

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Meeting held in the Offices
of Newry & Mourne District Council on Tuesday 17 April 2007 at 10.00
am**

155/1 PRESENT: Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman
 Mr Norman Badger
 Mrs Mary Ferris
 Mr John Feehan
 Mr Lawrence Donaghey
 Mr Clive Henning
 Mr Peter Kearns
 Mr Peter Murray
 Mr Jim McCart
 Mr Wilfred McFadden
 Mrs Florence McMahon
 Mr Kenneth Twyble
 Mrs Eileen Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer
 Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
 Dr Stephen Bergin, Consultant in
 Public Health Medicine, SHSSB [for
 part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mrs Nazy Harris

Member of Public in attendance: Ms Teresa Nugent, Rural Health Partnership, Cullyhanna joined the meeting for the presentation on Child and Adolescence Mental Health by Dr Bergin.

The Chairman thanked Newry & Mourne District Council for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality provided.

155/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

MATTERS ARISING1 Banbridge SEC

In response to Mr Murray's query about Banbridge SEC, Mrs Cunningham informed members that Mr Francis Rice, Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability was being invited to speak on the matter at the June meeting.

Mr Murray said he was pleased that that Mr Rice would be attending the June meeting as he had been informed by an officer of the Newry SEC that the proposed new facility for Newry had been postponed indefinitely, due to lack of resources, and it concerned him greatly.

Mr Kearns said Council members had visited the Newry SEC on a number of occasions over the past number of years and had been given assurances that a new building was being provided. If the proposal for a new building has now been postponed then the Health Council has been let down badly.

Mr McFadden concurred with Mr Kearns' comments and said the Council was informed that a new Banbridge SEC would go ahead and now we hear this. Mrs Wright also underlined this, particularly in respect of Banbridge. She said it was unrealistic to do what the Trust is planning to do at Ballydown Old Primary School. She asked if it would be possible to arrange for a few members to visit the site.

Mrs Wright also raised the issue about the number of computers available to staff in the Banbridge SEC. She said that when members visited the facility some time ago there were only 2 computers in the premises. While she was in Education she offered to provide a number of computers to the Trust but the offer was turned down.

Mrs McMahon suggested that Mr Rice be informed of the key issues in advance of his meeting with the Council so that he is better prepared to deal with difficult questions.

Mrs Cunningham said she would include it on the agenda for the joint SHSSC/SHSSB meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**1 Extended Appointments**

The Chairman reported that the Public Appointments Unit had confirmed the extension of appointments for Mrs Burrell, Mrs Ferris, Mr Henning, Mr Kearns, Mrs McMahon, Mr Murray, Mrs Wright and herself, as members of the Council until 31 March 2008.

2 Joint SHSSB/SHSSC Meeting

The Chairman reminded members of the joint Board/Council meeting on Tuesday 8 May 2007 at 11.00 am in the Boardroom, Tower Hill, Armagh.

Agenda items which have been submitted to the Board are;

- Update on the Board's transition to the Authority and establishment of Local Commission Groups.
- OT services
- Out of Hours services
- Learning Disability
- Update on the PCC
- SHSSC Work Plan for 2007/08

She asked members to make a special effort to attend the meeting which will be the last joint meeting with the Board.

3 Four Council Forum

Members were reminded that there would be no meeting of the Council on 15 May. However, the 4 Council Forum would be held on Wednesday 23 May at 10.00 am in the Glenavon House, Hotel, Cookstown. Members were asked to note the date.

4 Health & Social Care Trust Meetings

The Chief Officer informed members that the first meeting of the Southern Health & Social Care Trust had taken place although the Council had not been aware of it. A request has been made to the Trust to include the Council on its circulation list for papers relating to future meetings. She said Mr Donaghy, Chief Executive had been invited to attend the September Council meeting.

