



SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One hundred and Eighth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on Tuesday 21 May 2002 at 6.30 pm

108/1 PRESENT:

Mrs Roisin Foster, Acting Chairman
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Lynne Cairns
Mr Jim Cavanagh
Mr John Coulter
Mrs Sue Cunningham
Mr Brendan Curran
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Clive Henning
Mr Brendan Montague
Mr Peter Murray
Mr John McArdle
Mr Wilfred McFadden
Mr Adrian McKinney
Mr Charles Rollston
Mr David Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer
Ms Karen McCoy, Research Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Miss Suzie Liggett, Assistant Research Officer [student placement] for part of the meeting
Miss Pauline Stanley, Chief Executive, A/D HSS Trust [for part of the meeting]
Mr Eric Hamilton, Director of Social Services, A/D HSS Trust [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES:

Mr Isaac Hanna

The Chairman welcomed members to the one hundred and eighth meeting. She especially welcomed Mr John Coulter, a new member, who was attending his first meeting. Due to pressures at work Mr Coulter had been unable to attend previous Council meetings held in the morning.

108/2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

At this stage of the meeting the Acting Chairman, Mrs Foster vacated her seat and the Chief Officer, Mrs Delia van der Lenden presided over the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Election of Chairman

She reported that nominations for the position of Chairman had been received for Mr Curran, Mrs Foster and Mr Henning. Following a secret ballot Mrs Foster received a clear majority of votes and was duly elected to serve as Chairman for the period ending 31 May 2003.

Election of Vice Chairman

The Chief Officer reported that nominations for the post of Vice Chairman had been received for Mrs Cairns, Mr Henning and Mr McArdle. A secret ballot was held which resulted in a tie between Mrs Cairns and Mr McArdle. A second ballot was then conducted which resulted in Mrs Cairns being elected to serve for the period ending 31 May 2003.

The Chief Officer congratulated Mrs Foster and Mrs Cairns on their election and said that both the staff and she looked forward to working with them during their term of office.

Mrs Foster thanked all the members for their support and she proceeded to conduct the business of the meeting.

Mr Brannigan left the meeting at 6.54pm

108/3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

108/4 MATTERS ARISING

1 Wraparound Scheme for Children with Disabilities

Mr Jim Cavanagh, the Council's representative on the group, asked if the Council could maintain a watching brief in relation to the Wraparound scheme. He said the scheme was very good and he was delighted to learn that 99% of people were satisfied with it but he was concerned that there may be some cases that slip through the net and people were afraid to complain.

It was agreed to circulate background information to other members in order that they could have an opportunity to consider what the concept was and feedback from their communities. It was also agreed to include the topic on a future agenda when members would have the opportunity to debate the issue.

Mr Cavanagh left the meeting at 6.58 pm

2 107/8 Racial Equality in Health

Mrs Cunningham referred to the increasing numbers of people from minority ethnic communities settling in the Newry area and expressed concerns about their health care and communication problems.

The Chief Officer said the discussion which took place at the Council's April meeting on the Race Equality and Health document indicated a need for members to have more information about the obligations on the Council as a public body in relation to equality issues. She provided members with an overview of the Council's legal obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and reminded members that under the Code of Conduct for Council members it stated that, "*Members were appointed to the Council to represent the interests of the whole of the population covered by the Council*". The job description for recruitment of members to the Council also reinforced the requirement for a commitment to the values of equality and impartiality.

As part of the ongoing induction programme for members, Lynda Gordon, Equality Officer with Craigavon and Banbridge Trust (which also provides services under contract with the Council) would attend the September meeting to present information on Section 75 Statutory Equality Obligations.

Mrs Cunningham said she was concerned that the immigrants were not getting adequate health care and the Board and the Trusts must be more active in making provision for these groups. Mr Murray said he shared Mrs Cunningham's concerns.

The Chief Officer drew the attention of the Council to the ongoing consultation being carried out by the Equality Commission and the DHSSPS on the issue of Race Equality and Health. She said the four Councils had decided on a joint response and the Southern Council has agreed to co-ordinate that response.

