

135/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed subject to amendment. Apologies to include Mrs Mary Ferris.

135/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 134/2 Cross Infection in Hospitals

Members were informed that Dr Nisam Damani, Director of Pathology & Laboratory Services, Consultant Microbiologist, and Infection Control Lead in Craigavon Area Hospital, would attend the June meeting to address the issue of cross infection in Hospitals.

2 134/3.1 Pain Services at DHH

The Chairman advised that a letter had been forwarded to Dr Wright, Consultant Anaesthetist, Daisy Hill Hospital.

3 134/3.3 ENT Waiting List – DHH

The Chairman read members a letter from Anita Carroll, Director of Administrative & Support Services, Newry & Mourne HSS Trust explaining that she was awaiting information from the ENT consultants to enable her to provide a comprehensive reply to the Council's query on waiting times.

4 134/5.8 Infection Control

The Chief Officer said the four Councils had been invited to take part in a pre-consultation workshop on the development of an Infection Control Strategy, on Thursday 3 March from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm in the Greenvale Hotel, Cookstown. Members who agreed to attend were P Kearns, E Wright, P Murray, A Burrell, L Cairns, and N Badger.

5 134/9 Banbridge & Newry SECs

The Chairman informed members that letters had been forwarded to the Chief Executives of Banbridge and Newry & Mourne District Councils seeking their assistance in relation to the provision of new Social Education Centres in both areas. Banbridge Council is keen to co-operate and is planning to visit the facility.

6 134/16 Skin Cancer Scanner

A letter has sent to Dr Corrigan, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, SHSSB, regarding the provision of a Photo Dynamic Therapy Unit at Daisy Hill Hospital.

7 134/16.1 Attendance at Council Meetings

The Chief Officer tabled a paper illustrating the attendance record of all four Council members at monthly meetings. She explained that whilst attendance within the Southern Council was at a reasonable level, there was room for improvement. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to members who do not attend regularly.

8 A & E at CAHGT

The Chairman reported that a letter had been forwarded to the Chief Executive of Craigavon Area Hospital regarding patients' lengthy waiting times in cubicles.

With regard to patients waiting on trolleys, the Chairman explained that she had a colleague taken into hospital and the patient had to lie in the corridor for over 24 hours. During this time she witnessed for herself what it was like for patients – human beings lying in the corridors for hours with no privacy whatsoever. The situation is unacceptable - patients should be transferred to Daisy Hill Hospital or elsewhere if there are no beds in Craigavon Area Hospital. She said patients are most vulnerable when they are ill and many of them have no one to speak up for them. Mr McArdle said there was a greater need to invest in Daisy Hill Hospital.

Members agreed that pressure would have to be put on the Trust. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive, and to issue a press release expressing disgust at the situation.

135/4

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Speakers for 2005

The Chairman referred members to a schedule of meetings and speakers for the remainder of the 2005. She said alternative meetings would be held in the community and 3 meetings would be evening meetings. She sought members' approval to take the June meeting to Clogher Rural Centre, even though

there was no disabled access. Members agreed to the meeting in this area and to the use of the Centre.

2 Invitations

Mr Badger and Mr McFadden indicated that they will be attending the 'Smoke – Free Workplaces' Seminar on Wednesday 2 March in Craigavon Civic Centre as members of their respective District Councils.

The Council will be represented at the 'Accident Prevention Workshop' on Tuesday 22 March at 9.30 am in Mount Zion House, Lurgan by Mr McCart, Mrs Mallon and Mrs Ferris.

A consultation exercise on behalf of the Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability, will be held on Tuesday 1 March in Armagh City Hotel and conducted by Anne McCreedy, Anne Donnelly and the Rural College. The morning session focusing on Dementia will be attended by Mr Murray and Mr McArdle. Mr McFadden will attend the afternoon session on Functioning Mental Illness.

135/ 5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 SHSSB - Mental Health Stakeholder Group

The Chief Officer informed members that the Council had been invited to join the stakeholder group for the Southern Board's review of mental health services and she was trying to identify the appropriate level and type of involvement for the Council.

2 Staffing Matters

Shortlisting for the posts of Community Participation Officer and temporary Research Officer will take place on 22 February.

