



1 Repeat Prescriptions

SHSSC 07/16

Mrs Cunningham referred members to a letter from Mr Eddie Ritson, the Southern Board's Director of Primary Care, regarding the arrangements for dealing with repeat prescription requests. She said this was in response to a query raised by Ms Haughey at a previous meeting.

Mr Ritson explained in the letter that patient safety was paramount in developing any arrangements. He said written requests were preferable to oral requests as they were likely to be more accurate and therefore reduce mistakes and misunderstandings. The Board would support the move by practices to have standard operating procedures for dealing with repeat prescriptions including written requests. However, many practices would try and accommodate the specific needs of patients who may be disadvantaged.

The Chairman said this could create a problem for older people who live in rural areas as they may have to make a double trip to get the prescription. Mr McFadden and Mrs Burrell indicated that in some cases the practices would make an arrangement by telephoning the pharmacist.

It was agreed to follow up with Ms Haughey to see if there was a problem in the Armagh area.

2 Newry SEC

Mrs Cunningham informed members that despite concerns expressed about the hold up in funding for the Newry SEC, she had been advised by the Southern Board's Director of Social Services that there did not seem to be any problem.

However, Mr McCart said he would be concerned as the Minister for Development had put a clamp on District Council expenditure. Mr Kearns said he felt that the Health Council should be writing to the Minister.

Mrs Cunningham informed members that Dr Rankin, Mr F Rice, Mr J McCall and Mr B Doran would be attending the November Council meeting and members would have the opportunity to raise the matter with them.

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS****1 Accountability Meeting with DHSSPS SHSSC 07/17**

Mrs Cunningham referred members to the notes of the Council's accountability review meeting with the DHSSPS. She said was the second meeting she had with the DHSSPS to discuss the Council's work programme. During the meeting she explained how the Council was focusing on increased visibility and accessibility to the public, and outlined a number of initiatives it had carried out to monitor the provision of HPSS services in its area. Complaints assistance and research projects were also discussed. She said a more detailed summary of the Council's activities during 2005/06 and 2006/07 was requested by the DHSSPS. The Council agreed to provide the information. The paper was noted.

Mrs Wright said she attended a meeting at Craigavon Area Hospital during the week and was recognised as part of the Casualty Watch but was surprised to hear the consultant say that this was no longer happening.

Mrs Cunningham indicated that preliminary discussion had taken place with the Acute Services manager with regard to holding a Casualty Watch when the system was under pressure, probably in January 2008.

Mr Kearns said the Council must be careful that it is not side stepped by people.

**2 HSSCs' Initial Meeting with the Minister**

The Chairman reported that when the HSSCs' Chairs and Chief Officers met with the Minister initially, he was very supportive and took on board the main points of their discussion. He promised the HSSCs' Executive another meeting and this has been arranged for November.

**3 RPA Briefing SHSSC 07/18**

Mrs Cunningham informed members that there was a delay in the implementation of RPA, as the Minister for Health, wished to take time over the summer to carefully consider the proposals for the new structures. It was expected that no announcement would be made until the autumn. The Council has been advised that there could be a delay of a few months in the timescale for the new

HSCA and PCC. However, this could be considerably longer if the Minister makes radical alterations to the current plan.

Mrs Cunningham reported that responsibility for the PCC had transferred from Dr Bernie Stuart to Mrs Linda Devlin, DHSSPS.

Regarding the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, she said it continued to make appointments and new working arrangements and structures were still being put in place.

4 Southern Area MLA Briefing SHSSC 07/19

Members noted the programme for the meeting of Council members and staff with MLAs on Tuesday 16 October in Stormont. Mrs Cunningham informed them that she hoped to launch the Council's annual report on the day.

5 Four Council Forum agenda SHSSC 07/20

Members were reminded of the Four Councils' second Forum to be held on 25 October in the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown. The Chairman encouraged members to attend the event which would focus on the Protecting Life strategy and the Regional GP Out of Hours Project. Apologies were received from Mrs McMahon, Mrs Burrell, and Mr Twyble.

6 List of Events

Members who agreed to attend the following events:

- Building the Community – Pharmacy Partnership on Friday 28 September 2007 in the Mount Conference Centre – *Mrs Harris*.
- Age Concern NI AGM in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Belfast on Wednesday 3 October 2007 – *Mrs Burrell*.
- Carers NI – The Kaleidoscope of Caring in Craigavon Civic Centre on Wednesday 3 October 2007 – *Mrs Cunningham and Mr Kearns*.
- World Mental Health Day in Newry Arts Centre on 9 October 2007 – *Mrs Harris*.
- 4<sup>th</sup> All Ireland Health Promoting Hospitals Conference on Tuesday 23 October 2007 – *Mrs McRoberts*.
- Cross Border Seminar/Workshop on Mental Health – focusing on suicide prevention, in Armagh City Hotel – *Mrs Harris, Mr Kearns, Mrs McRoberts and Mrs Wright*.

## 1 Update

SHSSC 07/21

Southern Trust Board - Mrs Cunningham reported that she had given a presentation at the Southern Trust's August Board workshop on the interim relationship between the Council and the Trust. She made a request to the Trust Board in relation to the following:

- the Council be granted attendance / speaking rights at Trust Board meetings
- prior briefing on issues of public interest
- a six monthly briefing to the SHSSC by the Chief Executive
- annual liaison with the key service directors
- input into how the Trust deals with complaints, and
- be provided with copies of press releases.

A number of possible areas of work were also flagged up.

Review of Statutory Residential Care – The Council has been invited to join the Trust's Steering Group on the review of statutory residential care. The review resulted from a DHSS request to review the service provision to bring forward proposals to address audit findings that it is not cost effective. Mrs Cunningham said she had agreed to sit on the group. As part of the Council's preparation for dealing with the topic, a visit will be arranged to Spelga Mews in Banbridge, which is an example of alternative models of residential care.

Kilkeel Out of Hours – The Southern Board at its meeting in June, took the decision to commission an out of hours satellite centre in Kilkeel, to cease Brooklands Minor Injuries Unit, and to work with the community to monitor the operation of the satellite unit. The Board hopes to establish the service in early November.

Mr Burns said he was deeply disappointed in the Forum and the decision taken. Mr Kearns and McFadden concurred with Mr Burns comments. Mrs Cunningham said she had been verbally informed of a public meeting on 9 October 2007. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

Pilot of Emergency Care Record – The DHSSPS has decided that NI should seek to develop an Emergency Care Record for use by GP Out of Hours and A&E Departments. This is being piloted in

Newry. Mrs Cunningham said she had been invited to join the group.

RQIA – Mrs Cunningham reported that Stella Burnside, Chief Executive, RQIA had announced her retirement.

Carers – Mrs Cunningham said the HSSCs had been invited by the Minister to nominate a spokesperson on carers' issues and she had agreed to allow her name to go forward.

Respite Services at Lurgan Hospital – The Southern Trust is continuing with its proposal to remove services from Lurgan Hospital and replace these with a range of other services. Mrs Cunningham said the Council had not been asked to comment on the proposal, as yet, and therefore, needs to keep monitoring the situation.

Members expressed great concern about the removal of the respite beds and the fact that some of them had already closed.

Mrs McRoberts said it was this '*range of other services*' that she was concerned about. She said care in the community was flagged up as being an excellent package of care but it has transpired that it is diabolical. This is a diminution of services and will put more and more pressure on families. It was agreed to raise this matter with Dr Rankin, Director of Primary and Community Care at the Southern Trust when she attended the November meeting. It was also agreed to issue a press release.

HPSS Complaints Procedure – The WHSSC will represent the four Councils on the DHSSPS external reference group to take forward the HSC complaints procedure.

Closure of Cuan Mhuire – Admissions to the facility had now ceased. However, for the people who still require alternative accommodation, a needs assessment is currently being carried out. A working group is considering the specification for future services.

Mrs McMahon said she was aware that new property had been purchased and plans for conversion had been drawn up but it would be 2009 before it would be ready. They are trying to keep the old facility functioning until they are ready to move.

HSSB's Commissioning role – The four Boards are involved in discussions about commissioning arrangements for 2008/09.

Review of Prescription Charges – The DHSSPS is reviewing prescription charges and has asked the Council to convene a seminar in order to get people's views and opinions. This will take place in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on Thursday 18 October at 10.00 am. All members are invited to attend.

## **2 Evaluation of Community Information Programme**

SHSSC 07/22

Mrs Cunningham drew members' attention to the paper on the evaluation of the community information programme. She said the community information programme was developed and piloted to reach out to communities and help tackle the confusion about how health and social care services are organised, and what services are available. The findings indicated that the programme had fulfilled its aims. It was agreed to provide the DHSSPS with a copy of the document in order to illustrate the Council's building capacity in the community.

## **3 CDHN Report on engagement with communities**

SHSSC 07/23

Mrs Cunningham reported that CDHN had been commissioned to conduct an evaluation of the Council's community engagement process and also to find out the public expectations of the Patient Client Council. She said the evaluation was fairly positive and did show that the Council was moving in the right direction in reaching out to communities.

