



SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of the One hundred and Seventeenth Meeting held in
Warrenpoint Town Hall on Tuesday 15 April 2003 at 10.00 am**

117/1 PRESENT:

Mrs Roisin Foster, Chairman
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mr Isaac Hanna
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Clive Henning
Mrs Pat Mallon
Mr Brendan Montague
Mr Peter Murray
Mr John McArdle
Mr Wilfred McFadden
Mr Adrian McKinney

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Ms Colette Hart, Complaints Officer
Mr Colm Fitzpatrick, Programme of Care
Manager and Shirley Henning, Senior
Social Worker with Newry and Mourne
HSS Trust [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES:

Mrs Lynne Cairns
Mr David Simpson

Mr John McArdle, on behalf of Newry and Mourne District Council, welcomed the Council members and staff to the Town Hall in Warrenpoint for its meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Newry and Mourne District Council for the hospitality and the use of the Hall. On behalf of the Council she expressed sympathy to Mr Tom McCall, Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne District Council, on the death of his mother-in-law.

The Chairman also, on behalf of the Council, expressed sympathy to Mrs Downard on the death of her brother.

117/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

117/3 MATTERS ARISING

1/115.4 New Medical Admissions Unit at CAHGT

Mr Anderson referred to a recent case where a young person with a leg injury was taken by car to A & E at CAHGT. The patient arrived at 8.30 pm but had to wait around to 12.00 midnight for an x-ray. Mr Anderson was concerned about the waiting time the patient had to endure and asked for clarification on the criteria used in assessing patients on arrival at A & E and whether or not patients arriving by ambulance received preferential treatment. It was agreed to clarify the issue with the Trust.

Mr McArdle commented on the Sunday Times 'Good Hospital Guide' which referred Daisy Hill Hospital's record regarding A&E waiting times as 'an outstanding achievement'.

2 16/13.1 PSNI

In response to the concerns raised by Mr McFadden at the previous meeting regarding an incident at the Daisy Hill Hospital shop where an officer of the PSNI was refused service, the Chief Officer reported that she had spoken to the Trust's Chief Executive who had relayed to her the explanation provided by the business owner. The business had assured the Trust that it was its policy to provide a service to all customers. The Trust was reviewing the wording of its contract to clarify their expectations of how businesses on site should be conducted.

3 Maternity Services at Polyclinic in Banbridge

It was agreed to write to the Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust for an update on the situation with regard to maternity services at the Polyclinic in Banbridge.

117/4

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 New Chairman of SHSSB

The Chairman congratulated Mrs Cook, the Council's former Chairwoman on her appointment as Chairwoman of the SHSSB from 1 April 2003. She wished her well in her new appointment and said she looked forward to working with her in the future. Mr Murray suggested that she be invited to speak at a future Council meeting.

2 Joint SHSSB/SHSSC Meeting

The Chairman informed members that the joint meeting between the Board and Council had been agreed for Tuesday 10 June 2003 at 3.00 pm. The venue would be confirmed at a later date. The Chairman requested a full attendance at the meeting.

3 Media Lunch

The Chairman advised members that a media lunch had been organised by the Council for Friday 25 April at 1.00 pm. Editors of local press, Health Correspondents from the Regional Press and representatives from BBC and UTV had been invited. Members were encouraged to attend.

4 Launch of Ethnic Minority Handbook

It was agreed Mrs Ferris and Mrs Mallon would attend the launch of the Ethnic Minority Handbook on Tuesday 24 June 2003 at 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm in Craigavon Civic Centre.

5 CIPFA - On Board Training for Board Members of Bodies sponsored by the DHSSPS

The Chairman reminded members of a second series of 'On Board' seminars/training for members appointed to HSS Boards, Trusts, Councils, Special Agencies and Non-departmental public bodies. CIPFA had been commissioned by the DHSSPS to undertake the training. The programme would cover a range of topics such as Accountability and Devolution; Roles and Responsibilities; and Public Service Values, including conflicts of interest and standards and behaviour. The seminar for the Southern Area will be held in the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown on

Tuesday 6 May 2003 from 4.00 pm to 8.30 pm (refreshments at 4.00 pm). Members who had participated in the training seminars earlier in the year were not required to attend, although they were free to do so on a voluntary basis. Since the training is mandatory other members were now expected to attend.

6 CAHGT - View of the Air Centre (Pulmonary Function Lab)

It was agreed that Mrs Harris and Mrs Mallon would accept the invitation to view the new Pulmonary Function Lab at Craigavon Area Hospital on Friday 2 May at 12.00 noon to 1.30 pm.

117/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Media Training etc

The Chief Officer reported on the two media training sessions which had been provided by Dr John Coulter on 3rd and 10th April. Copies of information from the training sessions were tabled for all members.

2 Councils' Meeting with Mr Clive Gowdy, Permanent Secretary.

The Chief Officer reported that the Chairmen and Chief Officers of the four Councils had met with Mr Clive Gowdy and had a very positive meeting. A number of issues were discussed including funding for the Councils, delays in appointments to Council vacancies, and the future arrangements for consumer representation in the HPSS.

3 Retirement Fair

The Chief Officer said an invitation had been extended to the Council to display information on the work of the Council at a Retirement Fair to be held in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry in May. It was agreed that a display be arranged and a rota drawn up for those members who were willing to make themselves available on the day.

4 Freedom of Information

The Chief Officer stated that from October 2003 public bodies had to publish a scheme on information held by each

organisation and available to the public. She said the Council, in conjunction with the other 3 Councils, were in the process of preparing a model scheme and this should be available for the June Council meeting.

117/6 NEWRY & MOURNE HSS TRUST - CARE MANAGEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Colm Fitzpatrick, Older People Programme of Care Manager and Shirley Henning, Senior Social Worker with Newry and Mourne HSS Trust to update the Council on Care Management.

Ms Henning stated that the older people programme of care (OPPC) represented approximately 65% of all care managed cases in the Newry and Mourne HSS Trust; 58% of care managed cases were in residential or nursing homes and 42% had a domiciliary care package.

She described the stages involved in the care management process including referral, screening, assessment of need, care planning and the monitoring and review of the case.

In relation to the OPPC eligibility criteria she stated that for inclusion in the care management scheme a person had to be over 65 years of age, with significant needs, and have no friends or relatives who could provide the support that would enable them to live at home. Individuals were considered as prospective applicants for residential care where their condition warranted such a service and where their primary carers were experiencing acute stress.

The Trust's Principles of Good Practice in relation to community care were based on the DHSS Quality Standards 1999.

Every effort was made to ensure that the care provided fitted with the needs and the lifestyle of the service user. Staff were expected to complete a 'My Day' form to show what the likes and dislikes of the user were and what they wish to do during the day. This process proved beneficial when the person was admitted to a residential or nursing home.

Ms Henning referred to the various pressures on the care management system. The system was not always able to offer the individuals a place in their choice of home. There was a shortage of resources such as equipment or transport services needed to support care in the community. It was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit home carers, and there was a need for more training in safe caring, e.g. hoist training, for family members and carers.

Outside of the care management process the Trust may have waiting lists from time to time for community care services, and each case was assessed on its merits.

An interesting debate followed with Mr Fitzpatrick and Ms Henning responding to a number of questions from members. Mr Fitzpatrick confirmed that the limits on the cost of a domiciliary care package were set at the equivalent cost of providing a nursing home place for the individual.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fitzpatrick and Ms Henning for the presentation and they left the meeting.

11777

WORK PROGRAMME - Update

SHSSC 03/16

The Chief Officer presented paper SHSSC 03/16 which outlined the work that had been completed during the year 2002/03. She stated that work on a number of new projects had commenced during 2002/3 and some would continue into 2003/04. The Council had already committed itself to undertaking work on two new projects during the coming year i.e. the Evaluation of Intermediate Care Services and the Audit of South Tyrone Hospital.

It was also proposed that the Council should allocate time for a project that would seek to involve the public in a debate on the future arrangements for representing HPSS service users. These planned projects would limit the Council's capacity to undertake other new projects during 2003/04.

It was agreed to hold a further Work Programme sub-group meeting on Friday 25 April at 10.00 am. Members involved include Mrs Harris, Mrs Ferris, Mr McKinney, Mr Henning, Mr Hanna, Mr McFadden, Mr Montague, Mr McArdle and Mr Murray.

In response to Mr Murray's request for a copy of the Community Fora report, the Chief Officer said the report had been prepared by the Council for the Southern Board but she would clarify if it was now available for circulation.

In relation to LHSCGs it was agreed that the Council would invite a representative from each group to speak at a future Council meeting.

Mr McKinney and Mr Hanna left the meeting.

117/8 TRUSTS' BUSINESS SHSSC 03/17

1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 18 February and agenda for meeting on 18 March 2003.

2 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 27 January and agenda for meeting on 31 March 2003.

3 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 18 February and agenda for meeting on 15 April 2003 (**Tabled**)

117/9 VISIT REPORTS

1 Green Park Healthcare Trust

Ms Colette Hart, the Council's Complaints Officer reported on a visit which the Council had arranged to the Regional Disablement Service Department at Green Park Healthcare Trust. She said the visit was organised as a result of a number of enquiries she had from users and their carers in relation to the service. The visiting team included a member of staff and a

Council member from the WHSSC; a member of staff from the EHSSC and herself.

She provided members with a broad outline of the visit and issues that were discussed with Green Park representatives. These included referrals for equipment, staffing levels, provision of wheelchairs, and services for children. The visiting group learned of the considerable pressures on the service because of the shortage of bio-engineers.

With regard to referrals Ms Hart said the system had improved with the introduction of computerisation. Information could now be more easily accessed by Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists from commissioning Trusts.

In relation to the establishment of a Wheelchair Forum which was one of the recommendations of the Council's 1999 research report *'The Wheelchair Service - The experiences and perceptions of Users'* the Trust indicated that it had experienced difficulties in securing the attendance of members. They were open to suggestions as to how to take the issue forward.

Ms Hart agreed to circulate her written report to members for the May meeting.

117/10 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB - Minutes of Board meetings held on 11 February and 19 March 2003.
- 2 SHSSB - Minutes of Pharmacy Practices Committee held on 25 February and 4 March 2003.
- 3 Newry & Mourne LHSCG - Newsletter - February 2003
- 4 SHSSB - Monthly Waiting List Performance Management Report 2002/03 - January 2003 position
- 5 SHSSB - Monthly update on Care Management Pressures - January and February 2003.

- 6 DHSSPS - Planning Priorities and Actions for the Health and Personal Social Services
- 7 Northern Ireland Social Care Council - Strengthening Professionalism

117/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

117/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 May 2003 at 10.00 am in Craigavon Borough Council.

Signed: _____

Date: _____