

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**The One Hundred and Thirty Third Meeting held in Armagh City Hotel
on Thursday 16 December 2004 at 10.00 am**

133/1 PRESENT: Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman
 Mr Sydney Anderson
 Mr Norman Badger
 Mr Patrick Brannigan
 Mrs Annie Burrell
 Mrs Mary Ferris
 Mr Andy Moffett
 Mr Brendan Montague
 Mr Peter Murray
 Mr Jim McCart
 Mr Wilfred McFadden
 Mr Adrian McKinney
 Mr Peter Kearns
 Mr Charles Rollston

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer
 Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
 Mrs Michele Oliver, Acting Clinical
 Director, Armagh & Dungannon HSS
 Trust [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mrs Nazy Harris
 Mr Clive Henning
 Mrs Pat Mallon
 Mr John McArdle
 Mr David Simpson
 Mrs Eileen Wright

133/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

133/3

MATTERS ARISING

1 Pain Services at Daisy Hill Hospital

The Chairman advised members that letters were sent to both the N/M HSS Trust and the SHSSB but to date no response had been received. Members who attended the Newry & Mourne HSS Trust Board meeting felt that the pain service would not be developed due to the lack of resources and because the Trust did not treat the service as a priority.

Mr Kearns said Dr Wright gave a very convincing presentation at the November meeting and the Council supported him in his initiative. He felt that patients should not suffer as a consequence of the Trust's decision not to establish the pain service.

2 R & I Unit Lay Assessors' Reports

The Chairman reported that a request has been made to the R & I Unit for copies of Lay Assessors' reports and these should be with the Council shortly.

3 Ambulance Service

In relation to the query raised by McArdle at the November meeting, the Chairman advised that Mr McArdle had informed the office that the matter had been resolved. Mr McMahon from the NIAS had met with the complainant.

4 ENT Waiting List – Daisy Hill Hospital

The Chairman informed members that a letter has been sent to the Trust requesting information on the ENT waiting list and an acknowledgement had been received – a full response would be received at a later date. The Chief Officer said she had checked the DHSSPS waiting list and 18 months seemed to be the average waiting time. Members would be updated at the January meeting.

133/4

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Christmas Cards

The Chairman informed members that the Council would not be sending Christmas cards this year but instead would make a donation to the Southern Area Hospice. However, an electronic message would be circulated widely.

Mr McCart suggested that a speaker from the Southern Area Hospice be invited to a future meeting. Mrs Burrell felt that the Hospice needed a lot more publicity so that people are better informed about the services provided.

2 Summary of Intermediate Care

The Chairman referred members to the summary report on Users' Views of Intermediate Care Services in the Southern Area. She said the full report and further copies of the summary report were available on request. The full report would be circulated widely.

3 Notes of Meeting with Clive Gowdy

The Chairman referred members to notes of the 4 Councils' meeting with Clive Gowdy on 11 November, which had been tabled for information. The paper was noted.

4 Council Meetings Schedule – 2005

A schedule of Council meetings for 2005 was tabled and members were reminded to note the dates in their diaries.

5 Good Practice Guidelines for Meetings

The Chairman reported that good practice guidelines for Council meetings had been compiled following local meetings between Members, the Chief Officer and herself. The proposed guidelines referred to the circulation of papers for meetings, Trusts' minutes, the use of e-mail for sending papers, visiting speakers' presentations, and Members' contribution to meetings. She said the guidelines would provide a framework for the Chairman to manage Council meetings.

Mr Anderson said he felt that any member who raised an issue during the course of the meeting should have the right to reply at the end of the discussion.

Regarding the circulation of Trust Board minutes to members, it was agreed to continue to include these with Council papers as they provided members with knowledge of what was happening in their local Trusts.

6 Feedback from Meetings with Members in each Trust Area

Meetings between the Chair, Chief Officer and members in each Trust area have taken place recently and a number of issues were raised - details have been outlined in the draft guidelines for meetings, which were tabled. Notes of each meeting are available if members wish to have them.

Mr McFadden joined the meeting at 11.00 am.

7 Summary of Public Attitudes Survey

The Chairman reported on the Department's public attitude survey 2004 which aimed to gauge public satisfaction levels with health and social services in Northern Ireland. It was also hoped to identify areas that the public would like to see changed or improved in the future. The survey was based on telephone interviews with 1500 people aged 18 and over. A total of 13 focus groups were also conducted. As a result of the survey, a range of strategies and actions are being taken forward. A summary of the survey is available on request.

