

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings on Tuesday 17 May 2005 at 6.30 pm

138/1 PRESENT: Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman
 Mr Sydney Anderson
 Mr Norman Badger
 Mrs Annie Burrell
 Mrs Nazy Harris
 Mr Clive Henning
 Mr Peter Murray
 Mr Jim McCart
 Mr Wilfred McFadden
 Mr Adrian McKinney

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer
 Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
 Mr Bryce McMurray, Programme
 Planner, SHSSB [for part of the
 meeting]
 Mrs Paula Clarke, Head of
 Modernisation and Design, SHSSB [for
 part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mr Peter Kearns
 Mr John McArdle
 Mr David Simpson
 Mrs Eileen Wright

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated those members who had been returned following the District Council elections. She said the Council would be sorry to lose Mrs Mallon and Mr Moffett who were not successful in being returned but wished them well in the future.

138/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed subject to amendment. (i) Mrs Nazy Harris should have been recorded as being present at the May meeting, (ii) Mr Curran and Mr McCart said they would be opposed to outsourcing of **all** services from Daisy Hill Hospital.

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MATTERS ARISING

1 Press Correspondence Relating to the Council

A list of articles which appeared in the press from 15 April to 5 May 05 was provided for members. Members were advised that a folder containing the articles was available on display if members wished to read them.

2 Surveillance of Healthcare Acquired Infection Workshop

Members were reminded of the workshop on Tuesday 24 May in the William Legge Room, Malone House from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Members registered to attend were: L Cairns, E Wright, J McCart, P Murray, P Kearns, C Henning, and A Burrell.

3 Craigavon Area Hospital

Members were informed that a letter had been forwarded to the Chief Executive of the Trust in relation to (a) orthopaedic services and (b) car parking facilities at the hospital. A response was awaited.

4 Out of Hours in Kilkeel/Annalong area

The Chairman drew members' attention to Mr Eddie Ritson's response to the Council's letter of 21 April. The response had been received by e-mail prior to the meeting and was tabled for information.

Mr McCart requested that the out of hours cover for Kilkeel be kept on the agenda for the June meeting.

The Chairman said the situation would have to be closely monitored. It was agreed that a copy of the response from the Southern Board should be circulated to public and lay representatives who attended the meeting in Kilkeel.

5 Banbridge SEC

Following the Council's April meeting letters were sent to the Southern Board and the DHSSPS supporting the Trust's business case for a new SEC.

6 ENT Services at Daisy Hill Hospital

The Chairman referred members to a letter from Newry & Mourne HSS Trust updating the Council on the situation

regarding ENT services. Members expressed their appreciation of the detailed explanation on the situation.

138/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Joint SHSSC/SHSSB Meeting

Members were advised that the joint meeting between the Council and the Board was scheduled for Wednesday 28 September 2005 at 10.00 am in the Newry area. It was agreed that the District Council should be contacted regarding the availability of its Chamber for the meeting.

Mr McFadden agreed to discuss with the Banbridge District Council the availability of its premises for the Council's October meeting.

2 Membership of the Chairperson's Forum

The Chairman referred to a letter from Joan Harbinson, Chairpersons Forum Secretariat, regarding membership of the group. Members agreed that it would be beneficial for the Chairman to be involved in the Forum and membership should be funded by the Council.

3 Craigavon Psychiatric Unit

Members were informed that display boards arranged by the Trust's Design Teams for the New Psychiatric Unit could be viewed in the ECT Training Room at Craigavon Area Hospital, for two weeks from the 11 May.

4 Payment of Travel Allowances for Members

The Chairman informed members that new mileage rates for travel had been set by the DHSSPS in November 2004, with effect from 1 April 2004. Members would now be paid at the new rates. Payment of arrears would be made in due course.

5 Urology Services at CAHGT

With regard to the elective service which had now re-opened, the Chief Officer said there appeared to be concern about the appointments system. This was possibly due to the new partial booking system. However, a new nurse led service should be in place by the autumn and a new consultant post is being progressed. At the end of March 106 people were on the waiting list. It was agreed to monitor the situation closely.

6 Invitation

- (a) No members were available to attend the Children's Day at the Limb Fitting Service in Green Park Healthcare Trust on 1 July.
- (b) No one was available to attend the Armagh & Dungannon HAZ Adventure and Trim Trails on Friday 24 June at 2.00 pm in Loughgall Country Park.

7 Media Strategy

Members were reminded of the Media strategy meeting on Thursday 26 May at 6.00 pm. Mrs Wright, Dr Coulter, Mrs Cairns, Mrs Burrell, and Mr McCart had confirmed attendance.

8 Visit to Meigh Surgery

Following a GMS Lay Assessor visit, Dr Vettiakal, Meigh Surgery, Newry has extended an invitation to the Council to visit practice premises. Members who agreed to undertake the visit are: Mrs Burrell, Mr Murray and Mr McCart. It was agreed the 7 June would be a suitable date.

138/5

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

In relation to staff issues, the Chief Officer reported that Tracey Powell, Community Participation Officer, had taken up her post and Jill McVeigh, Clerical Officer, would be leaving her post at the end of the month to take up a post with C/BHSST.

She informed members that she had accepted an invitation from Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust to become involved in a Multi-disciplinary Emergency Pressures Team. The aim is to link with bodies contributing to improved access to treatment and improve discharge arrangements.

The GMC, which previously has been an England based organisation, has recently set up office in Wales and Scotland and has now issued a consultation paper to help decide how it should operate within NI. It was agreed the Council would submit a response.

She reported on other matters including the SHSSB Ambulance Liaison meeting and said she said she had raised some issues which arose at the Council's meeting in Kilkeel. Information from the dental services project has been provided to the DHSSPS project team. The Roadshows have been a worthwhile exercise. The draft Council Action Plan has been presented to the Board's Directors, and DHSSPS has been lobbied in relation to the outline case for Banbridge SEC.

138/6

**SHSSB – HEALTH & WELLBEING INVESTMENT PLAN
(presented at 6.30 pm)**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Bryce McMurray, Programme Planner, who was deputising for Mrs Mairead McAlinden, Director of Planning and Performance Management, SHSSB.

Mr McMurray welcomed the opportunity to present the draft Health and Wellbeing Investment Plan which comes from the Government's Priorities and Budget 2005 – 2008 and applies to all public services across N Ireland. It details the funding plans for the next 3 years. From that comes Priorities for Action for the HPSS – a planning framework for next 3 years. The Board has then to produce a Health and Wellbeing Investment Plan (HWIP) to detail its plans to meet the priorities. The HWIP is then shared with the Trusts so that they can develop their Trust Delivery Plans reflecting the plans and investments detailed in the HWIP.

He said the process has changed significantly from previous years. A major theme has been introduced in Priorities for Action based around reform, modernisation and efficiency (RME) and this has to be included in the plan. The regional fund allocated to RME is £21m. The Board's HWIP plan had to be submitted by 16 May.

He explained the purpose of the HWIP which was to set out how the Board would secure effective health and social services for their local population, improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities, and deliver reform, modernisation and efficiency proposals for the Board.

He highlighted the key actions and targets, which were divided into three strands. Strand 1 – Improving health and social

wellbeing and developing services to avoid undue reliance on the hospital sector included 25 actions, the majority of which were achievable. Strand 2 – improving patient flows within the hospital system had 14 actions of which 12 would be achievable. Strand 3 – creating a modern, reform driven HPSS infrastructure has two actions; Trusts review of estates, and the Board's and Trusts' major capital development designs to be produced by October 2005. Mr McMurray said the Board would hope to make significant progress against all actions.

He said plans were being brought forward at present for the strategic development of Craigavon Area Hospital. Newry & Mourne HSS Trust had submitted its plans for the Daisy Hill Hospital site. The Board has also been working with the Trust on a business case for primary care and facility to plan what the needs are for the future.

The Southern Board has approved the draft HWIP and there will now be a process between the DHSSPS and the Board to clarify matters. It is hoped that the HWIP will be approved by the DHSSPS in June 2005. Progress reports on how targets have been met will have to be provided to the DHSSPS throughout the year.

**138/7 SHSSB – REFORM, MODERNISATION & EFFICIENCY PLAN
(presented at 6.50 pm)**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Paula Clarke, Head of Reform, Modernisation and Planning, SHSSB, to update members on section 3 of the HWIP – Developing the Southern Board's reform, modernisation and efficiency plan.

Mrs Clarke said that the reform, modernisation and efficiency plan was a new element of the HWIP with specific focus around modernisation within the overall health and social care system. The modernisation agenda is linked to key themes including improving health and wellbeing and reducing reliance on hospital services; and improving patient flows within hospitals.

She explained that the RME Plan was developed by all stakeholders within the local health and social care economy and included proposals for investment alongside identification

of how services could demonstrate increased efficiency and effectiveness.

In response to Mr Murray's query about the shortfall in relation to the Board's capitation allocation, Mrs Clarke reported that the funding gap would be addressed by bringing it in over a number of years - £2.5m has been identified for this year and a further £2.5m the following year. The Board has taken the decision to reinvest the majority of this money around the modernisation reform proposals. She provided the Council with a breakdown of the funding that would be available for 2005/06 and 2006/2007 and said this would be in the region of £4m. She also outlined the non cash releasing targets for the next three years.

In order to take the process forward the Board has established an RME Group to co-ordinate development and monitoring of the plan. Modernisation Steering groups are also to be established within Trusts to manage delivery of agreed areas.