3 Diamorphine

The Chief Officer informed members that she had been contacted by a local GP who was concerned about a shortage of Diamorphine and wanted to make the Council aware of the situation. The GP did take it up with the Southern Board and was raising it with the DHSSPS also.

The Council was advised by the Board's Pharmacy department that the shortage was due to a flood at the factory which damaged the supplies. Members were concerned that terminally ill patients might suffer as a result of the shortage.

4 20 Year Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Chief Officer advised that a response to the consultation document was being prepared and a draft would be available for the March meeting. Copies of the document will be made available to members.

5 3-Year Work Programme

The Chief Officer reported that projects within the Council's 3 year work programme are being taken forward with both the dental project and the involvement with community project underway. A road show is being organised in Craigavon Area Hospital and events are being planned for shopping centres. Members will be provided with a quarterly update on the work plan.

135/6

GMS – LAY ASSESSORS

SHSSC 05/04

The Chief Officer reported that a number of visits to GP Practices have been arranged with the Council's Lay Assessors and the first of these would commence on 22 February. It was agreed that after a couple of visits members would share their experiences with other Lay Assessors in the Council.

The Chief Officer referred members to a draft letter to Mr Eddie Ritson, the Board's Director of Primary Care, in relation to payment for Council Members who were facilitating the QOF. Members approved the letter and agreed that it should be forwarded.

135/7

COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINICS - VISITS

A number of visits to community dental facilities have taken place recently and reports will be available for the March meeting.

Members who agreed to assist with the Armagh Dental Clinic visit were J McCart, E Wright, P Brannigan and N Badger.

135/8 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 18 January and agenda for meeting on 15 February 2005 (tabled)

2 Craigavon & Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 20 December 2004.

3 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 21 December 2004 and agenda (tabled) for meeting on 15 February 2005

135/9 FOR INFORMATION

1 SHSSB – Minutes of Meeting held on 11 January 2005

2 SHSSC/SHSSB – Intermediate Care – Users' Views of Services in the Southern Area

3 Wraparound Update – January 2005

4 Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust – Proposed Respite Care Service in Dungannon

5 Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust – Directory of Mental Health Services

6 DHSSPS – Quality Update – Winter 2004

135/10 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

1 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust Board

Mr McCart referred to minute 65/04 of the Newry & Mourne Trust's December minutes relating to the financial situation. He expressed concern at the possibility of cutbacks. Mrs Ferris reported back from the Trust Board meeting and said that the Trust had a deficit of £600,000 and there would be cuts.

Mrs Burrell said she attended the Craigavon and Banbridge Community Trust Board meeting and she was happy to report that the financial situation was not as serious as first thought.

135/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Capitation Funding

Mr McArdle sought clarification on the situation in relation to capitation funding.

Mr McArdle and Mr McCart said they attended the recent Board meeting and were very disappointed at the lack of constructive debate and decision making during the meeting. Mr McCart asked if he could attend the next Board meeting as an observer without giving prior notice to the Board. It was agreed to get clarification on this matter.

The Chief Officer referred to a concern that had been raised by Council representatives on Trust Boards regarding the amount of business dealt with in a confidential section. It was agreed that the Chief Officer should raise this matter with the Trusts informally, in the first instance.

2 Spectacles

Mr Murray raised the concern about the high cost that people had to pay for spectacles and asked if it would be possible for the Southern Board to investigate the matter with a view to negotiating a substantial reduction in the price. He said most frames were imported from foreign countries at very low costs.

135/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 March 2005 in Quaker Buildings at 10.00 am

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM

BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC / OVERSEAS STAFF IN HPSS

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to all visitors attending this special part of the meeting, particularly staff from overseas, Trust Managers responsible for recruitment and equality, staff working with black and minority ethnic communities and representatives from the local community.

The Chief Officer gave a brief overview of the make up of the Council and its remit and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to focus on the

experience and needs of minority groups working in the health and social care sector. She said it was an opportunity for the Council to learn about the issues facing overseas staff and to identify how it could support them.

Heather Ellis, Director of HR in Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust said they had conducted a scoping exercise to establish the numbers of non-national people within the Trust's area. Information was sought from various sources including Employers and the figure arrived at was 983. She indicated, however, that some employers had declined to provide information and the gender consensus was that the figure was too low. She cited the example of Dungannon, where it is believed approximately 10% of the population are Portuguese, in support of this view. In the Armagh & Dungannon area a total of 18 non-national groups are being provided services.

