

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of the One Hundred and Sixty-Second Meeting held in Quaker Buildings, Lurgan on Tuesday 15 April 2008 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Mr Norman Badger
Mrs Annie Burrell
Mrs Mary Ferris
Mr Lawrence Donaghey
Ms Sharon Haughey
Mrs Nazy Harris
Mr Clive Henning
Mr Peter Kearns
Mr Peter Murray
Mr Wilfred McFadden
Mrs Florence McMahon
Mrs Sylvia McRoberts
Mr Kenneth Twyble
Mrs Eileen Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer
Mrs Nancy Downard, Office Manager
Ms Colette Hart, Complaints Officer
[for part of the meeting]
Mr Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive, SHSCT [for part of the meeting]
Mrs Anne Balmer, Chairman, SHSCT
[for part of the meeting]

APOLOGIES: Mr John Feehan
Mr Jim McCart
Mr George Savage
Dr Philip Weir

162/1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

As Mrs Cairns, the previous Chairman was no longer with the Council, Mrs Cunningham requested that a member be nominated to conduct the election of the new Chairman.

It was proposed by Mr Henning and seconded by Mr Kearns that Mr Twyble should conduct the election. Mr Twyble accepted and explained that nominations had been received for Mrs Nazy Harris and Mrs Eileen Wright. Members were asked to vote for the candidate of their choice and after the

count, the vote indicated a tie (7 votes each) between Mrs Harris and Mrs Wright. Mr Twyble referred to the Council's Standing Orders for guidance and a second ballot was held which resulted in Mrs Wright receiving the majority of votes (11). Mr Twyble declared her duly elected as the Council's new Chairman for the period ending 31 March 2009.

Mrs Harris was offered the position of Vice Chairman and after consideration, she accepted.

Mrs Wright took the chair and conducted the business for the remainder of the meeting. She said she was very honoured to be elected as the Chairman and thanked the members for their support.

162/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting, which were circulated, were agreed and signed subject to minor amendments - *Mr McFadden to be included as present at the previous meeting.*

Page 10 – first paragraph should read, *Mrs Burrell said remuneration was not an issue for members like herself who were in receipt of the pension. Others who are not receiving the pension would be interested.*

162/3 MATTERS ARISING

1 Newry SEC

Mrs Cunningham explained that she had raised the issue of capital funding for Newry and Crossmaglen SECs with Mr Frances Rice, the Trust's Director of Mental Health & Learning Disability, and he was happy to meet with the Council to agree a way forward. That meeting has been arranged for Monday 19 May at 2.30 pm in Ballybot House, Newry.

Mr Murray said that Crossmaglen was different from Newry in that no site was available yet. However, the situation with Newry is that the site has been purchased and cleared, the business case has been agreed and the only thing missing is the finance.

Mr Kearns suggested that MLAs be lobbied to attend a visit to both Banbridge and Newry SECs. Mr McFadden and Mrs Burrell were in agreement.

It was agreed that the members from Newry and Banbridge areas would be invited to the meeting with the Trust's Director and Assistant Director of Learning Disability.

162/4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1 Minutes of Appointment

The Chairman referred to letter from Mr David Bingham, DHSSPS, confirming the extension of appointment of Annie Burrell, Mary Ferris, Clive Henning, Peter Kearns, Florence McMahon, Peter Murray, and Eileen Wright, as members of the Council until 31 March 2009.

The Chief Officer informed members that Council numbers were down to 21 now that Mrs Cairns had retired and Mr Brendan Curran has indicated that he is no longer a member of the Council due to other commitments. The DHSSPS had been informed of non-attendance of some members.

2 Thanks

The Chairman read a letter from Mrs Cairns, the outgoing Chairman, expressing her gratitude to members and staff for the beautiful gifts presented to her on her retirement. She said it had been a pleasure to have served with everyone and wished them every success in the future.

The Chief Officer said she had invited Mrs Cairns and she agreed to attend a future meeting and join members for lunch.

3 Invitation to Asthma UK NI

An invitation has been extended to a representative of the Council to attend the World Asthma Day Reception in Malone House, Barnett Demesne, Belfast on Tuesday 6 May from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm. Mr Donaghey and Mrs Wright to consider.

162/5 SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST (10.30 am)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive, and Mrs Anne Balmer, Chairman, SHSCT to give the Council an update on developments within the Trust.

Mrs Balmer thanked the Council for the invitation and said it was good to meet the members. She said she valued the work of the Council and especially Mrs Cunningham's input at Trust Board meetings.