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT**The Chief Officer reported on the following matters:**

- 1 An accountability meeting with the DHSSPS had taken place. As part of this a detailed accountability report for the period 2006/07 was prepared. Copies are available from the office. The DHSSPS stressed the benefits of the HSSCs working together on common issues.
- 2 The DHSSPS reports that waiting list targets have been met. "Last year around 175,000 operations were carried out and almost half a million new patients were seen in outpatients departments. This time last year there were nearly 74,000 patients waiting over six months for a first outpatient appointment – that list has now disappeared."
- 3 New targets for the end of March 2008 will mean that no patient will wait more than:
 - 21 weeks for surgery
 - 13 weeks for a first outpatient appointment
 - 13 weeks for a diagnostic test.
- 4 The targets for 2007/08 include:
 - 31 day maximum treatment time for patients diagnosed with cancer;
 - 48 hour maximum waiting time for fracture treatment;
 - Four hour maximum waiting time in A&E; and
 - 48 hour maximum waiting time for access to GP services.

The Chairman said she was concerned about the targets for patients diagnosed with cancer and the 48 hour waiting time for fracture treatment. She said her background was palliative care and she could assure the Department that a month's wait for any kind of diagnosis was unacceptable. She said this could have a psychological effect on patients.

She also felt that, for anyone with a broken limb, 48 hours was a long time to suffer pain and wait for surgery.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the waiting list sub group and invite a representative from the Southern Board to discuss the issues with them.

Mr Twyble joined the meeting at 10.40 am

5 Kilkeel OoH - The mediation process is continuing with the selection of a community panel to explore the issues. A meeting will take place on 17 April (this evening) to put this panel in place. It was hoped that Mr Burns would be able to attend. Mr McCart said there was a general feeling in the Mourne area that this matter was dragging on.

Mr Kearns suggested that, in the event of Mr Burns not being able to attend, the Council should write to the new panel and ask that they keep us informed of the situation.

6 Health Visiting Services – A letter has been sent to the Director of Children's Services at the Southern HSC Trust in relation to how health visiting caseloads will be managed by the new Trust. Members will be kept informed.

7 The DHSSPS has produced a draft paper on 'Improving the Experience of Health and Social Care for the Service User'. It recommends that each organisation identifies its baseline situation and sets an evaluation framework. It suggests that staff training should be put in place to continuously improve the individual's experience.

8 Anecdotal evidence about the increasing difficulty of obtaining dental care on the NHS continues to be collected by the office. People are not aware that they must re-register with their dentist every 15 months otherwise they are struck off the dentist's list. The Four Council Forum in May will have dental services on the agenda. It will be necessary to agree a four Council action in relation to this worrying trend.

Mrs McMahon suggested that information on re-registering should be widely advertised in dental surgeries, GP surgeries and other public places.

It was agreed that the Council should issue a press release in relation to the problems with dentists.

9 The Bugwatch visits to Craigavon and Daisy Hill Hospitals have been undertaken and draft reports are provided for members.

10 It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the editorial group to discuss the content of the final annual report.

11 Work has begun on sorting through the SHSSC library to prepare it for handover to the PCC. Over the coming months, filing systems, etc, will also be reviewed to ensure compliance with records management requirements.

12 Patricia Jordan has left to take up a new post. The staffing complement in the office is now 3.5 posts.

Members paid tribute to the Chief Officer and staff for their hard work.

155/6

BUGWATCH REPORTS

SHSSC 07/10

(i) Craigavon Area Hospital – 30 March 2007

The Chief Officer reported that a Bugwatch visit had been conducted in Craigavon Area Hospital on 30 March by members and staff and checklists which were completed on each ward visited, had been collated into a report. Members were asked for feedback on the report.

Mr Murphy expressed the opinion that Bugwatch visits should be unannounced. He said it concerned him about the state of the toilets in the outpatient department and the public toilet off the main corridor. Mrs Cunningham explained that the outpatients department had not been visited on the day.

Mrs McMahon said that she saw significant improvements this time around. Mr Donaghey said he did not doubt for a moment that some of the toilets used by the public are quite shoddy. However, everything on the day of the visit was very clean and he was impressed.

Mr Twyble said he was not available on the day of the visit but he made regular visits to the hospital. He said he would be concerned about the comments made in relation to the cleanliness of the hospital, as enormous efforts had been made

to keep the hospital clean. He commended the findings of the report.

It was agreed that Mrs Wright, who represents the Council on the Environmental Cleanliness Standards Group, would raise the concerns expressed by Mr Murphy, and a visit to the Outpatients' department would be organised.

Daisy Hill Hospital – 4 April 2007

With regard to the Daisy Hill Hospital Mr Murray said that cleanliness was of a very high standard and this was evident in the Bugwatch report.

Mr Henning made the point that there should be large notices in the hospitals to remind people about washing their hands. Mr Donaghey agreed that this should be followed up.

It was agreed that a press release would be issued in respect of both reports.

155/7

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

SHSSC 07/11

- The Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability (NI)

Mrs Cunningham referred members to the Council's response to the consultation and said that it focused on the public interest in relation to health and social care. It highlighted some of the issues brought to the Council's attention including, involuntary detention, advocacy services, service transition, improving the service user experience, and the Children's Order. She said the Council supported the recommendations of the report, particularly the recommendation that service user and carer representatives must participate in the development of the legislative framework.

Mrs Cunningham said the response had been shared with the other Councils and they wished it to be submitted as a 4 Council response. The response was approved.

- Proposal for a Draft Order

Mrs Cunningham informed members that in the response she had incorporated members' views expressed at the March meeting and the document had been submitted to the DHSSPS. The response was noted.

She read a letter from the DHSSPS in response to comments made by the Council in its submission. The letter indicated that the Department was committed to the principles of co-terminosity. Although the Order stated that there would be 7 Local Commissioning Groups which would be co-terminous with the local Councils, the legislation was flexible to allow the Department to change either the number of LCGs or their boundaries in order to maintain the principle.

It also provided an explanation in relation to the performance of Trusts, the Health Authority's responsibility, the involvement of the public in future service delivery, and future membership of the PCC.

Mr Twyble said the letter was very encouraging. With regard to co-terminosity he said that when the Assembly is up and running it is hoped that there may be 16 Councils rather than the 7 proposed at present.

- New HPSS Complaints Procedure – Joint Response
Mrs Cunningham referred members to the response prepared by the EHSSC on behalf of the 4 Councils. She said the Councils did not support the Department's proposals to drop Stage 2 of the complaints process and it was hoped that the proposals would be reviewed in light of the comments made. The response was noted.

155/8

RPA BRIEFING FOR SHSSC MEMBERS

SHSSC 07/12

Mrs Cunningham referred members to paper SHSSC 07/12 which displayed the new logo for Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland. She said the Southern Health and Social Care Trust became operational on 1 April 2007. Details of appointments to the Local Commission Groups in Southern and Western areas were provided and Mrs Cunningham indicated that proposals were also being developed for the Community Commissioning Associations (CCAs). The future of local devolved commissioning would be subject to a formal

consultation later in the year and the pilot CCAs would inform this process.

155/9 UPDATE ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENCE MENTAL HEALTH (presented by Dr Stephen Bergin at 11.30 am)

The Chairman welcomed Dr Stephen Bergin, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, SHSSB, to the meeting to update the Council on developments in relation to child and adolescence mental health issues.

Dr Bergin said he was responsible for planning mental health services across the Southern Board area. He referred members to the executive summary of the report entitled, 'A Vision of a Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service' by the Mental Health and Learning disability Review Committee. He said the review had been undertaken from within the Mental Health Commissioning Group at the SHSSB, in partnership with other stakeholder agencies represented on the Children and Young People with Emotional Behavioural Difficulties Working Group.

He said mental health disorders were a real public health problem with 1 in 10 children likely to have a clinically significant mental health disorder. About 1000 children each year are being treated with problems of low level stress and anxiety, to chronic depression. Specialists are also dealing with attention deficit disorders, learning disability, and eating disorders. However, only about 15 cases would require to be admitted for treatment, either to a side ward of an adult psychiatric ward, a regional unit for under 14 year olds at Foster Green, Belfast, or to a ward for 14 – 17 year olds in South and East Belfast. About 99 per cent of the cases can be successfully treated in their own community.