She reported that Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust employed between 6 and 10 non-national staff. The Trust is considering advertising posts in other languages to encourage other communities to join the staff. They are attempting to attract non-national people to work as home helps and family support workers although there was difficulty with the language barrier.

In concluding she said a survey of interpreting services was being carried out and they are awaiting the findings of the study.

Cathy O'Neill, Assistant HR Manager, Newry & Mourne HSS Trust outlined details of the non-national staff employed by the Trust. There is a long tradition of doctors from overseas working in the Trust. Around 17 BME Medical/GP staff are employed in the Trust and in January 11 nurses came on board. Other staff are employed in the community care department.

Overseas staff employed by the Trust receive recruitment assistance, assistance with gaining permits, visas, National Insurance numbers and with help in getting accommodation. They are made aware of the Trust's policies and procedures in operation. Ms O'Neill explained that the Trust provided a lot of assistance to overseas staff and went the extra mile to support them and make them happy.

In concluding Ms O'Neill said the issue of language was one of the main challenges for the Trust especially with other groups coming from the EU – Spain, France etc. Care has also to be taken in relation to Equality Rights.

Sarah, a Filipino nurse with the Newry & Mourne Trust for 2 years shared her experience of working within the Trust. She said that since joining the Trust she has found the staff to be very supportive and she had no

experience of discrimination. The Trust provided accommodation, and assistance in getting a National Insurance number. The ward manager and clinical sister in her ward in Daisy Hill Hospital were very helpful in providing her with training. She was pleased to get a permanent post and is very much settled. She finds the people very friendly – Newry is a good place to live in.

Mrs Burrell, Council Member, said she had worked with the Vietnamese community for many years and acknowledged that it takes time for people to learn about each others customs and traditions. It is very important that non-national people receive support from the community. She was appreciative of the work of the Lay Health Workers and the Craigavon & Banbridge Trust's Ethnic Minority Forum.

Caroline Cullen, the Southern Board's Equality Manager, reported that 5 years ago there were 3 known spoken languages in the Southern Board's area (English, Irish and Chinese) and now there are 28. This has put tremendous pressure on the Board and funding is a big issue.

She said the Board supported the Regional Interpreting Service but would like greater access to interpreters at weekends, evenings and holiday times. There is a great demand for the service and we need to continue to make sure that it is there for all the languages.

Caroline said the Board had become aware of the pressures within primary care as a result of the huge influx of new patients and consideration would have to be given how best to meet their needs. She said she would encourage and welcome the support of the Council in achieving this.

Grace Hamilton, BME Health Visitor spoke about the work that she and lay workers Inis Keenan and Gloria Darocha had undertaken in relation to needs assessment and the uptake of services by the Traveller and Chinese communities. Although working with Travellers for the past 3 years, Grace said they were now seeing an influx of people from Poland and Lithuania. Both Regional Interpreting services and Wah Hep are used for interpreting.

Mrs Nazy Harris, Member of the Council, spoke of her recent experience in Bulgaria and said it was very difficult to get even basic health care when you don't know the language and are unable to access an interpreter.

Paul Yam, Director of the Chinese Community Association and NI Equality Commissioner congratulated the Council on organising the event and said

this was an extended role for the Council focusing on the BME groups and their health needs.

He said it is important that migrant workers are registered with GPs and he encouraged the Council to focus on how to help the overseas people to access the services and also housing. Northern Ireland needs to be more inclusive. People need accessible and user friendly services but as Boards and Trusts' resources are overstretched there is a need for more funding from Central Government.

During the open debate groups highlighted some of the barriers faced by those coming to live in Northern Ireland and also the challenges for Boards and Trusts. They also indicated that there is a need for Education Boards to play more of a part in organising English courses. BME people need access to classes to improve their English. This will improve their employment prospects.

Issues for the Council to take forward included:

- Lobby for more funding for the Regional Interpreting Service
- Write to the OFMDFM regarding funding for services
- Continue to work with the SHSSB Embracing Diversity group
- Work with the Board on access to services
- Make people more aware of the services and ensure that people exercise their rights.

The Chairman thanked everyone who participated in the debate and hoped that it would be of benefit to all.

Signed: _____ Date: _____