8 Southern Area Equality Showcase

The event took place on 8 December in Armagh City Hotel. It was well attended and feedback has been positive. The event was chaired by Mr Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive, SHSSB. Anyone who would like further details or a copy of the presentations can contact Colette Hart, Complaints Officer

133/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Community Development Officer

The Chief Officer informed members that an advert had been placed in the local papers for the post of part-time Community Development Officer, which would be funded for 2 years. The postholder will support the Council's new focus of building links with the community and voluntary sector. It is hoped to have someone in post in the current financial year.

2 Draft Budget

In relation to the Department's Draft Budget, the Chief Officer said the Southern Board was issuing a public statement which the Council's Chairman had contributed to, regarding the financial climate in year and for the next 3 years, should the draft budget be implemented. If implemented, new developments were likely to be at risk and there could be cuts in services.

3 HSSCs' Advertising Campaign

The new leaflet and poster designed to raise the profile of the HSS Councils has been printed and will be circulated widely in the New Year. Unfortunately, despite the recent advertising campaign in regional papers it did not seem to attract much attention, which would indicate that it is better to raise the profile through local activity.

4 SHSSC Project Work

Progress in the Council's work plan was proceeding well. The dental services project, and links with the community sector project were due to commence in January 05 and be completed by March 05. In order to raise the Council's profile it is proposed to hold a number of roadshows and displays in shopping centres.

5 Review of Research

A review of the Council's role in relation to research is underway and as part of the review a meeting has been held with the NI Office of Research Ethics to clarify the definition of research and how the Council can comply with the new requirements. Members will be kept updated on the outcome of the review.

6 Dromore Surgery

The Chief Officer reported that there has been ongoing contact with GPs and patients in Dromore, including a public meeting and a meeting with the practice in relation to service user concerns.

7 Closure of Urology Department at CAH

The Council has been informed that the Urology Department at Craigavon Area Hospital will be closed until May 2005 to allow the service to be redesigned following an external review. The

Council has requested that there should be service user input into the redesign.

8 Press Report

The Chief Officer informed members that Newry & Mourne HSS Trust had been in contact and expressed concern about the release of a two year old visit report on a children's home to the press by a Council member.

The Chairman reminded members of the Council's media strategy and said care must be exercised to ensure that the public are aware of when members are speaking on behalf of the Council or in some other capacity. When representing the Council prior approval should be sought from the Chairman or Chief Officer.

The Chairman said that a lot of the issues that were negative in the report may at this stage have been put right and we would not be aware of these. Members requested that the Council should write to the Newry & Mourne HSS Trust explaining that the issue was raised with the press by an individual member of the Council and did not come directly from the Council. It was requested that a letter should also be sent the member concerned.

9 Christmas Holidays

In order to facilitate staff leave the Council office will be closed over Christmas and the New Year. It will re-open on Tuesday 4 January 05.

133/6

SHSSC – ANNUAL REPORT – Focus 2004

The Chief Officer reported that the Council's Annual Report 'Focus 2004' had been printed and would be launched today following the business of the meeting. Mr McCart said it was a very well presented document. The report would be circulated widely and would also be available on the Council's website.

133/7

DENTAL SERVICES – UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Michelle Oliver, Acting Director of Community Dental Services, Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust to the meeting.

Mrs Oliver thanked the Council for the invitation and said she would focus her presentation on community dental health. She said the main providers of dental services are the General Dental Practitioners, Hospital Dental Service, Community Dental Service and Emergency Dental Service. Community dental services are managed by Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust and clinics are held Armagh, Mullinure Day Unit, and Dungannon; in the Craigavon and Banbridge area clinics operate in Brownlow, Banbridge and Craigavon Area Hospital; and in the Newry and Mourne area clinics are held in Rathfriland, Killeel and Newtownhamilton.

She outlined details of services provided by the Community dental teams. These included a complimentary service, oral screening, dental treatment to priority groups, epidemiology, and oral health promotion. Early years initiatives included, Cool Kids use cups, Tiny Tots teeth initiative, invitation to dental registration, Delta Early Years promotion, Tots tooth-brushing clubs, Boost Better Breaks award scheme, and Sure Start.

Mr Montague joined the meeting at 11.20 am

Regarding oral health, the community teams are addressing issues such as dental decay, gum disease, dental erosion, dental trauma and oral cancer. Dental decay and gum disease can be prevented by restricting foods and drinks containing sugar, brushing with fluoride toothpaste, registering and attending a dentist regularly, wearing a custom made mouthguard and by smoking cessation. Increased dental registration and the reduction of decay levels are priorities for action.

Mrs Oliver revealed that children in Northern Ireland have the worst dental health in the United Kingdom - 55% tooth decay among 5 year olds and 64% tooth decay among 12 year olds. From January to December 2003 there were 1644 general anaesthetics carried out in children in the Southern Board's area - a total of 6,802 extractions.

Benefits of dental registration included early preventative advice, familiar environment, minimal intervention, developmental defects, and medical conditions. In the Armagh area dental registration had almost reached its target.

Mrs Oliver referred to the strategy and policy documents - all of which aimed to improve health and reduce inequalities in health through collaborative working. She said the strategy for oral health has an increased emphasis on prevention, increased multi-disciplinary working and tackling inequalities in oral health.

Mrs Oliver provided members with an overview of the key issues facing dentistry, the changes in general practice, the legislation, the barriers, and continuing challenges. She explained about the advances in technology, the shift in dental disease patterns, the expanded health promotion role, and demographic challenges due to people living longer.

In concluding she said there was a shortage of dentists and there was a need for more training for all dental staff.

Mr Brannigan joined the meeting at 11.45 am

Mrs Oliver responded to a number of questions from members and she agreed to provide members with information on the Dental Out of Hours Service at Craigavon Area Hospital. The Chairman thanked her for her detailed presentation and she left the meeting.

133/8 HSSCs FUTURE STRATEGY GROUP SHSSC 04/30

The Chief Officer said that at the last meeting of the Future Strategy group each Council was asked to come up with proposals on what each Council should look like and present these at the meeting on 13 January 2005. Members felt that a further meeting was required to discuss the topic and agreed to meet at Quaker Buildings on Thursday 6 January 2005.

133/9 SHSSC RESPONSE TO DRAFT PRIORITIES AND BUDGET 2005-08 SHSSC 04/31

The Chief Officer referred members to the Council's response to the Draft Priorities and Budget 2005 - 2008 and said that on the basis that it was likely to impact on the development of services a number of broad points were set out in the response. The document was noted.

133/10 VISITS - Proforma

SHSSC 04/32

The Chairman drew members' attention to draft guidelines for visiting facilities. She said the revised guidelines drawn up would be finalised by the four Health & Social Services Councils, and some training would be organised for members.

She also referred to the report form which has been designed for reporting on visits to Community Dental Clinics which would take place in the New Year. Regarding members' request to visit private dental practices, the Chief Officer said she would discuss the issue when meeting with the Southern Board's Director of Dental Services in the New Year.

133/11 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

- 1 **Craigavon & Banbridge Comm HSS Trust**
Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 25 October and agenda for meeting on 29 November 2004
- 2 **Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust**
Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 16 November 2004 and agenda for meeting on 14 December 2004 (Tabled)
- 3 **Newry & Mourne HSS Trust**
Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 19 October 2004

133/12 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

- 1 **Newry & Mourne HSS Trust**
Mrs Ferris reported that she attended the Trust's November meeting. She provided some feedback on the Trust's financial position, and the future plans for Daisy Hill Hospital.

133/13 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of Board meeting held on 9 November 2004
- 2 C/B Comm HSS Trust – Minutes of Day Care Services Group meeting held on 22 November 2004.
- 3 CAHGT – Bed Management up to 27 November 2004
- 4 Newry & Mourne LHSCG – News – November 2004

- 5 Craigavon & Banbridge LHSCG – News – December 2004

133/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Ward Closures

Mr Anderson expressed concern about the closure of a ward in Craigavon Area Hospital as a result of cross infection. Mr Murray was also concerned that a 10 bed ward at Daisy Hill Hospital had been closed. Mr Anderson asked if it would be possible to have a representative from the Craigavon Area Hospital Trust, who was responsible for the cleanliness of the wards, to come and speak to the Council.

2 GMS Contract

Mr Murray asked if it was possible to get a copy of the GMS contract. It was agreed to invite a representative from the Board to a future meeting.

3 Banbridge SEC

Mrs Burrell asked for clarification on the current position of Banbridge Social Education Centre. She felt that the minutes of the Day Care Services Group did not provide enough information. It was agreed to contact the Craigavon & Banbridge Trust.

133/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 January 2005 in Quaker Buildings.

Signed: **Date:**