

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

**TWENTY THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING,
TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2005, AT 10.00AM IN
GROSVENOR HALL CONFERENCE CENTRE, BELFAST**

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland (Chairing)	Mr Bill Halliday
Dr Paschal McKeown	Dr Oliver Shanks
Dr Diana Patterson	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Master Brian Hall	Rev Trevor Williams
Mrs Maureen Ferris	Mr Leslie Frew
Mr Patrick Convery	Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Ms Eileen Sherrard	Mr Roy Keenan
Mr Michael Kelly	Miss Vikki Greenwood

Apologies:

Professor David Bamford	Miss Joanne McDonald
Dr Fred Browne	Dr John Owens
Mrs Marie Crossin	Mrs Martha McClelland
Professor Geoff Shepherd	Professor Alan Ferguson
Mr Brendan Mullen	Mr Nevin Ringland
Mr Colin Beck	Ms Moira Davren
Mrs Marion Nicholas	Mr Mark Timoney
Mr Winston McCartney	Dr John Hunter
Mr Brian Dornan	Mrs Maureen McCartney
Mr Glenn Houston	

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the twenty third meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received and advised of some recent developments.
2. Professor Bamford was unavailable for a week or so to attend meetings.
3. Andrew Bailey had moved to work in England and will be replaced on the Committee by Detective Chief Inspector David Wallace, who will also be involved with Fred Browne's Forensic Services Committee and Legal Issues Sub Group 4. He hoped to attend the March meeting.

4. Marie Crossin had recently been ill, so the Mental Health Carers' Group presentation was postponed to the March or April meeting.
5. Professor Scott Brown had resigned from the Committee, due to work pressures. It was agreed that the Royal College of General Practitioners would be approached for a replacement representative.

Chairman's Communications

Correspondence with Ian Pearson (Paper SC 13/05)

6. Professor McClelland drew members' attention to this paper and advised that no response had yet been received. Mr Leslie Frew reminded members that Angela Smith, Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, met regularly with Review members. He did not know if Ian Pearson would agree to a meeting. Important points had been made in the letter and it is crucial that they were not lost.

Chairman's Engagements (Paper SC 12/05)

7. In view of Professor Bamford's absence, this paper reporting his meetings in February and forthcoming Review events in March was noted for information.
8. A copy of Dr Daniel Fisher's presentations from the NIAMH conference in November (Papers **SC 14 and 15/05**) had been circulated to members for information, as agreed at the November 2004 meeting.

Note of the Last Meeting (PAPER SC 10/05)

9. The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Workforce Issues

10. Professor McClelland informed members that Joyce Cairns was re-visiting the draft paper that had been produced. The Review had agreed to provide some qualitative and quantitative data for this work, which Convenors had discussed at their meeting on 10 February. They had agreed to work towards a composite Review response, focussing initially on requirements over the first 5 year period. They will be reviewing progress with this at their March meeting.

(ii) Validation Exercise

11. Leslie Frew advised that this exercise was ongoing, with no conclusions made. The issue was not just about hospitals, there were safety and practical

implications and everyone needed to be involved. Discussion took place on whether the letter sent to Boards/Trusts should be replicated in respect of learning disabilities. Mr Frew advised that the business cases being received from Trusts on the mental health side were not adequately reflecting what is coming out of the Review. Boards, as Commissioners of Services, are not taking this into account. Members felt that a financial roadmap covering manpower, finance and modernisation plans over a 10 year period should be produced. Leslie Frew advised that he would take members' comments on board and hoped that the review would have an opportunity to make representation on the validation exercise around a month.

The Equal Lives Group

12. Professor McClelland welcomed some members of the Equal Lives Group and invited them to make their presentation. They said they aimed to question their role in the Review and ask the Steering Committee to decide what it should be in the future. They wished to remain involved in the implementation work. The group had been meeting for about 2 years. Its members came from all parts of Northern Ireland. They had attended meetings with other agencies as well.
13. In discussion, concern was expressed on the attitudes of some people who deal with people with a learning disability. It was felt that more training of staff and a change of attitude was required. Other items raised included peer advocacy, facilitating group meetings, equality and human rights, dealing with advocacy, and information being available in an accessible format.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (Paper SC 11/05)

14. Professor McClelland informed members that this paper largely reflected the comments at the stakeholder workshop in December 2004, and asked Eileen Sherrard to introduce it.
15. Eileen Sherrard explained that only the final section didn't come from the workshop, which around 90 people had attended from both the statutory and voluntary sectors. She expressed disappointment, however, that there was a lack of representation from senior people in education, probation services, prison service and the police.
16. ASD featured in the adult mental health report, but it also impinged on other Committees' work, such as learning disability and child and adolescent services, which need to be developed. She was writing a paper for the Forensic Services Committee. There was a lot of current political lobbying on autism.
17. Discussion on the document resulted in some suggested changes to the Recommendation Sections, ie:

Section 1, 1st point: the use of the word “Trust” to be changed to “provider group” (it is anticipated this will be for a population of 250,000);

2nd point: “These” could now read “providers of services”;

Section 6, point 1: it was felt that “organisational” should be inserted between “overall’ and “responsibility”.

18. Members approved the recommendation for one person to have overall co-ordination responsibility in a Trust for ASD services, irrespective of the programme of care in which he/she worked. There was strong approval for maintaining ASD within its existing programme of care (mental health). But it was recognised that some flexibility was needed around 18 year olds with differing needs, giving recognition to their views at this transition stage. Developing outcomes was the key. It was up to Boards to deliver these, with the DHSSPS defining them and making Boards accountable for their delivery.
19. Two options were discussed on the way ahead with the document: issue it as a stand-alone, separate Review report (some work would be needed to get it to that stage); or for each Working Committee to build in its recommendations to their own reports. Members preferred the latter. As a result, Convenors were asked to take whatever actions were necessary to incorporate the recommendations into their documents.
20. In addition, Eileen Sherrard would incorporate the comments from the meeting into a final version of the report, which could then be given the Committee’s endorsement.

Reports from Other Working Committees

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

21. Diana Patterson thanked everyone for their feedback on her draft report. She was working on these revisions. She hoped to go to consultation after re-submitting the report to the Steering Committee in March.

Mental Health Promotion

22. In Alan Ferguson's absence, it was reported that a presentation on his draft report is anticipated at the March meeting.

Social Justice and Citizenship (Paper SC 16/05)

23. Bill Halliday referred to this paper, which was a revised draft template for the Human Rights and Equality Group's report. They hoped to submit that report to the June meeting.
24. Leslie Frew advised that he was engaged in bi-lateral meetings with colleagues in other Departments regarding his Promoting Social Inclusion report. The group are hoping to develop a template from these on future policy. He reminded members that social inclusion objectives will affect the other working committees' work.

Legal Issues

25. Master Hall reminded members of the Conference on Friday 25 February in the Dunadry Hotel to discuss the issue of "one Bill or two". The draft Mental Capacity Bill was currently with the House of Lords. It may become an Act by April 2005. The legal issues sub-groups continued to meet and work was ongoing on their reports.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

26. The Committee hope to be able to make a presentation on its draft report at the April meeting.

Learning Disability

27. Siobhan Bagues reported that the Committee were meeting over 28th February and 1st March as a drafting group to finalise their report. Over 70 responses had now been received. This final report would hopefully be submitted to the March Steering Committee meeting.

Adult Mental Health

28. Professor McClelland advised that he would look at his report again in light of the agreed way ahead on the ASD paper. Unfortunately to do this, it would have to be retrieved from the printers.

Forensic Services

29. In Fred Browne's absence it was reported that his group had met the previous week and work was ongoing.

Any Other Business

30. Members agreed that the Review would meet Eileen Sherrard's expenses in connection with a visit to Liverpool to view their services on ASD.

Date of Next Meeting

31. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 22 March 2005, at Royal Belfast Golf Club, Craigavad at 10.00 am.**