

SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on Tuesday 16 March 2004 at 10.00 am

126/1 PRESENT: Mrs Roisin Foster, Chairman
 Mr Sydney Anderson
 Mr Norman Badger
 Mr Patrick Brannigan
 Mrs Annie Burrell
 Mrs Lynne Cairns
 Mrs Mary Ferris
 Mrs Nazy Harris
 Mr Clive Henning
 Mr Peter Kearns
 Mrs Pat Mallon
 Mr Peter Murray
 Mr Jim McCart
 Mr Wilfred McFadden

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chief Officer
 Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
 Mr Liam McIvor, Acting Chief Executive,
 NIAS [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mr Brendan Montague
 Mr Charles Rollston
 Mr David Simpson
 Mrs Eileen Wright

126/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

126/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 Solvent Abuse

The Chairman reported that the Information Department at SHSSB confirmed that there were no deaths in the last 3 years of children 0-17 in the Newry area. It was agreed to forward the information to Mr Curran.

- 2 Meals on Wheels
The Chief Officer responded to Mr Anderson's previous query regarding the Craigavon & Banbridge Trust's decision to move away from Home Helps preparing meals to the provision of cooked chilled meals. She said the Trust had cited a number of reasons for the change. The primary reason for the change was to promote independence, but cost effectiveness and difficulties in recruiting staff were other factors. The Trust was in the process of reassessing the clients in receipt of a meal service, and all were being advised of the change. It was hoped to have this process completed by the end of February. The aim was that everyone should be transferred to the plated meal service. However, there would be some exceptions and individual circumstances would be taken into consideration.

- 3 Council meetings - Accommodating People with a Hearing Impairment
The Chairman advised members that advice was being sought on the provision of a loop system in the Council offices.

- 4 April meeting
Mrs Pat Mallon agreed to approach the Craigavon Borough Council regarding arrangements for the April meeting.

- 5 CAHGT – Trolley Waits
The Chairman referred members to information on trolley waits which had been provided by Craigavon Area Hospital each Monday for the weekend periods 21 February to 6 March 2004. She said the most recent table showed an improvement on the previous period.

126/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- 1 NI Cancer Registry's Council
It was agreed that Mrs Lynne Cairns would represent the Council on the NI Cancer Registry Council.

- 2 Future Housing
The Chairman informed members that the Southern Board and the NI Housing Executive were jointly hosting a workshop to consider the future housing and support options for people with a learning disability in the Southern Board's area. The workshop was scheduled for Tuesday 30 March in Canal Court

Hotel, Newry from 9.30 am to 3. 30 pm. It was agreed Mrs Harris and Mrs Ferris would attend.

3 C/B Health Promotion Unit – Launch of ‘Beaties Balancing Act’

It was agreed that Mrs Mallon would attend the launch of the fun and interactive CD-ROM produced for pupils aged 4-7, to help children understand the importance of having a healthy balanced diet and being more physically active. The launch, scheduled for Thursday 25 March, would be held in Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island, Lurgan from 1.30 pm to 2.45 pm.

4 CDHN – Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership conference.

Mrs Burrell agreed to attend the conference on Wednesday 24 March in Armagh City Hotel from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

5 Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau – Seminar – Look at our ability – not our disability.

A seminar being run by Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau entitled ‘Look at our ability – not our disability’ was being held on 22 March in Craigavon Civic Centre from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. It was agreed Mr Kearns would attend.

6 CAH – Monitor Nutrition in Hospital

It was agreed that Mrs Ferris would represent the Council at future meetings of the Craigavon Area Hospital ‘Monitor Nutrition in Hospital’ group.

7 Making it Better – A Strategy for Pharmacy in the Community

Copies of the report were made available to those members who were interested.

8 Travel Expenses

Members were asked to ensure that their up-to-date claim forms for reimbursement of travel expenses were presented before the end March.

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CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Budget 2004/05

The Chief Officer informed members that the Council's budget for the coming year was £210,000 - an uplift of 3.2% on last year. However, a verbal response to the 4 Councils' bid for additional resources has indicated that, in view of the proposed changes to HPSS structures, the Department is unwilling to commit to additional permanent staff for the Councils but would consider bids for shorter term projects. She said she hoped to have the opportunity to discuss the issue further at her meeting with Mr David Galloway, DHSSPS on Monday 22 March. Members would be kept updated.

2 Promoting the work of the HSS Councils

One of the recommendations from the Human Organs Enquiry report was that Health Councils should have a higher profile. In implementing the recommendations the DHSSPS has allocated £30,000 across the 4 Councils to develop a promotional strategy. The DHSSPS is contracting with A V Brown Public Relations to design the promotional campaign. Priority will be given to developing an awareness of the Councils' work among voluntary and community groups. Some funding will also be available for promotional material. Chief officers will meet with the Department and the PR company in the near future and members will be kept informed of developments.

3 Joint HSSCs Conference

The Chief Officer informed members that a joint Council residential event was planned for 17 and 18 June at Lusty Beg Island Centre in Fermanagh. The topic for discussion would be public engagement in the HPSS, including the future of the Health Councils. Members were asked to complete the registration form which had been tabled and return to the secretary as soon as possible.

4 Evaluation of the Work of the Councils

As part of the preparation for discussions with the DHSSPS on the future of the Health Councils, the Councils have jointly engaged Simon Bridge, Management Consultant, to undertake an evaluation of the work of the Councils. The Chief Officer outlined a number of exercises which were being carried out as

part of the evaluation process. The results will be used to inform the discussions at the June conference.

5 NIPEC

The Chief Officer reported that the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC) had agreed to make a presentation at a future meeting of our Council on their Development Framework for nursing. NIPEC is due to go to public consultation with its draft framework later in the year and therefore welcomes the opportunity to address the Council.

6 Newry SEC

The Chief Officer informed members that she met with the Chief Executive of the Newry & Mourne Trust on 18 February 2004. He had confirmed that the business case for the new SEC was with the DHSSPS and while it was accorded the highest priority within the Trust he had no information on where it sat in the Department's priorities.

7 SHSSB Meeting 9 March

The Chief Officer reported back to members on the main topics for discussion at the meeting of the Southern Health and Social Services Board on 9 March.

126/6 NI AMBULANCE SERVICE TRUST [presented at 10.00 am]

The Chairwoman welcomed Mr Liam Mc Ivor, Acting Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service to update the Council on developments within the service.

Mr Mclvor informed the Council that at the time when he joined the Trust as Director of Operations in May 2001 the Implementation Plan for the Strategic Review of the Ambulance Service was being developed. A total of 71 recommendations were made as a result of the review.

The Strategic Review Implementation Plan focused on a number of areas including control and communications, clinical governance, training, emergency planning, fleet replacement and management capacity. Progress had been made in a number of areas but other areas still gave cause for concern.

Significant improvements had been achieved in the area of staff training and the annual training budget was now £1.2 m. Under enhanced clinically safe skills, cardiac skills were now mandatory for all ambulance staff. The system for emergency planning had been improved with 5 officers on call out of hours 7 days a week throughout the year. Emphasis was placed on providing support to front line staff particularly in relation to the increase in violent attacks on staff in recent years. Improvements had also been introduced to the procedures for dealing with chemical incidents.

The Southern Control was the last to move on to the new control system. A new digital map was now in use and there was the facility to use radio control to direct the ambulance to the area where it was required. The Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System (AMPDS) allowed control staff to determine if a call was life threatening or not and then to tailor the response accordingly.

Clinical governance had been enhanced with the appointment of a new medical director.

The ambulance fleet had 140 A & E ambulances but over the years insufficient funds had been made available to replace the fleet. By necessity 40 of these were replaced 2 years ago. All ambulances should be replaced when they are either 7 years old or have covered 140,000 miles, but a number of vehicles still in use exceeded these limits. He stressed the need for DHSSPSNI to continue to invest in the service. On the issue of the Trust estate he said it was important to provide a safe and appropriate working environment for all staff. Specific issues needed to be addressed in relation to staff based at outposts such as Ballygawley and Carrickfergus.

Mr McIvor explained that part of the implementation plan was to improve ambulance response times. As part of phase 1 of the plan additional vehicles were now in place. The first of the new patient care services staff would be in place by December with a total of 60 staff recruited by June. The issue of the additional management capacity required was being addressed with the Boards.

Phase 2 of the plan regarding rapid response and A & E vehicles - 10 vehicles had been identified, 100 additional staff would be recruited within a year, and new response times would be introduced. Funding for improved clinical supervision was not yet available.

Mr McIvor reported that 29 of the review recommendations had been implemented while a further 25 were being implemented at present. Due to funding issues 15 of the recommendations are not currently being addressed.

In outlining the activity profile of ambulance cover for Northern Ireland for the period July to September 2003, he said the Southern Board was the third largest in terms of emergency calls. However, there was no significant increase in non emergency cover since the strategic review. In terms of performance against ORCON targets he said this was around 90% in 21 minutes but it was hoped to get the performance up to 95%.

Recent local investment in the Southern Board area included additional ICS vehicles and staff and PCS control staff; staff/vehicle security, and vehicle replacement. Initiatives for improving performance in the Southern Division were addressed through the local liaison group.

