Health Service Practitioners.

Two complaints concerned organisations outside the Southern Board's area. One complainant had applied for Independent Review but the matter was referred back to local resolution and was ongoing. Another complaint was referred to the Law Centre (NI).

The paper was noted.

**101/9 NI ASSEMBLY - HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC
SAFETY COMMITTEE - PROPOSED CHILDREN (LEAVING
CARE) BILL SHSSC 2001/45**

The Chief Officer drew member's attention to paper SHSSC 2001/45.

He said the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety proposed to introduce the Bill into the Northern Ireland Assembly at the beginning of November. The paper outlined the background to the need for the Bill and the policy objectives which it aimed to address. The Bill would be referred to the Health, Social Services and Public Safety Committee for scrutiny and in order to assist it in its consideration of the Bill, comments were invited.

It was agreed that any comments or concerns should be forwarded to Chief Officer and these would be put in writing to the Committee Clerk prior to the closing date of 26 October.

101/10 SHSSB - DRAFT SERVICE INVESTMENT PLAN 2001/02

SHSSC 2001/46

The Chief Officer presented paper SHSSC 2001/46 on the Southern Board's investment plan for 2001/2001.

He said the document was drafted in the context of the DHSSPS Priorities for Action document which was circulated to members earlier this year. Clarification or further information on any specific area of the Plan could be requested from the Southern Board.

The Chairwoman said it was important for the Council to continue to monitor the development of dementia services.

Mr Simpson left the meeting at 11.30 am.

101/11 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

SHSSC 2001/47

1 Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 8 August and agenda for meeting on 3 October 2001.

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 5 September 2001.

2 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 21 August and agenda for meeting on 18 September 2001.

3 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Agenda for Meeting on 24 September 2001.

101/12 FOR INFORMATION

1 SHSSB - Minutes of meeting held on 11 September 2001.

2 Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust - 'All Told' Newsletter - Autumn 2001.

Minutes of other Health and Social Services Councils' meetings are available on request.

101/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Allergy Clinic - Belfast

Mr Curran asked the Council to investigate the nature of the service provided for anyone suffering from peanut allergy and the reason for the long waiting list.

101/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 November 2001 in Quaker Buildings at 10.00 am

Signed: Date: