

**THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW  
(NORTHERN IRELAND)  
TWENTY SEVENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2005, AT 10.00 am IN THE BEECHLAWN HOTEL,  
DUNMURRY**

**Present:**

Professor David Bamford (Chairing)  
Professor Roy McClelland  
Master Brian Hall  
Dr Paschal McKeown  
Mrs Maureen Ferris  
Professor Geoff Shepherd  
Dr John Owens  
Mrs Maureen McCartney  
Mr Michael Kelly

Dr Oliver Shanks  
Mrs Mary O'Boyle  
Mrs Marie Crossin  
Dr Fred Browne  
Mr Mark Timoney  
Mr Martin Daly  
Ms Eileen Sherrard  
Mr Roy Keenan  
Miss Vikki Greenwood

**Apologies:**

Mr Patrick Convery  
Mr Brendan Mullen  
Mr Brian Dornan  
Mrs Siobhan Bogues  
Mr Bill Halliday  
Ms Moira Davren  
Dr Diana Patterson  
Rev Trevor Williams  
Mr Leslie Frew  
Mr Glenn Houston

Mrs Martha McClelland  
Mr Nevin Ringland  
Mr Colin Beck  
Miss Joanne McDonald  
Dr David Cameron  
Mrs Marion Nicholas  
Dr John Hunter  
DCI David Wallace  
Professor Alan Ferguson

**Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to the twenty seventh meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received.
2. He reminded members of the sudden death of Winston McCartney earlier in the month, about which he had already written. He planned to formally write to his widow, Jean, as Chairman of the Review and surmised that some members may also wish to do so.
3. He expressed his pleasure at being back after his short illness and thanked Professor McClelland for taking over in his absence.

## **Chairman's Communication**

4. Professor Bamford drew members' attention to paper **SC 33/05**, Chairman's meetings, which had been issued for information.

### **(i) PAPA Letters (SC35/05)**

5. Professor Bamford tabled two letters, dated 10th and 21st June 2005, from Arlene Cassidy, Director, PAPA for members' information and comment before he formally replied.
6. Members confirmed their decision, as reflected in the Steering Committee's ASD report, not to recommend a separate programme of care on Autism. The rationale for this had been explained to Ms Cassidy and representatives of carer groups at the recent meeting which Rev. William McCrea had facilitated, and which Professor Bamford, Professor McClelland and Maureen McCartney had attended. Each Working Committee was looking at the ASD report and incorporating its recommendations into its own report, as necessary, so that they were all consistent in approach.
7. Members also pointed out that there did not seem to be any evidence from elsewhere of a separate programme of care which operated in a similar and successful way. Professor Geoff Shepherd advised that there was sketchy provision in his Trust, but that there was strong interest in ASD and that research was ongoing. He would investigate further and report back if necessary.
8. There had also been discussion at the meeting with Rev. McCrea about the recommendation that a senior manager should have overall responsibility within each provider unit for the development and co-ordination of services for children and adults with ASD. The point of having a designated person with overall responsibility was to avoid fragmentation.
9. Professor Bamford thanked members for their contributions and said he would reply to Ms Cassidy in the next few days.

### **(ii) Strategic Framework for Adult Mental Health Services**

10. Professor McClelland said that the report had been submitted to Minister, Shaun Woodward, on 22 June 2005. Copies had been issued to all Steering Committee members and were being issued to stakeholders. The report and Executive Summary were available on the website. Professor Bamford offered his congratulations to the Committee and all those involved in the report's preparation. He confirmed he had requested a meeting with the Minister as soon as possible about the report, where he would be raising the issue of its immediate implementation. Equal Lives was next in line for publication.

11. Members agreed that the Report and the Executive Summary were impressive documents, in a very readable form. Professor McClelland thanked members for their kind comments and expressed his thanks to the Support Team, who had prepared the documents in their final form for printing.

**(iii) Professor Michael Gunn Seminar**

12. Brian Hall reported that the second seminar had been held on Friday, 3 June 2005 at the Dunadry Hotel, Templepatrick. It was attended by representatives from across the Review. The aim was for the Legal Issues Committee to approve a paper on the future shape of legislation at a meeting in mid August and for this to come to the August Steering Committee meeting.

**(iv) Learning Disability Week (20-27 June)**

13. Members had been advised by e-mail of this week. Paschal McKeown thanked the Support Team for this.

**(v) Summer Meetings**

14. Due to the volume of business around forthcoming reports, there would be a Steering Committee meeting on 26 July.
15. Marie Crossin advised that the Carers' Group were up to date with their work and would meet again on 2nd Saturday in September. Professor Alan Ferguson had attended their last meeting about his draft report and this had proved extremely valuable.

**Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC 32/05)**

16. The note of the last meeting was agreed as drafted.

**Matters Arising**

**(i) Workforce Issues**

17. A meeting with David Bingham had been arranged for Monday, 1 August 2005 to pick up on progress. Convenors were thanked for their input to the DHSSPS exercise. The Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People Committee were not yet at a stage to supply their relevant data.

**(ii) Communication and Influencing Strategy**

18. Professor Bamford, Siobhan Bogues and Maureen McCartney have agreed to meet on Wednesday 6 July to consider the best way forward on this. Surprise

was expressed at the lack of requests for interviews or press articles following the submission of the Strategic Framework report to Minister last week. There now seems to be a need for the Review to do more work in this area, involving Sam Simpson, as necessary.

19. Professor Geoff Shepherd suggested the need to engage with professionals about the proposed changes. There are obvious staff implications and role changing. The Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Sainsbury Centre have been looking at the role of psychiatrists following publication of the NSF. Members agreed it was important to engage locally and question the current model and explore the future roles that they will undertake.
20. All professions, users and carers have been engaged in the Review and have been kept informed so there should be no surprises, but it is important they are brought along and kept at the centre of the implementation process.
21. It was noted that this needs to be linked to the workforce planning work, so it is important that David Bingham be brought into the debate.
22. The Review has already held roadshows for the Health Boards and stakeholders. It was noted that it would be easier to change professionals' attitudes if the Department had planned process for implementation and bridging finance in place.

### **Strategic Priorities Report (Paper SC 34/05)**

23. Professor Bamford explained the background to the preparation of this report. The aim was to produce a report which (a) picked out the main themes emerging from the whole Review and (b) highlighted key priorities for years 1-3 and 4 and 5. He and Professor McClelland were working on (a) and the Convenors had been asked to specify their priorities on (b). Paper **SC 34/05** reported the current standing on part (a), with issues in no order of priority.
24. Geoff Shepherd advised that whatever was produced should be short, tight and concise.
25. Members felt that suicide should be included. It is an extremely sensitive issue. Professor Bamford said that he and Professor McClelland had met with Alan Ferguson and Judith Lee to look at strengthening the suicide content of the Mental Health Promotion report, although it permeates numerous other reports.
26. There is current Ministerial interest in this issue and it is important that the Review keep involved in the issues surrounding suicide. It is not just a health issue, but involves housing, education and personal social services.
27. It was suggested that this paper would provide an opportunity to fit autism in the content of the Review.

28. Members were asked to forward any further thoughts on the report to Professor Bamford. A draft will be brought to the July Steering Committee for further discussion and endorsement.

## **Reports from Other Working Committees**

### **Adult Mental Health**

29. The Strategic Framework for Adult Mental Health was currently being distributed. Professor McClelland would like to establish early contact to seek out the Department's views on what they intend to do.
30. Maureen McCartney advised that the covering letter, issued with the report urged the Department to take up ownership and asked for an early meeting. It was agreed that Users and Carers be involved in the delegation to Minister.

### **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

31. The draft report had been issued for consultation with responses sought by 29 July 2005. It will be October before it is brought back to the Steering Committee. There are ongoing discussions with DHSSPS on its Drug and Alcohol Strategy work.

### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health**

32. It is hoped to have a draft consultation report for the next Steering Committee meeting. Members asked if it would be possible to have a PowerPoint presentation on this at the meeting.

### **Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People**

33. Work was ongoing: a meeting had been held the previous week. There is a large amount of material being produced which should be ready by the end of July. A further meeting will be held in August, with a paper being presented to the Steering Committee, probably in November.

### **Forensic Services**

34. A meeting on Risk Management had been held the previous week, facilitated by Roisin Hall, Chief Executive, Risk Management Authority, Scotland. Dr Browne had circulated a draft paper to his Committee and it is hoped to have a first draft report by September.
35. Personality Disorder is being addressed by his Committee. The CAMH Committee are looking at children who would develop this in adult life.
36. Eileen Sherrard enquired if anything had been done on the issue of people with a learning disability involved with forensic services. She was advised that Damien McCullagh had been nominated to do some work on this issue.

### **Learning Disability**

37. The Equal Lives Report will shortly be going to the printers.

### **Legal Issues**

38. Master Hall reported that Sub Group 1 were meeting in early July, Sub Group 2 have produced papers, Sub Group 3 are meeting on 4 July, while Sub Group 4 have produced draft proposals which have been circulated to the Legal Issues Convenors for comments. He hoped all groups would have their work finished by the end of August.

### **Mental Health Promotion**

39. Professors Bamford and McClelland have met with Alan Ferguson and Judith Lee to discuss structural and presentational issues, as this report is a very important part of the Review. It is expected that a revised draft will come to the July meeting.

### **Needs & Resources**

40. Members were advised that the Committee will look at reports as they arise, in sequence. Geoff Shepherd agreed to pass on details of some work that was being carried out by the Sainsbury Centre.

### **Social Justice and Citizenship**

41. Leslie Frew and Lady Eames's Sub Groups are aiming to present draft reports at the August Steering Committee.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

42. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 26 July 2005 at 10.00am in the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast.**