

**THE BAMFORD REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING
DISABILITY (NORTHERN IRELAND)
37th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 25 APRIL AT THE
DUNADRY HOTEL, DUNADRY AT 10.00 AM**

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland
Master Brian Hall
Dr Oliver Shanks
Dr Diana Patterson
Dr Paschal McKeown
DI Gary Mullan
Mr Roy Keenan

Mrs Marie Crossin
Mrs Martha McClelland
Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Mr Brendan Mullen
Dr Fred Browne
Mr Pat Convery
Miss Vikki Greenwood

Apologies:

Professor Geoff Shepherd
Ms Moira Davren
Rev Trevor Williams
Mr Brian Dornan
Mr Glenn Houston
Dr David Cameron
Mr Mark Timoney
Mr Nevin Ringland
Mr Michael Kelly

Mr Colin Beck
Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Professor Alan Ferguson
Miss Joanne McDonald
Mr Bill Halliday
Mr Martin Daly
Dr John Owens
Mr Leslie Frew
Mrs Maureen Ferris

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to this 37th meeting of the Committee and noted the apologies received.
 - (i) **Chairman's Diary (SC 33/06)**
2. Professor McClelland drew members' attention to this paper which detailed the meetings he had attended in April and forthcoming Review events and meetings in May. He particularly mentioned the meeting with the NI Housing Executive on 6 April which Mary O'Boyle and Siobhan Bogues attended, and the NUS-USI Conference on 21st at which Professor Ferguson deputised.

(ii) Draft Reports

3. Two reports had been issued for consultation at the start of the month: on Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity; and on Forensic Services. Responses on both were requested by the end of May.

(iii) Romanian After Care Project

4. Almost £800 had been donated. The fund was now closed and the money taken to the project.

(iv) Forthcoming Meetings

5. Professor McClelland reported that the Review was scheduled to meet Minister, Shaun Woodward, on 6 June; the Permanent Secretaries' Group on 16 June; and Andrew McCormick, who had now replied on the Budget 2006. The date for this last meeting had to be before 6 June.
6. The Review had also had a very productive meeting with representatives of most of the local political parties on 7 April. As a result of this, Kieran McCarthy (Alliance Party) had agreed to write on the party representatives' behalf to the Minister seeking a meeting to discuss his plans for implementation.
7. In addition, it was essential that the Review meet the DHSSPS Departmental Board again: it was now some time since they had met them. Professor McClelland, therefore, proposed (and it was agreed) that he could meet Andrew McCormick (who had already met Review representatives) and that a group meet the Departmental Board. He would be responding to Andrew McCormick's letter shortly.
8. In response to a question about the Department's implementation plans, he advised that officials were still thinking through their proposals; but that they had in mind a possible joint conference to announce these before the summer; and that implementation would be led by a Mental Health and Learning Disability "Champion" (as already announced by Minister) with an overall Task Force. Members welcomed this approach, but were anxious to know the detailed proposals as soon as possible. These would be discussed again with Mr Frew at the progress meeting in early May.

(v) EU Green Paper on Mental Health

9. Professor McClelland referred to Mr Robert Anthony's request to the Review about whether members sought to be involved in a call for evidence from the House of Lords' EU Committee which was considering an inquiry into this strategy. This request had been e-mailed to members on 10 April. Those wishing to be involved should advise the Support Team who would relay the names to Mr Anthony.

Note of the Last Meeting (SC 27/06)

10. This was agreed as drafted. The two minor changes to the note of the February meeting had been made.

Matters Arising

(1) Workforce Issues

11. Professor McClelland had received a draft of the Department's revised paper earlier in the month, but it still had to be officially cleared by the Department, so he could not issue it to members. Hopefully this would be cleared quickly, so that a copy could be available before the next meeting. Meantime, he had been pressing the need for a workforce strategy (and an information strategy) with Leslie Frew, as key initial elements for implementation.

Experts by Experience/Carers' Meeting on 11 March (SC 29/06)

12. Professor McClelland welcomed Helen Kirkpatrick for this item. She was a member of the Carers' Reference Group and had prepared SC 29/06, the report on this joint meeting on 11 March. She presented the key points from this report by way of a handout.
13. Members agreed that the report was a succinct and well-presented paper which flagged up some key issues for the Review and its implementation. The continuing involvement of these two groups in that work was recognised as essential and was seen as offering the most appropriate way to address most of the issues identified in the paper.
14. It was also recognised that, as a snapshot of the Review at a particular time, some of the detail in the paper was now out of date, and that there were a few inaccuracies. It could also be seen as a reflection of the "mental health" side of the Review, since the Learning Disability committee had approached its task by engaging with users and carers from its outset. However, some points, particularly on the legal issues work, were current and needed to be addressed. Engagement with the Experts by Experience and the Carers' groups would, therefore, continue on all those reports which were not yet finalised. In addition, Martha McClelland advised that the Experts by Experience Group planned to respond to the draft Framework paper at the end of the month.
15. Looking ahead to the work on implementation, Marie Crossin highlighted the need for particular attention to be paid to communication issues with the groups. Their involvement in the Review had helped to build members' capacity, and it was essential that they became partners in implementation **from the outset**.
16. Professor McClelland thanked Helen Kirkpatrick for her presentation and report, which brought the Committee's attention to a number of important issues and genuine concerns of these groups. These would be addressed: either directly as part of the continuing work of the Review, or by the Review advocating to DHSSPS the involvement of both groups in the implementation process.

