

SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty-first Meeting held in Lakeview Suite 2, Craigavon Civic Centre on Monday 27 October 2003 at 10.30 am

121/1 PRESENT: Mrs Roisin Foster, Chairman
 Mr Sydney Anderson
 Mr Patrick Brannigan
 Mrs Lynne Cairns
 Dr John Coulter
 Mrs Mary Ferris
 Mrs Nazy Harris
 Mr Clive Henning
 Mr Peter Kearns
 Mrs Pat Mallon
 Mr Brendan Montague
 Mr Peter Murray
 Mr Jim McCart
 Mr Wilfred McFadden
 Mr Adrian McKinney
 Mr David Simpson
 Mrs Eileen Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer
 Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
 Mrs Sue Cunningham [for part of the meeting]
 Mr John Templeton, Chief Executive, CAHGT [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mrs Annie Burrell

121/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

121/3 **MATTERS ARISING**

120/4.1 Resignation

At the September meeting it was announced that Mr McArdle had verbally tendered his resignation but since then has decided to reconsider his membership.

120/5 DBS Public Engagement

The Chairman advised members that a directive had been issued by the DHSSPS and SHSSB cancelling all meetings in relation to Developing Better Services – Public Engagement, due to the Assembly Elections.

121/4 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

1 Presentation to Outgoing Member

The Chairman presented Mrs Sue Cunningham with a small gift as a token of appreciation for her commitment to the Council over the years. She said Mrs Cunningham represented the Newry and Mourne Carers whilst she was a member of Council but unfortunately, due to health reasons she was unable to attend meetings within the past year. She wished Mrs Cunningham well in the future.

Mrs Cunningham thanked the Chairman and all the members she worked with. She asked members to remember that they were representing the consumer and to give careful consideration to issues, particularly vulnerable groups such as those with mental health problems and the older people. She raised concerns she had regarding treatment for obesity, and women with heart problems. Members wished Mrs Cunningham well.

2 Congratulations

The Chairman congratulated Mrs Pat Mallon on being appointed as President of NI Local Government Association.

3 Membership of Research Ethics Committees for NI

The Chairman informed members that the DHSSPS was seeking to establish and recruit members for at least three ethics committees. The committees would be funded by the DHSSPS

and administered through the NI Office for Research Ethics Committees based at the R & D Office. Recruitment process would begin in October, with advertisements placed in the main NI papers. All members of the new Committees would be appointed through the public appointment process.

4 Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Publication Schemes

The Chairman advised members that approval had been received from the Information Commissioner regarding the Council's model Publication Scheme for the period 31 October 2003 to 31 October 2007. During this period the Council is obliged to publish information in accordance with the model scheme. A copy of the publication scheme can be obtained from the Council's office - and will be available on the website after 31 October.

5 Induction training for Board/Council Members of Bodies Sponsored by DHSSPS

Members were informed that CIPFA would be providing an 'On Board' course for new members appointed to Public Bodies. The next course would be held on the afternoon of 9 December in the White Gables Hotel, Dromore Road, Hillsborough. All new members were asked to attend.

6 Invitation

It was agreed that Mrs Mallon and Mr McFadden would attend the launch of the Community Falls Prevention Project in the Seagoe Hotel on Tuesday 11 November at 11.30 am to 1.00 pm - hosted by TASSK and Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust.

121/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT (Provided during the AGM)

121/6 DEVELOPING BETTER SERVICES – Implications for Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Templeton, Chief Executive, Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust to the meeting to discuss how Developing Better Services would impact on the work of the Trust.

Mr Templeton gave a most interesting and informative talk as he reflected on the health service down through the years. He said Developing Better Services was about looking forward but it was also important to look back and reflect on what the journey had been. He said that following the Second World War the needs of the wounded were a priority and the government looked at how hospital services coped and what could be learned from the situation.

Mr Henning joined the meeting at 10.45 am.

In the 1960's we had the development of general hospitals. This increased our capacity for dealing with emergencies but the resources available for elective services were limited. Other important factors in relation to health care provision were the demographic changes and higher levels of expectation. Emergencies started to increase, and without additional finance it was no surprise that waiting lists and waiting times were getting longer.

In the Southern Board's area a number of hospitals closed or ceased to provide acute services including Cowan Herron, Moira, Lurgan, Armagh, Banbridge and South Tyrone. Many of the changes came about because of the development of nursing and residential homes and not because of different ways of treating patients in hospital. The plan was that acute services for the area would be provided by the new hospital in Craigavon, which opened in 1972.

A & E when planned was for a maximum of 20,000 attendances but the same facility with an additional small space has now over 77,000 patients attending. With the closure of all the other hospitals, Craigavon Area Hospital took all the inpatients from these.

He said that over the 30 years the equipment in the hospital has become out of date and there was a need for £50 m to be spent to bring theatres and wards up to standard for acute care.

Referring to the criticism about waiting times, he said this had to be seen in the context of 300,000 patients treated in the hospital each year; 1.3m lab tests carried out; 27,500 in-patient admissions, of whom 23,000 were emergencies and the remainder elective. Almost 2,700 births took place in the hospital each year, and this number was increasing.

He paid tribute to what he described as 'the brilliant staff' who kept the facility running. Despite all the changes they provided a very high standard of service and still strive to do even better.

Developing Better Services provides a policy and strategy framework for developing hospital services over the next decade. It was important that the plan was not used to focus solely on specific sites. What was required was the development of an integrated network of hospital services across Northern Ireland with clearly defined links between them in order that the capacity of the whole system could be utilised. For example, in this area the link between Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill must be developed.

As the future is a primary care led Health Service, there was a need for further development of the Secondary and Primary Care Interface. This was especially important in relation to the development of local hospitals where there was an opportunity for local needs and priorities to be agreed.

Under DBS South Tyrone Hospital was being used as a local hospital to provide outpatients' day surgery; a minor injuries unit, and CT screening suite – one of the best in the UK. Mr Templeton highlighted the significance of the medical simulator at South Tyrone used for training dental and medical students.

With regard to Banbridge Hospital, he said that with co-operation between the District Council and the Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust the hospital would be developed as a significant resource centre.

As a result of Developing Better Services Craigavon Area Hospital gets full recognition for the first time since opening. The document

Statement on the Use of Human Organs and Tissue pending new legislation. The proposed legislation will relate to NI as well as England and Wales.

The Chief Medical Officer's paper outlines what is expected to be contained in the legislation, and the role and composition of the proposed Human Tissue Authority. A key feature of the legislation will be the issue of consent. The Department is planning a number of workshops in the near future on the content of the proposed legislation. It was agreed to keep members updated.

Mr Anderson left the meeting at 11.45

121/9 LEWIS REPORT – CASE OF DAVID AND SAMUEL BRIGGS

The Chief Officer reported that following the discussion at the Council meeting in September, the Chairman and herself had requested a meeting with Mr Paul Martin, Chief Inspector SSI and Dr Hilary Harrison and this took place on 16 October.

During the meeting they expressed concerns regarding the delay in commissioning and publishing the report. The report could only be fully understood if read together with the confidential Case Management Review. Lewis had failed to set out the methodology used by the review team and there was a lack of evidence produced to substantiate many of the statements and conclusions reached. There was a perception that the report dealt favourably with issues relating to the Department while presenting an unbalanced view of the overall performance of the Board and Trust.

She said that whilst the Department accepted that there may be some validity in the concerns of the Council their view was that the conclusions of the Lewis report were, nevertheless, robust.

The Chairman reported that following the meeting she had drafted a letter which would be sent to the Minister shortly conveying the continuing concerns of the Council regarding the quality of the report.

It was agreed to provide members with a copy of the letter at the next meeting and also to keep them informed of developments.

121/10 DHSSPS – REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (tabled)

The Chief Officer drew members' attention to the report on the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland which had been tabled.

The review of Public Administration had formally started in June 2002 but due to the suspension of the NI Assembly in October 2002 it meant the timetable for the review, including consultation, had to be revised.

The current consultation document on the review was published on 13 October with responses initially invited by 16 January 2004. However, it is expected that the response date will be extended to the end of February 2004.

It was agreed to establish a sub group to formulate a response. Members who agreed to participate are: Mrs Harris, Mrs Foster, Mrs Wright, Mr Brannigan, Mr Simpson, Mr Coulter, Mr Murray, and Mr Mc Fadden with Mr McCart, Mrs Mallon and Mr Kearns as reserves. It was proposed that there should be one evening meeting and one afternoon meeting.

121/11 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

SHSSC 03/33

1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Board meeting held on 19 August 2003 and agenda for 23 September 2003.

Minutes of Board meeting held on 23 September 2003 and Agenda for 21 October 2003.

2 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Board meeting held on 18 August 2003

3 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Board meeting held on 19 August 2003 and agenda for 21 October 2003.

121/12 REPORT BACK FROM MEETINGS

1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Mrs Harris reported on her attendance at the Trust's Board meeting on 21 October and on the discussion on the £150 m being provided to the Trust for new developments under the Partnership with Provider and Public (PPP) plan. She summarised the range of other topics discussed at the meeting. Mrs Harris voiced her appreciation of the opportunity afforded her to participate fully in the Trust Board meetings as the Council representative.

2 R & I Advisory Committee

Mr Murray reported on his attendance at an induction meeting for lay members and said it was very interesting and informative, particularly in relation to visiting facilities.

3 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Mrs Ferris attended the Newry & Mourne HSS Trust Board AGM, which was attended by approximately 20 members of the public. She said the Trust's annual report this year had been produced in a user-friendly format. Topics discussed at the AGM included the issue of junior doctors' hours and the new GP contract and its impact on Out of Hours services. Reference had also been made to the plans for the fracture clinic and the building of the new health centre in Kilkeel.

Mr Murray said he welcomed the appointment of Mr Paul McKevevney, Consultant Nephrologist at Daisy Hill Hospital, and asked for clarification as to whether or not the GP Out of Hours in Newry was moving to Daisy Hill Hospital beside the A & E department. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would establish the facts for the next meeting.

4 Visual Impairment Strategy Meeting

Mrs Ferris said that there had been considerable interest in the launch of the visual impairment strategy, which she attended in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. As a result of the launch a forum has been established with at least 20 people expressing an interest. She had volunteered to become involved with the forum and was willing to keep the Council informed of developments.

5 SHSSB Meeting

Mrs Foster commented on the Southern Board's first meeting in the public which was held in Craigavon Civic Centre. She said there was good public interest and it was a demonstration of how the Board intended involving the public and community representatives in its work in the future.

The Chairman said that at that meeting she had raised the issue of the delay in older people being discharged from hospital. She was advised that the most common cause for the delay was the lack of domiciliary care services or the availability of nursing home places.

121/13 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of Board meeting held on 9 September 2003.
- 2 A/D HSS Trust – Annual Report 2002/03
- 3 Southern Childcare Partnership – Early Years News – Issue 2

121/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Health Education

In response to Mrs Harris' question regarding the possibility of the Council being more involved in health promotion and education, the Chief Officer advised her that whilst the Council had a role in keeping Health Promotion under review it could not get directly involved in that area of work.

2 Council Papers

Mrs Harris asked if it was possible for members to be provided with a summary document of lengthy papers and reports which were for discussion at Council meetings.

121/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 November at 10.00 am in Quaker Buildings

Signed: _____

Date: _____