

134/3

MATTERS ARISING

1 Pain Services at Daisy Hill Hospital

The Chairman informed members that responses had been received from both the Southern Board and the Newry & Mourne HSS Trust in relation to pain services at Daisy Hill Hospital. The Southern Board indicated that the matter would be raised with the Trust once the financial position for 2005/06 was confirmed by the DHSSPS. The Trust has been asked to consider if there are ways in which existing resources could be redirected to strengthen the pain service.

The Trust has confirmed it will be examining spare capacity with a view to developing an in-house educational programme in acute pain. It also proposes to develop a business case for longer term development of the pain services. In the meantime the Trust will do all it can to maintain and improve pain services given the current financial constraints.

It was agreed to write to Dr Wright and ask him to keep the Council informed of any future developments.

2 R & I Inspection Reports

Mr Murray was informed that R & I reports in respect of visits to Seapatrick Care Home, Ashbrook Private Nursing and Residential Home, Coalisland, and Cedar Grove Children's Home, Newry were available in the office if he wished to see them.

3 ENT Waiting List – DHH

No further information was available on ENT waiting lists at Daisy Hill Hospital but the Chief Executive of the Newry & Mourne HSS Trust had advised by telephone that the matter was being dealt with. Members would be kept informed.

4 HSSCs' Advertising Campaign

The Chairman advised members that copies of the HSSCs' poster and leaflets together with the Council's annual report had been widely circulated and further copies of the leaflets were available if members felt they could distribute some of them.

5 Out of Hours Dental Service at CAHGT

In response to a request made to Mrs Oliver at the December meeting, members were provided with the contact number for the Dental Out of Hours Service at Craigavon Area Hospital.

134/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 February Council Meeting

The Chairman explained that it was the Council's intention to invite a representative from each Trust and the Board and 3-4 Black and Minority Ethnic/ overseas employees, to the February meeting to acknowledge their contribution to health and social services. We would also hope to hear of their experience as workers in Northern Ireland and the actions being taken by their employers to support them. The meeting will also provide the opportunity for the Council to identify its role in supporting them.

Mr Anderson suggested that the four Councils jointly consider issues facing migrant workers in Northern Ireland.

Mrs Burrell said that the Craigavon and Banbridge Trust had formed a Community Ethnic Forum and she was a member of the group.

Mr Brannigan joined the meeting at 10.45 am

2 Neurovascular Assessment Clinic – CAHGT

Mrs Eileen Wright agreed to represent the Council at the launch of the Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust's Neurovascular Assessment Clinic on Wednesday 9 February at 2.00 pm in the Lecture Room, Medical Education Centre, CAH.

3 Craigavon & Banbridge Comm HSS Trust - Funding for new Mental Health Facility

The Chief Officer informed members that the Craigavon and Banbridge Trust had received funding for a new mental health facility on the Craigavon Area Hospital site. This will enable all mental health inpatient facilities to be located on one site and will provide 76 ensuite single rooms. Construction of the building will take approximately 2 years. The Trust's planners will present the Council with an update in the autumn.

134/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Review of Health and Social Care in NI

The Chief Officer reported that Professor Appleby had begun his independent review of health and social care provision in NI. His team met with the four HSSCs' Chief Officers on 17 January to consult with the Councils as stakeholders. She said the review is similar to the Wanless review conducted in England. It will seek to ensure that resources are spent to maximum effect and that services reflect the dynamic change in needs, technology and attitudes.

2 A Healthier Future – A 20 Year Vision for Health and Wellbeing in NI 2005 – 2025

The Chief Officer explained that the document which set out the regional strategy and vision for the development of services was out for consultation and a summary document was available on request. The Council will be preparing a response.

3 Community Liaison Officer

The closing date for applications was 14 January and shortlisting would take place later this afternoon.

4 Work Programme Update

The Chief Officer reported that the CDHN project with community groups had commenced and it was hoped to have some feedback by March, a final proposal was being prepared for the dental project, and arrangements were being made to hold roadshows in March.

5 Research Officer Post

The Craigavon & Banbridge HSCG has requested an extension to the secondment period for the Council's Research Officer. A meeting has been arranged with the postholder to discuss how this may best be achieved with minimum loss of capacity for the Council.

6 Trusts' Board Meetings

The Chief Officer said concern about the regularity of confidential sections at Trust Board meetings had been raised by Council representatives on Trusts' Boards.

Members discussed the matter and some members expressed the view that whilst they were not against the Council representatives or other bodies having the right to express their

views at Trust Board meetings, they felt that in a structured system the same rights could not be given to observers as those appointed as executive members. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would approach the Trusts' Chief Executives informally.

