

NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Northern Health and Social Services Council held at 1.30pm in Glen Recreation Centre, Armoy on Wednesday 5 November 2003.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr T Creighton

Members:

Mrs B Adger	Prof G Kernohan
Mrs M Anderson	Mr J Millar
Ms R Armstrong	Mrs J Montgomery
Mrs M Baker	Mr R Montgomery
Mrs M Beattie	Mrs R Morrison
Mr P Boyle	Mrs C McCambridge
Mrs J Drummond	Mr S Nicholl
Mrs D Hamill	Mr T Nicholl
Mrs I Johnston	Mr M Nolan
	Mr I Stevenson

In Attendance: Mr N Graham
Mrs J Erwin

99/03 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Professor McKenna, Mrs L Johnston, Mrs Bigger and Mr Hamilton.

100/03 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

Mr Creighton, Acting Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Recently appointed members and those yet to attend On Board training were informed that the next training event would be held on Tuesday 9 December 2003 from 1.30pm until 5.30pm in the White Gables Hotel, Hillsborough.

Mr Creighton referred to his attendance at a meeting of United Hospitals Trust Board which had been followed by a lunch for outgoing Chairman Dr McGuigan, and a meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Registration and Inspection Unit.

A number of events he had planned to attend had been cancelled due to the forthcoming Assembly elections.

101/03 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2003**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

102/03 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 8 OCTOBER 2003**

(i) 91/03 Feedback from Other Meetings

A draft pro-forma to be completed by members attending other meetings on behalf of the Council was approved.

(ii) 91/03 Chilled Meals Service

Several members would visit the food production unit at Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Belfast on Tuesday 18 November 2003 at 11.00am.

Mr S Nicholl, supported by Mr Montgomery and Mrs Baker, voiced concern about the impact the introduction of this service on the home help service and ultimately the elderly people. Mrs Drummond referred to her attendance at the September Trust Board meeting of Homefirst Community Trust when she had been given an assurance that the number of home help hours delivered would not be reduced as a result of the introduction of the new domiciliary meals service.

Mr Graham informed members that Rosemary Simpson, Director Social Care and Disability with Homefirst Community Trust had offered to update members and this was accepted.

Members noted that the tasting event planned by the Trust for the Magherafelt and Cookstown areas had been cancelled due to the forthcoming Assembly elections and would be rescheduled for early December.

(iii) 91/03 Induction Session for Newly Appointed Members

An induction session for newly appointed members would be held later in the month.

(iv) DHSSPS Consultation Paper on Community Midwifery Units

A joint Health and Social Services Council response supporting the development of Community Midwifery Units following piloting and highlighting the need for robust planning and inclusion of service users in the development of these units had been issued.

(v) 93/03 Planning for 24 hour Casualty Watch

Approval had been given by Causeway Trust to undertake a 24hr Casualty Watch from 9.00am on Friday 16 January 2004 until 9.00am on Saturday 17 January 2004 in Causeway Hospital.

A training session would be arranged in early January for participating members.

(vi) 95/03 Trust Annual General Meetings

Mrs McCambridge registered her annoyance about a press report quoting comments made in her absence at the October Council meeting and requested an apology from the member concerned. On both occasions the Chairman had pointed out that this was not a matter for the Council.

103/03 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Mr Creighton and Mr T Nicholl had been nominated for the office of Chairman and Mrs Adger and Mrs I Johnston for the office of Vice-Chairman. An election took place according to Standing Orders. Mr Creighton was duly elected Chairman and Mrs I Johnston Vice-Chairman.

104/03 **VISITING PROGRAMME**

November Visits

Arrangements were made for visits to Magherafelt Adult Centre and Armour Day Centre, Ballymoney.

Visiting Reports

Day Procedures Unit, Causeway Hospital

Mr Boyle informed members that although the report had not yet been shared with Causeway Trust he had been contacted by a member of staff about its content. In light of this Ms Armstrong suggested repeating the visit and scrapping the March visit report. Following discussion it was agreed that

every effort be made to have the written report finalised and forwarded to Causeway Trust as soon as possible.

George Sloan Centre, Ballymena

Overall the visiting team had been impressed by the quality of the service provided. It had been quite evident that the people who use the centre are very fond of the staff and have great respect for them.

Concerns were, however, expressed about the standard of the building. The Team felt that the Centre, which is located in the middle of an industrial estate, is no longer suited to the needs of the current and future service users and that there are some rather concerning health and safety issues which need to be addressed.

The full Council agreed with the Visiting Team's recommendation that Homefirst Community Trust be asked to immediately carry out a formal needs analysis and risk assessment to determine the most appropriate way forward.

Country Medical Practice, Armoy

Mr Nolan reported that this is a dispensing practice and that in addition to offering daily surgeries in Armoy, a morning surgery is provided in Dervock.

Although not a purpose built facility, the building has been developed into a spacious facility. The doors and corridors provide adequate access for people with a disability, however, further improvements are planned.

The Visiting Team welcomed the opportunity to hear details of the findings of a recent audit and to chat with a few of the patients.

The practice leaflet is due to be reprinted and will include details of the practice's complaints procedure.

Visiting Responses

Ross Thomson Unit, Causeway Hospital

Members were pleased to note that five additional staff nurses had recently been appointed which would alleviate some of the current concerns about nurse staff levels. A

general nurse staff review proceeding within Causeway Trust would also include the Ross Thomson Unit.

Dhu Varren House, Portrush

Causeway Trust confirmed that it was aware of the heating control issue and that the matter was being pursued.

Arrangements had also been made for someone from Estate Services to investigate the guttering on the property at the rear of the building.

105/03 **REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

This review is the first major re-examination for 30 years of how public services in Northern Ireland are organised and delivered. There are over 140 organisations within the public sector and the Review seeks to develop best arrangements for public administration consistent with the Agreement and restoration of the Assembly. The document examines a number of key issues in public administration, drawing on the substantial programme of work that has been undertaken by the review team over the past year. It also sets out, for consideration, a number of high-level alternative models of public administration. A series of questions are posed about the issues raised, as well as seeking views on the alternative high-level models of public administration.

Mr Graham outlined the various sections within the document and informed members that the deadline for responses had been extended to Friday 27 February 2004. A further opportunity would be taken to discuss the document in greater detail.

106/03 **REPORTS FROM:**

NHSSB Local Appraisal Group

Mrs Hamill explained that each GP now has an annual appraisal. This provides the GP with the opportunity to review their performance, to chart continuing progress and identify needs. The role of the Local Appraisal Group is to oversee the appraisal process. As a lay member on the Group, Mrs Hamill is aware of the common themes/concerns of the public and GPs and encouraged members to bring forward any specific issues they were aware of.

107/03 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman referred to the correspondence list circulated with the agenda.

Mr Graham referred to some additional items of correspondence:

- Letter from NHSSB re: GMS Contract Implementation. Mrs Montgomery offered to represent the Council on the Out of Hours Working Group and Mrs McCambridge on the Enhanced Services team.
- SHSSC Minutes of 16/09/03.
- Invitation from Professor Roy McClelland, Convenor, Adult Mental Health Working Committee re: Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability (NI) Adult Mental Health to a meeting to outline thinking to date in relation to adult mental health and to receive comments. This would be arranged on a joint Council basis and members advised of the date.
- Invitation from DHSSPS to a Workshop on 17 November 2003 re: Review of Acute Trauma Services.
- Invitation from NHSSB to a Workshop on 24 November 2003 re: Dementia in the Under 65s. Mrs Adger offered to attend.
- DHSSPS Consultation document on Tackling Violence at Home – Government Proposals on Domestic Violence in NI.
- NHSSB Annual Report 2002/2003.

108/03 **OTHER BUSINESS**

Visiting Reports

Mr T Nicholl suggested a review of how visiting reports are dealt with at the Council meeting. This was referred to the Administration Committee.

109/03 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 December 2003 in the Ross Park Hotel, Kells.

The meeting closed at 4.12pm.

Chairman

Secretary

Date