

## **NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Northern Health and Social Services Council held at 1.30pm in the Bridge Association, Antrim on Wednesday 2 April 2008.

### **PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Mr Tom Creighton

<b><u>Members:</u></b>	Mrs Beth Adger	Mr Sam McClelland
	Ms Rosemary Armstrong	Mr Tommy Nicholl
	Mrs Irene Johnston	Mr Mark Nolan
	Mr John Millar	Mr Ian Stevenson
	Mrs Janet Montgomery	Mrs Kate Swain
	Mrs Rae Morrison	

**In Attendance:** Mr Noel Graham  
Mrs Jacqui Erwin

### 28/08 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs Anderson, Mr Brown, Mrs L Johnston, Professor Kernohan, Mr Kinahan, Mrs McClelland, Mrs McEldowney and Mr Quinn.

### 29/08 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

Mr Creighton thanked members and staff for their good wishes during his illness and introduced Ms Jacqui Barnes, Manager of The Bridge Association. Ms Barnes extended a warm welcome to members and explained that the Association is a voluntary charity set up by parents and interested professionals to provide vocational training and employment opportunity for adults with learning disabilities. An approved Training Centre, courses are offered in catering, horticulture, retail and information technology. Due to funding difficulties, however, the number of trainee places has decreased to 24. Her grateful thanks were extended to Mrs Adger and Mr Nicholl who, following a visit on behalf of the NHSSC, had been instrumental in securing the future of the Association.

Mr Creighton reported on his attendance at a meeting of the Modernisation and Improvement Programme Board and said he had welcomed comments made in support of the retention of Health and Social Services Councils and their need to be effective. To help improve effectiveness Mrs I Johnston suggested that training be provided for any member representing the Council at a Trust Board meeting.

Mr Nicholl thanked Mr Creighton for the opportunity to attend a recent meeting of the Northern Health and Social Services Board at which he had taken the opportunity to raise a number of issues on behalf of the Council. These included poor ambulance response rates for Category A calls within the Northern area and patient discharge from Antrim Hospital.

### **Presentation on the Proposals for Health and Social Care Reform**

Prior to the main business of the meeting the Chief Officer gave a presentation on the proposals for health and social care reform concentrating on patient, client and community representation. He referred to some general comments from the consultation document and to a diagram depicting the proposed structures for health and social care from 1 April 2009. He went on to outline the proposed function of a Patient Client Council and drew attention to some specific comments made about the body to replace Health and Social Services Councils. Members were then reminded of the current Health and Social Services Councils model before considering the two options outlined within the consultation document and a further alternative option.

Ms Armstrong queried whether the options represented value for money and called for a simple, streamlined service which avoided duplication. Mr Graham confirmed that the new structure had to represent value for money and reminded members that the new body would have to engage with the Department and the Regional Board as well as local communities and the provider Trust. Mr McClelland stressed the need for local representation and Mrs Adger felt greater use might be made of the media in promoting the role of the new body. Mr Nicholl stated that the proposed models would have to work with local government and the proposed 11 new Council areas.

Mr McClelland wondered if there would be a payment for membership of the new body while Mrs Adger feared that membership appointments could comprise mainly of retired health and social care personnel. In support of Mrs Adger Ms Armstrong proposed that the Council take a formal stance on this and take the matter up with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. During discussion members felt that there should be a moratorium period, possibly three years, before retired health/social care staff could be appointed to paid posts within the service particularly where the appointments were to reflect or represent community interests. The Chief Officer would liaise with the Commissioner for Public Appointments on the issue and Mr Creighton would also raise it at the next meeting of the Modernisation and Improvement Programme Board.

Feedback was circulated from the February joint Council event and members were asked to give further consideration to the structure options prior to the

next joint Council event to be held on Thursday 1 May 2008 when agreement would be sought on a four Council response.

30/08 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2008**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

31/08 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 5 MARCH 2008**

**17/08 Clostridium Difficile (C Diff)**

Mr Graham updated members on the outbreak of C Diff within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area following his attendance that morning at a meeting of the Trust's Infection Control and Environmental Hygiene Committee. Referring to the new cases of C Diff Mr Stevenson questioned whether the patients had contracted it in hospital or if it had been present prior to admission. Mr Creighton drew attention to the procedure in Germany whereby inpatients are admitted to an isolation ward and screened prior to admission to a general ward.

**17/08 Joint NHSSC/NHSSB Meeting – 8 February 2008**

The Chief Officer had written to the Board seeking clarification on the Board's position with regard to the Health and Care Centre for Larne and the services provided within Inver House. In particular details were sought of what consultations had taken place and what is planned with the Trust, Primary Care, locally elected representatives and the community and their representatives. The response would be shared with members in due course.

**25/08 Northern Health and Social Care Trust Patient Experience Steering Group**

Mr Graham had written to the Trust seeking an increase in the number of nominations to the Group. In a response the Trust had offered two places on the group. Mr Nicholl and Mr Millar would represent the Council with Mrs Adger acting as reserve. The Trust anticipated a number of working groups emanating from the Steering Group.

**25/08 Healthy Living Centres**

It had been noted that there were no Healthy Living Centres within the Northern area and Mr Graham had sought a position statement from the Board.

**Membership**

Mr Graham reported that a year's extension had been offered to those members whose term of office had been due to expire at the end of March 2008. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety had been advised that due to other commitments Mrs Hamill and Mrs McCambridge wished to terminate their membership.

**Orthopaedic ICATS Clinics Survey**

Mr Graham informed members that the planned survey to be co-ordinated by the Northern Health and Social Services Board to assist Trusts monitor the quality of services provided and help improve ICATS for other patients had been put on hold due to a data protection issue.

**Prison Services**

Members discussed the implications for Health and Social Services Councils, following the announcement that health care for prisoners would transfer to the health and social care sector from 1 April 2008. Further clarification would be sought.

**Visiting Report**

**The Arches Centre, Belfast**

In light of plans to develop Health and Care Centres in the Northern Trust area a number of members visited a similar centre in Belfast, The Arches Centre on the Holywood Road. The community treatment and care centre was one of the first buildings of its kind in the United Kingdom and brings together community health and social care services and information under one roof at a location at the heart of the community. The building is occupied by 7 GP practices all of which have signed up for a minimum 15 year tenancy. Trust services within the Centre include physiotherapy, podiatry, speech and language therapy, community dental services and community paediatric services. Approximately 400 staff have a base there although about 50% of these are outreach workers and they share working environments within designated service areas. The Clinical Zone has 10 consulting rooms which are booked on a

per session basis and are easily adaptable for use by different professions.

The Centre is also used to provide patient information and support. There is a Citizens Advice Office, a café, playroom for children, meeting rooms, interview rooms and a conference room.

Members also welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Chair of the User Group. The Group meets quarterly and is attended by the Chair of the GP Committee. The main issue is car parking spaces and illegal parking on double yellow lines at the front of the Centre.

There is no pharmacy within the Centre, however, one is located in a building opposite the main entrance and a further two close by.

The building is bright, open in the centre and well designed with patient waiting areas in balcony type areas overlooking the central area. After three years the Centre shows no sign of wear and tear and remains clean, tidy and fresh. It is well organised and signposting is good.

### **April Visit**

Arrangements were made for a visit to Barn Court Children's Home, Carrickfergus.

### 34/08 **JOINT NHSSC/NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST MEETING**

Members would meet Northern Health and Social Care Trust Board members on Tuesday 22 April 2008. Additional agenda items suggested included complaints from prisoners, cramped wards, updates on Ballymena Health and Care Centre and unallocated child care referrals and the maintenance and introduction of new services.

### 35/08 **REPORT:**

#### **Northern Health and Social Care Trust Nursing Conference on 7 March 2008**

Mr Stevenson attended the Conference, the aim of which was to launch Our Futures, Our Journey, the Trust's Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery 2008 – 2012. Guest speakers included Mr Bradley, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and Mrs Robinson, MP MLA, Chair of

the Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee. The challenges faced by the Trust were outlined by the Chief Executive, Ms Evans.

36/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence list had been circulated with the agenda.

Mr Millar and Mr Stevenson would attend the Arthritis Care Annual Conference to be held on Thursday 17 April 2008.

Additional items of correspondence included:

Invitation from Parents and Professionals Autism Northern Ireland to a Seminar to Report on a Training Strategy for ASD in Northern Ireland to be held on Thursday 17 April 2008. This was accepted by Ms Armstrong and Mrs Montgomery.

Information leaflet from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust re: a centralised referral and initial assessment service with the establishment of 3 Gateway teams for referrals to children's social work service.

37/08 **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Ambulance Station**

Agreement was given for Council representatives on the Northern Health and Social Services Board's Ambulance Service Liaison Group to visit Kilkeel Ambulance Station.

**Council Meeting Venues**

The majority of members agreed with Mrs Morrison's proposal that the Council meeting venue alternate between Houston's Mill, Broughshane and a District/Borough Council facility.

38/08 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Council Meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 May 2008 in the Larne Borough Council area.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.

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Chairman

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Secretary

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Date