



She thanked the Banbridge District Council through Cllr McFadden for hosting the meeting and providing hospitality.

The Chairman informed members that Mr James Devlin, the Southern Board's Emergency Planning Co-ordinator had to cancel his presentation to the Council, due to him having heart surgery. On behalf of the Council she extended best wishes to him for a speedy recovery and hoped that maybe at a future date he could attend a Council meeting.

## **156/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

## **156/3 MATTERS ARISING**

### **1 Banbridge & Newry SECs**

Mr Kearns asked if there were any further developments in relation to the Banbridge SEC. Mrs Cunningham advised that she had written to Mr Rice, Director of Mental Health, Learning Disability regarding a number of issues but since he was only in post a short time he wanted more time to consider the issues.

It was agreed to invite the Southern Trust's Director of Older People and Primary Car Services, Dr Gillian Rankin; the Director of Children's Services, Mr Brian Dornan; and the Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability, Mr Francis Rice to a meeting in the autumn to provide the Council with an update.

Mr Murray said both Banbridge and Newry SECs were equally important, however, he was concerned at the conflicting messages about the Newry SEC. The SEC was saying it was a lack of resources, while others were saying it was problems in relation to planning.

It was agreed to write to Mrs McAndrew, the Southern Board's Director of Social Services for clarification on the situation.

It was also agreed that Mr Kearns and Mr Murray would raise the matter with Newry & Mourne Health Committee.

### **2 Meeting with MLAs**

Mr Murray asked if any arrangements had been made to meet with the MLAs in the Southern area. Mrs Cunningham responded and said that the Councils' final review was being prepared for the

Minister. The Chairman suggested that a health representative from each party should be invited.

Mr George Savage, MLA and member of the Council agreed to make arrangements for a meeting.

Mr Savage said the greatest concern at present was the number of recent suicide cases, particularly in the Tandragee area. He said the Minister for Health was willing to do everything in his power to assist in whatever way possible to try and prevent any more incidents of this nature.

Mrs McMahon said access to the internet was dangerous. Other members agreed and said that these websites must be stamped out. Mrs Wright said she was so concerned she had written to Mr Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive of the Southern Trust and Ms Helen McClenaghan, Chief Executive of the SELB asking them to work in closer partnership and provide a programme of counselling in the schools. The Chairman agreed that there was a need for people on the ground to support vulnerable children and assure them that there was help out there for them no matter what situation they found themselves in.

Mr Feehan joined the meeting at 10.40 am

Agreed action to be taken included:

- Issue a press release and express condolences to the families affected by the suicides.
- Write to the Board of Governors at the Craigavon Senior High School.
- Write to Mr Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive of the Southern H&SC Trust.

Mrs Lynne Harvey from Banbridge Regeneration Agencies Network and mother of 6 children, made the point that there was a necessity to raise awareness of 'parenting skills'. She said children need love and attention throughout their lives but unfortunately in the current lifestyle it is being promoted more and more for mums to be working full time and this was very concerning. Schools do all in their power to help children but they have to consider the environment they are returning home to.

Ms Haughey joined the meeting at 10.45 am.

Mr Feehan suggested a meeting with the PIPs organisation and agreed to provide the Council with contact details.

### **3 GP Out of Hours in Kilkeel**

Mr McCart asked if there had been any development on the GP Out of Hours service in Kilkeel. Mr Burns reported that Mediation Network had formed a group of community representatives and had a series of meetings. Mrs Cunningham informed members that she had been contacted by a member of the Panel who was unhappy with the way things were progressing.

Mr McCart proposed that the Council should write to the Southern Board expressing concern at the delay and request that the Council is provided with an explanation on developments. Members agreed.

## **156/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **1 GMC NI – Consultation workshop on consent guidance for Doctors**

It was agreed that Mrs Wright and Mr Murray would be the Council representatives at the discussion workshop to be held in the William Legg Suite at Malone House on Friday 29 June 2007 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

### **2 Launch of Black and Minority Ethnic Access Report**

Mr Kearns, Mr Donaghey, and Ms Hart, Complaints Officer would attend the launch of the Black and Minority Ethnic Access report on Monday 25 June from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm in the Jethro Centre, Lurgan. The report was commissioned by the Southern Board and work carried out by STEP and Wah Hep Chinese Community Association.

### **3 Staff**

The Chairman informed members that Caroline McGuigan, Community Participation Officer, who was on secondment with the Council, resigned from her post on 18 May 2007, to take up a full time post with the Southern Board's Contracts Department. On behalf of the Council she wished her well in her new post.

