

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Meeting held in Dungannon
and South Tyrone Borough Council on Tuesday 21 September 2004
at 9.45 am**

PRESENT: Mrs Roisin Foster, Chairman
Mr Norman Badger
Mr Pat Brannigan
Mrs Annie Burrell
Mrs Lynne Cairns
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Clive Henning
Mrs Pat Mallon
Mr Andy Moffett
Mr Brendan Montague
Mr Peter Murray
Mr John McArdle
Mr Peter Kearns
Mrs Eileen Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Retiring Chief
Officer
Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer
Designate
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager

APOLOGIES: Mr Sydney Anderson
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mr Jim McCart
Mr Wilfred McFadden
Mr Charles Rollston
Mr Cecil Shaw

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and informed them that it would be her final meeting after 7½ years. She said she was embarking on a Masters degree course and would find it difficult to commit herself to the work of the Council. She felt the time was right to resign as the Council would be moving into a different way of working in the next three years while the Review of Public Administration was being implemented. The new leadership would take the Council forward as a strong consumer and watchdog organisation. She extended her best wishes to the Council.

She congratulated Mrs Stella Cunningham, on her appointment as the new Chief Officer and wished her every success in her post.

She welcomed back Mrs van der Lenden who had retired from her post on 3 September and was presented with gifts at a reception in the Council office. In her generosity Mrs van der Lenden expressed the wish for donations in lieu of her gift be presented to Southern Area Hospice Service. The sum of £300 was presented to the Hospice.

The Chairman explained that because Mrs van der Lenden had been involved in working with the other Chief Officers in preparing a regional work programme for the next three years, it was felt appropriate that she should present the future strategy to members, later in the meeting.

The Chairman informed members that Mr McFadden had been ill and in hospital but was now convalescing at home. She said his input to the meetings would be missed and on behalf of the Council she extended good wishes to him.

130/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

130/3 MATTERS ARISING

129/3.1 Newry Social Education Centre

The Chairman read the Newry and Mourne HSS Trust's letter updating members on the position in relation to the Business Case proposal for a New Social Education Centre. The letter advised that the Trust had continued to contact the Department in relation to procurement of sites and had identified two sites but apart from this there were no further developments.

Mrs Burrell referred to the discussion on SECs during the Council's April meeting held in Craigavon Borough Council and asked if any update had been received from the Craigavon and Banbridge Community Trust in relation to Banbridge SEC. It was agreed to write to the Trust.

129/4.2 Love for Life

The Chairman advised that a letter in support of the 'Love for Life' project had been sent to the Department of Education on 23 August. A response received on 9 September indicated that the Department of Education did not directly fund external programmes or resource materials for schools but if they wished to avail of such, funding must be met from their delegated budgets or from limited funds held centrally by the Education and Library Boards. The Council's letter had been passed to the relevant Education and Library Board.

Mrs Wright confirmed that schools were aware that the programme had to be funded from their budget but some were finding it difficult. She felt it was a great shame that the programme was having to be reduced because there was no budget for it.

130/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 New Chief Officer

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Stella Cunningham, the Council's new Chief Officer to the meeting. She said Stella was very familiar with health and social services, having worked as the Southern Board's Child Care Partnership Co-Ordinator. She wished her every success in her new post which she would officially take up on 18 October.

2 Invitations

- (a) It was agreed that Mrs Nazy Harris would represent the Council at Newry and Mourne HSS Trust's launch of 'Vision Afoot' in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry on 23 September from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm.
- (b) Mr Peter Kearns agreed to attend the Southern Board's Trauma Advisory Panel's information session and launch of a directory of services for people affected by the Troubles, on Friday 1 October in Market Place Theatre, Armagh.
- (c) The Council's representative at Armagh and Dungannon HAZ's launch of RI:SE and SHINE Breakfast Clubs Project on 1 October in Parkanaur College, Dungannon would be Pat Brannigan.

3 On Board Training for Board Members of Public Bodies

The Chairman informed members that the DHSSPS had commissioned CIPFA to run an 'On Board' seminar for members recently appointed to Boards, Trusts, Councils etc and the next seminar would be held on 29 November in the Hilton Hotel from 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm. As it is mandatory, recently appointed members who have not attended a course were asked to register for the seminar.

4 Trusts' Annual Public Meetings

The Chairman informed members that a list of Trusts' Annual Public Meetings was tabled for information. She encouraged members to attend a meeting in their area.

5 DHSSPS – Proposed Changes to the Weighted Capitation Funding

The Chairman informed members that the DHSSPS had invited representatives from the Council to participate in a consultation exercise on proposals to improve the way resources are allocated to Health Boards, to meet the health and social care needs of the population in their local areas. As part of the exercise two seminars would be held in October and a series of public meetings would also be held. It was agreed Mrs Burrell and Mr McArdle would attend a seminar. Each would be provided with a copy of the summary document. The closing date for comments on the consultation is 30 November 2004.

130/5

FUTURE STRATEGY FOR THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCILS

The Chairman welcomed back Mrs Delia van der Lenden, retired Chief Officer of the Council, to present the future strategy for Health and Social Services Councils. She said Mrs van der Lenden had been involved in the development of the new strategy for Councils.

Mrs van der Lenden explained that there were three elements to the future strategy for the Health and Social Services Councils - the evaluation, the joint conference and the three year work plan.

With regard to the evaluation she said that the four Health Councils had commissioned Simon Bridge Associates to undertake this project to see how the Councils could manage

increasing demands with limited resources. The process was undertaken during the period March to May 2004 with a documentation review of Council's remit, consultations with sample stakeholders, discussions with Chairs and Chief Officers, and a review of potential bench marking organisations.

The key findings of the analysis revealed that Councils had a set of functions but no overall aim, no targets were set by the Department, Councils were complying with their remit and stakeholders felt that Councils did make a difference. The report indicated that a large percentage (62%) of staff time was spent on administering the Council.

The report recommended that for the future, the role of Councils should be retained but with a mission and not just a list of functions. There should be a regional structure with a local presence, and more proactive working. The name should change to avoid confusion, and there should be a change to resourcing to secure more expertise and commitment.

Reporting on the joint Councils' conference which was held at Lusty Beg Island from 16 to 18 June 2004, she said it was some considerable time since the four Councils had come together jointly and she felt it had been a very worthwhile exercise.

She reported that during the conference there were very useful discussions within the four groups and there was an agreed approach on the following points:

- Closer liaison between the Councils
- The need to improve the public profile of the Councils
- Need to be more proactive
- Establishment of a joint working group
- Resource issues needed to be tackled
- Relationships with local communities to be strengthened
- Complaints and advocacy services should be retained.

As a result of the evaluation of the Councils and the agreed approach resulting from the joint conference, the Councils' future strategy has been developed in a draft three year work programme for 2004 - 2007.

Mrs van der Lenden outlined in detail the key objectives of the work programme which were to:

- Increase the Councils' public profile
- Monitor provision of HPSS services
- Advise on HPSS policies, strategies and operation
- Provide complaints assistance
- Develop medium/long term strategy for the Councils.
- Fulfil organisational requirements
- Respond to local issues

In addition to working with the other Councils, each Council would develop a local issues programme.

She said some of the major changes in relation to monitoring the HPSS would include the visiting programme which in future would be linked to projects or local issues; there would be less emphasis on academic research but much more fact finding projects. Councils would advocate for more user involvement in advising on HPSS policies.

In order to develop the joint three-year plan a 4 Councils' working group would be established. The group would comprise the 4 Chief Officers, 4 Chairs and 2 members from each Council. The group would work over the 3 years to develop a 'plan for change' for the Councils and present the plan which would be delivered to DHSSPS, Boards and Trusts.

It was agreed that Mrs Burrell and Mr Murray would attend the Working Group meeting on 13 October and provide feedback to the October Council meeting. The Chairman thanked Mrs van der Lenden for the excellent presentation.

130/6

SHSSC RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON GP OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL CENTRES **SHSSC 04/21**

The Chairman referred members to the Council's response to the Board's consultation on GP Out of Hours Medical Centres and advised that it had been submitted to the Board prior to the mid August deadline. From her perspective, she said it was an excellent document which encompassed all the plethora of views that came out of the consultation – it was a very useful exercise. Mrs Wright reiterated the Chairman's views that it was an excellent document.

- CAHGT – Bed Management Information
- A/D HSS Trust – All Told Newsletter – Summer 2004
- A/D HSCG – Newsletter – August 2004
- N/M HSCG – Primary Care Investment Plan 04/05.
- SHSSB – Monthly Update on Care Management Pressures – April 2004
- SHSSB – Monthly Update on Care Management Pressures – July 2004 (tabled)
- Wraparound Update – September 2004

130/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Water Charges

Mr McArdle expressed great concern about the proposed water charges likely to be levied on the Northern Ireland population. He said this was an explosive situation for people and the repercussions would be immeasurable.

2 Presentation to Retiring Chairman

Mrs Delia van der Lenden, the retiring Chief Officer, on behalf of members and staff, presented the Chairman, Mrs Foster with a gift as a token of appreciation for all her work over the past 7½ years. She said members appreciated the efficient way in which she had chaired the meetings and were disappointed that she was leaving. However, they wished her success in her studies and in the future. Mrs van der Lenden said she herself appreciated the support Mrs Foster had given her over the past years.

Mrs Foster said her time with the Council was a learning experience and she enjoyed it all. She thanked members for their co-operation and paid tribute to the support of the staff, without which she could not have managed. She thanked everyone for the generous gift.

130/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 October 2004. Venue to be arranged.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

