



## SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

### Minutes of the One Hundred and Seventh Meeting held in the offices of Craigavon Borough Council on Tuesday 16 April 2002 at 10.00 am

**107/1      PRESENT:**                      Mrs Roisin Foster, Acting Chairman  
   Mr Sydney Anderson  
   Mr Pat Brannigan  
   Mrs Lynne Cairns  
   Mr Jim Cavanagh  
   Mrs Imelda Clarke  
   Mrs Mary Ferris  
   Mr Clive Henning  
   Mr Peter Murray  
   Mr Brendan Montague  
   Mr John McArdle  
   Mrs Mary McNally  
   Mr Charles Rollston  
   Mr David Simpson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**                      Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer  
   Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager  
   Ms Daphne Doran, Manager, SHSSB  
   R & I Unit [for part of the meeting]

**APOLOGIES:**                              Mrs Sue Cunningham  
   Mr Isaac Hanna  
   Mr Adrian McKinney  
   Mr John Coulter  
   Mrs Nazy Harris  
   Mr Wilfred McFadden

Prior to business of the meeting Mr Trevor Reaney, Chief Executive of Craigavon Borough Council welcomed members to the Council Chamber. He said the health of the population in the southern area was of great interest to both organisations and the Borough Council appreciated working with the Health Council to seek to improve the health services delivered to the community.

The Chairman thanked Mr Reaney for the warm welcome extended to the Council members and for the hospitality provided.

The Chairman congratulated Mr Jim Cavanagh on becoming a grandfather once again.

**107/2        MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

**107/3        MATTERS ARISING**

1        106/3.1        Crossroads Care

Mr Cavanagh reported that the offer of continuity of care for the people seemed reasonable as it encompassed the help previously provided. He said that the carers involved seemed happy to enter into the new system and be re-employed by the Trust. Mr Murray said there was difficulty in recruiting staff to provide services in outlying areas in Newry & Mourne because of the travel aspect. Mr Simpson expressed concern at the disparity across the four Boards and he felt that the Southern Board may not be making a strong enough case to the DHSSPS for funding.

The Chief Officer said the Council would undertake, as part of its work programme, to monitor how the services were operating.

2        Get Well Wishes

Mrs McNally thanked the Council for the good wishes expressed when she underwent her cataract operation.

3        106/8        Appointments to LHSCGs

Mr Anderson expressed concern that the BMA was discouraging GPs from making applications to join the LHSCGs. He felt that if this was the view of the organisation it would be very difficult for GPs to give 100% support to the Groups.

The Chairman said this was a regrettable step and it was having a detrimental effect on the Groups. She reported that at the closing date only 3 or 4 applications had been made for the 15 GP posts. However, there was a great interest in the vacancies for the six community posts.

The Chairman said it remains to be seen whether the DHSSPS will move forward without the GPs. Mr Simpson felt that it was better to wait and bring the GPs along with them.

It was agreed to keep members updated on developments.

4 1064.7 Speaking Rights at Newry and Mourne Trust Board Meetings

The Chief Officer informed members that the issue of speaking rights at the Newry and Mourne Trust meetings had been raised with the Chief Executive, Mr Bowyer. A proposal to invite the Council to nominate a representative to attend Trust Board meetings is being considered at the Trust Board meeting today (16<sup>th</sup> April).

It was agreed that Mrs Ferris would represent the Council at meetings of Newry & Mourne Trust Board. Mr Murray will deputise in her absence.

**107/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

1 Annual General Meeting

The Chief Officer informed members that the appointment of a new Chairman and Vice Chairman would be conducted at the Annual General Meeting which would be held prior to the May meeting. Nomination forms would be forwarded to members for completion 21 days in advance of the meeting, and should be returned to the Council 10 days prior to the AGM.

Mr Cavanagh expressed the view that the person nominated to the post of Chairman should have a very good overview of health issues and should serve for a period of 4 years. He said it was not a good idea for anyone to serve as Chairman for longer than this period. Mr Simpson suggested that a small sub-group be nominated to assist the Chairman in his/her role.

2 Asperger's Syndrome

The Chief Officer referred members to a letter from Mr Paul Berry, MLA responding to the Council's letter of 10 January 2002. She said the letter referred to the resource difficulties

experienced by the Southern Board and expressed the view that new initiatives for Autism/Asperger's Syndrome would prove difficult to develop in the coming year. The letter was noted.

### 3 Banbridge Polyclinic - Cardiology Service

The Chief Officer referred members to letters which the Chief Executive of Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust had sent to Banbridge District Council and Armagh Health Forum explaining the difficult circumstances surrounding the current provision of cardiology services within the Southern Board's area. She said the letters indicated that the current crisis was the result of one Consultant Cardiologist retiring and one resignation. The Trust was striving to maintain existing services but it was difficult for the maintaining Consultant to carry out the work of 3 Consultants. In order to safeguard the safety of inpatients on the Craigavon site it was decided to 'temporarily' transfer the existing service from Banbridge Polyclinic at the beginning of April. Two posts would be advertised and it was hoped to recruit this year.

