

## SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One Hundred and Fourth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings on  
Tuesday 15 January 2002 at 10.00 am

- 104/1      **PRESENT:**
- Mrs Roisin Foster, Acting Chairman
  - Mr Sydney Anderson
  - Mr Pat Brannigan
  - Mr Jim Cavanagh
  - Mrs Imelda Clarke
  - Mrs Mary Ferris
  - Mrs Nazy Harris
  - Mr Isaac Hanna
  - Mr Clive Henning
  - Mr Wilfred McFadden
  - Mr Adrian McKinney
  - Mrs Yvonne McKnight
  - Mrs Mary McNally
  - Mr John McArdle
  - Mr Brendan Montague
  - Mr Peter Murray
  - Mr Charles Rollston
  - Mr David Simpson
- IN ATTENDANCE:**
- Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer Designate
  - Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
  - Miss Colette Hart, Complaints Officer
  - Ms Karen McCoy, Research Officer
  - Mr Mark Timoney, Pharmaceutical Advisor, SHSSB [for part of the meeting]
  - Dr Gerry Millar, Macmillan GP Facilitator [for part of the meeting]
  - Mr Brian Dornan, Director of Social Services, SHSSB [for part of the meeting]
- APOLOGIES**
- Mrs Lynne Cairns
  - Mr John Coulter
  - Mrs Sue Cunningham
  - Mr Brendan Curran

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Mrs Delia van der Lenden, the Council's new Chief Officer designate. She said Council members and staff were looking forward to Mrs van der Lenden taking up her post on 11 February 2002.

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Mrs June Allister who died at the weekend. She said Mrs Allister was an active and committed member of the Council from her appointment in 1993 until she completed her term of office in November 2001. As a mark of respect the Council observed a minute's silence.

104/2        MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting which were circulated were agreed and signed.

104/3        MATTERS ARISING

103/9.3     Newry and Mourne HSS Trust

Mr McArdle raised the issue of speaking rights at Trusts' Board meetings. He said he had attended the Newry and Mourne Trust's December meeting as a representative of the Council but was very disappointed at the Trust's attitude when he raised a question about the ambulance service. Mr McArdle declined to attend any future meetings. After some discussion it was agreed to write to Newry and Mourne and Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust and request that they review speaking rights for the Council.

104/4        CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1        Local Health and Social Care Groups (LHSCGs)

The Chairman said it was necessary for the Council to establish a small working group in order to assist with the response to the Southern Board's consultation document on the future of primary care services. Members who agreed to participate, comprised; Mr Hanna, Mr McArdle, Mrs Harris, Mrs Foster, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Ferris, Mr Brannigan, Mr McKinney, Mr Rollston, Mr McFadden and Mr Murray. It was agreed that the meeting would be held on 21 January at 12.30 pm after which a response would be prepared and submitted to the Board by 25 January.

2 Implementation Plans for Improving the Ambulance Service

The Chairman informed members that the dates for the DHSSPS workshops throughout Northern Ireland had not yet been confirmed. However, in order to prepare a response to the consultation document it would be necessary to form a working group. It was agreed Mr Hanna, Mrs McNally, Mr McFadden, Mr Rollston, Mr Henning and Mrs Foster would participate. A suitable date for a meeting would be arranged.

3 Coroners' Autopsies

The Chairman drew member's attention to a letter from Mr McGuckin at the Northern Ireland Office. The letter was in response to Mrs Cook's letter of 30 November 2001. After considering the content of the letter members agreed to proceed with the meeting arranged with the Minister on 4 February at 3.30 pm in Castle Buildings, Stormont. The delegation comprised; Mrs Foster, Mr Brannigan, Mr Simpson, Mr McArdle and Mr McFadden.

4 Dispensing Doctors' Review

The Chairman referred members to a letter from the Southern Board regarding arrangements for reviewing lists of dispensing patients. The letter was noted.

5 Sandown Group of Homes

The Chairman reported to members on letters from Tamaris Healthcare (NI) Ltd and also from Mr B Dornan, Director of Social Services, SHSSB regarding the future of Sandown Homes in Northern Ireland. She said Mr Dornan's letter confirmed that arrangements that had been put in place for all Sandown Homes in Northern Ireland to be operated by Tamaris as a temporary measure. Mr Dornan agreed to make the Council aware of any concerns about the continuity of care of residents. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

Mrs McNally left the meeting at 12.00 noon

6 Speech and Language Therapy

Members were informed that a letter had been forwarded to the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding speech and language therapy in Northern Ireland and a response had been received stating that it had been referred to the DHSSPS department. Members would be kept informed.

7 Newry Out of Hours Centre

The Research Officer reported that the Complaints Officer and herself had met with ASADOC and discussed concerns about the surface area around the Newry Out of Hours Centre and the fact that the steps to the entrance were too high. Ms McCoy said she had been assured that the matter of the surface area was being pursued with the Landlord and in relation to the steps she was informed that there was a ramp access at the building. Ms McCoy also informed members that the GPs in Downpatrick had joined the ASADOC group and there was now an Out of Hours centre in Downpatrick.

8 Schedule of Trusts' Board Meetings (tabled)

Members were asked to consider the schedule of meetings and if available to represent the Council at any of these they should inform the secretary.

9 New Members

The Chairman said the Council still had vacancies for two members and the Public Appointments Unit had asked if any member knew of someone with a particular interest in health issues and would like to be considered for membership they should inform the office. Mrs van der Lenden asked that the matter be delayed until she had time to consider what areas were under represented.

