

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One hundred and Fortieth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings on Tuesday 20 September at 6.00 pm

140/1 PRESENT: Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman
Mrs Annie Burrell
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Peter Kearns
Mr Peter Murray
Mr Jim McCart
Mr Wilfred McFadden
Mrs Eileen Wright
Ms Sharon Haughey
Mr William Burns

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Ms Colette Hart, Complaints Officer
[for part of the meeting]
Mrs Fionnuala McAndrew, Director of
Social Services, SHSSB [for part of
the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mr John Feehan
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mr Clive Henning
Mr Adrian McKinney
Mrs S McRoberts

140/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

140/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 N/M Services to Children with Autism

Members were informed that the Trust had responded to the Council's letter of 17 June advising that the correspondence in relation to children with autism was receiving attention and a response would be sent in due course. It was agreed to keep the item on the agenda.

2 Meigh Surgery

The Chairman read a letter from Mr Eddie Ritson, Director of Primary Care, responding to the Council's letter of 23 June, in respect of the poor conditions of Meigh GP Surgery. The response informed the Council that the Board's capacity to financially support practitioners was constrained by the availability of funding and currently the Board was experiencing a number of difficulties in identifying funding. However, he did indicate that a new surgery in Meigh was a priority and he would continue to keep the matter under review. It was agreed to inform Dr Vettiankal of the Board's response. Members would be kept informed of any developments.

3 Orchard Centre

The Chairman informed members that arrangements were being made for a visit to the Orchard House, in Loughgall. It was agreed Mrs Cairns, Mrs Burrell and Mr McCart would participate. They would be informed of arrangements.

140/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 New Members

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to new members who had recently been appointed: Sharon Haughey and Sylvia McRoberts, Armagh City & District Council; William Burns and John Feehan, Newry & Mourne District Council; and the reappointment of Wilfred McFadden, Banbridge District Council, and Norman Badger, Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council. All would serve for the period ending 31 May 2009.

(b) Appointment of New Members

Members were informed that interviews for new members were conducted on 19 August and further interviews were scheduled for 14 October. District Councillors had still to be appointed for the Craigavon Borough Council and one for the Newry & Mourne District Council. When all appointments were confirmed an induction programme would be arranged.

With regard to outgoing members, Mr Murray requested that a letter be sent to Mr McArdle and Mr Brannigan expressing appreciation for their years of service to the Council. The Chief Officer said it was hoped to have all the outgoing members back for the Christmas Lunch and a small presentation.

2 STH Minor Injuries Unit

The Chairman reported that Information shared at the Board meeting on the 13 September indicated that South Tyrone Minor Injuries Unit was likely to become a nurse led service as it had not been possible to recruit a doctor to provide the service. Discussions were underway with the South Tyrone Forum.

3 Waiting List Initiative

Members were informed of a new waiting list initiative which was reported at the Board meeting following the Minister's statement earlier in the summer. The DHSSPS is now carrying out weekly monitoring of waiting lists with the target of ensuring that no one is waiting longer than 12 months by March 2006. This has been accompanied with proposed financial penalties to Trusts and revised as to what constitutes a reasonable offer. It was agreed the Council would monitor this closely. A copy of the DHSS press release in respect of waiting lists was provided with members' information.

4 Mental Health Facility

The Chairman read a letter from Craigavon and Banbridge Community Trust informing the Council of the name of the Design Team for the new Mental Health Facility to replace the existing Psychiatric Unit at CAH. The Trust anticipates that the construction of the facility will take approximately 2 years.

5 Time off for Public Duties

The Chairman referred members to correspondence from the Department of Learning in respect of time off for public duties. It explained that legislation did not define Councils as relevant health bodies and therefore members had no statutory entitlement to take time off from work to carry out their duties on the Councils.

The Chairman said that while we had to accept the ruling for now it would be kept to the forefront for future debate.

6 Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust

In the absence of Mrs McRoberts it was agreed that a decision on the Council's representative at Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust Board meetings would be deferred until the October meeting.

7 MS Waiting Lists

Members were informed of a letter sent to the Health Minister on behalf of the four Health and Social Services Councils supporting representations made recently by the MS Society in NI. The Councils also supported the MS Society's call for adequate funding for patients who could benefit from disease modifying treatment and for the eradication of waiting lists. The letter was noted.