It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation and keep members informed.

### 4 Lurgan Hospital - Stroke Unit

The Chairman informed members of a letter she had received from the Craigavon Borough Council expressing its concern at the lack of physiotherapy treatment for stroke patients in Lurgan Hospital due to the current level of staff sickness. The Borough Council had also written to the Craigavon Area Hospital Trust's Chief Executive.

Mrs McNally said it was important that the Health Council supported the Borough Council on the issue. She said it has always been the case that not enough physiotherapy staff were employed to cope with the workload. She asked that a letter be sent to the Trust asking for more details and expressing the concerns.

Mr Cavanagh said he raised a similar issue in the South Tyrone area some time ago. He said it was important for the Board and Trusts to remember that people were living longer and stroke

was becoming more prevalent. People getting physio treatment could be told after a certain time that they were having no more treatment and to an individual patient this was a considerable blow. The more vulnerable people in our society could be severely disadvantaged and this needs to be looked at.

Mrs Cairns who represents the Council on the Southern Board's Stroke Working Group said she would use her influence on behalf of the Council and raise the issue at the next meeting. Members were in agreement with the arrangement and Mrs Cairns agreed to provide feedback. It was also agreed to write to the Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust.

#### 5 Outcome of Consultation - Review of Acute Treatment Services - Mental Health

The Chief Officer referred members to the Southern Board's paper, 'The Outcome of consultation on the Review of Acute Treatment Services - Mental Health' which was approved at its meeting on 12 March 2002. She said the plan was that acute mental health services would continue to be provided on two sites - Armagh and Craigavon Area Hospital, with a new build at Craigavon Area Hospital. One additional service was an Out of Hours primary care service for people with mental illness. Other community care services were being developed. The Mental Health Forum has welcomed the outcome of the consultation process.

It was agreed that the Council would write to the Board to express their support for the plans for the development of mental health services.

#### 6 Training for Council Members

The Chief Officer asked members for their views on the idea of an 'Away Day' or an overnight residential training session. She said the idea was being proposed in light of the number of new members appointed to the Council. She felt this would be a good investment at this stage and could prove beneficial to the Council as most of the members would be with the Council for the next few years. It would give them the opportunity to become more acquainted with each other and allow time for in-

depth discussion on the Council's role and areas of work on which they required further knowledge.

Members agreed with the idea and left it with the Chief Officer and Office Manager to make the necessary arrangements. June was considered as a possible time but District Councillors indicated this was a busy time for them and suggested the month of September.

## 7 Trust Board Meetings

The Chief Officer referred to the Newry and Mourne and Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust meetings in the afternoon and asked if any member was interested in attending. No one was available to attend the meetings on this occasion.

### **107/5 ARMAGH AND DUNGANNON HSS TRUST - Proposed New 6-Place Children's Home in Armagh SHSSC 02/10**

The Chairman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 02/10.

She referred members to the Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust's draft proposal for the development of a Children's Home in Armagh and the draft impact assessment. The consultation process on the plan to build a new children's home in Armagh was launched at the Trust Board meeting on 10 April 2002.

The proposed home would be built in the vicinity of Appleby Social Education Centre and would be designed to meet the needs of 6 young people, providing services that would enable them to learn and develop skills to live independently in the community.

The consultation period would run from 19 April to 5 July and a decision on the outcome of the consultation process would be taken at the Trust Board meeting in August.

The Chief Officer said the Trust's Chief Executive was invited to make a presentation at the Council meeting in May after which the Council will formulate a response.

Members welcomed the Trust's decision and said it was important to keep the young people as close to the community as possible. However, some of them felt that the need for such homes would grow and economically it would make more sense to increase the size to accommodate 8 young people.

The Chairman said that by the time young people were referred to a home they had already been through difficult times and she felt that 6 - 8 maximum was a very comfortable size of home.

The Chief Officer said members would have the opportunity at the May meeting to hear the Trust's arguments for developing a home of this size.

## **107/6 SHSSB REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION UNIT**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Daphne Doran, Manager of the Southern Board's Registration and Inspection Unit to inform members about the role of the Unit and provide an update on developments.

Mrs Doran thanked the Council for inviting her along to speak. She said the R & I Unit had worked closely with the Council and the Council had a representative on the Advisory Committee. In relation to the Council's project entitled, 'Relatives' Voices' she said she had worked with the Board to make sure that the report's recommendations were put into practice.

She explained to the Council that the R & I Unit was established under the Registered Homes (NI) Order 1992 and the Children (NI) Order 1995 to register nursing, residential and children's homes. In that time the Unit has developed good clear systems, partnerships and standards for the homes. The Unit's staffing team comprised, a manager, inspectors, support administration staff, and a pharmacist. It also had a team of lay assessors and an Advisory Committee.