Mrs Clarke provided details of the investment over the next two years for the six areas of Flagship reforms, and Trust / Board priorities funding which would be used to improve patient flows, to develop new ways of working, and to expand / maximise capacity.

In concluding she said the plan would be submitted as part of the HWIP to the DHSSPS by 16 May 2005 and that the plans would be reflected in the Trusts' Delivery Plans due for submission at 31 May 2005.

Mrs Clarke and Mr McMurray proceeded to answer questions from members.

It was agreed that the Council's Chairman and Chief Officer should become involved in the working groups.

The Chairman thanked Mr McMurray and Mrs Clarke for their interesting presentations.

After some discussion on the matter, members expressed concern that they were continually being presented with statistics and graphs but in reality this was not changing what

happens to the patient. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of the Southern Board summarising the issues raised.

138/8

STRENGTHENING LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR – REPORT BY CDHN

SHSSC 05/13

The Chief Officer provided members with an overview of the project, 'Strengthening Links with the Community and Voluntary Sector'. She explained why it had been undertaken, what the project does, and how it would move forward.

She said the project was undertaken by Community Development and Health Network on behalf of the Council. This was as a result of the Four Council evaluation which showed the need for stronger links with the community, how past research had shown low public profile of Health Councils, and how locally links were not utilised regularly. The Council has made a commitment to raising its profile generally.

With regard to the methodology used, questionnaires were sent to CDHN members in the Southern area to gauge the knowledge of SHSSC (23.5% return), and two focus groups were set up to look at ways of increasing participation. The findings revealed that 74% respondents had heard of the Council; 33% had been in touch with the Council; 88% would favour working more closely with the Council, with face to face contact preferred.

The way forward included:

- the launch of the report in June at the CDHN member meeting.
- Development of an action plan around the project recommendations.
- Utilising contact to support the community development officer's role.
- The use of the survey as a baseline to measure improvement.

Mr McCart said he was very disappointed that there was only 23.5% response to the questionnaire. He proposed and it was agreed that the recommendations be adopted.

138/11 SHSSB – IMPLEMENTATION OF LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY SHSSC 05/16

The Chief Officer referred members to the Board's consultation paper on the Implementation of Strategy for Persons with a Learning Disability. She said the Board was proposing to take forward the implementation of a community focussed strategy which would result in the refocusing of present hospital services away from the long stay accommodation to assessment and short term treatment.

Members expressed an interest in visiting Longstone Hospital and the Housing Scheme in Portadown. It was agreed to make arrangements with the relevant Trusts. Following the visits it was agreed to set up a sub group to prepare the Council's response. Mrs Burrell, Mrs Harris and Mr McKinney agreed to be involved.

138/12 FOUR COUNCIL WORKING GROUP

The Chief Officer reported that the Four Council Working Group had met on 5 occasions since October 2004. She said progress was slow and there was still a need for clarification on the main purpose of a reformed Council. Within the four Councils there were two ideas on how the local elements of a regional Council should look. Two Councils would prefer a staff team with no local members whilst the other two felt that local members would provide local credibility. There also appears to be a debate as to whether to involve political representatives at local or regional level. There is a general feeling that the Welsh model offers a template.

The Councils hope to make a high level joint response to the RPA consultation and have also agreed that local responses could be submitted to reflect particular local circumstances.

The Councils feel that additional development support is necessary to help the Councils beyond the RPA response and the other 3 Councils have agreed to provide resources to employ a consultant for a number of days to carry out background research. Although the SHSSC has committed all resources to the work programme and is unable to contribute financially, it will contribute in kind.

It was agreed that a workshop should be organised towards the end of June in order to formulate the Council's response and to further develop its input into the four Council joint response.

138/13 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

1 Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust

Minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on 2 March and agenda for meeting on 4 May 2005

2 Craigavon & Banbridge Comm HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 4 April 2005 (tabled)

Mrs Burrell reported that the Trust was considering ways of encouraging members of the public to attend its Board meetings.

Mrs Harris said she had put the suggestion to the CAHGT Board meeting that an 'at risk' register should be compiled in order to allow patients with chronic conditions or a disability to be 'fast tracked'.

138/14 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of Board Meeting held on 12 April 2005
- 2 SHSSB – Monthly update on Care Management Pressures
- 3 SHSSC – Press Coverage
- 4 CAHGT – Bed management information 16 April to 7 May 2005

138/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Maintenance of buildings

Mr Murray expressed concern at the standard of maintenance at Daisy Hill Hospital, and facilities in general in the Board's area. He said some buildings had not been painted for a number of years and were deteriorating. He felt that there should be an agreed policy on maintenance.

138/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21 June at 6.00 pm. Venue to be arranged.