



SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of the One Hundred and Fifth Meeting held on Tuesday 19
February 2002 at 10.00 am in the offices of Newry and Mourne
District Council**

105/1 PRESENT:

Mrs Roisin Foster, Acting Chairman
Mr Jim Cavanagh
Mr Brendan Curran
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mr Isaac Hanna
Mr Clive Henning
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr John McArdle
Mr Wilfred McFadden
Mr Adrian McKinney
Mrs Mary McNally
Mr Brendan Montague
Mr Peter Murray

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Miss Colette Hart, Complaints Officer
Ms Karen McCoy, Research Officer
Mr John Templeton, Chief Executive,
CAHGT [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES:

Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Lynne Cairns
Mr John Coulter
Mrs Imelda Clarke
Mrs Yvonne McKnight
Mr David Simpson

105/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

105/3 MATTERS ARISING

104/4.10 Human Rights Training / Disabled parking in Newry

The Chairman advised that a letter had been forwarded to Mr Duffy at Marlborough House regarding parking for the disabled in Hill Street, Newry. Members would be kept informed.

104/11.3 Maternity Outpatients at Banbridge Polyclinic

The Chairman advised members that Mr Templeton had responded to the Council's letter of 21 December 2001 but a further letter had been forwarded to the Trust on 30 January 2002. No response had yet been received.

104/11.1 Craigavon Area Hospital

Following a request at the January meeting, the Chairman informed members that currently Craigavon Area Hospital had 6 ICU beds and 3 HDU beds. Daisy Hill Hospital currently had 5 HDU beds. Since the Minister for Health, Social Services and public Safety took up post there had been an increase of 33 ICU beds throughout Northern Ireland.

Mr Murray said the Council should be pressing for a substantial increase in the number of ICU beds in Craigavon rather than having the service centralised in Belfast. The same sentiments were expressed by Mr McFadden.

105/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Presentation by Mr Templeton, CAHGT

The Chairman referred members to an aide memoir of issues which could be raised with Mr Templeton, the Trust's Chief Executive who would present the Trust's recovery plan later in the meeting.

2 Coroner's Autopsies – Meeting with Minister, Mr Des Brown

Mr McArdle said that he had been part of the delegation which met with Mr Des Brown, Minister of NIO. He said there was an interesting exchange of views but the outcome was deadlock. Mr Brown explained that it took 15 years to train a pathologist. He told the delegation that the current situation was temporary but if it was to be considered permanent then there would be a consultation process. It was agreed to continue monitoring the situation.

3 Presentation on Proposed Design and Plans for a New Residential Home for Children, Sloan Street, Lurgan

Mr Henning agreed to represent the Council at the presentation of plans for the new Residential Home on Monday 25 February 2002 from 12.30 pm to 2.15 pm in Mount Zion, Edward Street, Lurgan.

4 Crossroads Caring for Carers NI Ltd

The Chairman read a letter which had been sent to Mr Cavanagh's family regarding the closing of the Crossroads Care service in the Southern Board's area.

Mr Cavanagh expressed concern that carers who had been with families for a long period of time would lose their jobs and this would create great difficulties for the families concerned. He wondered if the Southern Board was the only Board in Northern Ireland which failed to provide the extra funding for Crossroads.

Mr Curran joined the meeting at 11.00 am.

Mrs van der Lenden informed members that the Board discussed the matter at its meeting and whilst it valued the standard of work provided by Crossroads it was concerned that the letter had been sent directly to carers causing them distress. She said the Board wished to ensure continuity of care for the people who required the service but the Board's perspective was that they could not afford to pay the increase requested by Crossroads since this would trigger a review of contracts with other service providers. The

Board was looking at other ways of avoiding losing the skills of staff employed by Crossroads Care.

Mr Cavanagh said he was concerned that the staff employed by Crossroads Care were not aware of the Board's intention and were applying for other posts. He suggested that the Board advise Crossroads Care staff of their arrangements.

It was agreed to write to the Southern Board and express our concern on behalf of the consumers and hope for a resolution that would ensure continuity of care.

5 Services for People with a Learning Disability

The Chairman referred members to a letter from the Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust responding to the Council's correspondence in relation to the level of day services on offer to young disabled people and their families in the area. The letter explained that this was due to insufficient funding. The Council agreed to accept the invitation to visit facilities in the area.

Mr Curran expressed concern about the Rathfriland Road day centre in Newry. He said it was overcrowded and there was the need for a new purpose built facility. Mr Murray concurred with Mr Curran and said the situation left a lot to be desired.

The Chairman advised that the remit of the R & I Unit did not extend to day centres. However, it may be possible to raise the issue through the complaints procedure.

6 Nightingale Lodge, Lurgan

Members were informed of the response from the DHSSPS in respect of Nightingale Lodge, Lurgan. It was agreed to forward a copy to Mrs Mary McNally.

7 NIAS Public Meetings

Members welcomed the NIAS Trust Board's decision to grant speaking rights to Health and Social Services Councils. This was confirmed in a letter from the Chairman of the Trust on 24 January 2002.

8 Invitations

Members were asked to consider a list of conferences / workshops which was being circulated and if interested, sign in the appropriate box and return to the secretary.

105/5 SHSSC RESPONSE TO THE SHSSB'S CONSULTATION PAPER ON NEW PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS SHSSC 02/4

The Research Officer was invited to present the paper.

Ms McCoy referred members to two papers which provided an update to the establishment of the LHSCGs in the Southern Board's area. The first was the Council's response to the Southern Board's consultation paper which was issued in December 2001. She said the response was submitted to the Board following a meeting with the sub group of members on 21 January 2002.

The second paper reported on the outcome of the Board's consultation process and its proposal for the configuration of 3 LHSCGs and for the boundary area of the Southern Board to remain in tact. The response would be considered by the DHSSPS.

Ms McCoy informed members that new guidelines had been made available by the DHSSPS and could be made available to members on request.

The papers were noted.

105/6 CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL GROUP TRUST – RECOVERY PLAN

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Templeton, Chief Executive of Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust to present the Trust's recovery plan.

Mr Templeton thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to come along to the meeting.

In respect of the Trust's recovery plan, he said the bottom line was that the Trust had to reduce its recurrent revenue costs by around £1.5m. Historically Trusts have been very dependent on non-recurring funds. However, the Assembly on taking up office set down new financial ground rules. The previous arrangement whereby Trusts worked to a 3-year funding and planning cycle was abolished and replaced by the Assembly's Programme for Government and Minister's Priorities for Action. It was expected that all resources would be allocated at the start of each financial year with non-recurring funding being no longer available. Trusts were also required to break even in each financial year.

The situation Craigavon Hospital Trust was presented with on 1 April 2000 was a gap of £8.2m. The two elements contributing to the gap were the transfer of acute services from South Tyrone as a temporary arrangement, and £2½ m of services that were not fully funded. A gap of that magnitude was not easy to address without deterioration of services.

With regard to South Tyrone Hospital he said that during a period where there was no final decision and absence of strategy for the way forward, decision-making had not been easy for either the Board or the Trust.

On the matter of the funding deficit, the Department and the Board had to consider the issue of whether the Trust was inefficient or was it under funded. A major in-depth review was conducted of the services provided which satisfied the Board that the services provided were necessary. An extensive benchmarking exercise was also carried out. The outcome was that Craigavon Area Hospital was seen to be performing well in all significant areas of activity and excelling in some.

In relation to the plans for financial recovery, opportunities to produce economies within the Trust had been identified. The Trust has produced plans that will enable it to reduce annual spending by £1.5m without adversely affecting the quality of services.

Overall, Craigavon Area Hospital Trust has had a difficult year with increasing demands and constraints on bed capacity. It was worth noting that from 1981 to 2002 there had been 45 additional beds provided at Craigavon Hospital. During the past 10 years

Banbridge Hospital closed, South Tyrone Hospital closed and a whole range of services had changed. Two hundred beds have been lost in the system and only 45 extra beds have been made available to Craigavon Area Hospital.

Over the last 10 years day surgery had increased; 60% of surgery was capable of being done in day surgery. More people were presenting at A & E including many with cardiac problems. A & E patients presenting for whatever reason have to be medically assessed and it was because of the high level of emergencies long trolley waits had been experienced. Mr Templeton said that there was a problem of how Craigavon Hospital could best cope with the emerging workload. However, if a patient presented at the hospital everything possible is done by highly committed staff to treat that person.

