

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

**SEVENTEENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2004, GALGORM MANOR HOTEL, BALLYMENA**

Present:	Professor David Bamford (Chair)	Professor Roy McClelland
	Dr Paschal McKeown	Dr Oliver Shanks
	Mr Patrick Convery	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
	Dr Diana Patterson	Mrs Maureen Ferris
	Miss Joanne McDonald	Mr Brendan Mullen
	Rev Trevor Williams	Ms Eileen Sherrard
	Mr Brian Dornan	Master Brian Hall
	Mrs Siobhan Bogues	Dr Fred Browne
	Mr Martin Daly	Ms Moira Davren
	Mr Roy Keenan	Mrs Maureen McCartney
	Mrs Angela McLoughlin	Mr Michael Kelly

Apologies:	Mrs Marie Crossin	Dr John Owens
	Professor Alan Ferguson	Mrs Martha McClelland
	Mr Nevin Ringland	Mr Colin Beck
	Professor Geoff Shepherd	Mr Mark Timoney
	Professor Scott Brown	Mr Bill Halliday
	Mrs Marion Nicholas	Dr Raman Kapur
	Professor Tony McGleenan	Mr Leslie Frew
	Dr John Hunter	Det S/dent Andrew Bailey
	Mr Winston McCartney	

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to this seventeenth meeting of the Steering Committee. He particularly welcomed Professor Roy McConkey (UU), member of the Learning Disability Committee, who was presenting on his learning disability research and Mrs Angela McLoughlin, who has replaced Mr Neil Hempton on the Support Team and who would be working with the Legal Issues Committee and its sub-group 3, the Dementia Sectoral Committee and the Mental Health Carers Group. Welcome was also extended to Mrs Karen Campbell (DHSSPS) who, with Mr Brian Dornan, was presenting on some aspects of the Needs and Resources Committee's work. Congratulations were extended to Mr Pat Convery and Mrs Molly Kane on their recent appointments as members of the Mental Health Commission.

Learning Disability Research – Presentation by Professor Roy McConkey

2. Professor McConkey began by thanking numerous colleagues for their help in this research. He also thanked the Learning Disability Committee and Dr Oliver Russell for their comments and feedback. A similar exercise had been carried out for the 1995 review and the current report reflects the growth of knowledge on learning disability.
3. Reports had been done on 6 topics ie Accommodation and Support, Day Opportunities, Children and Families, Physical Health, Mental Health and Older People. He pointed out that there were similarities in lots of issues and needs such as staffing levels, joint working areas, leisure, recreation and education.
4. The research revealed that there are inequalities in access to services across N. Ireland. As regards residential facilities, these are at half the level existing in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. Conversely, there are many more day opportunity places
5. Members agreed that there was a need for inter-agency involvement to be looked at and improved. Protocols needed to be agreed and the funding aspect had to be reviewed with the objective of an equality of service provision across Northern Ireland. A key point was made, however, that society must take the lead in embracing all its members; this should not be left to agencies.
6. Other discussion took place on employment issues and the Social Security system. Points raised covered the lack of job opportunities for people with a learning disability and the need for a Further Education strategy. The Social Security Agency are considering a pilot scheme on benefits and staff sensitivity. Discussions on this are ongoing. A copy of Professor McConkey's presentation is attached

Chairman's Communications

7. Professor Bamford advised members of a recent family bereavement suffered by Professor Alan Ferguson and agreed to write to him offering condolences on behalf of the Steering Committee.
8. He advised that the draft Strategic Framework for Adult Mental Health had been issued for consultation and had been posted on the Review's web-site. (www.rmhdni.gov.uk). For ease of access and reading, the document has been broken down into individual chapters etc. He had also recently seen an advance draft of the Learning Disability Committee report.
9. The Ministerial meeting scheduled for 15 June was postponed and has been re-scheduled for Wednesday 13 October 2004.

10. The Social Services Inspectorate has produced a report on the Inspection of Social Work in Mental Health and the secretariat have copies available for members. He had attended the launch on 8 June.
11. The Chairman also elaborated on his meeting on 15 June with Margaret Boyle, Social Security Agency and her proposed pilot exercise. Some members were participating.
12. Finally, he reminded members that Paper SC 34/04 covered key forthcoming review meetings/events over the summer.

Note of the last meeting

13. This was agreed as drafted, with the reference to Dr Ian Sutherland being changed to Mr Sutherland.

Matters Arising

(i) User Reference Group.

14. Professor McClelland advised that Martha McClelland and Martin Daly had represented User interests at the Adult Mental Health Committee's last meeting. There were still issues to be addressed and a further meeting with the group will be arranged.

(ii) Workforce Issues.

15. A helpful meeting was held with Avis Mulhern on 15 June 2004 which some Convenors attended. Members expressed concerns and these are being integrated into her draft report. Further meetings are being arranged.
16. Members stressed that workforce planning should be taken forward under 4 main domains ie Learning Disabilities, Children and Adolescents, Psychiatry and Adult Mental Health in Old Age. Members expressed concerns regarding non-professional staff and voluntary sector involvement not being taken into account. It was agreed that Professor Bamford send a letter to David Bingham, DHSSPS, to express these concerns. These also include timescales, implementation and lack of specialist knowledge. Maureen Ferris will be preparing briefing notes from a conference she attended to help take these concerns forward.

Needs and Resources Committee Presentation.

17. Mrs Karen Campbell (DHSSPS) presented to the Steering Committee a Review of Expenditure on Mental Health and Learning Disability. A copy is attached. Mr Brian Dornan gave an initial overview, mentioning the main issues ie costings, analysis of current funding position, financial information,

comparators with Great Britain and Capitation. Paper NR 10/04 was distributed to members.

18. Mrs Campbell advised that this was an initial review on mental health and learning disability expenditure. They have made comparisons with Great Britain, but this has proved difficult due to our integrated health and personal social services system. Dementia is included in the Elderly programme of care locally, while it is in the Mental Health programme in Great Britain.
19. Discussion on other elements such as spending by other government Departments and what overheads need to be taken into consideration took place. Mrs Campbell informed members that Miss Aideen O'Doherty, DHSSPS, can be asked to look at other Departmental spends and that she could provide an analysis on overheads.
20. Brendan Mullen raised the likely impact on mental health and learning disability spend of the current efficiency review. Members agreed that Professor Bamford and Brian Dornan should seek a meeting with Andrew Hamilton to "lobby" DHSSPS on funding issues.

Reports from the Working Committee

Legal Issues

21. Master Brian H all reported that all the 4 Legal Issues sub groups were very busy and he hoped they would have some reports available from them by the autumn. He advised members that Dr Maria McGinnity was having a residential event on 5 and 6 July with the intention of developing principles for legislation and discussing the purposes of future mental health legislation and their interface with capacity legislation.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

22. Ms Moira Davren advised that she had arranged a 2 day stakeholder consultation event earlier in the month which had been a great success and was currently planned another event on 7 and 8 September. To date there are 28 proposed presentations. Members were asked, if possible, to attend. She had also received letters and telephone calls regarding autism and had passed these on to Eileen Sherrard. She hoped to have her first draft report ready by Christmas 2004.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

23. Dr Diana Patterson stated that her Committee was currently drafting papers. Some research is being done over the summer. User and carers consultation are also ongoing.

Learning Disability

24. Mrs Siobhan Bogues reported that the 1st draft of her Committee's report had been issued to Convenors and members of the Steering Committee. More work needed to be done, but feedback had been positive so far. She intended to make a presentation to the August Steering Committee meeting. A half day session with the Department of Employment and Learning to look at employment issues was being considered for September 2004.
25. Mrs Maureen Ferris raised the issue of respite care in residential and childrens homes. She was aware that a number of children who have complex needs have difficulty in getting access to respite as the staff working in these homes are not trained in the skills required to fully look after them. There is also an issue about how such facilities are registered. She felt that this was an issue that should be looked at further.

Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

26. Eileen Sherrard had agreed to convene a small group to prepare an overarching paper on ASD. The group will meet for the first time when Eileen returns from leave, with the aim of presenting a paper at the September meeting. There is a section on Able Adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the draft Adult Mental Health Committee's report.

Communication Strategy

27. The Chairman reported that he had met with Mr Sam Simpson. He is available to all the Working Committees for publicity advice, as and when required.

Dates of Next Meetings (Paper SC 35/04)

28. Members were advised that there would be no meeting in July and that the August meeting would focus largely on the draft Report from the Learning Disability Committee. Maintaining the "last Tuesday" format, dates have been set for 31 August, 28 September, 26 October and 30 November 2004. Venues for these meetings will be notified to members in due course.

Any Other Business

29. Professor Bamford advised that the Workforce Issues representatives would be meeting before the next Steering Committee meeting.