8 'On Board' Induction Training for Board/Council Members of Bodies sponsored by the DHSSPS

The Chairman informed members that the DHSSPS had commissioned CIPFA to run an 'On Board' seminar for members appointed to Boards, Trust, Councils, special agencies and non-departmental public bodies. The seminar will provide the basic information necessary to enable those appointed to one of the bodies to understand and fulfill their roles more effectively. Attendance at one of the 'On Board' courses is mandatory.

The next seminar will be held on Wednesday 23 November in the Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick starting with lunch. All costs of the seminar are met by the Department. Members who have recently been appointed and have not attended a

course are asked to register for this seminar. Further details will be available later.

9 Investing for Health Conference 2005

Mrs Harris expressed an interest in attending the Investing for Health Conference in the Radisson Roe Hotel, Limavady on 17 November, along with the Chair and the Chief Officer.

10 Trusts' Annual Meetings

Members' attention was drawn to the list of Trusts' Annual Meetings which had been circulated. The Chairman encouraged members to attend a meeting in their area.

140/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

- The Chief Officer reported that as part of the review of the GMS contract, the Council had facilitated a discussion with a group of young adults with a learning disability at the Prospects Centre, Newry about their experiences of GP services. She said a report would be shared with the Board, GPs and the Equality Commission.
- She informed members that the four Councils were working with the Clinical and Social Care Governance Team to produce an information booklet for service users. The booklet, 'Let's talk' It is expected to be launched in the autumn.
- The Council is looking into a query regarding the possible inequity of patients' travel costs to appointments. Members will be informed when further information is available.
- The Chief Officer said the Council had been invited to work jointly with the CAHGT to widen user involvement.
- Members were referred to a summary of Professor John Appleby's report on resource issues for the HPSS in NI. The report raised issues about the difference between hospital activity in NI and the rest of the UK. The topic would be included as an agenda item for the joint meeting.

- Bugwatch surveys have been conducted across 8 hospitals in Northern Ireland. The Royal Hospitals visit on Monday 19 September was accompanied by coverage from several regional newspapers, UTV News Desk, Downtown Radio and City Beat.
- The Council's Annual Report will be presented at the October AGM.

140/6 SHSSB – DOMICILIARY SERVICES (Presented at 6.00 pm)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs F McAndrew, the Southern Board's Director of Social Services, to update the Council on Domiciliary Services.

Mrs McAndrew outlined to members the process that the Board was engaged in at present in relation to the Review of Domiciliary Care. She said there was a lack of uniformity across the Southern Board in respect of eligibility criteria in the range of domiciliary services provided. There was also increasing financial pressures in all areas of service provision. However, the review had the full support of all the Board's Chief Executives and the Local Health and Social Care Groups.

Underpinning principles around the review was that the Trusts, as service providers, had a statutory duty to undertake a full assessment of need with every individual. People should be helped to resolve their problems drawing on the variety of resources available, and assessment and provision of services should be equitable across the Board's area.

The review applies to all adult programmes of care - it will not, in the first instance, apply to children with disabilities, or their families. The proposed new criteria is based on the Department of Health 'Fair Access to Care Services' 2003. However, it needs modified to reflect local circumstances.

The proposed new criteria is still in development and would not be implemented without full consultation. It is dependent upon an assessment of need and following that up with an assessment of risks. Four classifications have been used in England - critical, substantial, moderate and low but the

Southern Board may modify these. Some Trusts are currently targeting those in most need but the new criteria will more clearly consider risk.

In order to implement the criteria a project group has been established. Staff will require an awareness training programme on common standards of assessment and care planning across the Southern Board's area. Staff will need to be open and honest with services users when applying the risk criteria, and information must also be made available to the wider public. The Project Team are planning to have the criteria out for consultation in November 2005 with implementation to commence in January 2006.

In concluding, Mrs McAndrew said the Board had no alternative but to review the 1997 criteria and she felt that it would provide a more equitable and fairer way of assessing what people need in the future.

She responded to a number of concerns expressed by members about the reality of it all.

The Chief Officer said it was likely that social need would be a low priority but there needs to be a mechanism in place to make sure it is happening.

The Chairman thanked Mrs McAndrew and she left the meeting.

**140/7 SHSSC ANNUAL REPORT TO EQUALITY COMMISSION
(presented at 6.55 pm)**

Ms Hart, Complaints Officer presented the Council's 5th Annual progress report on Equality.

She provided members with an overview of the report's format and content and outlined the joint partnerships/initiatives undertaken, the Council's own initiatives, how communication problems were addressed, training programmes, feedback to ECNI and proposals for the year ahead.

Joint initiatives with the Board and Trusts included the Regional Translation Project, Regional Interpreting Project, Disability

Etiquette Booklet, Welcome Pack for Portuguese community, Local Health Services Information booklet for BME communities, Revision of Multicultural Handbook, Southern Area Good Practice Showcase event and Good Relations week.

At the Council's February meeting the emphasis had been on health workers from overseas and representatives of BME groups and overseas staff were invited along. The Community Development and Health Network undertook a project for the Council on user involvement and compiled a report 'Strengthening Links with the Community Sector'. The Council has also conducted a number of road shows at hospitals and shopping centres.

In the year ahead recommendations from the CDHN report will be taken forward, and an information programme is planned with community and voluntary organisations.

Ms Hart responded to a number of questions about the role of the Council and equality issues. In response to a comment from Mrs Burrell, it was agreed that in future the Council should focus on equality issues as they relate to its role.

The Chairman thanked Ms Hart for her presentation and she left the meeting.

140/8 REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SHSSC 05/18

The Chief Officer introduced the following papers.

- [a] Future Development of HSSCs
- [b] Four Councils' draft RPA response
- [c] SHSSC – Draft response

It was proposed by Mr McCart and seconded by Mr Murray that all three reports be adopted.

140/9 PATIENTS' EXPERIENCES OF DENTAL SERVICES SHSSC 05/19

The Chief Officer informed members that the project on patients' experiences of dental services had been completed and the report has been printed ready for launching. Arrangements

Trusts should consider whether this co-operation could be used in providing other much needed facilities.

2 Longstone Hospital, Armagh

Both reports were approved and would be forwarded to the facilities.

140/13 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of Board meeting held on 14 June 2005
- 2 SHSSB – Minutes of Special Board meeting held on 5 July 2005
- 3 SHSSB – Monthly update on Care Management Pressures – April 2005
- 4 Armagh & Dungannon HSST – All told Magazine – Summer 2005
- 5 Craigavon & Banbridge Comm HSST – Annual Report 2004/05
- 6 List of Trusts' Annual Meetings
- 7 SHSSC – Response to 'Implementation of Strategy for Persons with a Learning Disability
- 8 SHSSC – Response to SHSSB Children's Autism Strategy 2005 – 2010
- 9 CAHGT – Bed Management Information 2 July to 10 September 2005
- 10 DHSSPS – Time off for public duties
- 11 DHSSPS _ Publication of the June 2005 NI Waiting List Statistics
- 12 EHSSC – Watchdog/Lapdog
- 13 Appleby Report

140/14 PRESS RELEASES

It was agreed that a press release be issued in relation to the 'Bugwatch' survey.

140/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 **A&E Ambulance Cover**

Mr McFadden expressed concern that there was no A&E ambulance available in Banbridge from 12.00 midnight to 8.00

am. In the Banbridge area where there are 4 police stations and 2 fire stations it is of grave concern that there is no back up A&E ambulance. He requested that the Council send a letter to the Board about the situation in Banbridge and also to lobby support for the provision of an ambulance station in Rathfriland. It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded.

2 Bird Flu

Mrs Burrell said she watched with horror a recent television programme about the Bird flu and asked if information could be sought from the Southern Board as to whether the vaccination was available and to whom; and what plans the Board had should the flu come to NI. It was agreed to invite Dr Tohani to a future meeting.

3 ENT at Daisy Hill Hospital

Mr Kearns suggested that a letter be forwarded to Newry & Mourne HSS Trust asking for (a) an update on the ENT waiting list and (b) what plans were being put in place to bring the list down by March 2006.

4 Banbridge SEC

Mr McCart said that now that Newry had been successful in being granted permission for 2 new SECs, the pressure should be kept on to ensure that Banbridge got approval – it was an equally deserving case. It was agreed that a further visit to the premises should be arranged.

140/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 October 2005

The following members left the meeting early:

Mrs Wright - at 6.50 pm
Mr McFadden - at 7.45 pm
Mrs Burrell - at 8.00 pm
Ms Haughey - at 8.10 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____