### **4 Joint Meeting**

The Chairman referred members to the minutes of the Joint SHSSC/SHSSB final meeting and asked if members wished to raise any issues. After some discussion regarding the timescale

for the Health Authority and the PCC take over, Mr Savage said the Minister was taking time to consider the changes as decisions taken now will be lasting decisions. Mr Murray asked if it would be possible to get the Hansard of discussions that take place.

## **156/5 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **1 Trust Board**

Mrs Cunningham said she attended the Southern HSC Trust Board meeting on 29 May. The Board will hold alternate meetings and workshops. The meeting agreed the Trust Development Plan.

### **2 New Capital Developments**

Mrs Cunningham reported that she attended the Developing Better Services Area Programme Board where Mr McKeever again expressed concern about the capital situation. It was confirmed that the psychiatric unit at CAH is progressing well and should be handed over in February 2008. A contractor should be appointed to Portadown CTCC by May with work due to start in October. In relation to Banbridge Community Health Village, Oaklee Supported Living Scheme is due for completion but no timescale has been set for the Day Centres or the CTCC as this is dependant on confirmation of the capital programme. A business case is being developed for Brownlow CTCC. A proposal has been made by Craigavon Council to consider a joint development with the CTCC alongside a new library and community centre. There is a proposal that Eden SEC, Portadown should be relocated to surplus land at Bocombra. There is no timescale for this development as it is dependant on capital funding being identified.

### **3 ICATS**

A Southern Area Booking Centre is being established at Carn for the Orthopaedic ICATS. Clinics began on 4 December and currently triaged over 1800 patients with 1200 being seen in ICATS. Full roll out of the Urology ICATS is dependant on suitable accommodation being found. A business case for ophthalmology ICATS is due to be submitted. ENT ICATS is progressing with staff to be in post from autumn.

### **4 GP Lay Assessors Review Meeting**

The SHSSB convened this meeting of the lay assessors to review activity from the past year and to plan for next year. Of GP practices in the Southern Area, only two did not participate in the

lay assessment process. Generally the Lay Assessor visits were viewed positively by the GPs. The SHSSC Lay Assessors agreed to participate for a further round of visits for 2007/2008. To ensure that the process remains fresh, it was agreed that no one would visit the same practice more than 3 years running. The SHSSB agreed to circulate instances of best practice that have been highlighted by the assessment process.

## **5 Kilkeel Out of Hours**

Mrs Cunningham said she had made contact with the community panel through one member who had also fed back to me on progress. The panel does not have a community chairperson. The panel member expressed some concern about the SHSSB's openness to take on board the panel's suggestions. She said she had expressed the SHSSC's willingness to offer any possible practical support.

## **6 Editorial Group**

The group meeting decided to proceed with a final Annual Report to be ready for the autumn. The format will follow our current approach. The content will include reporting on our current work as well as reflecting of the achievements of the SHSSC over the years and looking forward to the PCC. Members will be contacted with regard to short articles, and comments.

## **7 Respite for Older People**

Dr Gillian Rankin, Director of Older People and Primary Care Services, SHSCT has contacted the Council to say that the Trust is undertaking a review of respite beds in Lurgan Hospital and she wished to have a discussion with the Council about the matter.

## **8 Advocacy Seminar**

Mrs Cunningham reported that the Joint HSSCs' and RQIA Advocacy Seminar held on 13 June in the Seagoe Hotel, was very well attended – over 100 people, many of whom managed care homes. She said the views expressed would be incorporated in the final report which would be launched in the autumn.

## **9 NI Assembly Health Committee**

Mrs Cunningham informed members that the Chief Officers of the 4 HSS Councils had been invited to attend the next meeting of the NI Assembly Health Committee. She said she would make a presentation on Dental Services.

**(a) Southern H&SC Trust**

Mr McCart congratulated the Trust on the very informative briefing paper provided and also the paper containing information about the Directors. He wondered if similar information could be provided on the Non-executive directors as it would be very helpful. The information was noted.

**(b) PCC Transition Plan**

Mrs Cunningham referred members to paper SHSSC 07/13 (b), the Council's transition plan 2007/08. She said the Department had provided a set of headings to which the Council had to develop tasks and timescales for handover to the PCC. However, she said it was unclear regarding the handover date and there was no indication of location or structure.

Mrs McMahon congratulated everyone involved in the plan, and said it was very clear and there should be no doubt about the range of work undertaken by the Council. In response to her question about risk management, Mrs Cunningham said this was being flagged up to the Department for consideration.