108/5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 107/3.3 Local Health and Social Care Groups (LHSCGs)

Mr Anderson asked if there were any further developments in relation to the LHSCGs.

The Chief Officer reported that interviews had now been held for all the vacancies on the LHSCG management board, with the exception of GP posts. The successful applicants had been informed but not yet been formally appointed. The Southern Board was waiting for advice from the DHSSPS on how to proceed, given that negotiations with the BMA had not yet been concluded.

She reported that the Council had been represented by Mrs Cairns and herself on the panel for interviewing community/user representatives. There was a high level of interest in the posts and an exceptionally high standard of applicants. Those selected for appointment included, Robert Cummings and Ann Mallon – A/D area; Edwin Graham and Joan Baird, C/B area; and Helen Daly and Patricia Buckley, N/M area.

Mr Murray said he would welcome a broader discussion on the issue of LHSCGs at a future meeting of the Council. He had concerns about aspects of the plans and felt that £3 per head capitation was an inadequate budget for the groups to operate within.

Members also indicated a wish to have more information on the GP's perspective on the LHSCGs. It was agreed that a representative from the BMA be invited to a future meeting of the Council. It was agreed to keep members updated on the issue of LHSCGs.

2 Trust Board Meetings

The Chairman asked for representatives of the Council to attend Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust Board and Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust Board meetings on a regular basis. Mrs Nazy Harris agreed to be the representative for Craigavon Area Hospital. Members agreed to give further consideration to Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust when provided with the dates and time of the meetings.

3 Residential Workshop for Members

The Chief Officer informed members that the residential training day for members had been scheduled for Monday 16 September and half day on Tuesday 17 September. The half day would take the form of the usual monthly meeting. Delegate rates had been received from 3 hotels and the Armagh City had been considered as the best option as some members may not be able to stay overnight. Members agreed that staff proceed to make arrangements with Armagh City Hotel.

4 Joint Council/Board Meeting

The Chief Officer reminded members that the joint Council/Board meeting would take place in the Boardroom, Tower Hill, Armagh on Wednesday 5 June from 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Items for the agenda would include, the Council's Work Programme 2002/03; SHSSB – Health and Wellbeing Improvement Programmes (HWIPs); LHSCGs; Targeting Social Need (TSN) Action Plans. She asked as many members as possible to attend.

Mrs Harris said monitoring was the most important remit given to the Council but she wondered how it proposed monitoring what the Board had achieved year on year while taking forward the important programmes.

The Chief Officer advised that details of the Council's planned work on monitoring Board activities were included in the work programme for 2002/03. There would be an opportunity for more detailed consideration of how the Council would carry out its monitoring obligations at the September workshop.

5 NIHE/DHSSPS Housing Adaptations Seminar

The Chairman informed members of a seminar being held in Armagh City Hotel on Tuesday 25 June from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm. This was one of 3 seminars being organised by DHSSPS and NI Housing Executive. The purpose of the seminar is to establish a forum for people involved in all aspects of housing adaptations - one of the key recommendations from the recent Joint Review of Housing Adaptations. Mrs Cunningham expressed an interest and it was agreed that she should represent the Council at the event.

6 Consumer Councils' Forum

The Chairman referred members to a letter from the General Consumer Council inviting representatives from the Council to the first meeting of the consumer representative bodies new Forum – to share experience and best practice and to promote co-operation. The meeting would be held on Friday 28 June from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm in NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast. Mrs Ferris, Mr Curran and Mr McArdle agreed to attend.

Mr McArdle raised concerns about radiation from mobile phones. It was agreed to forward leaflets to those who were attending.

Mr Anderson and Mr McKinney left the meeting at 8.25 pm

108/6 WORK PROGRAMME 2002/03

SHSSC 02/15

The Chairman invited the Chief Officer to present paper SHSSC 02/15.

The Chief Officer introduced the Council's Work Programme for the year 2002/03. She said it was produced in a more condensed format than in previous years because of the specific time pressures in the current planning cycle.

She advised members that the theme for this year's programme was 'Children and young people as service users'. This theme would be manifest in all strands of the Council's work, but a number of projects in areas outside the main theme would also be undertaken. Several of the topics raised by members during the year had been included for action in the work programme. These included the lack of day care for school leavers with a learning disability and the plan for monitoring

services developed to replace the Crossroads Care scheme. There were also a number of items carried forward from the previous year's work programme. The draft report would be on the agenda for agreement at the joint meeting SHSSB/SHSSC meeting on 5 June.

Concerns were expressed by one member that the plan contained no reference specifically to the needs of carers. Following a short discussion members voted by a majority to approve the work programme.

108/7 ARMAGH AND DUNGANNON HSS TRUST – Presented at 7.15 pm

The Chairman welcomed Miss Pauline Stanley, Chief Executive and Mr Eric Hamilton, Director of Social Services, Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust to provide members with an overview of the Trust's role and the proposal for the development of a new Children's Home in Armagh.

Miss Stanley thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak at its meeting.

She informed the Council that the Trust provided a range of health and social services to the communities in the area of the Armagh City and District Council and Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council areas. It had a population of 103,000 (1991 census projection) and the services provided included mental health and learning disability hospitals. The main commissioner of services was the Southern Health and Social Services Board. The Trust's income for 2001/02 was £66m, of which £57.2m was provided by the Southern Board. The total number of staff employed by the Trust at May 2002 was 2,664. The main facilities included St Luke's Hospital, Longstone Hospital, Mullinure Hospital, South Tyrone Hospital, and Roxborough House Elderly Care Home. The Trust also provided day services for elderly people, and for people with learning and physical disabilities. Other services included a resource centre for people with sensory disabilities and the children's residential care homes at Drumglass Lodge and Woodside.

Miss Stanley then responded to questions from members in relation to a range of issues including the cost of community care; assessments of the needs of carers; day care provision; the Trust's budget and the level of staffing; and the provision of learning opportunities for people with disabilities.

Regarding the proposal for the development of a new children's home in Armagh, Mr Eric Hamilton stressed that residential care was now seen as a positive choice for some young people.

He said the regional review of residential childcare led to the publication of 'Children Matter'. That report concluded that the provision of residential care should encompass:

- Specialist regional provision such as secure accommodation.
- Sub-regional specialist provision, for example, long-stay homes for children with complex disabilities; homes for children with psychiatric needs, specialist homes for children with challenging behaviours and specialist respite homes for those with a disability.
- Broadly based differentiated local provision including short stay homes coping with emergency admissions; homes for under 10 year olds; homes to support the wider welfare system and homes designed to provide long term, homely living environments.

The Children Matter Task Force Report – Phase 1 – 2001 – 2003 indicated the need to provide 77 additional places and 70 replacement child care places for Northern Ireland.

Mr Hamilton said current Southern Board residential child care provision consisted of a short-term assessment home in each Trust area. These were Drumglass children's home in Armagh and Dungannon area, Bocombra in Craigavon and Banbridge area and Cedar Grove in Newry and Mourne. Five longer-term places were also available at the Edenvilla Children's home situated in the Craigavon and Banbridge Trust area.

Regarding children with a disability, he said there were small centrally located respite homes in each Trust area – Oaklands in Armagh and Dungannon, Willowgrove in Craigavon and Banbridge and Orana House in Newry and Mourne.

Proposals for additional statutory residential care within the Board's area included plans for a home for children with long term care needs in the Armagh and Dungannon Trust, a short term home for young people with challenging behaviour in Craigavon and Banbridge Trust and a home for children with a disability in Newry and Mourne Trust.

Regarding the new children's home in Armagh, he said the proposal was for a 6-place home for children with long-term care needs. The home would help to prepare young people to move to independent living, to return home or move to a further family placement.

Miss Stanley and Mr Hamilton responded to a number of questions from members regarding the plans for the home including the number of places to be provided; moving young people out to the community; and the duration of stay within the homes.

The Chairman said the Council welcomed the additional resources being provided to support these children and young people. She thanked Miss Stanley and Mr Hamilton for their presentations.