It was agreed to forward a copy of the document to the DHSSPS.

## **157/6 EQUALITY REPORT**

SHSSC 07/24

Ms Hart introduced the Council's annual progress report for 2006/07 and said this could possibly be the Council's last report to the Equality Commission. She said the report contained an update on the developments during the past year and initiatives planned in the coming year.

The report was noted.

## **157/7 DEVELOPMENTS AT SOUTHERN H&SC TRUST**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to update the Council on Developments within the Trust.

Mr Donaghy outlined how the new Southern Trust was planning to take things forward. He informed the Council that the catchment population was in the region of 400,000 and the turnover £400m.

In relation to the Review of Public Administration, he said involvement in care for patients and clients was at the heart of the review. There was a need to ensure better quality and access and make health and social care more efficient. System reform was not just in terms of health and social care but managing across programmes of care as opposed to managing a hospital. This would be across all sectors including primary and secondary care, something that they don't have in other parts of the UK.

The H&SS System reform would ensure that patients and clients are at the centre, there would be clear lines of accountability, a reduction in bureaucracy, improved professional leadership, better integration, partnership working and system focus.

The leadership challenge was to ensure a whole system focus by maintaining a grip on performance while ensuring professional leadership and effective engagement with patients and clients.

Mr Donaghy said the vision for the future is to provide a high standard of safe and secure care, with more emphasis on wellbeing and reducing inequalities. Patients/clients/communities would be valued stakeholders, the service would be productive, efficient and value for money, with a motivated, dynamic workforce.

The new Trusts have a responsibility to design and deliver services within the allocated budget. Progress to date includes the appointment of Chief Executives, Chairmen, the majority of Directors, Non-Executive Directors and third and fourth level posts. Appointments are 90% complete.

In terms of managing the transition, the Southern Trust is communicating with staff by providing a weekly brief, and a monthly news letter, and has also held 15 workshops for staff in the

Trust area. It is managing the transition through the Southern Transition group, and in the context of a HR framework.

The next steps for the Southern Trust is identifying permanent headquarters, promoting a positive organisation culture, developing a communications strategy, ensuring professional development and testing the system.

In concluding, Mr Donaghy said the success factors would be: that staff enjoy working in the Trust, there is better access to care, whole system working, and finance is not dominant.

Mr Donaghy responded to a number of questions from members in relation to capital development, the SECs, how the views of users and carers are sought, Direct Payments, the Banbridge Hospital site, closure of respite beds at Lurgan Hospital.

Mrs Cunningham raised the issue of Council input into the Trust Board's meetings. She explained that in terms of monitoring and the Council's statutory role she felt it was important that there should be an opportunity at the meetings for the Council to contribute to the discussion.

The Chairman thanked Mr Donaghy and he left the meeting.

Mr McFadden left the meeting at 12.20 pm

Mrs McRoberts left the meeting at 12.25 pm

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Director of Older People's Services regarding Lurgan Hospital.

**157/8 GMC – CONSENT: Patients and Doctors Making Decisions Together – Consultation SHSSC 07/25**

Mrs Wright said this was a good piece of work being undertaken. She said she welcomed the move towards doctors and patients working in a closer partnership.

The response was noted.

**157/9            FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS**

1        SHSSB – Clinical Governance Group

Mrs McMahon provided members with some background information regarding the Clinical Governance Group. She said the task of the group was to clarify, establish and communicate an accountability structure for governance of GPs. She said she had only attended two meetings of the group so far. However, she was very impressed at the number of large conference events and the in-practice training that practices were involved in. They really have been taking note of things that are important. She said the system to enable GPs to report adverse incidents was also an important development.

**157/10           PRESS RELEASE TOPIC**

Removal of Respite Beds at Lurgan Hospital

**157/11           FOR INFORMATION**

- 1        SHSSB – Newsletter – August 2007
- 2        SHSSB – Minutes of Meeting held on 12 June 2007
- 3        SHSSB – Minutes of Special Meeting held on 29 June 2007
- 4        Southern Area Hospice Services Newsletter – Summer 2007
- 5        Invitations

**157/12           ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1        Cardiac Care

Mrs Burrell raised concerns about the article in the local paper highlighting the fact that Craigavon had one of the highest rates of cardiac care in Britain. It was agreed to follow up on this issue.

2        Meeting with Health Committee

Mr McCart complimented the Chief Officer on her recent presentation to the NI Assembly Health Committee. Mrs Harris concurred with the sentiments.

**157/13           DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 20 November 2007 at 10.00 am in Quaker Buildings

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