The Chairman said that members had no concept of the work involved and on their behalf she paid tribute to the hard work and commitment of the staff.

Mrs Cunningham referred members to the joint HSSCs' Forum in Cookstown on 23 May, which focused on dental services in Northern Ireland. She highlighted the main issues arising from the debate and suggested action to be agreed by the four HSS Councils. The main issues included oral health, fluoridation of water supplies, access to NHS dentists, the GDS contract, location of dental practices, registration with a dentist, and private dentistry.

Following the seminar, a paper has been prepared on behalf of the 4 HSS Councils, by the Chief Officer of the Northern Council. The paper highlights some of the issues raised and the suggested action to be taken by the 4 HSS Councils.

After some discussion, members agreed to the paper, subject to the following amendments. The second paragraph under Access

to an NHS dentist should be more general as not all Boards had agreed to appoint 'salaried dental staff' in their areas. The third paragraph under Private Dentistry should be amended to read '*... ..treatments are not regulated or monitored to the same extent as NHS dentistry*'. The finalised document will be sent to the Minister for Health.

### **SHSSC Dental Survey**

Mrs Cunningham referred members to the revised survey of NHS Dentists in the Southern Area. She said the situation was getting increasingly worse.

Mr Kearns asked if it would be useful to provide the information to the Minister for Health.

It was agreed to write to the Southern Board's Director of Dental Services and request that a publicity campaign be organised to raise awareness of the need for the public to register with their dentist every 15 months.

## **156/8 TOPICAL ISSUES**

### **1 Repeat Prescriptions**

Ms Haughey expressed concern regarding the changing policies for repeat prescriptions and said that a number of GPs were asking that patients put their request for a repeat prescription in writing. She said this was not the best way forward.

It was agreed to write to the Southern Board for clarification on this and ask if the needs of vulnerable people had been considered.

## **156/9 COMPLAINTS WORKSHOP**

The Chairman explained that each year the Council received an update on its complaints work. This year, in place of the usual statistical report on complaints supported throughout the year, the format will offer an opportunity to look in more detail at the various stages of the complaints process. This will be timely, given the recent discussions on the proposed changes to the HPSS Complaints Procedure. The discussion will also provide a chance to consider any recommendations that we might want to make about how the PCC should approach its complaints work.

Mr McCart and Mr Savage left the meeting at 12.10 pm

Ms Hart, the Complaints Officer, used an anonymised example of a complaint about removal from a GP list to illustrate the process and the Council's role in assisting complainants. She explained how the situation arose and the stage of the process ie corresponding with the Practice and its response, the issues around the complaint, application for Independent Review, the Convenor's response, application to the Ombudsman, and the Ombudsman's response.

Mr Burns and Mr Feehan left the meeting at 12.20 pm

Mrs McMahon said she was amazed at the time commitment in dealing with one complaint.

Mrs Cunningham said that in relation to the complaints procedure it was suggested that the IR stage should be taken out of the process but she felt that a local presence was important in dealing with a complex situation.

The Chairman thanked Ms Hart for the very informative presentation.

## **156/10 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS**

**SHSSC 07/15**

- (i) Governance in General Medical Services – Report by Mrs E Wright
- (ii) Regional Out of Hours Workshop – Report by Mrs E Wright
- (iii) SHSSC – Notes of Waiting List Sub Group meeting held on 15 May 2007 and Access Targets 2007/08 – Presentation to WLSG 15 May 2007

The Chairman thanked Mrs Wright for the detailed reports, which were noted.

Regarding the Waiting List Sub Group Mrs Cunningham asked if the group felt that the Council should carry out a follow up Casualty Watch, probably at a week end.

Members agreed that the group should take this forward.

## **156/11 FOR INFORMATION**

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of meeting held on 17 April 2007
- 2 SHSSB – Minutes of meeting held on 8 May 2007
- 3 SHSSC/SHSSB – Minutes of meeting held on 8 May 2007
- 4 SHSSC – Update – May 2007
- 5 Emergency Asthma Care in Northern Ireland by Asthma NI
- 6 DHSSPS Press Release – Publication of the March 2007 NI Waiting List Statistics
- 7 SHSCT – Minutes of Board meeting held on 2 April 2007 (tabled)

## **156/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### 1 Waiting Lists

Mr Donaghey referred to the 48 hour maximum time wait for fracture treatment as being excessive and asked if the Council could do anything about it.

Mrs Cunningham suggested that we should wait until the new service was developed.

## **156/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 18 September 2007 at 10.00 am in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_