

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

**TWENTY-FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING,
TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2005, AT 10.00AM IN
ROYAL BELFAST GOLF CLUB, CRAIGAVAD**

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland (Chairing)	Dr Oliver Shanks
Dr Paschal McKeown	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Master Brian Hall	Mrs Marie Crossin
Mr Brendan Mullen	Mrs Martha McClelland
Professor Alan Ferguson	Dr Diana Patterson
Mr Mark Timoney	Mr Nevin Ringland
Mrs Maureen McCartney	Mr Michael Kelly
Miss Vikki Greenwood	

Apologies:

Professor David Bamford	Mr Bill Halliday
Mrs Maureen Ferris	Rev Trevor Williams
Mr Patrick Convery	Mr Leslie Frew
Mrs Siobhan Bogues	Miss Joanne McDonald
Dr Fred Browne	Dr John Owens
Professor Geoff Shepherd	Mr Colin Beck
Ms Moira Davren	Mrs Marion Nicholas
Mr Winston McCartney	Dr John Hunter
Mr Brian Dornan	Mr Glenn Houston
Mr Martin Daly	DCI David Wallace
Ms Eileen Sherrard	Mr Roy Keenan

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the twenty fourth meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received and advised of some recent developments.
2. Professor Bamford is suffering from impaired vision in his left eye. He is still heavily involved in, and is being kept informed of, the work of the Review. It is anticipated he may be off work for about 6-8 weeks. Members asked Professor McClelland to convey their best wishes to Professor Bamford for a speedy recovery.

3. Members were advised that a reply is still awaited from the Royal College of General Practitioners on a nominee to replace Professor Scott Brown as the GP representative on the committee.
4. Discussion took place about a recent letter from Dr Raman Kapur about his inability to attend review meetings. Members agreed to invite an alternative representative, David Cameron, as suggested by Dr Kapur, to join the Committee.

Chairman's Communications

5. Professor McClelland drew members' attention to the response from Ian Pearson (SC 21/05) in which he had advised "there would be no real advantage to you in meeting with me directly". Members were informed that Professor Bamford is trying to arrange a meeting with Clive Gowdy, Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS. In his absence, Professor McClelland will deputise. It was agreed that the possibility of a further meeting with all the Departmental Permanent Secretaries would be raised at the meeting with Clive Gowdy.
6. The Learning Disability Committee have met to finalise the Equal Lives report. It is hoped to have the paper ready for presentation to the May Steering Committee meeting.
7. A workshop on Forensic Issues associated with Personality Disorder was held on Wednesday, 2nd March in the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast. Dr Fred Browne is looking at the list of points raised during the workshop.
8. A seminar, facilitated by Professor Michael Gunn, Nottingham Trent University, and chaired by Professor McClelland, was held on Friday 25th February at the Dunadry Hotel, Templepatrick, to consider the need for both incapacity and mental health legislation. Professor McClelland advised that there was a very good spread of representation at the event. Professor Gunn has agreed to draft a paper based on issues raised on the day. Those who attended will act as a reference group to quality-assure a resulting position

paper from the review. Members were asked to address any concerns to Dr Maria McGinnity or Master Brian Hall.

Chairman's Engagements (Paper SC 20/05)

9. In view of Professor Bamford's absence, this paper reporting his meetings in March and forthcoming Review events in April was noted for information.

Lessons learned from the Consultation on the Equal Lives Report (Paper SC 22/05)

10. A copy of this paper was tabled for discussion. Points noted were that some groups had not heard about the earlier stages of the consultation process. Discussion on ways to publicise the review took place. Professor McClelland said that he had been involved recently with the local media and suggested that members should take every opportunity to highlight the review when meeting people, professional colleagues and politicians etc.
11. Members were also asked to note that users and carers were having difficulties in understanding and commenting on material/papers presented to the Steering Committee. Convenors should take this on board as they prepare their papers for consultation.

Note of the last meeting (Paper SC 17/05)

12. The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Workforce Issues

13. The Convenors have been working to provide Joyce Cairns with qualitative and quantitative data.

(ii) Validation Exercise

14. This exercise is ongoing and a letter is expected shortly from Leslie Frew.

(iii) Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Paper SC 18/05)

15. Professor McClelland advised that this paper was the final draft of Eileen Sherrard's paper and was tabled for members' endorsement. A further paper, listing updated recommendations in the Adult Mental Health Strategic Framework document, was tabled. Changes were made to recommendations as follows, rec 125: 'Fencing' should read 'Functioning' and the word "all" inserted before "people". Rec 128: second sentence should read "support and resources must...".
16. Marie Crossin asked that the Carers Reference Group have the opportunity to look at these papers and this was agreed.

Presentation by Mike Parsonage, Sainsbury Centre

17. Professor Alan Ferguson introduced Mike Parsonage from the Sainsbury Centre, England who gave a presentation on "Counting the Cost", the economic and social cost of mental illness in Northern Ireland. Mike Parsonage explained that costs fell into 3 areas, (i) health and social care, (ii) output losses and (iii) human costs. The cost of mental illness equalled £2852 million in Northern Ireland in 2002/03 of which 60% can be attributed to human costs. He went on to explain that the cost of mental illness per head in Northern Ireland is greater than in England. It is estimated that to match the English share, spending on mental health in Northern Ireland needs to increase by 26% or £60 million. As a % of the total health burden, it is bigger than cardiac services, cancer and the combined tobacco and alcohol problems.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse Consultation Report (Paper SC 19/05)

18. Dr Diana Patterson introduced the 3rd draft of the Consultation report. She thanked those who had given feedback. There is still more work to be done and she hopes to be ready to consult before the summer.
19. Marie Crossin asked that the Carers Reference Group be given time to look at this draft and they would invite Dr Patterson or a member of her committee to attend their next meeting.
20. Martha McClelland advised that the Experts by Experience are meeting on 15th April 2005 and they will also invite Dr Patterson to attend.
21. Mark Timoney advised that he wished to see some minor re-drafting in relation to pharmacy and he will write to Dr Patterson.
22. Costings are not yet available in comparing in-patient versus community provision. The Needs and Resources Committee may be able to come up with a model.

Mental Health Promotion

23. A presentation of a draft report is anticipated at the April meeting.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

24. A presentation of a draft report is anticipated at the April meeting.
25. Work is ongoing and a meeting has been arranged for next month to look at draft reports.

Forensic Services

26. The next meeting is being held next month with the possibility of a presentation to the June meeting.

Learning Disability

27. A presentation of the final report is anticipated at the May meeting.

Legal Issues

28. Master Hall reminded members that the draft Mental Capacity Bill is still before Parliament and we will know by 8 April if it will become an Act.
29. Following the conference on Friday 25 February in the Dunadry Hotel, a report is expected from Professor Gunn by the end of the month.
30. He reminded members that his committee expects the other working committees to identify what legislative measures they will wish to recommend in a clear and concise way. This is something that convenors will need to look at.

Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People

31. Nevin Ringland advised that work is ongoing and a series of public consultation meetings have been held. It is anticipated that a presentation will be made at the June meeting.

Adult Mental Health

32. Professor McClelland will ask the support team to send paper SC18/05 plus the recommendations to the Carers Group and await their feedback.

Needs and Resources

33. This committee is dealing mainly with young people at present and Dr Patterson confirmed she would need to liaise with the Committee.

Date of next meeting

34. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th April at the Park Plaza Hotel, Belfast International Airport (formerly the Fitzwilliam) at 10.00 am.

Any other Business

36. Dr Pascal McKeown advised that OFMDFM have conducted a consultation on developing a single Equality Bill for Northern Ireland and that this will have an impact on all disabilities.
37. Professor McClelland tabled two sets of papers, Mental Health Action Plan for Europe and Council of Europe Rights Charter for people with mental health problems. These will be issued to all members.