

**THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW
(NORTHERN IRELAND)
TWENTY FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2004 AT LORNE, CRAIGAVAD**

Present:

Professor David Bamford (Chair)	Professor Roy McClelland
Mr Brendan Mullen	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Dr Pascal McKeown	Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mr Martin Daly	Master Brian Hall
Dr Fred Browne	Rev Trevor Williams
Mrs Marie Crossin	Mrs Martha McClelland
Mr Nevin Ringland	Mrs Maureen Ferris
Mr Colin Beck	Professor Alan Ferguson
Mr Brian Dornan	Mr Leslie Frew
Professor Geoff Shepherd	Mr Roy Keenan
Dr Diana Patterson	Mr Michael Kelly
Mrs Maureen McCartney	Miss Vikki Greenwood

Apologies:

Miss Joanne McDonald	Ms Moira Davren
Mr Patrick Convery	Mrs Marion Nicholas
Mr Mark Timoney	Mrs Siobhan Bagues
Mr Bill Halliday	Mr Winston McCartney
Dr John Owens	Det S/dent Andrew Bailey
Professor Scott Brown	Dr John Hunter
Dr Raman Kapur	
Dr Oliver Shanks	

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to the twenty first meeting of the Steering Committee. He noted the apologies received.

Chairman's Communications

2. He then informed members of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) stakeholder event being held on Friday 3 December 2004 in Cookstown.

Members were asked to attend and support the event. Following this, Eileen Sherrard will lead on producing an overarching report on ASD for the Steering Committee to consider how best to comprehensively cover ASD within the Review.

3. The Chairman reported that November had been a productive month for meetings, with all groups having met. He particularly thanked the Convenors for their input to the fairly lengthy draft letter to the Finance Minister, Mr Ian Pearson, on the draft 2005-08 Budget Proposals.
4. He advised that he had chaired the joint NIAMH/Review seminar in the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast on 12th November by Dr Daniel Fisher, USA on “Recovery is for Everyone”. Copies of papers from this will be issued to all members in due course.
5. A letter had been sent to Andrew Hamilton, DHSSPS, regarding the validation exercise on the future of Muckamore Abbey Hospital. He thanked members for their input to this.
6. He had visited Maghaberry Prison and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre prior to the Forensic Services Committee on 29th November and, with Professor Alan Ferguson, had visited the Mental Health Commission in Dublin. He thanked Dr John Owens for his help with this latter visit.
7. Members were reminded that Mr Brian Dornan had been appointed Chief Executive, Causeway Health and Social Services Trust. He had decided to remain on the Steering Committee but was relinquishing his role as Convenor of the Needs and Resources Committee from January 2005. Plans are being made to appoint a new Convenor to this important Committee.

8. In addition, Ms Eileen Sherrard had advised that she will remain on the Steering Committee, but when her report on ASD is completed she will be opting out of other Review commitments due to pressure of work. Professor Bamford will write to both of them, thanking them for their contribution to the work of the Review.
9. A full list of meetings and events attended by Professor Bamford is in paper **SC51/04**.
10. Finally he referred to paper **SC52/04**, Draft Standards and Best Practice for Counselling Services. Members were asked to endorse this to DHSSPS as a set of standards which could be used regionally. Members were happy in principle with the document, but Professor Bamford asked for any comments/observations to be emailed to him or the Support Team and he would consider the way ahead.

Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC45/04)

11. The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Workforce Issues (Paper SC46/04)

12. Professor Bamford advised that he had written to David Bingham following the meeting with the Review's representatives and the discussions at the last Steering Committee. The letter offered to discuss the Committee's views on how the redrafted report could be improved. David Bingham had replied, saying that he had asked that Joyce Cairns, DHSSPS, to meet him. To date, no meeting had been arranged.

13. Mrs Maureen Ferris advised that Mr Francis Rice, Nursing Group, DHSSPS had produced a workforce paper and she has asked him if it could be submitted to the Review for information. This was agreed.

(ii) Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

14. Eileen Sherrard informed members that a stakeholder consultation conference had been arranged for Friday 3 December at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown. Around 80 people were expected. The event would be work-shop based examining 4 main areas:
Needs of Children with ASD and learning difficulties;
Needs of Children with ASD without learning difficulties;
Needs of Adults with ASD and learning difficulties; and
Needs of Adults with ASD without learning difficulties.
15. She hoped to be able to bring the resulting paper to the next Steering Committee meeting. She advised members that there were national and regional papers available for information, if required.

Budget 2005-2008 (Paper SC47/04)

16. Professor Bamford advised that this letter to Finance Minister, Mr Ian Pearson, had been drafted in consultation with the Convenors and was tabled for members' comments. Some members had already commented. Members discussed the need to have everyone involved in keeping the funding issue in the public domain. Various ideas for this purpose, including using their contacts with users, carers, stakeholders and local politicians were discussed. It was agreed that the letter would go to local political parties. A press release would accompany it and the letter should be used at all groups and stakeholder events that involve local politicians, to draw attention to the issue.

17. Leslie Frew then gave a presentation on the current financial position on Learning Disability and Mental Health. A copy of this (paper **SC48/04**) is attached. In light of the draft budget proposal by the Finance Minister, Mr Frew advised that there was a 9% increase in DHSSPS funding this coming year, 2005-06, with a 7% increase for the next 2 years. Learning Disability and Mental Health services are included in these monies. However, existing commitments to service developments e.g. GP and Consultants contracts and 'Agenda for Change', must be funded within this increase. He pointed out that in Learning Disability funding, more money is being spent on community services, while Mental Health funding has seen an increase in hospital service spending.

18. Members raised issues on training and development of staff, and the need to improve the system for developing a workforce as it currently is not working effectively. Funding differences between Learning Disability and Mental Health were also highlighted. The figures were not in "real terms" and funds were being spent in the wrong way. The balance on inpatient spending should be changed with the need for transitional funding to close hospital beds. However, extra resources were needed for new developments: this was covered in the letter to Ian Pearson. It was crucial that Boards and Trusts spend the funds currently available to best effect and to target service development.

The Strategic Framework for Adult Mental Health Services (paper SC 49/04 etc.)

19. Professor McClelland introduced the final draft report of the Adult Mental Health Working Committee. He advised that there was still some tidying up to be done.

20. A statement by the User Reference Group was still to be included after the Introduction, and it will form a lead into Chapter 1 of the report.

21. There were now 8 Special Needs groups covered in the report, including women with perinatal problems. Members were thanked for their comments, and the consultation exercise had produced many constructive comments that had been taken into account. The recommendations had been reduced by about 50% and much of the background from Chapter 6 had been taken out and put into a new Annex. These were the most noticeable changes from the consultation version they had previously seen. In addition, it was decided that the Executive Summary would be a “stand-alone” document, including all the recommendations.
22. Discussion took place on issues such as advocacy, user and carer involvement, resource implications, implementation and staffing. Members were advised by Professor Bamford that the document was now close to being finalised and asked that those wishing to check that their points had been included in the Report would have a last opportunity in a week or so, when a final version would be circulated for prompt replies.

The “Thoughts Paper”

23. Nevin Ringland gave a presentation on behalf of the Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People Working Committee. He advised members that the group were working on its Report headings that they had established. A copy of the presentation (paper **SC 54/04**) is attached.
24. The presentation centred on the questions and issues to be covered in a consultation exercise being arranged (with a series of around 13 meetings throughout the 4 Health Boards) in early 2005. It was expected to last 8 or 9 weeks.

25. Members agreed that user and care involvement was essential: both Reference Groups would be involved during the consultation period. Members also suggested adding questions on:
- relationships between carers and family members;
 - ethical issues;
 - training for carers ;
 - workforce and staffing issues.
26. There was also discussion on what information was expected from the question on alcohol-related dementia. For example, was this a younger age group issue, or about progressive brain disorder? Nevin Ringland agreed to rephrase this question.

Reports from Working Committees

Legal Issues

27. Master Hall reported that he had sought feedback from the Users and Carers Reference Groups on their involvement in his Committee and its 4 sub groups. This had been raised at his last meeting. He had agreed with Marie Crossin to extend an invitation to representatives to attend the next Legal Issues Working Committee meeting. Convenors of the sub groups could then draw on those members, as necessary, for their group.
28. He also advised that the draft Capacity Bill in England proposed the setting up of an Office of Public Guardian. He would circulate a paper containing proposals on this for Northern Ireland for the Steering Committee as soon as possible.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

29. Diana Patterson stated that her Committee were busy drafting its report. She hoped to be able to make a presentation on this to the January meeting. The Mental Health Carers Reference Group etc would then see the revised report for comment, as part of the consultation process..
30. The research on alcohol misuse by people with a learning disability had been completed, but the report was not yet available.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

31. The Committee hoped to begin drafting shortly. A conference to examine the current issues resulting from interfaces between Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Forensic Services had been arranged for Thursday 9 December 2004 in the Stormont Hotel.

Forensic Services

32. Work was ongoing. Chapters for the report were being worked on.

Learning Disability

33. In Siobhan Bogue's absence, members were advised that a validation exercise on the future of long stay hospitals was taking place. A meeting with Andrew Hamilton, DHSSPS, on how their future is perceived had been requested.

Mental Health Promotion

34. Professor Ferguson advised that a first draft of his report had been completed and will be discussed at the December meeting of his Committee. He hoped to make a presentation to the January or February meeting of the Steering Committee on this draft.

Social Justice and Citizenship (Paper SC53/04)

35. Bill Halliday was unable to attend, but his paper **SC53/04** (a short progress report) was tabled for information.
36. The Promoting Social Inclusion Sub Group have prepared a 'first cut' of its paper. It was hoped to have a final draft by the end of January, and then to the Steering Committee shortly afterwards.
37. The Human Rights and Equality Group were reviewing their set of papers on the topics they have discussed, with a view to deciding on a structure for its report.

Dates of Next Meetings (Paper SC50/04)

38. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 25 January 2005 at 10.00am**. A venue was still to be arranged.
39. Paper **SC 50/04** proposed maintaining the "last Tuesday" format, until June 2005. This was agreed. Venues would be advised in due course.