She said she understood the difficulties over the past year with the merger of the 4 legacy Trusts and Government targets. However, due to the hard work of everyone the Southern Trust has still been able to meet its targets.

In relation to plans for the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), she said the Government had set 10 primary targets for the 5 new Trusts, ranging from acute to secondary care – right across inpatient, outpatient, and day cases. Some of the targets include:

- Resettlement of disabled people who have been in institutions long term.
- Children and family care.
- Increasing the number of people fostering
- Residential care for young people

With the exception of Trauma and Orthopaedics the Southern Trust has achieved all its targets.

Mr Donaghy outlined the approach as an organisation in relation to CSR. He said the government had indicated that the economy was the major priority and there is a requirement within Health and Social Services to have 3% cash releasing efficiencies which amounts to 9% cash over the next 3 years. The Trust with a turnover of £400m will have to make a savings in the order of £36.5m over the next 3 years. The funds released through efficiencies will be reinvested in service developments for Health and Social Care over the next 3 years.

Year one of the Trust's business plan in terms of efficiency savings will include putting in place a scrutiny committee for staff vacancy control, as approximately 75% of the budget goes on employment of staff. The Trust will be looking at reducing 700 to 800 posts in achieving the CSR. However, the Trust wants to protect jobs whilst reducing the numbers and it is hoped that the reduction in posts can be achieved through the process of vacancy controls, voluntary early retirement, voluntary redundancies and redeployment.

The RPA savings target – by amalgamating the 4 Trusts into 1 has helped to achieve savings which will be reinvested into services. Regional projects will deliver savings of £3.3m for the Trust. In the acute services division £10.4m, Mental Health and Learning Disability £4.9m, Older People £8.2m and Children Services £3.9m.

Year 2 and 3 of the business plans will deliver the majority of savings and are still under consideration. The Trust is developing an implementation framework that will be formalised after Ministerial approval. The Trust will be involving the Council in the Stakeholder groups that will form part of the framework. Mr Donaghy said that the two groups that can contribute most to identifying service improvements are the people who deliver and the people who receive the services.

Mr Donaghy said The Trust is not able to indicate to the Government the full efficiency but will identify these as it moves along. The Trust's acute hospitals are the most efficient in Northern Ireland according to the latest reference costs statistics produced by DHSS&PS. The Trust has identified a number of workstreams including a specific work stream for RPA, workforce in medical and AHP, optimising the opportunities of National terms and conditions in terms of AfC, and consultant contract, and also capital development. Estate rationalisation will also be looked at over the 100 sites. Income generation from other Board areas, particularly maternity and obstetrics services will be looked at. Changes in Omagh, Mid Ulster and Lagan Valley will put greater pressure on Craigavon Area Hospital in terms of capacity and how the Trust will deal with it.

In relation to capitation funding, Mr Donaghy said the most recent correspondence from the DHSSPS indicated that over the next 3 years there would be a shift of resources from the EHSSB. As the Southern Board was the fastest growing area it would benefit by £5m this year, £12.5m next year and £5m the following year.

Mr Donaghy responded to members' questions in relation to

- the reduction in staff posts particularly in Daisy Hill Hospital;
- ensuring safety and patient care when nursing staff are off sick;
- capital development for SECs in Newry and Banbridge and where they fit in prioritisation;
- car parks and whether or not they are included in the budget;
- Charges for car parks and provision of car parking spaces;
- pressures on maternity at CAH especially with the closure of Lagan Valley Maternity Unit;
- training of midwifery staff;
- Car parking provision at DHH generally and outside A&E.
- Closure of MH wards at St Luke's Hospital;
- NHS Dentists

Mrs McMahon thanked Mr Donaghy and Mrs Balmer for sharing and updating the Council on its future plans. She congratulated them on their achievements in relation to Government targets and wished them well in the financial constraints.

Mrs Harris said that in trying to achieve effectiveness the quality had not been lost.

The Chairman thanked them for their time and the very informative discussion and they left the meeting.

Mrs Burrell and Ms Haughey left the meeting at 12.00 noon

162/6 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

- 1 The Chief Officer referred members to her monthly report on the following:

Trust Business:

- Concern has been expressed by the SHSSB regarding the number of unallocated childcare cases within the SHSCT.
- Performance against access targets remains good including against the AHP (OTs etc) targets where there is no one waiting over 26 weeks for an assessment. NIAS response times in the Southern Area remain below the national average.

Work Plan:

- Casualty Watch. This report is attached for noting. It will be circulated to the Trust after the meeting.
- Hospital Food survey. This project will involve inviting in-patients in the acute hospitals to complete a short questionnaire assisted by SHSSC staff/members. A questionnaire has been designed and initial contact with the Trust has been made. It is hoped to carry out the survey in early summer. It is envisaged that about 100 patients in CAH should be surveyed and around 50 in DHH. Members will be approached shortly to express interest in being involved.
- Bugwatch. A request has been sent to the Trust to carry out a further Bugwatch survey in the autumn.
- Information for Complainants. The HSSCs have developed an information leaflet for people we support through the complaints process. A copy is provided.

Casualty Watch Report. The report which has been completed and will be forwarded to the Southern Trust.

Both the Chief Officer's report and the Casualty Watch were taken as read.

Mrs McRoberts, Mr Henning and Mr Twyble left the meeting at 12.15 pm

162/7 REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (RPA)

In relation to the Review of Public Administration Mrs Cunningham said it was necessary for the Council to look again at the proposals for the Patient Client Council as set out

by the Minister and consider the alternative option proposed by the 4 Councils.

She reported that the 4 Council Forum in Ballygawley in February had considered the 2 options for the future of the HSS Councils. The event was attended by 52 delegates. 35 of them provided individual comments and there were 7 round table discussions. She outlined the pros and cons from the discussions and illustrated by diagram the two models proposed by the Minister and the alternative / preferred option drawn up by the 4 Chief Officers to reflect the views expressed at the February Forum.

She explained that Option 1 would be a single, independent, regional body with five groups/committees operating within the same geographical areas as the five HSC Trusts.

Option 2 would have 5 separately constituted independent local bodies operating within the same geographical areas as the 5 Trusts. These bodies would be required to work together on a collaborative basis.

The amendment proposed by the Councils would have 5 separately constituted local bodies operating in the same geographical area as the 5 Trusts. This adjustment would strengthen Option 1 in that each body would have a local board of 12 members including local government elected members. Two of the members would be nominated to the Board of non Executive Directors in the PCC. The groups would work with the PCC to agree research projects and other shared work. Members supported the alternative option.

Mrs Cunningham said it was hoped that a consensus would be reached at the next Forum, following which a response will be submitted to the DHSSPS.

Mrs Cunningham reminded members of the next Forum to be held on 1 May in Belfast Castle from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm. She asked for a good turn out of members.

162/8 FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

1 SHSSB Governance Task Group

Mrs McMahon said she was impressed with the progress being made in training. Eleven practices had undertaken the governance training and others were in the process. An annual report was being prepared and she said she was pleased to have been invited to proof read it.

2 Out of Hours Project

Mrs Wright reported that the Regional Out of Hours Project Group had concluded the benchmarking phase and was producing a report for the Minister. Mrs Cunningham reported that the Councils would withdraw from the Board until there was a opportunity to reflect a public interest perspective on the proposals.

162/9 PRESS RELEASE TOPIC

- 1 Car Parking at CAH & DHH
- 2 New Chairman
- 3 Waiting Lists

162/10 FOR INFORMATION

- 1 SHSSB – Minutes of Board Meeting held on 10 March 2008

162/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Casualty Watch

Mrs McMahon referred to the section of the Casualty Watch report that related to car parking at Daisy Hill Hospital and asked that the results be checked out. Mrs Ferris was concerned that appointments for Physiotherapy coincided with the new visiting arrangements in the afternoon and it was impossible to get parked.

Mr Murray said the development of the renal unit would mean more people attending the hospital. He said the success of the hospital had generated more people coming to it. He suggested that a letter be sent to the Estates department

regarding the inadequacy of car parking and in relation to the acquisition of land from the District Council.

Mr Donaghey reported that it was brought to his attention during the Casualty Watch about the ability of one of the porters to speak in 5 languages. He asked if it would not be worthwhile to pay him as a translator, as staff had indicated that when he is on duty there is less hassle and trouble.

2 League of Friends Voluntary Group

The Chairman said that when she visited Antrim Hospital, the League of Friends Voluntary organisation was present in the foyer of the hospital escorting people to whatever area they had to go. This allowed the porters to get on with their job. She said it was a great service for the people of the hospital. It makes you welcome and let's you know people care. This would be a very beneficial service in our local hospitals. It was agreed to find out more about how this service started.

162/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17 June 2008 at 10.00 am in Quaker Buildings

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman