

NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Northern Health and Social Services Council held at 1.30pm in the Steeple Suite, Antrim Civic Centre on Wednesday 4 April 2007.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr Tom Creighton

Members:

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| Mrs Beth Adger | Mrs Janet Montgomery |
| Mrs Maureen Anderson | Mrs Noreen McClelland |
| Ms Rosemary Armstrong | Mrs Kate McEldowney |
| Mr Jim Brown | Mr Tommy Nicholl |
| Mrs Irene Johnston | Mr Mark Nolan |
| Mrs Liz Johnston | Mr Tony Quinn |
| Prof George Kernohan | Mr Ian Stevenson |
| Mr John Millar | Mr Andy Wilson |

In Attendance: Mr Noel Graham
Mrs Jacqui Erwin

41/07 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs McCambridge, Mr McClelland, Mrs Morrison and Mrs Swain.

42/07 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and referred to his attendance at a meeting of the Northern Health and Social Services Board and a Royal College of Nursing Seminar.

Mr Brown voiced dissatisfaction at the inadequacy of both the information gleaned and the feedback received during the Review of Public Administration Workshop held in Cookstown. Several other members joined him in condemnation of the apparent lack of cognisance given to Council members' views on the structure of the Patient and Client Council, the lack of clarity on how the community will have its voice heard and the proposed timescale.

Mr Graham explained that the proposed Board of the PCC would be concerned solely with the management of the PCC and was included in the primary legislation currently out for consultation and that further detail would be included in secondary legislation. He also reminded members that there would be a further opportunity to hear from Dr Stuart, Director of Special Projects, Department of

Health, Social Services and Public Safety at the joint Council event to be held on 23 May 2007.

A lengthy discussion ensued and at members' request the Chairman adjourned the meeting for 10 minutes to allow time to prepare a motion without notice. Mr Brown proposed that as NHSSC members were concerned with the lack of progress being made on the taking forward of the Patient and Client Council that a meeting be requested through the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister. This would be open to all NHSSC members and, if available, held in Antrim Civic Centre. The proposal was seconded by Mr Nicholl and agreed by members.

In the NHSSC's response to the consultation on a Draft Health and Personal Social Services (Reform) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 reference would be made to the concerns highlighted by members.

Mr Brown requested reports from both the Review of Public Administration Workshop and the Complaints in the HPSS Workshop. Commenting on the latter, Mr Millar said he was shocked about the proposal to remove the second stage of the complaints procedure and Mrs Liz Johnston referred to a number of complaints about services in the Coleraine area which had been drawn to her attention.

43/07 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2007**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

44/07 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 7 MARCH 2007**

31/07 Breast Screening Services

A meeting would take place with Dr Mairs, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, NHSSB, on Friday 27 April 2007 at 2.00pm in Houston's Mill, Broughshane to update members on breast screening services. Discussion would also take place on the prevalence of prostate and pancreatic cancers.

Issues raised by members would be collated and forwarded to Dr Mairs in advance of the meeting.

31/07 United Hospitals Trust Paper on Proposed Changes to Patient Services at Whiteabbey and Mid-Ulster Hospitals prior to the Implementation of Developing Better Services

Mr Quinn reported that at the meeting of the NHSSB Ambulance Services Liaison Committee NHSSC representatives had been given the opportunity to put their points across in relation to the impact of changes at Whiteabbey and Mid-Ulster Hospitals, resource levels, air ambulance provision and fleet. Any community initiative to put an air ambulance service in place would be supported. Information would be sought from Fermanagh District Council on the Feasibility Study undertaken by Peter Quinn Consultancy Services on the provision of an air ambulance service.

At the previous meeting Ms Armstrong had referred to the existence of BASICS teams in England and had suggested there may be a role for them in Northern Ireland. She provided further information which indicated that BASICS Northern Ireland had been operational as such since the beginning of 2006, its roots going back to the late 1970s, early 1980s and Dr Peter Munroe, a GP, who had provided immediate care in the area of his practice in South Antrim.

Before 2006 there was an informal BASICS response through a number of individual arrangements which had now been formalised with the formation of the Scheme and integrated into the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) system. Requests for a BASICS response come not only from NIAS but from the Fire Service and the Coastguard and are co-ordinated by ambulance control.

Information would be copied to members.

45/07 **CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT**

Restructuring within the HPSS

During a presentation Mr Graham displayed the new logo for Health and Social Care and provided details of the temporary base and appointments to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, operational since 1 April 2007. He also referred to the appointments to the Local Commissioning Groups and indicated that proposals were being developed for the Community Commissioning Association.

Expenditure

Expenditure to the end of February 2007 was £172,661.

Treatment Room Services

A discussion had taken place with Mrs Baird and Ms Cunning, Northern Health and Social Care Trust. Members present heard details of the problems associated with the provision of treatment room services and of the improvement plan which had been drawn up to ensure equity in practices throughout Homefirst Community Trust. However, the Northern Health and Social Care Trust had since been established and implementation of the plan had been postponed following an announcement by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety of additional funding which would be allocated to allow extra time to work with GPs towards longer term arrangements.

Several members voiced concern about the situation.

Accountability Review

Mr Graham and Mr Creighton would meet with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on Monday 16 April 2007 for the annual Accountability Review Meeting.

46/07 **VISITS**

Visit Reports

Broadway Workshops, Newtownabbey

This facility was visited by Mrs Montgomery and Mr Brown. Signage remained a problem from the main road and the carpark was littered in broken glass. The building itself was in poor condition and no longer fit for purpose, however, staff remain enthusiastic and motivated and clients enjoy attending the Workshops.

Ms Armstrong called for immediate action to be taken to replace the building. She asked the Chief Officer to enquire if the facility had been inspected by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority and requested that they be sent a copy of the report.

Ballee Adolescent Unit, Ballymena

This visit report would be considered at the May Council meeting.

47/07 **BUGWATCH SURVEY**

Availability of members to participate in the bugwatch exercise planned for Causeway and Antrim Hospitals was sought. Participating members would be invited to attend a briefing session.

48/07 **REPORTS FROM:**

Local Solutions for Local Problems – Seminar addressing Homelessness and Health and Well-being Issues – 8 March 2007

Research shows that homelessness or the threat of homelessness affects people and families in all walks of life and the factors which can lead to homelessness are wide-ranging and complex.

Mrs Anderson reported on her attendance at the Seminar the aim of which was to encourage the participation of key stakeholders across all relevant sectors in the development of a local action plan to address issues related to homelessness and health and well-being.

Roadshow re: Development of the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital on the Royal Hospital site in Belfast

No-one from the NHSSC had attended the roadshow, however, Ms Armstrong asked if the development was on target and within budget.

NHSSB Avian Influenza Multi-Disciplinary Group

Mr Millar briefly reported on a recent meeting of the Group. He referred to the ‘Winter Willow’ exercise and raised an issue about the cost of equipment and the provision of the most effective type of masks, FP3, to medical personnel only. A fuller report would be given at the May Council meeting.

Mrs Montgomery commented that the private sector was not provided with anything to manage a pandemic flu yet was expected to continue to provide private nursing and residential care.

49/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence list had been circulated with the agenda.

50/07 **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business had been tabled.

51/07 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 2 May 2007 in the Carrickfergus Borough Council area.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.



Chairman

Secretary

Date