10 Human Rights Training

Mrs McKnight, member and Miss Hart, Complaints Officer provided members with some feedback on the Human Rights training which they attended in December 2001. Miss Hart

highlighted some particular areas of interest and informed members that the Commission's deadline for responses to its consultation was the 31 January. She said it may be necessary to form a sub group to assist with the response.

In relation to disability and human rights, Mr McArdle said he had concerns regarding the new law that disabled people would only be allowed to park their cars for 2 hours at any one time in Hill Street, Newry. He said it would be virtually impossible for a disabled person to park and do their shopping in this space of time. It was agreed to write to Marlborough House, Craigavon.

#### 11 Focus Group - Quality Standards in Hospital Care

The Chairman informed members of a survey being undertaken by the University of Ulster looking at the quality standards in hospital care. She said a focus group had been set up in this area involving a number of previous members of the Council. She welcomed any others, who wished to express opinions, to join the group this afternoon.

104/5

#### THE MACMILLAN PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY LIAISON PHARMACY SERVICE (presented at 10.00 am)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Mark Timoney, The Southern Board's Pharmaceutical advisor and Dr Gerry Millar, Macmillan GP Facilitator to present to the Council an overview of the new palliative care community liaison service in the Southern Board's area.

Mr Timoney explained to members that the pharmaceutical pilot had been developed to improve the quality of care of patients with palliative care needs, to allow patients to be cared for at home and to develop the role of pharmacists. He said the pilot, which was the first of its kind in Northern Ireland, was funded jointly by Macmillan Cancer Relief and the Southern Board and would run until July 2003. The new service would ensure that palliative care medicines were available for patients at out of hours centres and at community pharmacists throughout the Board's area.

Mr Timoney explained that Mr T McCord was the specialist hospital based pharmacist who provided information to medical and nursing staff regarding treatment and ensured the smooth discharge of



Social Services and Public Safety of new interim arrangements for Health Service fertility treatment including the provision of a limited number of IVF and related treatments. Eligibility criteria was drawn up and agreed by the Minister and the service was due to commence in December 2001. She said the DHSSPS had indicated that it would be consulting on a permanent service and would be considering a number of factors including the needs of the population and equality issues.

The paper was noted.

104/8 INDUCTION TRAINING FOR NEW MEMBERS (presented at 10.30 am)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Brian Dornan, the Southern Board's Director of Social Services to the meeting. She said Mr Dornan was very new to the Southern Board but she was grateful that he had agreed to give an overview of social service issues as part of an induction plan for the Council's new members.

Mr Dornan provided members with a very comprehensive overview of the range of services provided by social services to older people, people with a sensory disability, people with a physical disability or those with a learning disability, people with mental health, and families and children. He gave a breakdown of expenditure for the year 1999/2000, how it was distributed between programmes of care and the number of people who received the services.

He outlined the structure of the organisation and how it was managed.

Mr Doran explained the role of the Social Care Directorate and the key elements of the role which included Children's Services Planning, Childcare Partnership, Area Child Protection Committee, Community Development Strategy, Undertaking Regional Work, Social Services Training and the Registration and Inspection Unit. He outlined the tasks assigned to the Director in discharging the role and responsibilities of the post.

In concluding, Mr Doran highlighted the key issues regarding community care, learning disability, physical disability, carers and family and child care.

Mr Doran responded to a number of questions from members in relation to the meals on wheels service, respite services, foster care, protection of vulnerable people, and the training given to home helps and carers.

The Chairman thanked Mr Doran for an excellent overview of how social services operated. Mr Doran left the meeting.

104/9 TRUSTS' BUSINESS SHSSC 02/3

- 1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on Tuesday 16 October and agenda for meeting on 18 December 2001
- 2 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 29 October 2001
- 3 Newry and Mourne HSS Trust Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 16 October and agenda for meeting on 18 December 2001

104/10 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB Meeting held on 11 December 2001
- 2 Organ Retention - Further Guidance
- 3 Royal Hospitals News Release - Action Plan for Fracture Services
- 4 DHSSPS - Cash Grant Scheme
- 5 Armagh and Dungannon HSS Newsletter - 'All Told' - December 2001
- 6 SHSSB - Annual Report 2000/01

104/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1 Craigavon Area Hospital

Mr Anderson expressed concerns about the ongoing situation at Craigavon Area Hospital and said that only for the goodwill of the staff the place would collapse. The Chairman said every member of the Council was deeply concerned about the situation. Mr Murray referred to the chronic shortage of intensive care beds in

both Daisy Hill and Craigavon and proposed that an independent survey be conducted to assess the situation.

The Chairman informed members that Mr Templeton would be attending the February meeting and members would have the opportunity to put their questions to him.

Mrs McKnight left the meeting at 12.30 pm

2 Ceara School

It was agreed to invite Dr Cunningham, Principal of Ceara School to the March meeting.

3 Banbridge Polyclinic

The Chairman said she noted in Craigavon Area Hospital Group's Minutes of the October meeting where it referred to the 'temporary' withdrawal of obstetrics in the Banbridge Polyclinic. It was agreed to write to the Trust again for clarification on this matter.

4 SHSSB Meeting

Mr Brannigan reported back from the Southern Board's meeting on the Public Health report, the Board's financial report, and the adoption report. In relation to the adoption report he said the Board and the Trusts were commended for their initiatives and in particular, the Craigavon and Banbridge Trust was to be congratulated on achieving adoption levels on a par with the best performing local authorities in England.

5 February Meeting

Mrs Foster advised members that she would be unavailable to chair the February meeting. It was proposed and agreed that Mr Cavanagh would deputise for Mrs Foster on this occasion.

104/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 February 2002 at 10.00 am in the offices of Newry and Mourne District Council

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_