

**THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW
(NORTHERN IRELAND)**

THIRTY SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 10.00am

D2 LECTURE THEATRE, CASTLE BUILDINGS

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland (Chairing)
Dr Diana Patterson
Rev Trevor Williams
Ms Moira Davren
Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mr Brendan Mullen
Professor Alan Ferguson
Mr Roy Keenan
Miss Vikki Greenwood

Dr Paschal McKeown
Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Mr Patrick Convery
Mr Colin Beck
Mr Brian Dornan
DI Gary Mullan
Mrs Maureen McCartney
Mr Michael Kelly

Apologies:

Professor David Bamford
Mrs Marie Crossin
Mrs Maureen Ferris
Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Dr John Owens
Dr David Cameron
Dr John Hunter
Miss Joanne McDonald
Mr Bill Halliday
Mr Nevin Ringland

Master Brian Hall
Dr Oliver Shanks
Mr Martin Daly
Dr Fred Browne
Mrs Martha McClelland
Mr Leslie Frew
Mr Mark Timoney
Professor Geoff Shepherd
Mr Glenn Houston
Mrs Marion Nicholas

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

- 1 Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the thirty second meeting of the Committee and noted the apologies received.

Chairman's Communication

- 2 Professor McClelland reminded members that paper **SC 72/05** had been issued for information. It detailed key forthcoming Review meetings and events in December and January. In this context, he reported on a very useful meeting with the Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS, Dr Andrew McCormick, on 26 October. He had since written back, thanking him for the meeting and inviting

him to a Steering Committee meeting in the New Year. Efforts were ongoing to arrange a meeting with the Minister, Shaun Woodward.

- 3 He also reported on a helpful meeting which he and Dr Browne had with the Head of the Prison Service, Sir Robin Masefield, and the Head of the Probation Service on 16 November. The discussion centred around the NIO's concerns on the needs of prisoners, especially those with personality disorder.. The meeting had been an open and productive exchange of views, as a result of which the Prison Service would be reviewing its representation on the Review, changing and/or augmenting this, as necessary.
- 4 Professor Ferguson advised from his experience of the work which led to the 1986 Order, that personality disorder was specifically excluded on human rights grounds, as it could not be defined as a mental illness, so those suffering could not be detained. Colin Beck added that the new mental health legislation in Scotland included personality disorder as a condition, but also referred to the principle of reciprocity. However, he noted that the issues were complex.
- 5 Professor McClelland thanked them for their comments and reminded members that Dr Maria McGinnity, Chair of Legal Issues Sub Group 1, was currently leading on the development of a Framework paper for future legislation. This set out a continuum of health and welfare situations, with proposals on how they should be managed, including safeguards and protections. While personality disorder was not specifically mentioned, it was implicitly included in the scenarios discussed.
- 6 Dr McGinnity would be making a presentation on this paper at the meeting on 10 January 2006, so members would have the opportunity to discuss the issues more fully.
- 7 Finally on this agenda item, Professor McClelland informed members of an EU Green Paper on mental health, which would be circulated. Unlike a Green Paper in the UK, such an EU document was more a trigger for specific actions by Member States rather than discussion proposals for legislation.

Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC 68/05)

- 8 The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(a) Communication and Influencing Strategy

- 9 Professor McClelland summarised the background on this, including the outcome of the Convenors' discussion of the issues at their meeting on 10 November. This had resulted in broad agreement on the revised proposals from Sam Simpson and specific agreement:

- on Convenors’ responsibilities for supporting the Chair and Deputy Chair in this work;
 - on the publication of a further Review newsletter in January 2006;
 - that GPs were an important extra group to target;
 - that the user and carer reference groups should be as involved as possible in the work;
 - that articles would be submitted to professional journals;
 - that the Review would make a presentation to political representatives;
 - that similar presentations would be made to the HPSS Forum, the Permanent Secretaries’ Group, and to the independent sector.
- 10 Mrs McCartney added that she had met with Sam Simpson on 23 November to relay this information to him. Work was, therefore, under way on this increasingly important area for the Review.
- 11 Members welcomed these developments and pointed out that the Shadow Chairs of the new Trusts could become an important group to target, as they would be appointed in the not too distant future. Members also agreed that letters requesting such meetings should come from the Chairman/Deputy Chairman.

(b) Workforce issues

- 12 A revised paper was still awaited from Joyce Cairns, DHSSPS. Professor McClelland will again contact her about its likely timescale.

(c) Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (Papers SC 69 & 70 /05)

- 13 Members were advised by Professor McClelland that he had met with Arlene Cassidy, PAPA, on 1 November 2005, the same date as her letter (**SC 70/05**) to Steering Committee members. This letter had been superseded by the Review’s evolving thinking on the issues, as he had explained to her, but he now needed to formally respond.
- 14 Paper **SC 69/05** was the current version of the ASD paper. It had been re-worked “presentationally” by Mrs McCartney. Members endorsed this re-draft and agreed that there was scope in finalising the recommendation in section 6 to encompass the 3 main programmes of care involved - adult mental health; children’s services; and learning disability - but with one person named as having overall co-ordination responsibility.
- 15 The Support Team would take these comments on board (and any relevant points from the discussion on organisational arrangements later in the meeting) in producing a revised draft for the next meeting.

DHSSPS Budget 2005 Letter (Paper SC 71/05)

- 16 Professor McClelland advised members that this letter from Don Hill, Deputy Secretary, DHSSPS was issued to the Boards, Trusts and non-departmental

public bodies on 27 October. It made no reference to implementing the Review.

- 17 The general feeling was that the letter was very disappointing. New monies for implementation were essential. Modernisation programmes were not coming from additional funds. It was also likely that the £25m earmarked for children was for early years services. The only possible source of new money over the next 2-3 years was from shifts in capitation funds. It was also thought important to take the whole issue “to a higher level” ie with the local politicians, who might then ask questions of the Department.
- 18 Members stressed the need to respond to the letter (as had been done in a similar way this time last year). Professor McClelland agreed to express these concerns to Mr Frew at the monthly progress meeting later that day and discuss further action.

Strategic Priorities Report Organisational Issues (Papers SC 67/05 & SC 74/05)

- 19 Professor McClelland advised that the current draft of this paper (SC 74/05) needed to be revised in light of the report of the Review of Public Administration (RPA) and in an effort to tighten up the key priorities for the first 2-3 years ahead. However, any revision could only be “pre-final” since some Committees were still considering their proposals. Nevertheless, the aim was to produce this “pre-final” version by the end of January.
- 20 As regards the RPA, members felt the new Trusts would be strongly “hospital-orientated” and that mental health and learning disability could fare badly in the new organisational structures. There was a fear that the new “Greater Belfast” Trust could be over-powerful.
- 21 From a commissioning point of view, it was important that those appointed with responsibility for mental health and learning disability were aware of the issues emerging from the Review. Co-terminosity on boundaries was also a concern: Professor Bamford and Professor McClelland had raised this with Mr Frawley in meetings with him.
22. It was agreed that Professor McClelland and the Support Team would re-draft the paper in light of these comments.

Reports from Working Committees

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

- 23 Dr Patterson advised that her report was being finalised prior to printing. A further meeting had been held with the Carers’ Group on Dual Diagnosis to answer any final points on this. The report will be issued early in 2006.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

- 24 Moira Davren said that her report was out for consultation until 23 December 2005. To date, the responses had been generally favourable although there are some local issues being raised eg in relation to North and West Belfast where the Troubles had severely impacted.
- 25 Interest in the document had been received from the Republic of Ireland and England, and members of the Committee had been asked to make presentations to a wide range of bodies and groups. Work was ongoing to develop versions for young people. It was hoped to meet in January to discuss responses, with a final presentation made to the February Steering Committee meeting.

Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People

- 26 A first draft of the report was presented and well received at a meeting the previous week. A further meeting will be held on 1 February 2006, with the draft report hopefully being presented to that month's Steering Committee.

Forensic Services

- 27 Work was ongoing on preparing a draft consultation report for one of the January Steering Committee meetings.

Legal Issues

- 28 The revised Framework paper was circulated to the 4 Legal Issues Sub Groups on 18 November for comments by Friday 2 December. The subsequent version will go to the "Dunadry" Group, others in and outside the Review, such as Professor Gunn and Hilary Patrick. Dr McGinnity will be making a presentation on the draft paper to the Working Committee Convenors on 8 December and at the next Steering Committee on 10 January 2006. There will hopefully be a draft report for the February Meeting

Needs and Resources

- 29 The Committee was currently working on the costings of the Child and Adolescent report.

Mental Health Promotion

- 30 The report had been issued for consultation, with comments by Friday 2 December 2005. A series of meetings were being held with a wide variety of people and groups. It was hoped to present a final report to the February meeting following the Committee's discussion of the consultation responses at a meeting on 16 January.

Social Justice and Citizenship

- 31 It was hoped to have the consultation reports from the 2 Sub Groups at 10 January meeting, with consultation beginning in February 2006.

Date of Next Meeting

- 32 The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 10 January 2006 at 10.00am** at a venue to be confirmed. Due to the pressure of business, a further meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 31 January 2006 at 10.00am in the Park Plaza Hotel.**
- 33 Finally, Professor McClelland wished everyone season's greetings.