

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One hundred and Forty-first Meeting held in the offices of Banbridge District Council on Tuesday 18 October at 10.00 am

141/1 PRESENT: Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman
Mr Norman Badger
Mr William Burns
Mrs Annie Burrell
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Clive Henning
Mr Peter Kearns
Mr Peter Murray
Mr Jim McCart
Mr Wm McFadden
Mrs Eileen Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Mr Martin Kelly, Director of Planning and Information, and Ms Janet McConville, Planning Manager, C/B Community HSS Trust [for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mr John Feehan

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Rev Wm Adair, St Columbas Parish Church, Portadown
Ms Jean Hudson, 50+ and Coronary Group, Banbridge
Ms Wilma McCready, 50+ and Coronary Group, Banbridge
Ms Irene Clyde, 50+ and Coronary Group, Banbridge
Ms Margaret Graham, 50+ and Coronary Group, Banbridge
Mrs Joan Baird, Councillor, Banbridge
Mr Damian Grant, Development Officer, ROMAL, Rathfriland

Apology:

Mr Gerry Fearon, Coronary Group, Banbridge

The Chairman welcomed Mr Jim McElroy, Chairman of Banbridge District Council and thanked him for hosting the Health Council's meeting and providing hospitality. She welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

Mrs Cairns reported that standing orders would be suspended for the meeting to allow an opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the discussion on each agenda item.

Mr McElroy, Chairman of the District Council, gave a warm welcome to members and staff of the Council and said it was a pleasure to host the meeting.

141/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

141/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 A & E Ambulance cover in Banbridge

The Chief Officer informed members that she had contacted the NIAS Trust in relation to Mr McFadden's concern about ambulance cover in the Banbridge area, and was advised that historically there had not been cover in the area because of staffing issues. However, compared with other areas, the cover in Banbridge was adequate.

Mr McFadden asked that the Council follow up on both the ambulance cover in the Banbridge area and the provision of an ambulance station in Rathfriland.

Councillor Baird explained that Banbridge was the fastest growing area in the North with a population of 15,000 in Banbridge and 45,000 in the wider area. As regards Rathfriland, she said it served the area as far as Leitrim and there was great concern about the length of time it would take an ambulance from either Craigavon or Daisy Hill to respond. She felt that the Health Council should be continuing to lobby for a 24 hour – 7 day week service in the area.

Mr Burns said he supported the Banbridge people in their efforts and asked if the Kilkeel situation could also be brought to the

attention of NIAS as there were rumours that the existing service will be withdrawn.

Mr McFadden said ambulance drivers from outside the area had great difficulty in finding addresses as people were reluctant to display house numbers.

It was agreed that the Chief Officer would write to the NIAS Trust to request response times, and raise the matter at the Southern Board's Ambulance Liaison Group meeting. It was also agreed to invite representatives from the NIAS to the December meeting so they could respond to specific questions. Members of the public present at this meeting could also be invited along.

2 Bird Flu

The Chairman advised members that the Southern Board's Consultant in Communicable Disease, Dr Tohani, was unavailable to speak at a Council meeting until February 2006 but he offered to share information with the Council prior to this if members were interested. It was agreed to arrange an early meeting with Dr Tohani.

Mrs Burrell said she understood there would only be vaccines for 25% of the population. She asked for information from the Board on the provision it was making for the supply of vaccines and medicine. It was agreed to request the information from the SHSSB.

Mr Murray said there was the possibility of a lot of hysteria with regard to the flu and he would caution against this.

141/4 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

1 Shipman Inquiry

The Chairman informed the members that she has been the 4 Councils' representative on the NI Shipman Inquiry Board, which has a brief to identify action to be taken in NI as a result of the national recommendations. She said the Councils have been asked to provide initial feedback from a public/patient perspective. A 4 Council meeting will be convened to facilitate this. Members would be kept informed.

2 Joint SHSSC/SHSSB Meeting

The Chairman reported that the joint Council/Board meeting held in Newry & Mourne District Council on 28 September was a very constructive meeting. However, it was very disappointing that only 5 Council members were present. She said the next meeting was scheduled for April 2006 and she hoped that there would be a much better attendance of members.

3 A/D HAZ & Armagh CDC - Launch of Armagh Community Food Garden Project

It was agreed that Mrs Harris, Mr Burns and Mr McCart would attend the official launch of the Community Food Garden Project on Thursday 27 October at 7.00 pm in the Chamber of Armagh City & District Council.

4 Confederation of Community Groups – AGM

Mrs Ferris agreed to attend the 32nd AGM of CCG on Tuesday 25 October at 7.30 pm in Ballybot House, Newry.

5 Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust Arts Care Group

Members were informed of an exhibition of mixed media 'Are you looking at me?' in the Market Place Theatre, Armagh from Thursday 27 October – 19 November 2005. Further details were available from the Council's office.

141/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Review of Public Administration

The Chief Officer reported that a 4 Council response to the Review of Public Administration had been submitted prior to the closing date. The report indicated that Councils were happy with the move to a Regional Council but further discussion was required on local representation. She said she understood the Minister for Health would make an announcement in mid November. She thanked those members who participated in the 4 Council working group and said that the group would now stand down.

She informed members that the 4 Councils were planning a residential conference in order to consider the Ministerial statement in detail and consider what form local representation would take. The 4 Chief Officers are considering meeting as an executive Council on a regular basis to deal with regional business and draw up the terms of reference for the group.

Mr Murray said meaningful input at a local level was very important – local voices must be listened to. Mr McFadden agreed with Mr Murray and said that unless Government was prepared to listen to local people it was a lost cause.

Mrs Baird said that people were wearied with the RPA discussions because the Government had made up its mind and the plan was there from the beginning. She said there would be one Health Board based in Belfast and that rural communities would lose out. It has happened in the Western area, and the people in Banbridge have been disenfranchised.

The Chairman assured the people of Banbridge that these matters were regarded as important within the Council and they would not be overlooked.

Staff Vacancies

The Chief Officer informed members that interviews had taken place for the posts of Community Participation Officer, and Project Officer and had been offered to two applicants. It was hoped that the both would be in post quite soon.

Bugwatch Update

The Chief Officer reported that the Bugwatch carried out in Daisy Hill and Craigavon Area Hospitals was very successful and feedback from both hospitals was very positive. She said the Director of Nursing at Craigavon Hospital had written to the Council and the Chief Executive had placed on record the Trust's appreciation for the courteous manner in which the team carried out the survey. She thanked the members who attended the feedback session. The findings of the regional survey were expected to be available in mid November.

After some discussion around the Bugwatch and infection control issues, members felt that in order to get a true picture of the situation in the hospitals, the Bugwatch visits should be unannounced. Members took the view that it was the responsibility of hospital management to ensure that all clinical staff, including consultants, doctors and nurses, follow proper procedures in matters of hygiene otherwise infection would not be controlled.

Mrs Wright said that, whilst agreeing with the points in the discussion, she felt that hygiene was lacking everywhere and a that lot of MRSA was actually carried into the hospitals.

Sperrin and Lakeland Trust

The Chief Officer made reference to a consultation document that had been released in respect of Sperrin and Lakeland Trust. She said the changes proposed were likely to impact on Craigavon Area Hospital which is already under pressure.

Rev Adair said that in the course of his duties he had witnessed the pressure that staff were under in Craigavon Area Hospital and suggested that it was high time something was done about this. He said that if the Government was all for the people then it must be prepared to listen to them.

Mrs Harris said Craigavon Area Hospital had a very good plan for extension but it would be 7 years before completion. She said the plan should not be based on the needs of the people today but on what will be required on completion of the plan. Mrs Ferris felt that there were no incentives to keep staff in this area, and Mr Murray said that the shortfall in medical staff was a very important issue that should be looked at.

It was agreed that the Council would respond to the document and highlight the issues regarding the pressures faced by Craigavon Hospital.

141/6 SHSSC – ANNUAL REPORT 2004/05

SHSSC 05/21

The Chief Officer presented the Council's Annual Report for 2004/05. She said that while it was difficult to include everything in the report, it was a good reflection of the Council's work. The report would be circulated widely and made available on the website.

Mr McCart proposed that the Council's annual report for 2004/05 be adopted as a true reflection of the work undertaken for the year. He thanked the staff for producing the report and those members who contributed.

141/7 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

1 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Mrs Ferris reported that the Trust had a financial deficit of £1.2m. She also referred to A & E waiting times and expressed concern that 40 patients should be given appointments for an outpatient clinic held between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm in the afternoon, as there were still 10 patients waiting at 5.00 pm.

141/8 VISIT REPORTS

SHSSC 05/22

- 1 CAH – Bugwatch
- 2 DHH – Bugwatch

Both reports were approved.

141/9 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

1 Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust

Minutes of Board meeting held on 16 August and agenda for meeting on 27 September 2005

Minutes of Board meeting held on 27 September and agenda for meeting on 18 October 2005 (tabled)

2 Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust

Minutes of Board meeting held on 5 September 2005 (tabled)

3 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Board meeting held on 21 September 2005.
Agenda for meeting on 18 October (tabled)

141/10 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of meeting held on 13 September 2005
- 2 SHSSB – Monthly update on Care Management Pressures
- 3 CAHGT – Annual Report 2004/05

- 4 DHSSPS Press Release – Smoking Ban in all Public Places and Workplaces (tabled)
- 5 DHSSPS Press Release – Arguments against total smoking control don't add up (tabled)

141/11 CRAIGAVON & BANBRIDGE COMM HSS TRUST – Update on Capital Developments

The Chairman welcomed the Craigavon & Banbridge Trust's Director of Planning and Information, Mr Martin Kelly, and Janet McConville, Planning Manager, to update the Council on the Trust's capital developments.

Mr Kelly thanked the Council for inviting them and said it was good to have the support of the Council.

• **Replacement Day Centre**

Mr Kelly reported that the Trust had conducted a review of the existing day care facilities in Banbridge and after considering a number of issues including the growth of the population, it realised that there would be a great demand for services over the next years.

Janet McConville explained that the planning process commenced in 2004 when the Trust undertook a review of its estates. She said a project team was established and an outline business case developed in April 2005. She explained the preferred option was a new build, shared centre on the existing site to include an administration block, therapy area, designated wing for physically disabled, and a designated wing for learning disabled. She said the Trust was supported in its efforts by the Board and the Council. She advised that the business case has been submitted to the Department for approval and this could take 6 – 8 weeks.

Mrs Burrell referred to the Council's visit to the SEC in February 2004 and said that the group was horrified at the conditions of the building. She said the new building must be given priority.

Mr Kelly confirmed that a new SEC was a top priority and the focus was on securing finance for it. He said the support of the Council would be important in this respect.

• **Portadown Community Treatment and Care Centre**

In relation to the new Portadown Community Treatment and Care Centre, Mr Kelly reported that earlier in the year the Trust had received approval for its business case and a design team had been appointed in August 2005. The outline design is scheduled for completion in January 2006, the scheme design in March 2006

and the detail design by May 2006. Mr Kelly and Ms McConville outlined the conceptual proposals for the site and the layout of the buildings.

Mr Kelly indicated that there was no formal approval for capital funding but it was hoped that by 2008 a new centre in Portadown would be completed.

- **Psychiatric Unit**

Mr Kelly outlined the plans for the new psychiatric unit at Craigavon Area Hospital. He reported that funding had been made available, a design team had been appointed and the outline design had been drawn up. In November the contractor will be selected to work along side the design team. It is anticipated that the detail design will be available in February 2006 and the final design and costs in April 2006. Construction should commence in May with completion by December 2007. He informed members that the Unit, which will cost in the region of £10m, will comprise of 4 general wards and 1 ward for the over 65 age group. All 74 bedrooms will be ensuite.

- **New Health Village, Banbridge**

Mr Kelly provided members with an overview of the proposed plan for the old Banbridge Hospital site. He indicated on the illustrated plan where the different services would be situated.

He said the New Health Village would be an integrated primary and secondary care development. Plans for the site included a GP Surgery, Fold Housing dementia centre with residential and day care; Oaklee (supported housing) and a health centre, all of which would complement the services which already exist – Polyclinic, ambulance station, Crozier House.

He advised that the new Health and Social Services Centre would replace the old hospital building and would include services of nursing, midwifery and health visiting, Allied Health Professionals, Child and family health, mental health, elderly services, and community based rehabilitation.

Mr Kelly responded to a number of questions from Council members and members of the public regarding the provision of services at Portadown Community Treatment and Care Centre, and service provision at the new Centre in Banbridge. He said it

was important to ensure that the new buildings meet the needs of the staff and the people who will use the services.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kelly and Ms McConville for their detailed presentation and they left the meeting.

141/12 MONTHLY PRESS RELEASE TOPIC

Press release to include:

- Working with the public to improve the health
- Update on Trust's Capital Developments, and
- Council's Annual Report

141/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 CAH Infection control

Mr Henning said he had not seen any mention of infection control in the CAHGT minutes. The Chief Officer responded and said that the AGM was dedicated to infection control. She also reported that Dr Damani, Infection Control Lead, was making a presentation at a doctors' workshop.

Mrs Wright said it was important to highlight that Dr Damani had been invited to join the World Health Organisation.

2 Visit to Banbridge SEC

Mr Kearns suggested that a further visit to Banbridge SEC should be arranged.

3 Banbridge SEC

Members were informed of 'A Colourful Music and Movement Extravaganza' being presented by Banbridge SEC in conjunction with 'Awards for All' and 'Open Arts', in Banbridge Leisure Centre on Friday 28 October from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm.

141/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 November 2005 at 10.00 am in Quaker Buildings

Signed: _____

Date: _____