

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

**TWENTY SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY
25 JANUARY 2005, AT FARSET INTERNATIONAL, BELFAST**

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland (Chairing)	Professor David Bamford
Dr Pascal McKeown	Miss Joanne McDonald
Mr Martin Daly	Mr Bill Halliday
Dr Fred Browne	Dr John Owens
Mrs Marie Crossin	Dr Oliver Shanks
Professor Geoff Shepherd	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Dr Diana Patterson	Mrs Martha McClelland
Mrs Maureen McCartney	Professor Alan Ferguson
Mr Michael Kelly	Mr Roy Keenan
Master Brian Hall	Miss Vikki Greenwood

Apologies:

Mr Brendan Mullen	Mr Nevin Ringland
Mr Colin Beck	Mr Brian Dornan
Mrs Maureen Ferris	Rev Trevor Williams
Mr Patrick Convery	Mr Leslie Frew
Dr Raman Kapur	Mr Mark Timoney
Mrs Marion Nicholas	Ms Moira Davren
Mr Winston McCartney	Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Ms Eileen Sherrard	Dr John Hunter

In Attendance:

Dr Calum McCaul, Registrar working with Dr Browne.

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the twenty second meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received.

Chairman's Communications

2. Professor Bamford informed members that the consultation on the draft Equal Lives report had ended, with over 60 responses received. The Learning Disability Working Committee had met the previous week to consider these and some other issues.

3. He then informed members that he had written back to Ian Pearson, Finance Minister, in December regarding funding to implement the Review's recommendations, and seeking a meeting. Paper **SC 6/05** was the Minister's response. He advised that he had also undertaken some media publicity to raise the profile of the issue ie on Radio Ulster, with the Irish News and the Belfast Newsletter. Members agreed that a further letter should be sent to Ian Pearson, endorsed by the Steering Committee, with a copy sent to Miss Angela Smith, Health Minister. This would again request a meeting.
4. Some members advised that there was a general air of disquiet across Boards and Trusts and in the voluntary section on the Budget position for 2005-2008.
5. For information, members were given a copy of an article by Clive Gowdy, Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS, in the Belfast Telegraph on 13 January 2005 on the need for further funding etc for the health service. Professor Bamford had written congratulating him on it.
6. Mr Leslie Frew had written to Trust Chief Executives, (he had previously written to their Board equivalents) stressing the need for them to re-examine any proposals for new mental health facilities to take account of the themes emerging for the Review. His letter was tabled. Learning Disability had been omitted from the letter due to a separate validation exercise in relation to hospitals. Professor Bamford had offered to make a presentation to this group, but as yet had not received a response.
7. A meeting with the Health Minister, Angela Smith, took place on 18 January 2005. A delegation from the Review, comprising Professors Bamford and McConkey, plus Orla Cassidy and Maureen McCartney attended. They raised several points, eg. general progress, resources, engaging with other Departments to create inter-Departmental structures for implementing the Equal Lives report, workforce implications and new legislation, in what was a very good meeting. The Minister was interested and complimentary and was invited to attend a Steering Committee meeting. She agreed to do this and had been sent the schedule of meetings up to June.
8. A new Convenor for the Needs and Resources Committee was required. Mr Glenn Houston, recently-appointed Chief Executive of Craigavon and Banbridge Trust, who is currently a member of the Committee, was proposed and accepted.
9. Professor Bamford reported that he had attended a very good seminar on 9 December 2004 in the Stormont Hotel. It was a joint meeting between the Child and Adolescent Mental Health and the Forensic Services Committees.
10. A full list of the Chairman's programme and forthcoming events was in paper **SC 5/05**.

Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC 1/05)

11. The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Workforce Issues (Paper SC 7/05)

12. Members discussed the way forward on this exercise. A useful meeting had been held with Joyce Cairns (DHSSPS) on 19 January, after which Professor Bamford had written to all the Convenors (as in **SC 7/05**). This letter sought broad-brush qualitative and quantitative workforce data on the requirements of their respective Committees, to submit to DHSSPS.
13. Members were particularly concerned at the issue of potential overlap among the material which would be submitted. This would be looked at further at the Convenors' next meeting and when contributions were received.

(ii) Autistic Spectrum Disorders

14. Members were advised that Eileen Sherrard's draft report was at an advanced stage. It had been issued to colleagues on her group for comment. It was hoped to have a presentation on this at the February meeting. A decision will have to be made by the Committee as to how best to deal with ASD.

Mental Health Carers' Reference Group Presentation

15. As one of the presenters could not attend, the presentation was postponed until the February meeting.

Draft Report of Alcohol and Substance Misuse Committee (Papers SC 2 & 3/05)

16. Dr Patterson introduced the draft report of her Alcohol and Substance Misuse Working Committee (**SC 2/05**) with a short presentation (**SC 3/05**).
17. She began by paying tribute to the members of her committee, introducing Carol Weir and Briega Quinn who would make their own presentations on aspects of the document.
18. Dr Patterson mentioned the areas that they had covered, such as Families, Pregnancy, Homelessness, People with a Learning Disability, Adult Services, Criminal Justice and Smoking. Responses from members would be welcomed as soon as possible, as drafting work was continuing.
19. Dr Carol Weir, Director, Northern Ireland Community Addiction Service (NICAS) then made her presentation. She covered the contribution made by voluntary and community organisations in areas such as advocacy and citizen

participation, their ability to be flexible and cost effective and the provision of different specialised services in a flexible and innovative manner.

20. Mrs Briega Quinn spoke on the Harm Reduction Services for Infecting Drugs Users (Chapter 9). The main characteristics of harm reduction include Pragmatism, Humanistic Values, Focus on Harms, Balancing Costs and Benefits.
21. She covered the current service provision in Northern Ireland, mentioning Needle Exchange, Drug Assesst Referral Schemes and the Substitute Prescribing Scheme.
22. In discussion on the draft report, the following main points were made:
 - there was a need (for the introduction to the report) to cover the particular circumstances in N Ireland (eg paramilitary involvement in drugs etc); and make some comparison with other jurisdictions;
 - the need to discuss the effectiveness of residential care in the treatment of alcohol-related problems;
 - the effectiveness of counselling approaches as regards specific drug/alcohol misuse problems;
 - the possibility of including a tabular summary at the end of the report on alcohol and non-alcohol problems and how they can be treated;
 - the need for an holistic approach to the needs of people with both alcohol-related and mental health problems, so that they did not “fall between 2 stools”.

Reports from Other Working Committees

Adult Mental Health (Papers SC 4 and SC/05)

23. Professor McClelland advised that there were 2 further contributions to the Strategic Framework document for members’ approval. The first was a User statement; the second a Carer statement.
24. Some members expressed concern at the lateness of these additions to the document. They thought that users and carers had been involved throughout the Committee’s work. Professor McClelland stated that this had, in fact, been the situation and that they had made a significant contribution to and influence on the final version of the report. These documents were their formal responses to the report.
25. There was also some concern that the user (henceforward to be called the “Experts by Experience”) statement went beyond the content of the Strategic

Framework report, covering issues which were not discussed in that document. It was agreed, therefore, that their statement could be given a preface which pointed this out and would, therefore, become a response from that group to the whole Review. Martha McClelland agreed to provide this preface and the statement would then be included in the Strategic Framework report. The Carer statement was accepted, as drafted.

Legal Issues

26. Master Hall reported that a seminar for some members of his Committee, its sub groups, and Convenors or their nominees, to debate whether the Review would be recommending 1 or 2 pieces of future legislation on mental health and learning disability had been arranged for Friday 25 February 2005. It would be held at the Dunadry Inn, facilitated by Professor Michael Gunn, Nottingham University. Meetings of the Legal Issues sub groups were ongoing.

Learning Disability

27. In Siobhan Bogues' absence, Dr Oliver Shanks reiterated Professor Bamford's earlier comments about the Equal Lives report and advised that the responses received had come from a wide range of sources.

Social Justice and Citizenship (Paper SC 9/05)

28. Bill Halliday tabled a short progress report on the work of the two sub groups within his Committee. Both were formulating the structure for their reports, with drafting under way.

Mental Health Promotion

29. Professor Alan Ferguson advised that work was ongoing on his draft report. He anticipated making a presentation to the March meeting.

Date of next meeting

30. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 22 February 2005, in the Grosvenor Hall Conference Centre, Glengall Street, Belfast at 10.00am.**