

THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW
(NORTHERN IRELAND)
THIRTIETH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 10.00am
LAGAN VALLEY ISLAND CIVIC CENTRE, LISBURN

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland (Chairing)
Professor David Bamford
Master Brian Hall
Dr Paschal McKeown
Dr Diana Patterson
Mr Leslie Frew
Mrs Maureen McCartney
Mr Roy Keenan
Mr Michael Kelly

Dr Oliver Shanks
Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Mrs Marie Crossin
Mr Martin Daly
Rev Trevor Williams
Mr Mark Timoney
Ms Moira Davren
Miss Joanne McDonald
Miss Vikki Greenwood

Apologies:

Mrs Maureen Ferris
Dr Fred Browne
Professor Geoff Shepherd
Dr John Owens
Mrs Martha McClelland
Mr Brendan Mullen
Dr David Cameron
Mr Glenn Houston
Mrs Marion Nicholas
Dr John Hunter

Mr Patrick Convery
Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Mr Brian Dornan
Mr Colin Beck
Mr Bill Halliday
Mr Nevin Ringland
Professor Alan Ferguson

In Attendance:

Lady Christine Eames
Mr Tom Teggart
Mr Sean Ferrin

Mr Stephen Jackson
Dr Noel McCune

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the thirtieth meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received.

Draft Consultation Report – A Vision for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (paper SC 55/05)

2. Professor McClelland welcomed Tom Teggart and Noel McCune for this item. Together with Moira Davren they presented the report.
3. Moira Davren thanked members for the comments they had submitted. She summarised the report chapter by chapter, highlighting key points. Chapter 1 is the vision for a CAMH service. Chapter 2 deals with terminology and a spectrum of care model, including consideration of demographic/epidemiological factors that will inform and shape future development. Chapter 3 is an overview of current services. In Chapter 4, a 4 Tier model of service delivery is recommended, including a recommendation for an interdepartmental commission on mental health and education. Chapter 5 deals with future services to promote child mental health and prevent mental ill-health. Chapter 6, on future services for those with mental ill-health, included a recommendation that ASD services should be co-ordinated under a senior manager within the Children's Services Directorate.
4. Noel McCune pointed out that it had been difficult to cost the report. A lot of information is unavailable and Great Britain figures do not easily equate to N. Ireland. He is continuing with this work: annex G shows the current position. Some areas are still unclear. The workforce proposals are based on a variety of information. To equate these figures for Northern Ireland, figures from Great Britain had been multiplied by a factor of 1.2. (the percentage of children in the population here compared to the rest of the UK). The Needs and Resources Committee are currently looking at the figures in the report and are costing it. This will only be the DHSSPS contribution to costs.
5. Members then commented on the document. On the recommendation for a Commission for Children, Moira Davren explained that the background was the need for interdepartmental working at strategic level to drive forward joined-up working at ground level. She agreed, however, with a suggestion that it might be more appropriately called a group on Planning and Delivery of services.
6. On Tier 4 services, Noel McCune explained the rationale behind the recommendations on these and the need for beds (over and above the current 33) to be reviewed.
7. On the proposed Children's Directorate, Leslie Frew voiced doubts as to whether this would necessarily achieve its intended purpose better than improving the current organisational structure. Putting all children's services into one Directorate was not necessarily the answer and did not guarantee additional resources.
8. It was also recognised that the Steering Committee needed to consider the recommendations coming from some Working Committees on proposed Directorates, as detailed in the draft Strategic Priorities report. This issue would be an agenda item at the October meeting. The CAMHS report's wording on this should, therefore, be "softened" prior to the report being issued for consultation and to the whole issue being resolved.

9. Summing up, Professor McClelland said that the draft was now almost ready for issue. Some minor adjustments reflecting the discussion should be incorporated and then the document issued in October. It was not thought necessary to include annex G in the consultation draft.

Chairman's Communication (paper SC 58/05)

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

Note of the Last Meeting (paper SC 54/05)

11. The note of the last meeting was agreed. The note of the July meeting had been amended, as suggested at the last meeting and had been re-issued.

Matters Arising

(a) Communication and Influencing Strategy

12. Members were advised that a reply had been sent to Sam Simpson, conveying members' comments at the last meeting on his proposals. A revised paper was awaited.

(b) Workforce Issues

13. A copy of the draft Strategic Priorities report had been sent to DHSSPS. It was hoped that a revised paper will be available from Joyce Cairns next month.

(c) Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

14. Professor McClelland informed members that the Committee's report had been revised to take account of discussions at the last meeting. A copy had gone to the Carers' group for their meeting on 8 October.
15. In addition, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) had written on behalf of some groups in the autism field, seeking disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of details from the consultation meetings held on ASD which would support the paper's recommendation to include Autism under the mental health programme of care. These details had been provided, but a further letter was expected and a meeting with NICCY and/or the organisations was likely.
16. Professor McClelland also informed members that Professor Terry Brugha, University of Leicester, had now commented on the paper. He supported its conclusions. His comments would be sent to members.
17. Members agreed to proceed with a meeting with PAPA and noted that it was important not to confuse the agenda for this with that for the NICCY meeting, which would be confined to issues around children and autism. Leslie Frew would attend as necessary.

(d) Strategic Priorities Report (paper SC 59/05)

18. Members were informed that this paper had been sent to the Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS, and will be discussed at a meeting with him on 26 October 2005. It is still being worked on. Dr Paschal McKeown agreed to supply more information on learning disability issues. Other members' comments would still be welcome.

Draft Report: Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity (paper SC 56/05)

19. Lady Christine Eames was invited to present the first draft of her Human Rights and Equality Sub Group's report.

20. She explained that this group was part of the wider Social Justice and Citizenship Expert Working Committee. It had a wide and diverse membership: the report had benefitted from and reflected this range of input. A Power Point presentation covered the remit of the group, how the task was approached, the structure of the report, core issues explored and their continuing work.

21. In the discussion which followed, the main points raised were:

- a. Recommendations
 - it was not always clear from the text where the recommendations spring from.
- b. on Advocacy
 - recommendation 17 should specify which Department should lead on the development of a strategy.
- c. on continuing work
 - it was thought that the moral argument for equity and catch-up on resources with the rest of the UK was clear. The report should include comments/ a section on resources.
 - Dementia and Old Age issues should be covered in a general way, not specifically mentioned in a separate chapter/section.
 - similarly, a general approach should be adopted in discussing invasive treatments. The Adult Mental Health Report could provide some drafting pointers.

22. Summing up, Professor McClelland thanked Christine Eames and her group for their work. The meeting had given the draft report broad endorsement, but it was important that the overlap issues with the other Convenors, especially the Legal Issues Working Committee, were cleared. The report should, therefore, be sent to them for comments. Any further comments from members of the Steering Committee should be sent to the Support Team.

23. A revised, consultation draft would be presented at the November committee meeting, with the aim of consultation beginning as soon as possible afterwards.

Draft Report: Promoting Social Inclusion (paper SC 57/05)

24. Stephen Jackson, DHSSPS, joined the meeting and made a presentation on the draft Promoting Social Inclusion report. He advised that the vision for the report

“Just Like You”, is that people with a learning disability or mental health needs have the same everyday needs for education, employment, housing, health, transport and a social life. He presented key recommendations on these.

25. Professor McClelland said that this was a detailed and invaluable statistical presentation and contained a wealth of information. As such, the report was a good basis for inclusion issues.
26. Members commented on the problems encountered over housing, not only in the length of time taken to get things done, but also the added problems if people have a physical disability. It was agreed that some more work needed to be done on the recommendations and reference made to what other Working Committees’ reports have said on this, eg Adult Mental Health and Equal Lives. In addition, the Stigma section only dealt with mental health.
27. Marie Crossin asked whether the comment in appendix 2 on the Survey of Users and Carers included carers. Stephen Jackson confirmed that this was the case, and that line 2 would be amended.
28. Other areas to be written up included children’s issues, the “benefit trap”, and why current services/strategies are not working. There also needed to be consultation with the user and carer reference groups.
29. Members were asked to send their further comments to Roy Keenan. Again it was hoped to have a draft consultation report for the November meeting with consultation beginning as soon as possible afterwards.

Reports from Working Committees

Learning Disability

30. This report had been printed and was being sent to the Minister, Shaun Woodward, the next day.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

31. The Working Committee will consider a revised, final report in October, reflecting changes as a result of the consultation exercise. It is hoped that final report will come to the Steering Committee in December.

Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People

32. It was hoped to present a first draft to the November Steering Committee meeting.

Forensic Services

33. A series of drafting meetings had been held in September. It is hoped to present a draft report to the October Steering Committee meeting.

Legal Issues

34. Work is ongoing. A key paper on the future shape of legislation is being developed and will come to the Steering Committee in October or November for approval.

Needs and Resources

35. The Committee is currently looking at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health report.

Mental Health Promotion

36. The report is being finalised to go out for consultation in October.

Date of next meeting

37. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 25 October 2005 at 10.00am** at a venue to be confirmed.