“Living Fuller Lives” (SC 30/06)

17. Nevin Ringland was unavailable to present this revised report, but members’ comments were discussed. These largely centred around the “soft” wording of a number of the recommendations and the need for consistency of terminology throughout the report. On the latter, for example, there was sometimes reference to “severe mental illness” and also to “enduring mental illness”. On the former, some examples were:
 - Recommendation 5: What was the logic behind this?
 - Recommendation 24: Add something about the need for funding being set aside for this and who would have budgetary responsibility.
 - Recommendation 26: Does this conflict with recommendation 14?
 - Recommendation 42: State the number of beds required.
 - Recommendation 47: Not clear what was meant. “Could” should be “must”.
 - Recommendation 50: Needed to be re-worded to better state what was intended.
 - There were several recommendations on workforce issues, which could possibly be amalgamated. Concern was particularly expressed about the training of foreign nursing staff in the sector, whose first language was not English.
18. In addition, the Introduction and Vision chapters needed to be re-ordered to strengthen the latter chapter. Infrastructure issues could await the final draft, but a reference should be made to this ongoing work in the consultation version.
19. In order to be able to issue the report for consultation as quickly as possible, members agreed that a small group (eg Brendan Mullen, Oliver Shanks and Mary O’Boyle) should meet with Nevin Ringland and some members of his committee to discuss the changes proposed. The report, as revised, could then be issued for consultation without coming back to the next Steering Committee. The Support Team would organise this meeting.

Draft Strategic Priorities Report (SC 31/06)

20. Professor McClelland reminded members of the ongoing work on this paper. It had been discussed at the Convenors’ meeting on 13 April, as a result of which Bill Halliday had agreed to draft a contribution on how to enhance the non-service elements of the Review (eg Human Rights and Equality). Other Convenors were working on performance indicators and targets, linking these to the recommendations in their reports. Members’ attention was particularly

drawn to the end of the draft paper, where a paragraph on commissioning had been added as part of a new Implementation Section.

21. Members agreed these revisions, but suggested that some general tidying up of the paper was needed as regards the references to learning disability (which was to become a separate paper); on human rights; and on the attitudes and values section, which should be couched in more human rights language.
22. Professor McClelland thanked members for their comments which would be taken into account. He stressed that the report needed to be finalised in May so that it could be presented to Minister at the meeting on 6 June.

Draft ASD Report (SC 32/06)

23. Members then considered the current draft of this paper, which had also been discussed with the Convenors on 13 April. The main changes were to the recommendations in sections 5 and 6, and some general presentational work. Members were content with the changes, with the following suggestions:
 - Page 4 Recommendations, bullet point 2: should read, “Particular attention must be given to supporting the individual and their family during “transition” times. For example, primary to secondary school, leaving school, moving away from the parental home”;
 - Page 6 Recommendation, bullet point 1: omit “The” at the start;
 - a reference to the need for services to be appropriately funded as an overriding statement to be added to the paper at the most appropriate point.
24. Professor McClelland thanked members for their comments. The paper would now be finalised, placed on the Review’s website and passed to the Needs and Resources Committee to be costed.

Reports from Other Working Committees

Legal Issues

25. Brian Hall tabled and spoke to paper **SC 34/06** which set out a revised contents page showing the proposed structure for his committee’s report. His plan was to have an initial draft of the report for the May meeting.
26. Members endorsed the proposed contents, but sought clarification on where advance directives and definitions fitted. These would be within the proposed “Fundamental Concepts” chapter.

Learning Disability

27. The Committee planned to meet again on 8 May.

Mental Health Promotion

28. The Committee's report would be published on 5 May with a launch at Parliament Buildings.

Social Justice and Citizenship

29. The Promoting Social Inclusion report was not yet ready to come back to the Committee, but would have to be presented next time in order to have it issued for consultation before the summer.

Date of the Next Meeting

30. **Tuesday 30 May at 10.00am.** Venue to be advised later.

Any Other Business

31. Professor McClelland advised members of "Made to Measure", the ARC event in mid May.