

NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Northern Health and Social Services Council held at 1.30pm in Moyle District Council Offices on Wednesday 2 November 2005.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr T Creighton

Members:

Mrs B Adger	Mrs J Montgomery
Mrs M Anderson	Mrs R Morrison
Ms R Armstrong	Mrs C McCambridge
Mrs D Hamill	Mrs N McClelland
Mrs I Johnston	Mr S McClelland
Mrs L Johnston	Mr T Nicholl
Prof G Kernohan	Mr I Stevenson
Mr J Millar	Mr A Wilson

In Attendance: Mr N Graham
Mrs J Erwin
Mr M Kennedy – Antrim/Ballymena Local Health and Social Care Group

85/05 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr Brown, Mr Douglas, Mr Kinahan, Mrs McEldowney, Mr Nolan and Mrs Swain.

86/05 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

On behalf of Moyle District Council, Mrs McCambridge welcomed members to Ballycastle.

The Chairman commented upon his attendance at the Northern Health and Social Services Board Meeting and thanked Professor Kernohan and Mrs Montgomery for deputising at United Hospitals and Homefirst Community Trust Board Meetings respectively and Mrs I Johnston for attending Causeway Trust Board Meeting. Each summarised the issues raised.

Members were reminded of the requirement to update their Register of Declared Interests pro-forma.

87/05 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2005**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

88/05 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 5 OCTOBER 2005**

75/05 Meeting with Professor Appleby

The Chief Officer confirmed that the Health and Social Services Councils had agreed to include the Appleby Report in discussions with the Health Minister and the Permanent Secretary.

77/05 Visiting

Members were invited to attend a meeting to discuss Causeway Trust's Estates Strategy on Thursday 1 December 2005 at 2.00pm in Trust Headquarters.

The Chief Officer confirmed that other Health and Social Services Councils had supported meeting with the Health and Personal Social Services Regulation and Improvement Authority (HPSSRIA), perhaps on an annual basis. Councils would be concerned if HPSSRIA became more active with setting standards to improve quality and less active on the regulation/policing side.

78/05 Bugwatch

The Chief Officer reported that a number of recommendations had been made at a feedback session in October, attended by members and staff who had participated in Bugwatch. These had been collated and added to reports produced for Antrim and Causeway Hospitals. Reports had subsequently been issued to United Hospitals and Causeway Trusts for comment and action and a meeting requested with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

80/05 General Medical Services Contract Update

A meeting to update members on the new General Medical Services Contract had been held with representatives of the Northern Health and Social Services Board's Family Practitioner Unit. During the meeting members learned that quite a number of practices were receiving payment for providing a minor injury service as part of the Local Enhanced Services. The Chief Officer has subsequently written to the Director of Primary Care to request a list of these practices and

to enquire how this is communicated to people on each practice list.

Members were informed that a number of practices had applied to reduce the size of their catchment area. The Family Practitioner Unit had contacted each practice to highlight the implications and agreed to keep the Council informed.

83/05 Withdrawal of Medication

Ms Armstrong had drawn attention to the withdrawal of certain medication from adults with a learning disability and had expressed concern about the impact upon behaviour. The Chief Officer had contacted the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and been advised that the drug Melleril (thioridazine), one of the first antipsychotic therapies for schizophrenia, had been withdrawn by the manufacturer due to its side effects.

89/05 TO CONSIDER BUSINESS OF COMMITTEE MEETING:

Administration Committee – 13 October 2005

Notes of the meeting had been issued. The report of the 24hr Casualty Watch within Mid-Ulster Hospital, Magherafelt on 20 and 21 May 2005 had been published on the Council's website. A copy had been sent to United Hospitals Trust for comment. Members commended the comprehensive response from the Trust and welcomed the action to be taken.

The Council's 2004/2005 Annual Review was now available on the Council's website. Content includes the Chairman's Message and sections on the new look information leaflet and poster, the joint Council conference, visits, contacts, member attendance and income and expenditure.

The Chief Officer had outlined the content of the Council's Risk Register which is reviewed on a regular basis.

90/05 PRESENTATION ON ANTRIM/BALLYMENA LOCAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE GROUP

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr Kennedy, Manager, Antrim/Ballymena Local Health and Social Care Group to the meeting. Local Health and Social Care Groups (LHSCGs) were established in July 2002 as Committees of the

Northern Health and Social Services Board. Although General Practitioners have not joined the Management Board some work informally with LHSCGs at an operational level. Ms Armstrong stressed the need for General Practitioners to be at the heart of the reform of primary care and to be more flexible in their surgery hours.

Mrs Morrison queried how Trust employees could sit on the Management Board and was advised that their salary would be reduced accordingly.

Mr McClelland asked about the independence of LHSCGs and their involvement in research. Mr Kennedy explained that Groups operated under the same rules as Boards and seek to introduce best practice.

LHSCGs provide a framework for primary care professionals to work closely with other statutory, voluntary and community organisations to improve health and well-being. They establish a mechanism to support input from local communities and primary care professionals to the planning and commissioning of services and create opportunities for primary care professionals to develop services locally and to improve the quality of care. Ms Armstrong voiced concern that too many elderly people were being sent to Accident and Emergency departments and called for agencies to think jointly of alternatives.

Mr Kennedy explained that the Antrim and Ballymena LHSCG is committed to working towards improving the health and social well-being of the people of its district by listening and responding to local people's needs, working in partnership within the community and striving towards the planning and securing of quality, equitable and accessible health and social care. Mrs Morrison queried how local need was identified and was advised that the Group built on existing networks such as Ballymena Community Forum and Antrim Action Group. Also as a result of a well attended workshop on older people services the mailing list is being revised and an advertisement will shortly be placed in local newspapers.

Mr Kennedy outlined a number of current initiatives involving investment in local primary care service provision. These included oral cancer care, general practitioner ear, nose and throat services, palliative care training and primary care mental health services. Mr Graham sought assurances that

where such services were provided the public was aware of them. Mr Kennedy said it would be the responsibility of the General Practitioners to promote this amongst practice populations.

The Minister's Priorities for Action called for LHSCGs to take a lead role in commissioning 20% of services. The Northern Health and Social Services Board LHSCGs commission approximately 24% of services for older people and have representatives on a Board-wide planning team. Mr Kennedy outlined the commissioning process and the various services commissioned for older people such as health promotion, rehabilitation, residential, nursing, hospital, dementia and stroke.

Mr Kennedy commented upon the Group's commitment to ensuring a sustained community involvement input that is mainstreamed into the commissioning role of the LHSCG. Already consultation has taken place with voluntary and community representatives through a workshop and the establishment of a reference group for older people.

In concluding Mr Kennedy referred to the future challenges including the uncertainty brought about by the Review of Public Administration, health and personal social services funding in light of Professor Appleby's report and equity. He pointed out, that while LHSCGs will change it has been proven that small initiatives can make a big difference to people's lives and that the two main lessons learnt from their existence are there must be local sensitivity and a primary care focus.

Mr Creighton thanked Mr Kennedy for his informative presentation.

91/05 **VISITING**

November Visits

Arrangements were made for visits to Lynwood Hostel and Inniscoole Day Centre, both in Newtownabbey.

Visit Report

In-Patient Services, Braid Valley Hospital, Ballymena

This report was deferred to the December meeting.

Dalriada Hospital, Ballycastle

Dalriada Hospital has 28 in-patient beds including a Multiple Sclerosis Unit and a General Ward.

Mr Millar reported that he and Mrs McClelland found the exterior of the building in need of painting and the car park in need of repair. Inside, however, was tastefully decorated. The need for more convenient parking for disabled people close to the main entrance remains an issue.

Staff were found to be highly motivated, with high levels of expertise in the assessment, planning and provision of care. Community involvement was commended. Two volunteers come in on a regular basis with others responding to requests for help on day trips, etc.

Overall the visiting team was impressed by the services provided within Dalriada Hospital. Issues highlighted would be raised with Causeway Trust both in writing and at the forthcoming meeting to discuss the Trust's Estates Strategy. Mrs McCambridge highlighted the amount of space around the hospital and suggested this could be utilised for additional carparking.

92/05 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Prior to declaring the positions vacant Mr Creighton paid tribute to Vice-Chairman, Mrs I Johnston and thanked members and staff for their support over the past two years.

Mr Creighton and Mr Nicholl had been nominated for the office of Chairman and Professor Kernohan and Mr Millar for the office of Vice-Chairman. Mrs I Johnston had also been nominated for the office of Vice-Chairman but had withdrawn.

Mrs McCambridge took the chair for the election of Chairman.

At the request of Mrs McClelland each candidate agreed to present a brief profile. The election took place according to Standing Orders and Mr Creighton was re-elected as Chairman. Mr Creighton took the chair and conducted the election of Vice-Chairman. Professor Kernohan was elected as Vice-Chairman.

93/05 **CARING FOR PEOPLE BEYOND TOMORROW A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Framework sets out a vision and policy framework that is designed to shape primary care policy and services over the next twenty years, in order to ensure these services best meet the needs of individuals, families and communities. The Framework was developed under a highly participative consultation process and draws on the views of a wide range of stakeholders across the Health and Personal Social Services, Family Practitioners, Primary Care Professionals, Community and Voluntary organisations and the general public.

94/05 **REPORTS ON:**

Rethink Conference on the Impact of Stigma and Discrimination Faced by People with Mental Illness

This was deferred to the December Council meeting.

Avian Influenza

Mr Millar updated members on Avian Influenza, also known as bird flu. A bird, imported from South America had died in quarantine in Britain, however, because the bird had been diagnosed while in isolation the disease was unlikely to spread. Wild birds migrating or the illegal trading of birds could cause the disease to spread. Tests on migratory birds in Northern Ireland for signs of avian bird flu are to begin soon. While bird flu spreads rapidly among birds, it does not infect humans easily and there is no confirmed evidence of human to human transmission. The fear is, however, that the virus will mutate into a human virus which could kill millions worldwide.

Mr Millar went on to outline the legal framework in terms of notification of cases and the duty placed upon Health and Social Services Boards' Directors of Public Health.

With bird flu increasingly dominating the media Mr Millar offered to take any concerns or comments from members back

to the next meeting of the NHSSB Avian Influenza Multi-Disciplinary Group.

Homefirst Community Trust Workshop on Review of Mental Health Services for Older People

This was deferred to the December Council meeting.

95/05 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Mr Graham drew attention to a letter from Professor Allen, Chair of the Review of Pathology Laboratory Services offering to meet with Councils. This would be arranged.

Additional items of correspondence included:

- Letter from Causeway Local Health and Social Care Group re: nomination to Reference Group on Older People. Mrs I Johnston and Mrs Morrison expressed an interest. The issue of local policy on recognising the value of lay member input was raised and this would be raised with the Group and the response brought forward to the December Council meeting.
- Response from United Hospitals Trust re: Mid-Ulster Hospital Casualty Watch. This was circulated to those who had participated.
- Invitation from Carers Northern Ireland to a Seminar 'From Consultation to Participation – Increasing the Role of Carers in Public Services' on Tuesday 29 November 2005 or Wednesday 30 November 2005. Mrs Hamill expressed an interest in attending.
- Letter from Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust re: Arioso Project
- Letter from Equality Commission for Northern Ireland re: Anti-Racist Workplace Week 7 – 13 November 2005
- Report from Northern Ireland Cancer Registry re: Cancer Services Audit 1996 and 2001 Colorectal

- Green Park Healthcare Trust Consultation on the Joint Policy on High Definition Silicone Cosmesis
- Northern Ireland Draft Priorities and Budget 2006 – 08
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Counter Fraud Strategy October 2005
- Altnagelvin Hospitals Trust Strategic Review of Rheumatology Services in Northern Ireland 2005

96/05 **OTHER BUSINESS**

Northern Health and Social Services Board Ambulance Services Liaison Group

Mr Millar gave a report of this meeting. Particular points highlighted included the provision of a regional control room from January 2006, insufficient funding for new vehicles, increased attacks on crews and increased ambulance usage. Mr Millar informed the meeting that the Group had sought Council support in campaigning for increased funding for the Ambulance Service. The Chief Officer would liaise with the Board's Director of Information, Risk and Performance Management.

Mrs McCambridge asked that details on staffing levels in the Ballycastle area be requested.

Casualty Watch 2006

Members agreed that arrangements be made to carry out a 24 hour Casualty Watch in Whiteabbey Hospital.

97/05 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 December 2005 in the Ballymena Borough Council area.

The meeting closed at 4.12pm.

Chairman

Secretary

Date