



SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One hundred and Ninth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on Tuesday 18 June 2002 at 6.30 pm

109/1 PRESENT:

Mrs Roisin Foster, Chairman
Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Lynne Cairns, Vice Chairman
Mrs Imelda Clarke
Mr John Coulter
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Clive Henning
Mr Brendan Montague
Mr Peter Murray
Mr Wilfred McFadden
Mr Adrian McKinney
Mr David Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Ms Karen McCoy, Research Officer
Ms Colette Hart, Complains Officer
Mr Eric Bowyer, Chief Executive, Newry &
Mourne HSS Trust [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES:

Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Isaac Hanna
Mr John McArdle
Mrs Mary McNally

1 109/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

109/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 108/5.2 Trust Board Meetings

The Chairman referred members to a list of Trust Board meetings and indicated that the Council intended to nominate a member to attend Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust meetings on a regular basis. Because of members current workload commitments the decision was deferred until a future date.

2 108/5.3 Residential Workshop for Members

The Chief Officer advised members that a questionnaire would be circulated to members over the summer inviting their opinions on the programme content for the training session. She encouraged all members to complete the questionnaire.

3 108/5.4 Joint Council/Board Meeting

The Chief Officer reported a good attendance of both Board and Council members at the joint meeting held in Board Headquarters on 5 June. The main item of the agenda was the Council's work programme for 2002/03 which was well received but acknowledged as an ambitious plan. It was subsequently approved at the Board meeting on 10 June.

4 108/9.1 Green Park Healthcare Trust

The Chairwoman informed Mrs Ferris that a request had been made to Green Park Healthcare Trust to provide her with a full set of Board papers prior to the meetings.

5 108/11.1 Learning Disability – Provision for the Over 19s

The Chief Officer said that at the May meeting a small working group had agreed to work with Ceara School to explore alternative methods of securing day care or training places for school leavers. She expressed the view that whilst the Council would wish to support such a venture its action lay outside the limited remit of the Council.

However, members were free to pursue the matter outside the Council's business and she wished them well with the initiative.

She said the Council would pursue its own project outlined in the work programme – 'Children and young people as service users'. She invited members who would be available over the summer to work as a group on the project. Those who expressed an interest included, Mrs Harris, Mrs Ferris, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Foster, Mr Coulter, Mr Simpson, Mr Murray and Mr McArdle. Members would be advised of the first meeting.

6 108/11.3 Banbridge Polyclinic

Mr McFadden was informed by the Chairman that a further letter had been sent to the office of the Chief Executive, Craigavon Area Hospital in relation to the removal of maternity outpatients clinic at Banbridge Polyclinic. Mr McFadden asked if a similar letter could be sent regarding the outpatients clinic for cardiac services.

109/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Queen's Honours List

The Chairwoman said she was delighted to inform members that the Council's former chairwoman, Mrs Fionnuala Cook had been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, in recognition of her work in health and social care. A press statement had been issued congratulating her on the award and a letter would be forwarded shortly.

The Chairwoman conveyed Mrs Cook's sentiment that this was not only in recognition of her personal achievement but was also a reflection of the important role of the Council.

2 Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council

The Chairwoman congratulated Mr Cavanagh, in his absence, on being elected as Mayor of Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council.

3 Restructure of Health Services

The Chief Officer briefed members on the recent report issued by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety entitled, Developing Better Services – Modernising Hospitals and Reforming Structures. She said the scope of the consultation was on the model for future hospital services and options for structures of the health and personal social services. Under the model for future hospital services none of the current hospitals delivering acute services would close but would adapt. There would be 9 acute hospitals, 2 enhanced local hospitals, 2 protected elective facilities, 9 consultant-led maternity units and 2 pilot midwife-led maternity units. The acute hospitals would include, the Royal Group, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Belfast City, Causeway, Craigavon, Daisy Hill, Ulster and the new Hospital in Enniskillen. Lagan Valley and a Hospital west of the Bann would be specialist centres for elective surgery and Downe and Omagh would be enhanced local Hospitals.

Regarding the proposals for reforming the health and personal social services structures she said a number of new options had been identified. These included replacing the 4 Boards with a Regional Authority, bringing together the LHSCGs as commissioning bodies for local health and social services, combining the Trusts and replacing the 4 HSS Councils with a single statutory consumer body.

The deadline for responses to the consultation document was 30 September and final decisions on hospitals were expected to be made in November. A further round of consultation on the final proposals for the structures would be held and changes would begin mid 2003 with completion by 2005.

Mrs Harris said she felt aggrieved that the Council was not represented on the LHSCGs but the Chief Officer advised that the decision on the composition of the groups was ultimately a political one, and that the opportunity to influence the decision had now passed. In order to prepare a response to the consultation document it was agreed that members would meet on 1 August at 12.30 pm.

4 Stroke Services at Lurgan Hospital

Mrs Cairns referred to the debate at the April Council meeting regarding the lack of physiotherapy treatment for stroke patients in Lurgan Hospital. She informed members that she raised the matter at a recent meeting of the Southern Board's stroke services group and was advised that there was no funding available to provide extra physiotherapy for the patients.

The Chief Officer reported that she had met with the PAMs manager recently and he had extended an invitation to the Council to meet with him for a fuller appraisal of the issues around the pressures on therapy services. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged.

Mr McFadden left the meeting at 7.35pm

5 Pain Clinic at Craigavon Area Hospital

The Complaints Officer referred members to a query she had about the services of the pain clinic. She said she had been informed that the services had increased 50% as of the end of May but may not be back to the previous level. Mrs Cairns requested information on the number of consultants involved with the pain clinic. It was agreed to seek further information on the service from CAHT.

Mr Brannigan left the meeting at 7.45pm

109/5 NEWRY & MOURNE HSS TRUST (Presented at 6.30 pm)

The Chairwoman welcomed Mr Bowyer, Chief Executive, Newry and Mourne HSS Trust to provide members with an overview of the Trust's role and an update on developments.

Mr Bowyer thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak to members. He informed members that the Newry and Mourne HSS Trust provided an entire range of acute hospital, community care and health services to a catchment area of approximately 90,000 people. However, it had no inpatient beds for mental health patients. The Trust had 1842 staff of which 30% were nurses. Its activity rates had increased significantly over the past 10 years.

Regarding the Trust's budget, he reported that £32m of the total budget of £65m was spent on hospital services, £24m on social services and £9m on community care – approximately £750 per head per year.

Management costs were calculated at 4.7% of the total income. In relation to the acute hospital costs index for 2000/01 he said the Trust arguably spent less on management costs than it should. The index for the community costs indicated that the Trust was making good use of the resources.

Mr Bowyer explained the themes within acute hospital services, community care services and services generally. He outlined some of the key issues facing the Trust. While Newry and Mourne had fewer problems than other areas with recruiting nursing staff, they had particular difficulties in recruiting ancillary and general staff because wages were just above the minimum level and the Trust faced strong competition for staff recruitment from the retail sector. With regard to capital resources he said the Trust required £21.6m to deal with the maintenance backlog on Trust property and necessary new developments such as the social education centre.

Mr Bowyer said the way forward for the Trust was to maintain the integrated status of the Trust and to respond to developments in the acute sector by seeking to increase the hospital catchment area and by involvement in clinical networks. Other issues included establishing links with the LHSCGs; responding to changes in management structure; seeking capital and revenue investment; developing cross border links and establishing partnerships with other agencies and the voluntary sector.

The Chairwoman thanked Miss Hart for the comprehensive report.

109/7 SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN DAISY HILL HOSPITAL
SHSSC 02/18

The Research Officer referred members to research conducted by the Council into the services provided for patients in the Elderly Care and Rehabilitation wards of Daisy Hill Hospital. She said the research consisted of 40 interviews with patients who had stayed on the wards.

Overall, there was a high level of positive feedback about patients' experiences of care provided on the wards. However, some areas were identified where improvements could be made.

Ms McCoy said she would be happy to make a full presentation at a later date if members wished. She informed members that she would be meeting with staff involved in the two wards in order to ensure that staff morale was not affected by the findings.

Mr Murray said he would like to congratulate the Research Officer on the excellent research that has been conducted. He said he would hope that the report would be in the public domain and also circulated to all the hospitals in the Southern Board's area.

The report would be circulated widely to all interested parties.

109/8 BREAST SCREENING IN THE NEWRY AND MOURNE AREA
SHSSC 02/19

The Research Officer Karen Mc Coy referred members to a briefing paper on the findings of research into women's attitudes and experiences of breast screening in the Newry and Mourne area. She said the paper provided an overview of the main findings of the report but she would be happy to provide a detailed presentation at a later date.

The report was being printed in-house and would be circulated to all interested groups.

109/9 NI PROSTHETICS SERVICE SURVEY – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHSSC 02/20

The Research Officer made reference to the Executive summary of the key findings and recommendations of research commissioned to examine users' views and experiences of the prosthetics service provided by Green Park Health Care Trust.

The research was commissioned by the four HSS Boards and the four Councils and consisted of a survey of 1084 patients, of which 54% responded and 3 focus group discussions. The findings of the research were launched on 29 May in the King's Hall, Belfast.

She advised members that the full report was available to members on request.

The Chairman thanked the Research Officer for the 3 reports.

109/10 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS SHSSC 02/21

The Chief Officer referred members to a list of consultation documents requiring responses during the summer months.

- DHSSPS – Free Nursing Care Consultation - *Response by 5 July 2002*. It was agreed that the document be noted.
- DHSSPS – Review of Eating Disorder Services – *Response by 31 July 2002*. The Chief Officer said that in view of the short timescale for the response members should forward their views to the office and these would be incorporated into a response prepared by staff.
- GDC – Review of Registration Procedures - *Response by 2 August 2002*. Members were informed that a joint response on behalf of the four Health and Social Services Councils was being prepared.
- Northern Ireland Group of the National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care/DHSSPS 'breaking bad news' –

regional guidelines – *Response by 16 August 2002*. A request was made for a small working group to assist in the formulation of a response. Mrs Cairns and Mrs Ferris agreed to participate. A meeting would be arranged.

- Recovery Of The Cost Of Health Services Hospital - Treatment Following Road Traffic Accidents – *Response by 30 August 2002*. Members were asked to provide comments by the end of July and these would be incorporated in a response prepared by staff.
- GDC – Learning from Complaints – A complaints scheme for Dentistry – *Response by 31 August 2002*. A joint response on behalf of the Four Councils was being prepared. Members to make their comments available.
- Southern Board's Strategic Vision for Social Care Services for Older People. - *Response due by 16 October*. (Tabled). It was agreed to send a letter to all members at the end of August inviting them to make their comments.

109/11 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

SHSSC 02/22

1 Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 10 April and Agenda for meeting on 12 June 2002

2 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 25 March and agenda for meeting on 27 May 2002

3 Newry and Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 16 April and agenda for meeting on 18 June 2002 (tabled)

109/12 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB Minutes of Board meeting held on 14 May 2002
- 2 The Blind Centre – Eye Help Desk Service – Sighted Volunteer Information leaflet and Visionlink 2002 – Action for Blind People Tour dates 2002
- 3 DHSSPS – don't just help yourself – Health Service Penalty Charges explained.
- 4 Scope Magazine June 2002 – 'Time to Listen – user involvement in health'
- 5 Community Development and Health Issues – Training Pack

109/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1 Council's Profile

Mrs Harris referred to the need for the Council to increase its public profile in order to make the public more aware of its role. The Chief Officer indicated that work was to begin shortly on a review of the Council's media and communications strategy. She expressed her appreciation of the fact that Mr Coulter had offered to lend his professional support to the business of devising a media strategy, and will work with staff on the issue over the coming months. The draft strategy will be circulated to members for comment later.

109/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17 September 2002 in Armagh City Hotel.

Signed: _____

Date: _____