



SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

The One hundred and Sixth Meeting held in the offices of Banbridge District Council on Tuesday 19 March 2002 at 10.00 am

106/1 PRESENT:

Mrs Roisin Foster, Vice Chairman
Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Sue Cunningham
Mr Brendan Curran
Mr Isaac Hanna
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr David Simpson
Mrs Lynne Cairns
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Brendan Montague
Mrs Imelda Clarke
Mr Peter Murray
Mr Wilfred McFadden

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Ms Karen McCoy, Research Officer [part of the meeting]
Dr P Cunningham, Principal, Ceara School, Lurgan
Mr Denis Preston, Chief Executive, C/B Comm HSS Trust and Mr Martin Kelly, Director of Planning and Information [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES:

Mr J Coulter
Mrs M Ferris
Mr J McArdle
Mrs M McNally
Mr C Rollston

The Chairwoman welcomed members to the offices of Banbridge District Council. She thanked Mr McFadden and the District Council for making the Chamber available to the Council and for providing hospitality.

Mr McFadden said he was delighted to welcome the Southern Health and Social Services Council to Banbridge District Council and invited members to lunch following the meeting.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, wished Mrs McNally a speedy recovery following her cataract surgery.

106/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

106/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 Crossroads Care

Mr Simpson asked if it was possible to get more details on how other Board areas achieved their funding for Crossroads Care.

Mrs van der Lenden said she understood the Eastern Board had managed to get extra funding which was not available to other Boards. She said Crossroads Care would be finishing their contract with the Southern Board at the end of March.

She informed members that she had contacted each of the Trusts in the Southern Board's area to enquire about their plans to replace the Crossroads Care service and each had indicated that their priority was to maintain the service and ensure that people were not left without a service. The Trusts planned to meet the need through a mixture of in-house and contracted services. Posts had been publicly advertised allowing Crossroads Care workers the opportunity to apply.

Mrs Cunningham said it was important that more information was available about how the services were operated and monitored.

It was agreed to consider this issue as a project for the Council's work programme.

Mrs Clarke joined the meeting at 10.30 am

2 Services for Learning Disability

Referring to the lack of day care places for people with a learning disability, Mrs van der Lenden informed members of a briefing paper from the Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust on the extent of the shortfall in service provision. She said the dependency levels of people in day care services were much greater than previously and all day care facilities were operating at full capacity with an overspend on the Trust's budget. The Trust reported that it could no longer admit new referrals for day care and has had to create a waiting list. The matter has been drawn to the attention of the Southern Board but it could not guarantee any additional resources in 2002/03. The Board is awaiting information from the DHSSPS on 'Priorities for Action' 2002/03.

Mr Hanna said the problem arose when clients reached adult age and their needs were not provided for. He said the Newry area needed a model for working under such conditions.

106/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Breast Screening Leaflets

The Research Officer informed members that the Eastern Health and Social Services Board was reviewing the information on leaflets on breast screening distributed to women when invited to attend for routine mammography. As part of the Review the Southern Council had been invited to provide some initial feedback on the current leaflet and on a new one which had been developed for use in England. Miss McCoy invited female members of Council to form a sub group in order that comments could be made to the Eastern Board prior to Easter.

Mr Montague asked that consideration be given to running breast screening clinics later in the evening or on a Saturday morning as the current hours were inconvenient especially with people's work commitments.

Mrs Clarke and Mrs Cairns agreed to participate in the sub group.

2 Parking for disabled drivers in Newry

The Chairman referred members to a letter from the Senior Engineer, Traffic and Transportation, Department of Environment, responding to her letter of 30 January. The letter explained that Hill Street was a pedestrian area except for the Police, Ambulance and Fire services, medical practitioners, district Councils, Government Departments and statutory undertakers. In the case of drivers who were holders of disabled person's badges, permits had been issued allowing them access to the pedestrian area in Newry for a 2-hour period. The letter also indicated that a review of the pedestrian area in Newry had been initiated, including the issue of authorisation permits. However, in the interim period holders of disabled persons badges who had been issued with access permits would be allowed unlimited access to the pedestrian area.

The letter was noted.

3 Visits

The Chairman reminded members of their visit to the NI Clinical Simulation Centre at South Tyrone Hospital on Wednesday 20 March and the NIAS Southern Division Control Centre on 27 March.

4 April Meeting

Mr Simpson informed the Chairman that Craigavon Borough Council would host the Council's April meeting.

5 Joint Board / Council Meeting

The Chief Officer informed members that the Joint meeting between the Board and the Council would not take place until June this year.

6 Conferences

The Chairman asked members to sign the registration form if they wished to attend either of the conferences/seminars.

7 Speaking Rights at Newry and Mourne Trust Board Meetings

The Chief Officer said Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust had now granted speaking rights to the Council at its Trust Board Meetings.

With regard to Newry and Mourne HSS Trust Board meeting she proposed writing to the Chief Executive drawing his attention to the DHSSPS circular and advise that a representative from the Council would attend future meetings and participate.

Ms van der Lenden said the DHSSPS directive also applied to the Council and this would have to be looked at. It was agreed to provide members with a copy of the circular at the next meeting.

106/5 CEARA SCHOOL, LURGAN

The Chairman welcomed Dr Peter Cunningham, Principal, Ceara School, Lurgan, who had been invited along to give the Council an overview of the work of the special school.

Dr Cunningham thanked the Council for the invitation to speak at its meeting. He said he had the privilege of being principal of Ceara School in Lurgan and was also a member of the Southern Education and Library Board. However, he emphasised that he was speaking to the Council as principal of Ceara School and not as a member of the SELB.

Dr Cunningham reported that he had been teaching within the area of special education for 27 years, 19 of which was working with children who had emotional and behavioural disorders in the Portadown area.

He explained that in the olden days Ceara would have been referred to as a special care facility but in 1961 it became a special care school. Then the 1970 Handicapped Child Act was introduced in England and special care was transferred from health and social services to education but it took 17 years for the Act to be introduced in the Province. There was now a statutory obligation to train a child up to 19 years of age.

Currently there are 26 special schools in the Province specifically for children with severe, profound and multiple disabilities such as autism, Aspergers syndrome and Downs syndrome.

He said children with learning disabilities should be educated within a mainstream environment. At present all of the 26 special schools are full. The Southern Education and Library Board was committed to special education and since 1987 it had provided two replacement schools for Armagh and Dungannon. Ceara was completed and opened in September 2001. Donard School was provided in Banbridge and plans were in the early stages for a school in Newry within the next 2 - 3 years.

Dr Cunningham said Ceara School was founded in 1957 and when he arrived at the school 8 years ago it had 39 children on roll. Three years ago it had 2 children with autism and today there are 28. There are 11 members of teaching staff and 32 support staff. The school is very happy and the children and their mothers are very happy. There is currently a staff room but this may not be the case in September because of the need for additional classroom space.

He highlighted 3 areas identified as causing problems within the special school sector. These included:

- a lack of generosity of spirit amongst main stream teachers;
- lack of therapy provision - 8 years ago Ceara had 39 children with 4 members of a therapy team. Today the school has 75 children and less therapy provision with the result that therapists have to prioritise therapy to those children who particularly need it. This was duplicated across the Province. There is not enough therapy input.
- Post 19 provision which is not within the remit of education. There is great concern about what happens to young people when they leave the education system.

Dr Cunningham thanked the Council and extended an invitation to members to visit the Ceara School. He then proceeded to answer questions from members in relation to the large increase in numbers of autistic children and the chronic shortage of speech therapist.

The Chairman reported that a letter had been forwarded to the Minister for Health asking a number of questions and a response had been received indicating that the intake level for speech therapy had been increased to 33 places in the academic year 2001/02.

Mr Curran joined the meeting at 11.00 am

Dr Cunningham said one of the fundamental rules of special schools was to bring the general public into the schools to see the work that the children were capable of doing. He said the children were going to the Assembly on 25 April.

The Chairman thanked Dr Cunningham for a most interesting and informative presentation and said the Council would be in touch to arrange a visit to the school in the near future.