7 Infection Control

In relation to infection control, the Chief Officer explained that a strategy was being developed by the DHSSPS and she was representing the four Councils on the working group. The strategy group has requested a pre-consultation meeting with members of the four Councils. It is proposed to hold this meeting on 3 March 2005. Further information will be provided in due course.

8 Board & Trusts' Financial Situation

The Chief Officer reported that the financial situation for the Board and Trusts may not be quite as bleak as first reported and it is possible that there may be an additional allocation of resources next year. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

134/6

COMPLAINTS SUMMARY FOR QUARTER ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2004 SHSSC 05/01

The Complaints Officer reported that the Council assisted with 19 complaints during the quarter ending 31 December 04. She said treatment and care was the most common reason for complaint and the organisation most complained about was Craigavon Area Hospital Trust. Complaints listed as out of area related to one in Belfast City Hospital and one with the Royal Group of Hospitals. Programmes of care most complained about included surgery and primary care / adult community. Medical staff was the most complained about professional group.

With the new GP contract in place, Ms Hart explained that from 1 January 2005 the Board had responsibility for the GP out of hours service and is also responsible for responding to complaints about the service – complaints were previously managed by ASADOC. In light of this the Board has revised its complaints procedure.

She informed members that she had been asked to meet with a panel which was reviewing Newry and Mourne Trust's response to recommendations arising out of an Independent Review in 2001. The Review looked at the care of a patient and the Trust's response under the complaints procedure.

Equality Update

Ms Hart explained that a booklet on 'How to obtain health and social care services in your area' had been produced jointly by the Board, Trusts and the Council in 2004 for use by the Portuguese speaking community. This was now being updated / revised and translated into Latvian, Lithuanian, and Polish.

She reported that Equality Schemes covered a five year period. This period comes to an end this year and the Council will be required to provide the ECNI with a five year progress report. It is not yet clear what the future will bring with regard to schemes but members will be kept informed

The Chairman thanked Ms Hart and she left the meeting.

134/7

HSSCS' FUTURE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

SHSSC 05/02

The Chief Officer referred members to the draft proposal drawn up by each Council for its future strategy. Each Council has taken a different approach, with the EHSSC looking in detail at the role and composition of a regional Council, the NHSSC considering the relationship between regional and local with the Southern focusing on how local input might inform a regional process. However, the various approaches do not appear to be incompatible and the Chief Officers have been tasked with developing a composite view.

In light of the fact that Mr Galloway, DHSSPS indicated that the RPA would be postponed until 2009 it is not clear what the implications for health structures and District Councils will be and what the impact will be on the timescale for the future strategy working group.

Members were concerned about a suggestion that District Councillors should not be members of the Health Councils. The Southern Health and Social Services Council would not support this suggestion because the District Councillors are very much

in touch with the public and it is important to keep them as members. It was also emphasised by members that it is important that all Councils are of equal status as at present.

Mrs Wright expressed the opinion that if there was to be a regional body then it would take away from the people she and other members represent in the southern area. She felt that we, as a local Health Council, are not getting the complaints and wondered if a Regional Council would ever get them.

Members adopted the paper prepared by the Chief Officer and sub committee. However, in light of the RPA being postponed, the timescales should be reviewed by the strategy group to ensure that the Councils' were able to respond appropriately. The strategy working group is due to meet again in March when the next steps will be explored.

134/8 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW WITH DHSSPS

The Chief Officer referred members to the progress report on the Council's work programme which was discussed recently when she met Mr David Galloway, Deputy Director, Performance Management Unit, DHSSPS. She said it was a very useful meeting and he was satisfied with the progress.

134/9 BANBRIDGE & NEWRY SECs SHSSC 05/03

The Chief Officer reported that following the discussion at the Council's December 2004 meeting she met with Siobhan Hanna, Assistant Director of Planning at C/B HSS Trust and Janet McConville, Co-Ordinator of the development of Banbridge SEC business plan.

The situation regarding the business plan is:

- It will be submitted to the DHSSPS as part of the Trust's primary care plan - deadline 31 January 05.
- The proposed business plan is currently with Health Estates and Finance prior to submission.
- The plan is to replace Copperfields Disability centre and the SEC with one building with some shared areas.
- The design and plan will focus on the recommendations of the Bamford report on learning disability/mental health services.

- The Plan has taken into account future trends in relation to expected numbers etc.
- The building will cost approximately £2m and is likely to take a minimum of 3 years once the business case is submitted.