In concluding Mr McIvor referred to a number of local issues which need to be resolved including additional A&E night cover for Banbridge; the gaps in cover between Newry and Kilkeel; and the need to develop new ambulance locations.

Mr McIvor then proceeded to answer a number of questions presented by members. In the course of the debate he said he would impress on the Council members to use their influence in their local communities to ensure that road signs are kept clear.

The Chairman thanked Mr McIvor for the very interesting presentation and he left the meeting.

126/7 WORK PROGRAMME 2004/05

The Chief Officer said it had been proposed that there should be a greater degree of co-operation between the 4 Councils this

3 Craigavon and Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board Meeting held on 26 January 2004 and agenda for meeting on 23 February 2004.

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VISIT REPORTS

SHSSC 04/15

1 Cedar Grove Children's Home, Newry

The Chief Officer drew members' attention to the Registration and Inspection Unit's summary report on its visit to Cedar Grove Children's Home in September 2003. She said the conclusions of the report were that the care provided was sensitive to the needs of young people and delivered in an appropriate manner. The report made a number of recommendations with a view to enhancing the care practices within the facility.

In relation to the topics raised by the Council visiting team, the inspection commended the Home's management for its emphasis on meeting the educational needs of the residents and for its efforts in involving the young people in outdoor pursuits. Feedback from the young people and their families on the standard of care was positive.

2 Newry SEC

Mr McCart said there was a need to replace the existing building. Mr Kearns expressed his concern and asked if there was anything further that could be done. He asked if it would be possible to find out when the DHSSPS make plans for its investment. Mr Murray said that efforts should be made to prioritise the replacement of Newry and Banbridge SECs. It was agreed to take the matter up with the Chairman of the Trust, the Board and the DHSSPS.

3 Banbridge and Bannvale SEC

The Banbridge and Bannvale report was approved but the same action as for Newry SEC should be taken for Banbridge SEC.

4 Oakridge SEC

Mr Kearns expressed concern about the size of the catchment area that Oakridge and Appleby SECs had and the issue of travel for those that used the centres. A full written report would be available for the April meeting.

5 Appleby SEC

Mr Murray highlighted the issue of travel but said he would be presenting a very favourable report on what the team observed on the visit.

126/12 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB Minutes of Board Meeting – 10 February 2004
- 2 SHSSB – Lifestyle Report
- 3 Newry & Mourne LHSCG – Newsletter – February 2004
- 4 DHSSPS – A guide for the Deaf Community
- 5 Southern Area Children and Young People’s Committee – Newsletter - February 2004
- 6 DHSSPS – Regional Cancer Services Framework
- 7 CAWT – Newsletter March 2004
- 8 SHSSB – Waiting List Performance Management Report
- 9 SHSSB – Monthly update on Care Management Pressures – Jan 2004

126/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Presentations at Meetings

Mrs Burrell asked if it was possible to rearrange the Council’s Boardroom in order that all members could see the speaker when making a presentation. It was agreed to take the point on board.

2 Arbour House

Mr McCart referred to a small respite centre, Arbour House, Warrenpoint and said he wanted to make members aware of it and the useful service it provided in the area. He asked if it received any financial support from the Southern Board. It was agreed to contact the Board for this information.

3 SHSSB – DBS Report

Mrs Harris referred to the Southern Board’s DBS report and said it was an excellent report. However, she said there were some issues that she had concerns about, particularly the adult psychiatric unit at Craigavon Area Hospital.

The Chief Officer reminded Mrs Harris that the Council supported 5 public engagement meetings in the community in January and these provided an opportunity for members to

make a contribution to the document. She referred to a section of the report which showed the issues that were taken on board as a result of the public engagement meetings. She said the document was a very useful resource document which gave a comprehensive review of all services within the Southern Board's area.

After debating issues surrounding the psychiatric unit it was agreed that the matter would be kept under review. It was agreed to provide Mrs Burrell with a copy of the full DBS report.

4 Committee for Voluntary Services

Mrs Burrell, on behalf of the Community Council for Voluntary Services, expressed her thanks to the Council for the use of its Boardroom.

5 Signage

With regard to the NIAS presentation, and the points raised about the difficulty ambulance drivers faced in finding road signs in rural areas - very often because they are so dirty - Mr Kearns asked if the Council would write to the Department responsible for keeping road signs clean.

6 Moylinn Centre

Mrs Burrell made reference to a discussion at a recent Craigavon and Banbridge Community Trust meeting which she attended. The discussion was in relation to the threat to medical staff at Moylinn Centre during the night. She said she was concerned for the day staff at the centre and felt that their safety should be considered also.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 April 2004. Venue to be arranged

Signed: **Date:**