

Minutes of the previous meeting, which were circulated, were agreed and signed subject to amendment, Mr Jim McCart's name to be included on the list of members who attended the meeting.

158/3 MATTERS ARISING

Newry SEC

Mrs Cunningham explained that the situation regarding Newry SEC was not as clear as previously thought. She said Trust representatives indicated that although the planning application had been submitted and outline planning agreed, funding had not been allocated, and it was not clear what the timescale would be. She said she had a letter drafted to the Minister for Health but wanted to hear members' views before sending it.

Regarding Banbridge SEC she said it was further down the line than Newry as the Trust was still working on the business case. Currently the facility has been relocated to temporary premises.

Mr McFadden said that when the District Council bought the Banbridge Hospital site it was told that money was ring fenced for the Health Village but that has not happened and the hospital is lying in rubble. However, he appreciated FOLD providing the homes, Spelga Mews on the site. Mr McCart agreed and said it was the first time, last week, when he visited the site to see the homes and the mews. He was glad that it was not all 'sad' in Banbridge.

Mr Kearns recalled that the Southern Board had confirmed at the Joint SHSSB/SHSSC meeting that money had been ring fenced for the projects.

The Chairman said staff of the SECs were working in very poor conditions while caring for a very vulnerable group of people.

Mrs Wright agreed that people with special needs were the most vulnerable in society. The old building that they currently use was not fit for a primary school so why should it be fit for this group of people.

It was agreed to forward a letter to the Minister, taking on board members' views.

GP Out of Hours Services

Mr Murray paid tribute to Mr Eddie Ritson for his efforts in reaching a satisfactory resolution to the GP Out of Hours Services in the Mourne area.

He said he was also pleased that people living in south Armagh were now being offered the choice to attend the NEDOC Out of Hours centre at Castleblaney, Co Monaghan for urgent medical care.

158/4

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- RPA – Letter from Mr M McGimpsey, Minister for Health
Mrs Cunningham referred members to a letter from the Minister for Health on 8 October, entitled, RPA – ‘Getting it Right’, which was an explanation to staff of what was happening with the change process and his ambitions for the health and social care system. She drew their attention to a second letter (tabled) from him on 6 November which explained that the Minister intended to look at the future role of the Councils independently of other elements of HSC reform and would be in touch shortly about developments.
- Forum Report back – Evidence to Health Committee
The Chairman reported that the Forum on the Protect Life Strategy was held on 25 October in the Seagoe Hotel and was a very worthwhile event. However, she said she was disappointed at the poor attendance of Council members.

Following the Forum a response prepared on behalf of the 4 Councils has been submitted to the Health Committee.

Mr Feehan suggested that a representative from PIPS be invited to a future Council meeting. He said the group was doing fantastic work by going into the schools in Kilkeel, Annalong, Cullyhanna etc and talking to the students and teachers. Mrs Wright said it was a very complex area of work and she was heartened to know that something was being done.

In response to Mr Kearns question regarding the training of GPs, the Chairman said she understood that one GP was

named for each practice, and training in depression awareness for these GPs was ongoing.

Mrs McMahon said that training needs to take account of everyone in the practice. Regarding the level of services and support available, she said that vulnerable people require the services immediately.

Mr Kearns suggested that lay assessors when visiting GP practices, could ask what GPs thought of being involved in suicide watch.

The Chairman felt that depression awareness should be part of a medical student's training.

It was agreed to invite a representative of PIPs to a future meeting. It was also agreed to send the Suicide report to Mr Francis Rice, Director of Mental Health, Learning Disability, Southern Trust, and also provide Mr Feehan with a copy.

- Feedback on MLAs' Briefing

The Chairman reported that the meeting with the MLAs at Stormont was a good opportunity to raise the profile of the Council. Unfortunately, the attendance was poor but for those who did attend it was very worthwhile.

Mrs McMahon congratulated both the Chairman and the Chief Officer on their excellent presentations which gave a clear overview of the role of the Council.

It was agreed to express our thanks to Mr Savage for giving the Council the opportunity to meet with the MLAs.

- Annual Review – Attached

The Chairman informed members that the Annual Review 2007 was launched on the day of the visit to Stormont. She said the report was circulated widely and hoped that it would further raise the Council's profile. She congratulated the staff on compiling the report.

- Visit to Spelga Mews

Mrs McMahon reported on the members' visit to Spelga Mews, which are situated on the old Banbridge Hospital site.

She said the design and quality of the homes was excellent and the whole place was very secure, even at night. The accommodation catered for those people who required an element of care and also for people who were independent and could do their own thing. For those who needed help there was a nurse on site. Members felt that this was a good example of the Housing Executive, the Southern HSC Trust and Fold working together to make better use of resources. This was one of the best facilities members have visited.

- Extension of appointments

The Chairman informed members of a letter from Mr David Bingham, Director of Planning and Performance, DHSSPS, offering an extension of appointment to 31 March 2009 for those members whose term of office would end on 31 March 2008. She confirmed that Mrs Burrell, Mrs Ferris, Mr Henning, Mr Kearns, Mrs McMahon, Mr Murray and Mrs Wright had confirmed their willingness to continue until 31 March 2009. However, regarding her own position, she said she would not be able to serve on the Council beyond March 2008, due to increasing family commitments. The Public Appointments department would be informed in writing.

- Christmas Lunch

Members were asked to complete the menu for the Christmas Lunch to be held on Thursday 13 December following the monthly meeting.

158/5

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1. DHSSPS Modernisation and Improvement Programme Board

The DHSSPS has established the above group to co-ordinate its RPA actions. The HSSCs have nominated Tom Creighton, Chair NHSSC, as a representative on this group. A decision has been taken to put the Authority and PCC on hold for the moment but work to develop a 'shared services' body to offer more joined up support to HSC is proceeding.

2. SHSSC Work Programme

Mrs Cunningham said that given the delay in implementing RPA and the likely extension of the HSSCs, it will be necessary

for the SHSSC to revise its work programme. This will mean adding to the current staff team. The outstanding areas of work include:

- Report on the experiences of adults with a learning disability in acute hospital settings
- Development and delivery of the community information programme
- Ongoing links with community organisations
- Project work on nutrition in general hospitals
- Casualty watch scheduled for January 2008
- Other pieces of project work.

It is likely that recruitment will have to be done within the HSSB internal trawl. Therefore to increase the likelihood of success, it is proposed to seek a full-time project officer post to undertake the range of tasks above. A revised work plan for April 2008-March 2009 will be brought to the January Council meeting.

3. Communication/Media Strategy

With the extension of the HSSCs, thought needs to be given to what messages the SHSSC wishes to deliver to its stakeholder over the next 1-2 years. The final annual review was published last month. This provides us with an opportunity to re-consider our media strategy and review our communication tools. It was agreed to convene the media sub-group and bring a report to the January Council meeting.

4. Trust Standing Orders

Mrs Cunningham informed members that the Southern Trust had amended their Standing Orders to provide the SHSSC with the right to contribute to the discussion at Trust Board meetings. As members will be aware, in order to allow members to keep abreast of Trust issues, the Chief Executive has agreed to attend our meetings twice a year in addition to an annual panel of Trust Directors.

5. Review of Prescription Charging Workshop

Over 50 people attended this lively event, which will contribute to the DHSSPS's review of the current system and the development of a number of alternative options. A formal consultation is likely to be held in January.

6. Newry SEC

This matter with the Trust and their understanding is that a planning application has been submitted and the outcome is being awaited. Contractors have been shortlisted. The outline business case has been approved but funding has not yet been allocated. On this basis, I have gone ahead with a letter to the Minister raising the SHSSC's concerns about the complexity of this process and the unacceptable delay.

7. Trauma & Orthopaedics

The inpatient orthopaedic service at CAH is due to commence on 17 December 2007 and inpatient trauma services to commence on 17 January 2008.

8. Draft Programme for Government

This is now out for consultation with a closing date of January 2008. There are a number of Key Goals that touch on health and social care such as:

- Reducing child poverty by 50% by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020.

As well as a number directly relating to health and social care:

- Ensuring that, by 2013, anyone with a mental health problem or learning disability is promptly and suitably treated in the community and no one remains unnecessarily in hospital.
- Reducing mortality from bowel cancer by 15% and acting to reduce cervical cancer by 70% by 2013.
- Ensuring that by 2013 everyone who suffers a stroke is assessed within 90 minutes for suitability for thrombolysis and that stroke mortality rates are reduced by 15%.
- By 2013, helping people with chronic illness to live more active lives and reducing unplanned hospital admissions for such patients by 50%.
- Reducing the number of abused or neglected children on the Child Protection Register or in care by 20% by 2013.

9. Cross Border GP OoH

Following work undertaken by CAWT, cross border arrangements are now in place. From 26 November 2007, people living in Crossmaglen, Creggan, Silverbridge, Newtownhamilton, Carrigatuke, Keady, Killeen, Derrynoose, Milford and Killylea

can avail of GP Out of Hours services in the NEDOC Out of Hours centre, Castleblayney, County Monaghan. Further information is included in your papers.

10. Accountability Report to DHSSPS

A report covering the period April 2007-October 2007 has been submitted to the DHSSPS as part of our accountability requirements. This is attached for information and provides a high level report of work against the SHSSC's work plan to date.

158/6 SOUTHERN TRUST LIAISON PANEL

The Chairman welcomed Dr Gillian Rankin, Director of Older People & Primary Care; Mr Francis Rice, Director of Mental Health & Learning Disability; Mr Jim McCall, Director of Acute Services and thanked them for giving of their time to update the Council on their directorate responsibilities and also to take questions from the members.

Dr Rankin was first to speak and she thanked the Chairman for the introduction. She said it was very fitting that the directors had been in post for the past 8 months and were getting to grips with new roles in the new Trust.

As Director of Older People and Primary Care, her responsibilities spanned right across the older people (over 65) for domiciliary care provided in or out of residential homes, non-acute hospitals – Lurgan, South Tyrone and Mullinure, and adults community services. The primary care component is managing all of the staff involved with older people.

Dr Ranking outlined in detail a range of services which are being developed within her remit:

- A range of ICATS services to reduce the waiting times.
- Significant focus with GPs across the whole area – Dr P Beckett, appointed Assistant Medical Director, on a 2 day week post.
- Managing community development and health promotion and integrating the teams in order to promote the health and wellbeing agenda.

- A key area of work was getting a satisfactory resolution to the GP Out of Hours in Kilkeel.
- Development of emergency care records – pilot being conducted in the Southern area. Data recorded by the GP will also be available to the A&E department and Out of Hours service.
- A review of statutory residential homes and looking at developing more Supported Housing schemes. However, the Trust was awaiting the Minister's decision on the review.
- Lurgan Hospital – changes to ward 7 and 8 – moving respite from a hospital setting into the community and taking the funding from the ward to re-invest it.
- A consultant led assessment clinic and a stroke rehabilitation service for patients to ensure that older people continue to have rehab when they return to their home.
- Targets for OT and Physio – 26 weeks by March 2008 and 13 weeks by March 2009.
- Target for a patient 'fit for discharge from hospital' to get home within 72 hours - 100% by March 2008.

In concluding Dr Rankin said the Trust was looking at how it involves and engages with carers in each of the programmes of care. A review would be undertaken in each of the legacy Trusts.

Dr Philip Weir joined the meeting at 11.20 am.

Mr Francis Rice said his remit was mental health and disability services and covered services in Craigavon, St Luke's, Longstone and Daisy Hill Hospital sites.

He had responsibility for community and primary care services relating to these client groups. There is only one statutory residential home in the directorate in learning disability services. He also had responsibility for supported housing, day centres, SECs, domiciliary care and specialist services around forensic, addiction, eating disorders. As Director of Nursing, he was professionally responsible for all nursing staff across the Trust.

Mr Rice highlighted some of the key regional issues that were having an affect on areas he had responsibility for. The target

for March 2008 is that anyone requiring psychiatry services will be seen and treated within 13 weeks. Psychotherapy services will be 1 year, regional target.

With regard to the assessment and treatment of learning disability patients he said the regional target was when someone was deemed for discharge this had to take place within 7 days. He said the Department was asking that 50% of the target was met this year. The Trust was obliged to resettle those in St Luke's hospital, providing a range of services around supported living. This would be enhanced by a community team approach.

With reference to the Bamford review, Mr Rice said he was hoping that this year there would be a tranche of money to enable the Trust to implement the recommendations of the report. There were a number of independent reviews around mental health services and recommendations were coming out of these. He was preparing an action plan which hopefully would be finished by early December. He would be happy to share this openly.

Another big area was suicide, and in this particular area a number of information events with children and adults have been held. They were taking forward and developing the implementation plan for the 'Protect Life Strategy'. There was also a plan for specific user and carer involvement. Mr Rice said this was a significant piece of work and the Health Committee had invited the Trust to work with them on it.

Referring to the capital programme within the Directorate, he said the DHSSPS had recalled all of the business cases. The Trust was now trying to prioritise across learning disability, sensory disability and mental health. SECs were of particular concern and the Trust had written to the DHSSPS expressing concern and asking that they be mindful of that.

Mr Jim McCall welcomed the opportunity to have his first meeting with the Council. He said his responsibility with the Trust encompassed the acute hospitals – Craigavon, Daisy Hill and South Tyrone, and included all of the acute provision for the Trust population of approximately 360 thousand people.

In developing the new Trust they have had to incorporate the Legacy Trusts and it was necessary to create stability and consistency across the area and everyone had worked hard to set a standard. In 8 – 10 months of the RPA process it has been very much a learning process and how to use the resources allocated.

In relation to targets, he said it was good to report that the Trust was achieving these and meeting the DHSSPS obligations. As a Trust the aim of the nursing, medical, technical support staff, and professionals was to foster expertise and create innovation.

From the Council's perspective, he said the Trust was looking at patient centred services and to be able to pick up on issues of concern. The key messages included creating a quality care environment which was sensitive to users needs, reducing hospital acquired infections, and meeting A&E targets of 4 hours.

Important developments for the Trust was the opening of the new catheterisation laboratory. Work is currently underway on the new maternity theatre, Daisy Hill Hospital will have additional renal stations, and Craigavon Hospital has a new Clinical Decision Unit in the emergency ward. The biggest single development will be the trauma and orthopaedic service to be completed within 2 years. Temporary theatres and ward are being made available and orthopaedic patients will be treated at Craigavon Hospital from December and trauma patients from 14 January 2008.

One of the key issues for the Trust is maternity services as there are large numbers of expecting mothers coming in to both Craigavon and Daisy Hill Hospitals, a significant number of which are from the migrant community.

In concluding Mr McCall said that no longer was the acute services seen as separate from the non acute. Acute hospitals are the largest community care service.

Members of the panel took questions from members in relation to the trauma unit and the treatment of complex cases; A&E targets; closure of ward in Lurgan Hospital and consulting with families re the closure; car parking at Craigavon and Daisy Hill

Hospitals; monitoring of Out of Hours in the Mourne area; cancellation of and confusion about appointments at Daisy Hill Hospital; review of residential homes in the area; Newry and Banbridge SECs; patient information; referral and signposting suicidal patients, and ICATS.

Mr Murray said that having the panel was a very useful exercise and he was delighted with the information that the Directors had provided. Mrs Harris congratulated them and acknowledged that it was a hard task that they had. Members agreed.

Mr Weir left the meeting at 12.30 pm

The Chairman thanked them all for the very informative talks and answering the many questions and they left the meeting.

158/7 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

1 Action MS Mobile Care Centre

Mr Badger reported that he had recently attended the launch of the Action MS Mobile Care Centre. This is a van which goes to different towns providing a service to disabled people instead of them having to travel to hospital.

2 N/M District Council Health Committee

Mr Murray and Mr Kearns said they attended the most recent meeting and there was a lot of discussion and useful work going on within the District Council, in particular the solution to the Out of Hours service in the Mourne area.

3 Useful Contacts

Mrs Wright highlighted a useful contacts list for mental health and emotional wellbeing, which she had received at a Suicide conference in Armagh. It was agreed to try and get additional copies.

158/8 PRESS RELEASE TOPIC

- GP Out of Hours Services in the Mourne Area
- Newry and Banbridge SECs

158/9 FOR INFORMATION

- SHSSB – Minutes of Board Meetings held on 11 September
- SHSSB – Minutes of Board Meeting held on 9 October 2007
- SHSSB – Annual Report 2006/07 – ‘Your Health and Care’
- DHSSPS – Press Release – Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System Update Bulletin
- SHSCT/SHSSB – GP Out of Hours Services for the Mourne Area – Information leaflet
- SHSCT – Minutes of Board of Directors on 25 September 2007
- Invitation

158/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Discussions at the Assembly

In response to Mr Murray’s request for Hansard notes of discussions at the Assembly, Mrs Cunningham said this would involve copying a huge amount of papers and advised that she would provide contact details so that anyone interested could access these via the website.

2 Classroom Assistants

Mrs Wright referred to the Classroom assistants’ strike and said that she understood the special schools were trying to keep the children at school. However, the big issue was that the children could not go to school as they were not getting the other services such as physiotherapy, and she suggested that the concerns should be expressed to the Trust’s Chief Executive.

158/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 13 December 2007 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2, Craigavon Borough Council

Signed: _____

Date: _____