The Trust has agreed to provide the Council with a copy of the business case when it is submitted. The Co-Ordinator will be happy to attend a future Council meeting to take members through the business plan.

The Chief Officer also reported that she had met with the Newry & Mourne Trust's Director of Social Services, Mr Jim Flynn, and Mr Pat Shields. They advised that the Trust had submitted a business case about 3 years ago but continued to get requests for amendments to it.

The business case referred to facilities in Crossmaglen and Newry. The Trust would like the support of the Council in writing to the DHSSPS. The Chief Officer will liaise with the Trust to keep this matter current.

Members agreed that both Newry and Banbridge buildings were in very poor condition. It was agreed that the Council should write to the Newry and Banbridge District Councils seeking their help in pursuing the matter.

134/10 GMS – LAY ASSESSORS

The Chief Officer explained that the Council had received a letter from the Southern Board's Primary Care Department inviting members to become lay assessors in relation to the assessment of GPs performance.

Eleven members attended the training which was held over two days. Over the next couple of months a number of visits to GP practices will be scheduled.

She informed members that she had discussed the matter with the Director of Primary Care and made him aware of the considerable commitment by the members to undertake this role and that there should be some payment. The time commitment for each visit is approximately 4 hours plus travel.

Members felt it was unreasonable to ask people to give up their work and do this on a voluntary basis. They recommended that £10 per hour should be paid to the Assessor from the time of leaving home until return. Anything less would be an insult.

It was agreed that the Chief Officer would continue to pursue the matter with the Director of Primary Care.

134/11 CAHGT – CLOSURE OF UROLOGY WARD AND REVIEW OF UROLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Chief Officer updated members in relation to the closure of the Urology ward at Craigavon Area Hospital.

She said the plan was to close the department until May to all but emergency patients. Other patients would be sent elsewhere for treatment. The plan and the review had been agreed with the Southern Board.

She explained that she had raised the issue of user input to the review, at the Southern Board meeting, and an assurance was given that there would be careful monitoring as a result of the reorganisation of the department.

**Mr Murray and Mr McArdle left the meeting at 12.30 pm.
Mr McCart left the meeting at 12.32 pm**

134/12 VISITS – Schedule

The Chairman referred members to the schedule of visits to Community Dental Clinics during February and March and asked that members indicate on the form which visits they wished to participate in.

134/13 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

- 1 Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust
Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 3 November 2004 and agenda for meeting on 12 January 2005
- 2 Craigavon & Banbridge Comm HSS Trust
Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 29 November and agenda for 20 December 2004

- 3 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust
Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 14 December 2004 and agenda for meeting on 18 January 2005 (tabled)

134/14 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of Meeting held on 14 December 04
- 2 CAHGT – Bed Management up to 8 January 2005
- 3 SHSSB – Monthly Update on Care Management Pressures

134/15 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

1 Armagh & Dungannon Trust Board

Mr Brannigan reported that a presentation had been made at the Trust Board meeting in relation to the spread of a new highly infectious virus known as Pandemic Flu. In order to prevent such a threat, emergency plans were being put in place.

134/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Skin Cancer Scanner

Mr McArdle asked for the Council's support by writing to Dr Diane Corrigan, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, SHSSB requesting the provision of a photo dynamic scanner for superficial skin cancer in Daisy Hill Hospital. This would support the work of the Dermatologist, Dr Eedy.

2 CAHGT – A & E Department

Mr Anderson expressed concern about patients who attend A & E at Craigavon Area Hospital. He said that patients who see the triage nurse and are then called into a cubicle, sometimes face long waits within the cubicle before being attended to by the doctor. This concern was not so much about the waiting time in general but that once in the cubicle the patient became anxious thinking they had been forgotten about if their wait appeared to be extended. Members felt that it would be helpful to the patient if a nurse could acknowledge their arrival in the cubicle and inform them if there was likely to be a delay in being attended by a doctor. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of the Trust.

3 Attendance at Council Meetings

Mr Henning asked if there were any views about the members' attendance at Council meetings. It was agreed to prepare a paper, making comparisons with other Council members, for the next meeting.

Members also raised the issue regarding members of the Council who were in full employment and had to take annual leave to attend Council business ie meetings, visits, conferences etc. They felt that the matter should be discussed with the DHSSPS.

4 Cedar Grove Home – Press Statement

The Chairman informed members that a letter had been sent to Mr Curran as a result of an article in the press relating to the Council's visit report on Cedar Grove Home, Newry. Mr Curran advised the office that he would attend today's meeting to discuss the matter but his absence was noted.

134/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 February 2005.

Signed: _____

Date: _____