

**THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW  
(NORTHERN IRELAND)  
TWENTIETH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 26  
OCTOBER, AT THE LAGAN VALLEY ISLAND CIVIC CENTRE, LISBURN,  
AT 10.00 AM.**

**Present:** Professor Roy McClelland (Chair) Professor David Bamford  
Dr Diana Patterson Mrs Mary O'Boyle  
Miss Joanne McDonald Ms Eileen Sherrard  
Mr Patrick Convery Master Brian Hall  
Mr Brendan Mullen Dr Oliver Shanks  
Dr Pascal McKeown Rev Trevor Williams  
Mr Mark Timoney Ms Moira Davren  
Mr Martin Daly Mrs Maureen McCartney  
Dr Fred Browne Mrs Martha McClelland  
Mr Bill Halliday Mr Ian McFaul  
Mr Michael Kelly Miss Vikki Greenwood

**Apologies:** Mrs Marie Crossan Mrs Maureen Ferris  
Mr Nevin Ringland Professor Alan Ferguson  
Mr Colin Beck Mrs Siobhan Bogues  
Mr Brian Dornan Mr Leslie Frew  
Professor Geoff Shepherd Mr Winston McCartney  
Dr John Owens Det S/dent Andrew Bailey  
Professor Scott Brown Dr John Hunter  
Dr Raman Kapur Mrs Marion Nicholas  
Mr Roy Keenan

**Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the twentieth meeting of the Steering Committee. He noted the apologies received and advised members that Mr Brian Dornan has been appointed to the post of Chief Executive, Causeway Health and Social Services Trust and offered the Committee's congratulations.

**Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC 43/04).**

2. The note was agreed as drafted.

## **Matters Arising**

### **(i) Workforce Issues**

3. Copies of the re-draft of the DHSSPS Workforce Exercise report have been issued to Committee members on the project. Professor Bamford met with the Review representatives who are very unhappy with the draft. While welcoming the first recommendation on the need for a longer-term Workforce Development Group with much broader representation than the existing Steering Group, concern was expressed that there was no recommendation dealing with the mechanics of workforce planning, in terms of developing better routine information systems about the make-up of the existing workforce, including that in the independent sector, and modelling future trends to inform decisions on training and recruitment.
4. The Report does not cover the agreed 4 domains, only dealing with Adult Mental Health and Learning Disabilities and reflects a poor understanding of the latter. There is still too much of a health orientation to the work, with little recognition of the social care dimension. It was agreed that David Bamford would write to David Bingham, outlining the review's assessment of the current draft of the report.

### **(ii) Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Paper**

5. Eileen Sherrard advised that a consultation event has been planned for Friday 3 December in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown. It is hoped that the 4 Board approach to developing papers on ASD will be completed by 31 October and will inform the debate at the event. The event will be workshop-based, examining 4 areas i.e. Needs of Children with ASD with and without Learning Difficulties and Needs of Adults with ASD with and without Learning Difficulties. Invitations have been issued to Health and Education Boards and a range of stakeholders.
6. She also advised that she has been working on the interface issues with Adult Mental Health and Forensic Services Working Committees.
7. Members felt that the Department of Education input needs to be encouraged. Ms Sherrard has issued an invitation to Department of Education and the Education and Library Boards and is aware that they have had input to the Northern Board Group. Ms Sherrard will keep their representation under review.

## **Reports from Working Committees**

### **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

8. Diana Patterson stated that her Committee were still drafting and she has arranged for a presentation on Homelessness at her November meeting. She wished to record her thanks to other Convenors for their help and assistance. It is hoped to have drafts for comments by December 2004 and to make a presentation to the Steering Committee meeting in January 2005. Discussion took place on the issue of brain damage caused by substance misuse and how it is to be dealt with. Brendan Mullen expressed concern about the arbitrary boundary created by transferring those aged 65+ to the elderly programme of care. Diana Patterson also reported that her committee is seeking input from the Probation Service to fill a gap which has been noted in the committee's work.

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

9. Ms Moira Davren reported that her group were exceptionally busy and have a high anxiety over the current situation in the CAMH service. A content analysis of the responses received from users, carers and statutory bodies is being carried out and more work is required to obtain information and literature.
10. She hopes to have a draft document by January 2005 to be able to brief the Department and local politicians, with a paper to be presented to the Steering Committee in February. A joint event with Forensic Services has been planned for Thursday 9 December 2004. It is being facilitated by Professor Sue Bailey.
11. Members were advised that the current model of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services was not working well. A sustainable effective service framework needs to be drawn up and different models are being considered by the committee.