106/6 MEMBERS' INDUCTION – Standing Orders

The Chairman informed members that the Chief Officer had intended to discuss the Council's Standing Orders but since there were a number of members absent it would be deferred until the April meeting.

106/7 CRAIGAVON AND BANBRIDGE COMMUNITY HSS TRUST

The Chairman welcomed Mr Denis Preston, Chief Executive and Mr Martin Kelly, Director of Planning, Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust to the Council meeting. As part of an induction plan Mr Preston had agreed to give new members of the Council a talk on the role of the Trust and also provide an update on developments within the Trust.

Mr Preston informed the Council that the Craigavon and Banbridge Trust Board was set up in 1994. It was responsible for the management of a range of community health and social care services. He said the Trust was coterminous with Craigavon Borough Council and Banbridge District Council. At present it did not have a chairman as Mr David Cook who served from 1994 had completed his term of office. Mr Morrow, vice chairman was acting as chairman until a new appointment was made. Non-executive

directors were due to complete their term of office in 3 months time.

Mr Preston explained that the Craigavon and Banbridge Trust was also responsible for the management of the psychiatric unit adjacent to Craigavon Area Hospital. Beds for the Newry area would have been within that unit. However, some 3 - 4 years ago because of the pressure on Craigavon Area Hospital and the closure of South Tyrone Hospital two wards were relocated at St Luke's Hospital in Armagh and the Daisy Hill Ward was accommodated in the Hill Building, St Luke's, Armagh.

He reported that the Southern Board had conducted a review of psychiatric services and he was pleased with the proposal from the Southern Board that there would be a new build for psychiatric services on the Craigavon Area Hospital site. There would be inpatient beds for the Armagh and Dungannon people on the Armagh site.

With regard to finance, he reported that the Trust received an income of £46.48m during 2000/01. This year there would be an additional £224m allocated to health and social services in Northern Ireland. This was indicated in a letter that the Trust had received from the DHSSPS today. The allocation amounts to an increase of 11.4%. He said the Trust had constantly struggled with non-recurring money made available year on year and this presented problems. It has been made clear by the DHSSPS that corresponding money would be provided for the level of services provided.

Mr Preston said there was tremendous pressure on Craigavon Area Hospital in relation to the increased patient flow and trying to avoid delayed discharges of elderly people. This meant that the Craigavon and Banbridge Trust was also under great pressure to provide appropriate assessment of elderly people to support them in their own homes or place them in nursing homes. He said the issue for the Trust was that there was little investment in the services by the Board and the Assembly. Ongoing discussions were being held with MLAs and parent groups in respect of the provision of placements for young adults with physical and mental disabilities. The Trust had approximately 6 people for whom they could not provide a place. He said it was hoped that maybe some

of the accommodation at Banbridge Hospital would become available.

Mr Preston answered a number of questions from members regarding the allocation of money to Trusts and Boards for 2002/03 and the breakdown for specific services.

The Chairman thanked Mr Preston and Mr Kelly and they left the meeting.

106/8 SHSSB – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO LOCAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE GROUP MANAGEMENT BOARDS SHSSC 02/08

The Chief Officer referred members to paper SHSSC 02/08 and said it was approved at the Southern Board meeting on Tuesday 12 March 2002. It outlined the process for selection and appointment of individuals to the LHSCG Management Boards.

She advised members that if they made application to become a member of a LHSCG and was accepted then they would have to resign as a member of the Council.

She said the Southern Board had asked the Council to play a part in the recruitment of the two community representatives. Nominations for two representatives were required for the appointments panel. It was agreed that Mrs van der Lenden and Mrs Cairns would be the Council's representatives.

106/9 TRUSTS' BUSINESS SHSSC 02/09

1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 15 January 2002 and Agenda for meeting on 19 February 2002

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 19 February and agenda for meeting on 19 March 2002 (Tabled)

2 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 29 January 2002 and
Agenda for meeting on 25 February 2002

106/10 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 12
February 2002

106/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

106/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16 April 2002 at 10.00 am in Craigavon Borough
Council.

Signed:

Date: