

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One Hundred and Sixtieth Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on Tuesday 15 January at 10.00 am

160/1	PRESENT:	Mr Norman Badger Mrs Annie Burrell Mr Lawrence Donaghey Mr Clive Henning Mr Peter Murray Mr Jim McCart Mrs Florence McMahon Mr George Savage Mr Kenneth Twyble Mrs Eileen Wright
	IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Mrs Eleanor Doherty, Project (designate)
Officer		
Manager		
Worker		
	APOLOGIES:	Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman Mrs Mary Ferris Mr John Feehan Ms Sharon Haughey Mrs Nazy Harris Mr Peter Kearns Mr Wilfred McFadden Mrs Sylvia McRoberts

Mrs Cunningham introduced Mrs Eleanor Doherty, Project Worker (Designate). She said Mrs Doherty was seconded from the Southern Board and would commence her new job on 4 February 2008.

Mrs Cunningham informed members that Mrs Cairns, Chairman was unable to take leave from work to attend the meeting, and Mrs Harris, Vice Chairman was on holiday. She invited a nomination

from the members to act as Chairman for the meeting. On the proposal of Mr McCart, Mrs McMahan conducted the business of the meeting.

160/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

160/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 Newry SEC

The Chairman referred members to the Minister for Health's response to the Council's letter of 3 December regarding the situation at Newry SEC. The letter explained that, while the Minister acknowledged the Council's concerns over the current accommodation for this vulnerable client group, he understood that the delivery of the projects was delayed due to difficulties with the design of the Newry SEC and delays in securing appropriate planning permission. It went on to explain that although the Department had approved original business cases in June 2005, for new centres at Newry and Crossmaglen, the cost had increased substantially from the original approved cost of £6m to £9.7m. Given the constraints on the Budget it meant that only projects which are currently contractually committed will be taken forward. Given this difficult decision the Department is unable to allocate funding for either the Newry or Crossmaglen day centres at this time.

Mr Murray said this saga has been going on for a number of years and the Council was assured by the Southern Board that the project was going ahead and finance was available.

Mr McCart and Mrs Burrell said that we must not forget about the Banbridge SEC. There is no reference to it in the Minister's letter.

It was agreed that a further visit to the Newry SEC would be arranged to assess the situation and a letter would be sent to the Minister for Health highlighting members concerns about both Newry and Banbridge SECs.

2 Liaison with the Southern Trust

The Chairman congratulated the Chief Officer on the work she had done in securing a good relationship between the Southern Trust and the Council. Members noted that the

Trust had amended its Standing Orders to include a new paragraph 3.19 (iii) relating to the Council's attendance at its Board meetings.

3 Parking at Craigavon Area Hospital

Mr Savage reported that he had raised concerns with the Minister for Health, regarding the serious parking problem at Craigavon Area Hospital. He said the Minister indicated that he was aware of the problem and would deal with it in the near future.

Mrs McMahon and Mr McCart said parking was equally bad at Daisy Hill Hospital. One of the problems is that parking spaces are taken up by staff and patients with appointments have great difficulty in finding a space when they arrive. People are also using the hospital park as an all day car park, and taking a bus into town to shop or to work elsewhere in the town.

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Four Council Forum

The Chairman reminded members that there would be no Council meeting on Tuesday 19 February but instead the Third Joint Council Forum would be held on Wednesday 27 February in Kelly's Inn, 233 Omagh Road, Garvaghey, Ballygawley from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. She encouraged members to attend as the main topic would be the PCC and RPA and representatives from the DHSSPS would be present.

2 Staff Appointment

The Chairman welcomed Eleanor Doherty who has been given a temporary appointment as Project Worker with the Council until March 2009. She has been seconded from SALT at the Southern Board. She wished her well in her new post.

3 SHSCT – Environmental Cleanliness Committee

It was agreed that Mrs Wright would represent the Council on the Southern Trust's Environmental Cleanliness Committee. Nominations for the Audit Teams were agreed as follows:

Mrs Wright - Craigavon Area Hospital, Mr Murray – Newry & Mourne, Mr Badger – Armagh & Dungannon area.

4 Chairman's Retirement

The Chairman said it was unfortunate that March would be the final meeting of our Chairman, Mrs Cairns. It was agreed that the Chief Officer should contact Mrs Cairns indicating that it was the feeling of the meeting that she should continue as Chairman of the Council until March 09. However, in the event of her decision not to continue then an election would have to take place to appoint a new Chairman.

The Chief Officer pointed out that the number of members attending meetings seemed to be dwindling and it was important that this is not allowed to happen. It was agreed to write to non attending members seeking clarification as to whether or not they wish to remain on the Council.

5 Events

No one was available to attend the Institute of Biology – Lecture on 'Superbugs – Facts and Fantasies' on Wednesday 23 January 2008 .

Department of Finance and Personnel – NI Best Practice Scheme Launch Event – Thursday 24 January 2008 in Stormont Hotel. No one was available to attend.

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CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Mrs Cunningham reported that the January meeting of the SHSSB was cancelled, perhaps indicating the changing processes in the commissioning of services.
2. She said the SHSCT was establishing a group to review domiciliary care services across the Southern Area and she had agreed to participate in this review to represent the SHSSC's perspective.
3. The Waiting List Sub Group is meeting this afternoon to take forward a new round of Casualty Watch visits and any members who are not already part of the group but wish to participate are asked to stay for the meeting. The meeting

will also look at current access targets. A report will be made to the next Council meeting.

4. A temporary appointment of a project worker, Eleanor Doherty, has been made until March 2009. This appointment should allow us to undertake a wider range of activities. On other staffing matters, the SHSSB has asked for expressions of interest in early retirement. SHSSC staff will be eligible to apply should they meet the criteria.
5. Mrs Cunningham reported that Media interest in our work was high in December, with interviews being given to the Newsletter and the Newry Democrat on dental registration. Mrs Cunningham said she also participated in 'Talkback' discussion on hospital meals and nutrition.
6. Hospital nutrition is an important area and remains one of the issues that the SHSSC had flagged up as a priority. She welcomed expressions of interest from members to allow this matter to be progressed.

Mrs McMahon said she was concerned about patients who are unable to feed themselves, some of whom are very vulnerable including stroke patients.

7. Through the Managed Clinical Network for Unscheduled Care, the Council is participating in a public engagement exercise to gather service users' views of A&E services. I will circulate summaries of the events in due course.
8. Given the extension to the HSSCs existence, it will be necessary to produce a work report for 2008/2009. This will be brought to the next Council meeting. Any suggestions for inclusion in the work programme are welcomed.

Mr McCart suggested that 'dental registration' should continue to be pursued as part of the work programme.

Mr Donaghey suggested raising the Council's profile by undertaking an advertising campaign in the press.

9. Given the recent breaches in data protection procedures by public bodies, the DHSSPSNI has requested that we carry out a review of our data protection arrangements. This will be done by each Council but will ideally reflect a joint Council approach. The main issue for concern is the retention of closed complaints files. A procedure is being established with new complainants to ensure that the file can be disposed of in an appropriate fashion when the matter is closed.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Cunningham for the report.

Mr Savage left the meeting at 11.30 am

Mrs Wright joined the meeting at 11.30 am

160/6 PATIENT CLIENT COUNCIL & RPA

Mrs Cunningham briefed members on progress to date on the RPA. She said the Minister was reviewing the HSA and was expected to make an announcement in the near future. It was hoped that the new PCC would be established by April 2009, however, there was no guarantee.

Members would be kept informed of developments.

160/7 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

There was no feedback available.

160/8 PRESS RELEASE TOPIC

Electronic Records for Out of Hours and A&E

160/9 FOR INFORMATION

160/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Care Homes

Mr Murray referred to the recent press coverage regarding RQIA reports on the standard of care provided in a number of care homes in Northern Ireland. He asked what the outcome would be.

Mrs Cunningham said the Southern Trust was reviewing residential services in its area and was looking at more independent living or keeping people in their own homes. This was a topic that the Council would flag up for the PCC.

160/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 March at 10.00 am

Signed: _____

Date: _____