The Unit had a statutory duty to visit homes twice a year - one announced visit and one unannounced visit. These were undertaken to monitor standards regarding the quality of care for residents and the standard of the building management etc. Once reports were agreed with the manager they were open to any member of the public with an interest in a home. The Unit

encouraged people to read the reports when making a decision on a suitable home for a relative.

Regarding complaints, Mrs Doran said this was an important aspect of the Unit's work. However, people were encouraged to raise the issue with the Manager or staff of a facility and if not satisfied they could raise it with the Unit for investigation. In the year 2000/01 all complaints received related to the nursing home sector where the dependency levels of residents was higher than in residential homes.

Following the presentation members raised a number of issues with Mrs Doran regarding the number of serious injuries and broken femurs; the ratio of staff for each patient; provision of respite care; the need for visiting some homes once a month; standards of care; and the professional training of the inspectors, the pharmacist and lay assessors.

Mrs Doran said the R & I Unit was working in partnership with the Council and the Advisory Committee to organise a workshop on managing and dealing with complaints - to open up the culture of our homes to take more fully into account the views of the users and carers.

In concluding, Mrs Doran said the 'Best Practice - Best Care' report had recommended a Commission for Care Standards in Northern Ireland and once the Assembly's Minister for Health had approved this then the four R & I Units would become a Regional Body. Regional R & I Units had already been set up in England, Wales and Scotland.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Doran and she left the meeting.

**107/7**

**DHSSPS - UPDATE ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

**SHSSC 02/11**

The Chairman drew Members' attention to two important policy documents for the delivery of health and social services which had recently been published. '**Investing for Health**' which aimed to improve the health of the population of Northern Ireland and '**Priorities for Action**' which outlined the planning priorities and actions for the health and personal social services.

In addition to these two documents the Southern Board at its April meeting outlined the process it intended adopting to develop its Health and Wellbeing Investment Plan (HWIP) for 2002/03.

The paper drawn up by the Council outlined how these developments were related and relevant to each other and highlighted some of the important issues associated with each one.

The Chief Officer informed members that in response to the Priorities for Action the Board was required to submit its HWIP plans by the end of April. She said the Board had noted its requirement to consult with the Council in the development of its plan but given the short timescale set by the Department she felt the Council should consider writing to the Department expressing the view that the Council could not be usefully involved because of the unreasonable timescale.

It was agreed to write to the DHSSPS and also to include in the Council's work programme its role in monitoring how the Board and Trusts kept to the plans. Members would be kept informed when the programme of work was drafted.

**107/8**

**RACIAL EQUALITY IN HEALTH - A GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE  
Consultation document SHSSC 02/12**

The Chief Officer referred members to the document, 'Racial Equality in Health: Good Practice Guide' which was issued by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, in partnership with the DHSSPS.

The guide concentrated on the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for black and minority ethnic service users in the areas of primary and acute services. The document also aimed at helping those involved in the planning and provision of services to ensure that they did so in a non-discriminatory way. Some members expressed reservations about the scope of the report.

Mr Anderson said that he was in favour of more being done to improve the language and communication difficulties.

The Chief Officer suggested that a working group should be set up to draft a response to the report. We had the option of co-opting individuals with specialist knowledge of this area of work to join such a group. Since no members were available she agreed to draft a response for approval at a future meeting of the Council.

Members would be kept informed.

**107/9 MEMBERS' INDUCTION - Standing Orders SHSSC 02/13**

The Chief Officer said she felt there was a need to make new members familiar with the Council's Standing Orders. She presented a summary of the Standing Orders, which had been agreed at the time of the setting up of the Council in 1991. Some of the provisions in the Standing orders were no longer relevant to the way in which the Council conducted its business, and there was a requirement for the Council to introduce amendments to take account of the DHSSPS circular on open access to meetings. Any changes would have to be approved by the DHSSPS. It was agreed that this topic should be included on the agenda for the members' training day.

**107/10 TRUSTS' BUSINESS SHSSC 02/14**

**1 Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust**

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 6 February 2002 and Agenda for meeting on 10 April 2002.

**2 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust**

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 25 February 2002 and Agenda for meeting on 25 March 2002.

**3 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust**

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 19 March and agenda for meeting on Tuesday 16 April 2002 (tabled).

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

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 19 February and agenda for meeting on 16 April 2002 (tabled).

#### **107/11 FOR INFORMATION**

- 1 SHSSB - Minutes of Board meeting held on 12 March 2002.
- 2 SHSSC - Response to 'Strengthening the Cardiac Medical Services' - Newry and Mourne HSS Trust.
- 3 CAWT - Annual Report 2001 (Tabled)
- 4 SHSSB - Social Services Annual Report 2001 (Tabled).
- 5 DHSSPS - Public Access to Meetings (Circular PPM 4/2001)
- 6 SHSSB R & I Unit - Minutes of Advisory Committee held on 26 November 2001
- 7 DHSSPS - Press Release - £46m more for Health and Personal Social Services. (Tabled)

#### **107/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

#### **107/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 21 May at 6.30 pm in Quaker Buildings.

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

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