108/8 NON ATTENDANCE AT OUTPATIENT APPOINTMENTS SHSSC 02/16

The Chairman invited Miss Susie Liggett, the Assistant Research Officer (student placement) to present the findings of a recent study undertaken by herself into the non-attendance at outpatient appointments in the Southern Board's area.

Miss Liggett introduced her study and said that the issue of non-attendance was an important one for the Council to address in light of the current climate faced by patients of ever lengthening waiting lists. In the Southern Board's area 32,495 people missed their outpatient appointments in the year 2000/01 at an estimated cost of £2m.

She said that apart from leading to inefficiencies within the health service non-attendance was a consumer issue because it had an effect on the services other patients receive.

She outlined the non-attendance rates for each Trust and highlighted some of the reasons identified in various research studies for non-attendance including sociodemographic factors, patient factors and hospital factors.

From the study several recommendations were identified which could help to lower non-attendance rates. Recommendations highlighted were; appointment cards/letters should be easy to read and understand; tear-off confirmation slips should be provided; and appointments should be made at a mutually convenient time for both patient and hospital. More use should be made of computer systems

to record cancellations and reschedule appointments. Hospitals should consider sending reminders to patients waiting for a lengthy period for appointments and they should also consider providing services such as reliable transport, crèches, and out of working hours clinics.

The Chairman congratulated Miss Liggett on her study and the way in which she presented it. Members endorsed the Chairman's remarks.

The report would be circulated to all interested parties.

Mr Curran left the meeting at 8.40 pm

108/9 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

No minutes of meetings were available.

FEEDBACK FROM TRUST BOARD MEETINGS

1 Green Park Healthcare Trust

Mrs Ferris reported that she attended the Trust Board meeting and found it to be very interesting. She said a new X-ray department was being provided but it required 6 people to run it and currently there was only one experienced person. The other issue was the use of the Army barracks for day surgery – 38 people offered an appointment and only 12 turned up. Mrs Ferris said she would continue to attend meetings but it would be helpful to have the papers for the meeting in advance. It was agreed to contact the Trust and request the information.

108/10 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB - Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2002.
- 2 SHSSB - R & I Unit advisory committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 28 January 2002.
- 3 DHSSPS - Review of community care - first report - April 2002 (tabled)
- 4 SHSSB - Priorities for Action 2001/02 - Third Monitoring Paper - April 2002 (tabled).
- 5 DHSSPS - Valuing Carers - A Strategy for Carers in Northern Ireland.

6 SHSSB - Waiting List Management 2001/02 - Executive Summary

108/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Guest Speakers

Mrs Ferris requested that only one external speaker be invited to address each Council meeting in order to leave more time for members' discussion.

It was agreed to take this point on board when arranging future meetings.

2 Learning Disability - Provision for the over 19s

Mr Simpson reported that 7 members of the Council visited Ceara School recently and were very impressed with the excellent work that was being done with children who had learning disabilities. However, he raised concerns about the provision of day care for over 19s on leaving special care schools. He was concerned that if nothing was done over the next 5 - 10 years statistics would indicate that there would be 500 in this age bracket with no where to go. He asked if it was possible for the Council to put pressure on the Health and Social Services Board to provide a facility for these young people.

The Chief Officer said that this was one of the items in the Council's work programme and it could be considered as a priority. She suggested that staff would do some fact-finding and bring the relevant information back to the September meeting for discussion.

Mrs Harris asked if it was possible for the Council to meet with Dr Cunningham, Principal of Ceara School to discuss the issue and progress ideas. Mr Simpson suggested having Dr Hendron, Chairman of the Assembly Health Committee along to the meeting also.

It was agreed to establish a sub group to take the matter forward. The group would comprise: Mrs Harris, Mr Simpson, Mrs Cunningham, Mr Coulter, Mr McArdle, Mrs Ferris, Mr Murray, Mrs McNally.

3 Antenatal Clinic - Banbridge Polyclinic

Mr McFadden asked that the Council follow up for a response from Craigavon Area Hospital regarding the temporary removal of maternity outpatients clinic at Banbridge Polyclinic.

108/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 June at 6.30 pm in Quaker Buildings

Signed:

Date: