

SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One hundred and Nineteenth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings on Tuesday 17 June 2003 at 6.30 pm

- 119/1 PRESENT:** Mrs Roisin Foster, Chairman
 Mrs Lynne Cairns
 Mrs Mary Ferris
 Mrs Nazy Harris
 Mr Peter Murray
 Mr John McArdle
 Mr Wilfred McFadden
 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, Complaints Officer
 Mrs Paula Clarke, Manager, C/B LHSCG
 (for part of the meeting)
- APOLOGIES:** Mr Sydney Anderson
 Mr Pat Brannigan
 Mr Clive Henning

Prior to the business of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed back Mr Jim Cavanagh who had been a member of the Council for almost 10 years but had completed his term at the end of May. She said Mr Cavanagh was a valued member who had contributed in many ways to the work of the Council and offered sound advice when needed. She said he would be a great loss to the Council but she wished him well in the future. On behalf of the Council the Chairman presented him with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

Mr Cavanagh thanked the Council for the momentum and reflected on his positive experience as a member of the Council under both its current and past leadership. He said he had great respect for the work of the Council although he felt that the public was not fully aware of the Council and its remit. He wished the Council and its staff well in the future.

Two other members who had completed their term of office - Mrs Sue Cunningham and Mr Isaac Hanna were unable to attend the presentation.

The Chairman said Mrs Cunningham, was an active member who had contributed much to the work of the Council since her appointment in 1995 but during the past year was unable to attend for health reasons. Mr Hanna had made a very valuable contribution over the years drawing on his experience as a District Councillor and also as a foster carer, and his sound advice to the Council would be missed. Presentations would be made to Mr Hanna and Mrs Cunningham at a later date.

119/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

119/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 118/3.1 New Medical Admissions Unit at CAH

The Chairman read a letter from the Chief Executive of Craigavon Area Hospital explaining the assessment process for patients arriving at the A & E Department. This was in response to a letter from the Council about waiting times at the A & E department. It was agreed to forward a copy to Mr Anderson who had raised the issue.

2 117/3.3 Maternity Services at Banbridge Polyclinic

The Chairman read a letter from the Chief Executive of Craigavon Area Hospital advising that ante-natal services at Banbridge Polyclinic would be resumed following an appointment to the vacant post. The process to fill the post was underway. It was agreed to follow up on the issue at a later date.

119/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Reappointment of Members

The Chairman referred members to correspondence from the DHSSPS confirming the reappointment of Mrs Lynne Cairns, Mrs

Mary Ferris, Mr Clive Henning, Mr Brendan Montague and Mr Peter Murray for a further four year term and her own reappointment for a further two year term. She reported that interviews for the appointment of new members to the Council would be held on Friday 20 June.

2 WHSSC – New Chief Officer

The Chairman advised members of the appointment of new Chief Officer, Maggie Reilly to the Western Health and Social Services Council. On behalf of the Council she wished Maggie well in her new post.

3 SHSSB – Learning Disability Strategy

It was agreed that Karen McCoy, Research Officer and Peter Murray would be the Council's representatives at the Southern Board's workshop on 30 June from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. The purpose of the workshop was to update everyone on progress towards implementation of the Learning Disability Strategy and to agree a way forward.

4 Intermediate Care Project and Newry Hospice Project

Ms McCoy, Research Officer reported that fieldwork on the intermediate care scheme was progressing well and a number of interviews had been conducted. It was anticipated that interviewing would continue until September.

Fieldwork on the Newry Hospice Project was also progressing well and a number of patient and relative interviews had taken place. Interviews will continue until the end of July.

5 Joint SHSSB/SHSSC Meeting

The Chairman reported that the joint Council/Board meeting held on 10 June was a very positive meeting. The Council's work programme for 2003/04 was agreed and those present had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Dr Doros Michail of the DHSSPS on the new regional strategy.

6 Immunisation Sub Group

The Chairman reported that she was a member of the Immunisation Sub Group of the Regional Advisory Committee on

Communicable Disease control. At the most recent meeting it was reported that rates for uptake of MMR vaccine in the Southern Board area were falling to a level which gave cause for concern. She referred to the recent move to give children the Hib vaccine and indicated that this programme would run until September.

119/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Lewis Report

The Chief Officer reminded members of the case surrounding the death of one of Romanian twins in the Craigavon area approximately 2 years ago. She said a review team had been established to report on the case of the second child who had been admitted to hospital with injuries. The report due for publication in April had not yet been made available. She informed members that she had written to the Permanent Secretary requesting information on the timing of the Lewis report and also to requesting information on the terms of reference for the review team. It was agreed that members should be kept informed.

2 Freedom of Information

The Chief Officer informed members that the four Councils had been working together with other HPSS agencies to agree a model scheme on Freedom of Information. She informed members that approval of the model scheme by the Information Commissioner would take place during July and the Council's own scheme was required to be submitted during August. Members agreed to the scheme being signed by the Chairman and submitted prior to the closing date.

3 Regional Strategy

The Chief Officer reported on the plans of the Regional Strategy Group to produce a consultation document on the proposed 20-year strategy for the HPSS. The issue of public engagement is one of the significant topics emerging in the process of the development of the draft strategy. The Department plans to sponsor a public debate on the strategy later in the year and it was expected that the discussion on public engagement would include reference to the future of Health Councils.

119/6 CRAIGAVON & BANBRIDGE LOCAL HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE GROUP

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Paula Clarke, Manager of Craigavon and Banbridge Local Health and Social Care Group to update members on developments.

Mrs Clarke thanked the Council for the invitation and said that she anticipated the Group would have a good working relationship with the Council.

Mrs Clarke informed members that 15 LHSCGs across Northern Ireland were established in mid 2002 as sub committees of the Boards. The core aims of the Groups were to provide a framework for local professionals, communities and service users to work together to improve delivery of primary care. They had the task of improving the health and wellbeing of local people; to have input to planning and commissioning of services, and eventually to take responsibility for commissioning of some services.

In relation to Craigavon and Banbridge LHSCG's achievements to date she said it had established itself as a local organisation with herself being appointed as Manager. There were 18 places on the Management Board although the 5 places allocated to GPs had not yet been taken up. Membership of the Board also included 6 representatives from the Southern Board and local Trusts and representatives from community pharmacy, social work, allied health professionals, nursing and community/service users.

During the year 2002/03 the Group had invested £420,000 locally. £100,000 had been identified for continued investment in domiciliary physiotherapy, additional podiatry and OT, and a behavioural management specialist nurse. The Group had published its primary care investment plan for 2003/04 – 2005/06 setting out its main priorities for development - identifying local need; delivering regional priorities in primary care; engagement

119/9 CARDIOLOGY and CARDIAC SURGERY ACTION PLAN
SHSSC 03/23

The Chief Officer reminded members that during 2000/2001 the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety conducted separate review of the cardiology and cardiac surgery services. Following the reviews a joint action plan was produced for consultation in October 2001.

Based on the outcome of the consultation and an Equality Impact Assessment the DHSSPS amended the Joint Action Plan which has been circulated. Boards and Trusts have been instructed by the Department to begin the immediate implementation of the Plan.

In relation to outpatient management and in particular, diagnostic angiography, it was agreed to write to the Trusts for their comments on how achievable the target dates were.

119/10 ARMAGH & DUNGANNON and NEWRY & MOURNE LHSCGS'
INVESTMENT PLANS
SHSSC 03/24

The Chairman referred members to the Investment Plans for Armagh and Dungannon and Newry and Mourne LHSCGs. The plans, which are for information, set out the Groups' plan of action and investment for the period 2003 – 2006.

It was agreed to invite the Managers of the two Groups to future Council meetings.

119/11 TRUSTS' BUSINESS
SHSSC 03/25

Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust
Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 15 April and agenda for meeting on 20 May 2003.

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 20 May and agenda for meeting on 17 June 2003 (tabled)

Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 28 April and agenda for meeting on 2 June 2003.

Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 15 April and agenda for meeting on 17 June 2003.

119/12 REPORT BACK FROM MEETINGS

1 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Mrs Ferris reported on the appointment of new non-executive Director Mrs Deirdre Bleakley to the Trust's Board. She also referred to the arrangements for holding the Trust Board's AGM during September. One of the issues referred to at the recent Trust Board meeting was the problem of antisocial behaviour at the old Mourne Hospital during weekends which was to be investigated.

2 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Mrs Harris reported on the appointment of a new Medical Director, Dr Carolyn Humphrey and a new non executive director, Mrs T B Smith. She said she was impressed by the presentation given by a consultant firm on the plans for the development of the hospital.

3 Follow up meeting on Daisy Hill Hospital Report

Ms Mc Coy, Research Officer outlined the main changes which have taken place as a result of the recommendations contained in the Council's research report into services for older people at Daisy Hill Hospital – one year on.

She indicated that the overall view was that the research had an impact on services for older people in levels 4 and 6 at the hospital.

Changes that had taken place included the recruitment of additional staff and a more pro-active approach to the provision of information to patients and their carers. The Trust was now seeking funding to enable them to provide diversional therapy for the patients. Nursing rotas had been re-arranged in order to

ensure help was on hand for those requiring assistance with their meals, and extra chairs has been provided on the wards for visitors.

However, one remaining difficulty was enforcing the rest period for patients and the policy of open visiting may have to be reviewed.

Council representatives Mary Ferris, Wilfred McFadden and Peter Murray had accompanied the Research Officer in the meetings with the Trust.

The Chief Officer paid tribute to the Newry & Mourne Trust for their co-operative approach to working with the Council, and congratulated Ms Mc Coy on the completion of this successful and worthwhile project.

119/13 FOR INFORMATION

- SHSSB – Minutes of Board meeting held on 13 May 2003
- SHSSB – Monthly update on Care Management Pressures – April 2003
- Waiting List Performance Management Report 2002/03 – Month ending 30 April 2003
- Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust – Quarterly Report on Complaints – 1Jan – 31 March 2003.
- Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust – Quarterly Report on Complaints – 1 Jan – 31 March 2003.
- Craigavon & Banbridge Comm HSS Trust – Quarterly Report on Complaints – 1 Jan – 31 March 2003.
- Newry & Mourne HSS Trust – Quarterly Report on Complaints – 1 Jan – 31 March 2003.
- SHSSB – Annual Review of Complaints 02/03.
- Relatives; Reference Group – Newsletter – May 2003
- Wraparound Update - May 2003
- Newry & Mourne LHSCG – Newsheet – May 2003 (tabled)

119/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Cardiac Surgery Outpatients at Banbridge Polyclinic

At the request of Mr Mc Fadden it was agreed to follow up on the matter with Craigavon Area Hospital.

2 MRI Scanner at Royal Group of Hospitals

Mr David Simpson expressed concern regarding the long waiting list for an MRI Scan at the Royal Hospital in Belfast. He said this was a serious situation from the point of view that a lot of cases are being transferred to Blackrock, Dublin where there was 6 – 7 scanners available. It was agreed to write to the Royal Hospital and find out the position with regard to MRI Scanning.

3 Equality Impact Assessment

It was agreed to provide Mrs Harris with information on equality impact assessment and the work that has been done.

4 Outpatient Transport – N/M Trust

Mr McArdle raised concerns about the possible withdrawal of a system in the Newry & Mourne Trust whereby patients from outlying areas were picked up by a small ambulance and brought to the hospital and then transferred to the main ambulance to travel to Belfast. He said this would result in hardship for those patients who did not possess a vehicle. It was agreed that Mr McArdle would report back with further information and the Council would raise the issue with the Trust.

119/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16 September at 6.30 pm in Quaker Buildings

Name:..... Date: