

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

TWENTY NINTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 30 AUGUST 2005, AT 10.00 am

Lecture Theatre, Castle Buildings

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland (Chairing)
Mrs Maureen Ferris
Mr Brendan Mullen
Mrs Martha McClelland
Mr Colin Beck
Dr Diana Patterson
Ms Moira Davren
Dr David Cameron
Mrs Maureen McCartney
Mr Roy Keenan
Mr Michael Kelly

Dr Oliver Shanks
Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Mrs Marie Crossin
Dr Fred Browne
Mr Brian Dornan
Mr Martin Daly
Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mrs Siobhan Bogues
DCI David Wallace
Ms Jacqueline Carey
Miss Vikki Greenwood

Apologies:

Mr Patrick Convery
Dr Paschal McKeown
Mr Mark Timoney
Professor David Bamford
Mr Bill Halliday
Professor Alan Ferguson
Dr John Owens
Rev Trevor Williams

Mr Nevin Ringland
Mr Glenn Houston
Professor Geoff Shepherd
Miss Joanne McDonald
Master Brian Hall
Mrs Marion Nicholas
Dr John Hunter
Mr Leslie Frew

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the twenty ninth meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received, advising that Professor Bamford was unavailable.
2. He especially welcomed Colin Beck and Jacqueline Carey.

Chairman's Communication (paper SC 51/05)

3. Members were reminded that this paper was issued for information.

Note of the Last Meeting (paper SC 49/05)

4. The note of the last meeting was agreed apart from paragraph 20, whose first sentence should read “Members stressed that the Review was independent and can make its own recommendations”. This change will be made to the note, which will be re-issued.

Matters Arising**Communication and Influencing Strategy (paper SC 53/05)**

5. Professor McClelland informed members that, following discussions and meetings involving himself, Siobhan Bogue, Maureen McCartney, David Bamford and Sam Simpson, Paper **SC 53/05** (tabled) – Proposal for Targeted Communication of Review Outcomes and Recommendations - had been produced by Sam Simpson.
6. Members discussed this paper and suggested some comments and amendments, as follows:
 - People who work in the health and personal social services, service users and carers were seen as another important stakeholder group, not covered at section A. In addition, staff working in other relevant agencies, such as social security offices, Housing Executive, criminal justice agencies, need to know of at least some of the Review reports.
 - There might need to be two different approaches to these groups. For example, senior officials like Chief Executives could probably be included in the same category as senior officials in Government Departments and informed by using briefing papers and meetings. A different approach needs to be taken for frontline staff. One possibility suggested was to use journals that are commonly read by people in these organisations.
 - The Review should lead on work with Government and with Review members themselves. Government can be informed through DHSSPS Press Office (not NIO). Slieve Croob would lead on work with the general public and political representatives.
 - In terms of involving people directly affected by the Review’s recommendations, the User and Carer Reference Groups may be a useful starting point.
7. Urgent meetings with the new Permanent Secretary of DHSSPS, Dr Andrew McCormick, and the Minister, Shaun Woodward, were seen as important. Professor McClelland advised that requests for these had been made, but the meeting with Minister would most likely not be until after September. Thanking members for their helpful thoughts on the paper, he said he would respond to Sam Simpson with these and ask that he revise his proposal.

Workforce Issues

8. A meeting had been held between Professor McClelland, Maureen McCartney, Joyce Cairns and David Bingham on 1st August. At this, the DHSSPS representatives explained that the “programme of care” approach to workforce planning was being replaced by a “gap analysis” format, which is the method used in England and Wales.
9. Joyce Cairns will be producing a revised paper in October. To help with this, the Review will send her a copy of the draft Strategic Priorities paper. The Review also needs to advise the workforce element of the costs of the Review.
10. Members stressed that the workforce exercise must take account of support for training etc in the voluntary, private, user and carer sector, and expected the DHSSPS paper to reflect these issues.

ASD Paper (paper SC 52/05)

11. Professor McClelland referred members to this paper. It was a redraft of the recommendation in the ASD report on organisational responsibility within provider units, to reflect concerns made on this point. Members again stressed that they did not support a separate programme of care for ASD and that they felt organisational responsibility for co-ordinating services for people with ASD should be located in the mental health programme of care.
12. On the proposed rewording, the following changes were suggested:
 - It should begin with “The Department must ensure that providers specify organisational responsibility.....”
 - Substitute “people” for “adults” in the last line.
13. Members also felt the recommendation following this should be amended as it wasn't just the resource issue that needed to be addressed.
14. In addition, the Review needed to reflect its vision on ASD in a more positive way and needed to meet with PAPA again to discuss its recommendations. Professor McClelland advised that he would speak to Professor Terry Brugha before such a meeting and possibly ask him to act as a facilitator. Prior to this also, the report would be discussed with the Carers' Support Group: Marie Crossin would get a copy of the revised version when it was ready.

Other Points from Last Meeting

15. Dr Browne advised that he had received confirmation of the Committee's decision not to appoint Dr Cathal Cassidy, incoming Chair of the NI Section of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, as a member of the Committee and has advised Dr Cassidy accordingly.

Draft Strategic Priorities Report (paper SC 50/05)

16. Professor McClelland updated members on the progress made in drafting this report since the last meeting. He thanked them for all their comments which had been taken into account in this paper and sought any final views they might have. The meeting agreed a series of changes to the document:
- Page 3, (i) Attitudes and Values: a new paragraph should start at line 8, ‘A first step.....’
 - Page 5, (vi) Alcohol and Substance Misuse: training references should be removed.
 - Page 8, last bullet point: “earliest stage” should be replaced by “outset”. Also add “must be maintained” in line 1.
 - Page 8, Reconfiguration and Reform of Existing Services, 2nd paragraph: the examples of inter-sectoral working need to be expanded to include other relevant government departments. Also needs greater emphasis eg by using capital letters.
 - Page 8, Leadership Section: is there enough being said on this?
 - Page 10, (f) Resourcing the Changes (b): the words “for England and Wales” should be inserted at the end of the 1st sentence.
17. The meeting also agreed that further discussions and agreement were needed on the recommendation to establish a directorate within DHSSPS, to clarify which functions this would comprise eg implementation, learning disability, children’s health. This would be an agenda item (probably) at the October meeting, as the anticipated agenda for September was very full. Meantime, Siobhan Bagues will take the proposal back to the Learning Disability Group, as it would have an impact on the implementation of the Equal Lives Report. Members were asked to consider meantime what roles the Directorate should serve and what they saw as its functions.
18. Colin Beck suggested that the Review might wish to liaise with Geoff Huggins, Scottish Executive Mental Health Division on the issues.

Reports from Working Committees

Legal Issues

19. Maureen McCartney reported that a meeting of the Committee was held on 11 August 2005. The main agenda item was a draft paper on a framework for future legislation, prepared following the 2nd Professor Gunn seminar on 3 June 2005. Responses are awaited. This paper will have implications for the work of

the other Legal Issues Sub Groups, especially Sub Group 2 looking at the role of the Mental Health Commission and the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

20. Initial proposals from Sub Group 4 have also been circulated to the 3 other Sub Groups and Working Committee members, for comment by Friday, 16 September 2005.
21. The Committee is due to engage in September with the Equal Lives Group and the Carers' Reference Group.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

22. The deadline for responses to the consultation report has passed, but some responses are still coming in. Generally, responses have been supportive. Two main areas of concern have been highlighted - Adolescent Services and Dual Diagnosis. These are being addressed and it is hoped to have final report for the Committee in December 2005.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

23. Moira Davren thanked those who had commented on the draft report. Their comments are being taken on board. There are gaps in the report on some services, eg suicide and self harm, and these are being addressed. It is hoped to have the document ready for presentation to the September meeting, prior to going out for consultation.

Forensic Services

24. Dr Fred Browne advised that a draft document has been circulated to the members of his Committee and that a series of meetings to discuss it are being held in September.
25. It is hoped to present it to the next Steering Committee meeting, but more likely it will be the October meeting, as a draft will be sent to the Carers Reference Group in time for their meeting on 8th October.

Social Justice and Citizenship

26. Both Sub Groups are finalising their draft reports for presentation to the September meeting. The aim is to seek members views on whether the reports are along the right lines, before finalising for issue for consultation.

Any Other Business

27. Marie Crossin expressed concern over the role of the Carers' Reference Group when their work with the Review is finished. They are anxious not to let the momentum they have built up slip. The Department should be encouraged to maintain these groups.
28. It was agreed that the Group would come to a future Steering Committee meeting and address members fully of their concerns.

Date of Next Meeting

29. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 27 September 2005** at 10.00am at a venue to be confirmed.