### **Forensic Services**

12. Dr Fred Browne stated that work is ongoing and reports are being updated. Ideas are evolving and recommendations are being formulated as to what needs to be implemented.
13. There are numerous interface issues, including ASD, learning disability, child and adolescent mental health and alcohol and substance misuse. Interfaces with other areas such as Mental Health Promotion, Social Justice and Citizenship and Mental Health Issues of Older People need to be considered as well. Dr Browne also noted the need for interdepartmental links with the Department of Education and the Northern Ireland Office. Anti Social

Behaviour Orders are another issue to be looked at and this will be on the agenda for 9 December interface event with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Committee.

14. Dr Browne hopes to be able to have a draft document to submit to the Steering Committee by the end of March 2005.

### **Learning Disability**

15. In Siobhan Bogues' absence, members were advised that the Equal Lives report is now being issued and an Accessible version has also been published. Both versions can be found on the Review's web site.
16. The committee is planning a series of events, to be held across Northern Ireland in November and December and facilitated by Harry McConnell, to allow people with a learning disability and their carers to respond to the report. Dr Pascal McKeown offered to provide Mrs McCartney with a list of groups to be included in the distribution of the report for these events.

### **Legal Issues**

17. Professor Bamford reported that work was going well and highlighted the seminar in Malone House, Belfast, at which Professor Robert Gordon from Canada had provoked a very robust discussion and the papers he had supplied will be of benefit to this group. He went on to advise that Sub Group 2 had met and were circulating drafts of papers on the Mental Health Commission, the Mental Health Review Tribunal, Guardianship and Compulsory Admission. All feed back on these papers was most welcome. Dr Browne advised that Sub Group 4 were developing a paper that looked at Part III of the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986.
18. The work on capacity legislation by Sub Group 3 is ongoing and will feed into OLR's work to take forward NI incapacity legislation. There is a need for joined-up thinking on the incapacity legislation and new mental health legislation. It is important that OLR don't go too far without liaising with the Review. A meeting will be arranged and Master Hall will indicate the outcome at the next meeting.

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

19. Work by the 2 groups, chaired by Kate Thompson and Ian Sunderland, was progressing. A further meeting has been arranged for Thursday 28 October 2004. There is a broad spectrum of issues being looked at and it is hoped that a presentation to the Steering Committee will take place in due course.

## **Mental Health Promotion**

21. As previously mentioned, it is hoped to have a draft paper for the Steering Committee early in 2005. Work on interface issues is ongoing. Links with schools, hospitals and prisons need to be established and recommendations will be as tight as possible.

## **Needs and Resources**

22. Professor Bamford reported that a presentation on the 4<sup>th</sup> report of the Capitation Formula Review Group had been made to last Convenors meeting. The group is working on Learning Disability and has begun tentative work on Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People.

## **Social Justice and Citizenship**

23. Bill Halliday reported that the 2 groups are at a very early drafting stage. He expressed concern over resourcing of the Human Rights and Equality sub group. Legal input is essential and this is currently not available. He also advised that the HR&E group would not be “human rights” proofing all the other working group documents. He advised that the Human Rights Commission has a research facility and he suggested contacting them to see if it is possible to make use of the facility and to tap in to their thoughts.
24. Professor Bamford agreed to meet with Bill Halliday to look at the current problems and try and work out a way forward.

## **Adult Mental Health**

25. Professor McClelland stated that the last of this month’s 3 meetings was held yesterday. There is still some work to be done, including an Executive Summary and he hopes to have the final draft document to the Steering Committee for its next meeting.
26. A further meeting with the User Group is being arranged and they will receive amended draft papers prior to the meeting.

## **Any Other Business**

27. Professor Bamford reminded members that they have received notification of a seminar “Recovery is for Everyone” to be held on Friday 12 November at the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast and asked members to return the reply slip as soon as possible.

## **Financial Position**

28. Considerable discussion took place regarding the current financial climate within health and personal social services as outlined in Don Hill's letter dated 19 October issued to Boards and Trusts.
29. Members were greatly concerned and felt that this totally undermined the work of the review, if there is no funding to implement the recommendations. Some members however noted that it was not a complete surprise to them. Questions were raised as to the situation regarding current developments and members queried how staff can be kept motivated when they hear of this position. Members felt that the Review has raised the hopes of service users and carers, whose voices are not usually heard, and that they will be greatly disillusioned if there are no resources to carry through the review's work.
30. It was agreed that David Bamford and Roy McClelland would seek an urgent meeting with Clive Gowdy, Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS and senior officials to seek clarification of the position. It was agreed that Brian Dornan should be included in any such meeting.

## **Date of next meeting**

31. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 30 November 2004 at Lorne, Craigavad**, beginning at 10.00am.