He said the Trust would need a significant increase in its bed capacity to deal with the ever increasing number of patients. He was pleased to report that consideration was currently being given to additional beds at Craigavon Area Hospital.

In concluding Mr Templeton said it had been a difficult year for the Trust but the staff had been absolutely astounding in their support.

The Chairman thanked Mr Templeton and said the Council never underestimated the pressures experienced at Craigavon Area Hospital.

Mrs McNally left the meeting at 12.00 noon.

Mr Templeton proceeded to answer a number of questions from members in relation the range of services provided on the Craigavon Area Hospital site and the relationship between Craigavon Area Hospital and other hospitals in the area. The issue of SHSSC speaking rights and attendance at Craigavon Area Hospital Trust Board meetings was also clarified.

The Chairman thanked Mr Templeton and he left the meeting.

**105/7 SHSSC RESPONSE TO MAKING A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND SHSSC 02/5**

The Complaints Officer informed members that the Council's response to 'Making a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland' had been drafted following a meeting of the sub group. It was then submitted to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on 31 January 2002.

The paper was noted.

**105/8 NEWRY AND MOURNE HSS TRUST – 'STRENGTHENING THE
CARDIAC MEDICAL SERVICES' – A consultation paper
SHSSC 02/6**

The Chairman referred members to the proposal drawn up by Newry and Mourne HSS Trust to strengthen its Cardiac Medical Services. She informed members that the document had been issued for public consultation for comments by 18 March 2002. The Trust also intended to consider the equality implications of its proposal and had issued a proforma questionnaire for completion.

Mr McArdle said that plans were being made to train 7 paramedics for the service. However, the situation would be monitored and audited and if it was insufficient then it would be reviewed. Mr Hanna said he would be happy if staff were trained to the standard required.

It was agreed to respond to the proposal incorporating members views in the response.

**105/9 SOUTHERN AREA CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANS 2002 –
2005 – Consultation Paper SHSSC 02/7**

The Chairman advised members that the Southern Board's Children's Services Plan for 2002 – 2005 had been released for consultation with the deadline for comments 26 March. Mrs Ann Godfrey, Principal Social Worker who was responsible for taking the process forward had agreed to come and speak to a small working group of Council members prior to it submitting its views.

Those who agreed to participate in a working group comprised, Mrs Ferris, Mr Murray and Mrs Foster.

105/10 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

SHSSC 02/8

1 Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 5 December 2001 and agenda for meeting on 6 February 2002

2 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 18 December 2001 and agenda for meeting on 15 January 2002

3 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 26 November 2001 and agenda for meeting on 28 January 2002

4 Newry and Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 18 December 2001 and agenda for 19 February 2002 (tabled)

105/11 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of meeting held on 8 January 2002
- 2 DHSSPS – Press Release – Free Nursing Care for Elderly Residents of Nursing Homes
- 3 C/B Comm HSS Trust – Community Pressures Monitoring – at 31 December 2001
- 4 ACHCEW – MMR Vaccines – Sources of Information (tabled)

105/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 People with Special Needs

Mr Hanna referred to the need for more co-operation between the Health Board and the Education Board in order to bridge the gap in respect of speech therapy for people with special needs. He said

there was a need to encourage more students to train as speech and language therapists.

2 Letter of Thanks

The Chairman read a letter from Mrs Cook, the former Chairman thanking Council members and staff for the generous gifts presented to her on her retirement from the Council.

3 New Chief Officer

Mr McArdle, on behalf of the members welcomed Mrs van der Lenden, the Council's new Chief Officer to the meeting and said they looked forward to working with her in the years ahead. This was endorsed by Mr Murray.

4 Information for members

Mrs Harris asked if it would be possible to provide members with information on current issues in the health service.

Mrs van der Lenden informed members that some time would be allocated at the March meeting to discuss the Council's Standing Orders and to look at what information members needed.

Mr Hanna said it was important that new members became involved in visits.

105/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 March 2002. Venue to be arranged.

Signed: **Date:**