Since 2000, there has been significant investment in CAMH services. From a baseline of 13 practitioners, a total of 12 new practitioners have been funded bringing the total to 25 but despite this investment, the service remains under pressure. In July 2006, there were 22 patients waiting more than 12 weeks to be seen by a specialist. Waiting lists for Tier 2 practitioners are also lengthy.

Dr Bergin said the service had doubled in the past 5 years and required a lot more investment. At present practitioners are under immense pressure and are just about getting by. He said nurses were not going into the profession because of other options available to them when they graduate.

He explained that a lot of issues such as break down in parental control, access to too much alcohol, or drugs misuse, were beyond health and social services and said there was a need for greater integration and co-ordination with Education, Youth Justice and Voluntary sectors.

In relation to eating disorders, Dr Bergin reported that up until 2 years ago the Southern Board had no practitioners in the area but now had 2. He reported that one young person had to be admitted to a specialist unit, St George's in England, to be treated. Northern Ireland would not have enough patients to sustain a specialist unit.

In general, patients with the disorder will go to inordinate steps to conceal it from family and friends. They will not reveal to the GP that they have the disorder and these conditions need to be picked up early so they can be treated. Most cases with eating disorder are seen by the psychiatrist within 3 months.

In order to provide a robust mental health service, Dr Bergin said a further 20 practitioners would be necessary and called on the Government to provide £1m to support the service in the Southern area.

Dr Bergin responded to a number of questions from members in relation to staffing of the new unit at Craigavon Area Hospital, the needs of young people, identifying young people with an eating disorder, waiting lists for treatment of eating disorders, and what support there would be for families if more young people are being treated in the community.

The Chairman thanked Dr Bergin for his presentation and invited him to stay for lunch.

155/10 PRESS RELEASE TOPIC

It was agreed to issue a press release in relation to the difficulties experienced in getting NHS appointments with Dentists.

155/11 REPORT BACK FROM MEETINGS

1 Royal Hospitals - Women's and Children's Hospital

Mr Kearns reported that Peter Murray, Mrs Harris and himself attended a meeting in Newry to view the plans for the new Women and Children's hospital in Belfast. He said it was a very impressive plan although the Trust does not have all the finance available yet. Mr Kearns proposed, and it was agreed, that a letter of support be sent to the Royal Hospitals for the project.

2 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Mr Murray reported that he attended the final meeting of the N/M Trust and he said a lot of people were concerned about their employment.

3 GMC Conference

Mrs Wright said she had attended a GMC event in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast and she would submit her report for the next meeting.

155/12 TRUSTS' BUSINESS

1 Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Minutes of Trust Board meeting held on 20 March 2007

155/13 FOR INFORMATION

1 SHSSB – Minutes of Meeting held on 13 March 2007

2 SHSSB – Minutes of Special Board meeting held on 28 March 2007

155/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Meeting with MLAs

Mr Murray suggested a meeting with local MLAs to discuss procedures under the new structures but wondered if it was too early to do this. Mrs McMahon agreed with the suggestion but said that it was important to be careful of the timing. As the

Assembly will only be set up in May she felt MLAs would be much better placed to talk about things in the autumn. In the meantime the Council should consider the issues that are of concern and that would be important for the MLAs to address.

Mrs McMahon referred to the Activity report which was being circulated during the meeting and said it would be a very useful piece of information for MLAs if a meeting was to be arranged with them.

It was agreed to organise a meeting for the autumn.

2 NI Ambulance Service

Mr Murray asked if there had been a new development with regard to ambulance cover as he noticed that one of the vehicles parked in the Square in Warrenpoint. Mr McCart said a large number of calls came from the Warrenpoint/Kilkeel area so it was considered to be better placed in Warrenpoint than Newry. He said it was to be placed at the Fire Station but it is under repair.

Mr Murphy and Mr Murray left the meeting at 11.45 am

155/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There will be no meeting of the SHSSC in May.

The 4 Council Forum will be held on Wednesday 23 May at 10.00 am in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____