

**THE BAMFORD REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING
DISABILITY (NORTHERN IRELAND)
43rd STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, 29 MAY 2007 AT 10.00am
DUNADRY HOTEL**

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland
Dr Oliver Shanks
Dr Fred Browne
Mr Nevin Ringland
Mrs Marie Crossin
Mr Sean Ferrin
Mr Alan Ferguson
Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Miss Joanne McDonald
Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mr Colin Beck
Rev. Trevor Williams

Dr Paschal McKeown
Mr Gary Mullan
Ms Moira Davren
Master Brian Hall
Mr Roy Keenan
Mr Martin Daly
Mr Patrick Convery
Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Mr Bill Halliday
Mrs Martha McClelland
Dr Diana Patterson
Miss Victoria Greenwood

Apologies:

Mr Glenn Houston
Mr Brendan Mullen
Dr John Owens
Mrs Maureen Ferris

Mr Leslie Frew
Dr David Cameron
Professor Geoff Shepherd
Mr Brian Dornan

In Attendance:

Dr Maria McGinnity (for agenda item 7)

Welcome and Introduction

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the Committee. The Review, he noted, would be standing down in mid-July and it was therefore encouraging to see so many members attending. He noted the apologies which had been received and called members' attention to the agenda.

Chairman's Communications

2. Professor McClelland reminded members of paper **SC 9/07** which had been issued for information and which detailed his meetings etc since mid-December 2006.

3. He also asked members to note paper **SC 10/07** (which had been tabled) which was the Equal Lives Action Group's Mission Statement.

Note of the Last Meeting (SC 69/06)

4. The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Communication and Influencing Strategy

5. Professor McClelland informed members that the Review was continuing to engage with a range of key stakeholders, eg:
 - the Chief Executives of the 5 new Trusts;
 - the MLA All-Party Interest Group; and
 - key colleagues and agencies involved in the Legal Issues Committee's work.

He thanked members for their continuing support with these meetings.

6. Proposed meetings with all the new Directors with responsibility for, or an interest in, mental health and learning disability, as well as a meeting with the new Minister, were being pursued.
7. Professor McClelland and colleagues had also recently met with the Assembly HSSPS Committee and Ballymena District Council Health Matters Committee to discuss workforce and legal issues respectively. Both committees been very supportive of the Review's proposals.
8. Members referred to the motion on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) which had recently been debated in the Assembly. Moira Davren, Convenor of the CAMH Committee, welcomed the increasingly significant profile that CAMHs was getting, however she cautioned against a focus on "beds". It was vital to develop the preventative and community infrastructure, which had been the thrust of the CAMH report.
9. Professor McClelland also advised that in response to that debate the Minister, Mr McGimpsey, had proposed a Board (as per **SC 4/07**) which would replace the proposed Director post as the main vehicle for driving forward work on implementation. He would come back to this proposal later in the meeting.

(ii) Experts by Experience and Carer Paper (SC 1/07)

10. After a detailed discussion, the Committee approved the paper with some minor drafting points. The EBE and Carer groups would liaise with Professor McClelland in finalising this report, which would then be forwarded to the Minister with a clear statement that it had been endorsed by the Committee.

(iii) Workforce Paper (SC 2/07)

11. This paper had been finalised and sent to the key personnel in DHSSPS a few weeks earlier. Professor McClelland thanked Maureen Ferris and her small working group for all their efforts in finalising it.

(iv) Final Needs and Resources Committee Report (SC 3/07)

12. Similarly, this report had also recently been issued to members. Together with the Workforce paper (both as slightly adapted) they formed annexes 8 and 10 respectively of the Strategic Priorities report (agenda item 5). Professor McClelland put on record his thanks to Glenn Houston and his committee for their detailed work to produce this document.

(v) “Living Fuller Lives”

13. This report was currently at the printers and would be published in mid-June.

Progress on Implementation (SC 4/07)

14. Professor McClelland informed members that unfortunately Mr Leslie Frew had had to send his last minute apologies due to an urgent meeting with the Minister. He and Leslie had, however, spoken on the phone and discussed a number of points on implementation.

15. He understood that it was likely that the proposed Implementation Board would be an expert, advisory (non-executive) body which would work closely with the Minister. It would comprise a small group of members with, as yet unspecified, user/carer involvement.

16. Mr Frew had also asked Professor McClelland to inform the Committee that the activities of the Review had pushed “Bamford” to the forefront of DHSSPS’ priorities. Framework proposals for Mental Health and Learning Disability were currently being worked on and would likely be ready for consultation later in the year.

17. Professor McClelland asked members for any comments or questions on this Board which could be sent to Leslie. The following were recorded:

- Why the change of direction from a Director to an Implementation Board?
- What links will the Board have with Commissioning bodies, and will its terms of reference reflect this?
- Where will the Board sit with the Inter-departmental Task Force which was an integral part of the Director proposals?
- Will the Board deal with both learning disability and mental health? If so, how will such a small number of people adequately reflect the whole range of issues, i.e. children’s, adult, forensic?
- How will members be selected/nominated; and how will the Board adequately reflect user and carer involvement with such small numbers?
- How independent will the Board be?

- While a small body may be needed to oversee the day-to-day work of implementing the Review, transformational work was needed. How would the Board achieve this?

18. Professor McClelland thanked everyone for their comments and undertook to contact Leslie, seeking a written response on the points raised.

Final Strategic Priorities report (SC 5/07)

19. Professor McClelland invited members to comment on the final version of the Strategic Priorities report, which had been issued at the start of the month. He thanked on behalf of the Committee all those who had contributed, especially the Convenors. The report had also already been sent to the key officials in DHSSPS, including Linda Browne and David Sissling.

20. The paper was structured around 4 main themes:

- reform of mental health services;
- reform of learning disability services;
- reform of legislation; and
- promotion of good mental health.

21. In addressing these issues, the paper gave a detailed programme and methodology for implementation over the next 3-5 years. Professor McClelland also pointed out that the ASD paper was an annexe, which further showed the Review's commitment to this area of provision..

22. Paschal McKeown asked if some of the recommendations from the Human Rights and Equality sub-group had been included – specifically the recommendations on training for staff etc. Roy Keenan advised that an exercise had been conducted earlier in the year to identify which recommendations within every Review report 'belonged' to each Department. The Human Rights recommendations were on this list, which had been forwarded to and discussed with all the Departments.

Draft final report on Promoting Social Inclusion (SC 6/07)

23. The Committee considered the draft final report and were appreciative of the work which the PSI Group had put in to finalising it. They agreed that the report was in good shape and read well, but expressed concerns on 3 areas: the recommendations; the combining of issues affecting those with a mental health problem and those with a learning disability; and the employment section. These comments would be conveyed to Mr. Frew for consideration in his work in finalising the document.

Draft final Legal Issues report: Executive Summary and Chapter 8 (SC 7 and 8/07)

24. Master Brian Hall and Dr Maria McGinnity gave the Committee an overview of the general thrust of the Legal Issues Committee's report. Essentially the

overarching aim was to develop a framework for future legislation which would be both comprehensive and principles-based.

25. The Drafting Group, which had been formed in August 2006, had continued to meet to finalise the report. This was issued in February 2007 for a 10 week consultation period. During this period, 5 consultation seminars had been held, the initial one being a joint venture with the Law Centre. These events attracted almost 200 stakeholders from a range of backgrounds and interests. In addition, meetings were continuing with key organisations – eg. the Human Rights Commission, the NIO, the Court Service, the OLR, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and political representatives.
26. To date, 45 responses had been received and the Drafting Group had met twice during the consultation period, primarily to work on an Executive Summary and a revised Chapter 8, including its recommendations. **SC 7 and 8/07** represented the current versions of these documents. Because of the number and the often detailed nature of many of the responses, it had not been possible to present a revised, final version of the report itself to the committee. So SC7 and 8/07 had been issued to let members see pre-final versions of the recommendations, and the Executive Summary.
27. Professor McClelland commended the Drafting Group and Brian and Maria in particular for the considerable amount of work, still ongoing, that had been put into developing the report. It involved the co-ordination of complex and challenging issues, but the report would underpin all of the Review’s recommendations and its vision of future services. He asked members for any comments they might have. These were:
 - There was unanimous agreement that the report was exceptionally well written and managed to convey the direction of travel in a meaningful way that was still accessible to the lay person.
 - It was suggested that references in the definition of Least Harm and throughout the report to ‘whenever possible’ should be changed to ‘the maximum possible’ as this suggested a greater effort should be made.
 - There was some discussion about whether the framework dealt with “all” aspects of decision-making, for example the capacity to vote, to open a bank account, managing general health and finance etc.
28. Brian and Maria thanked members for their comments. These would be brought to the next Drafting Group meeting. The report then received the full endorsement of the Committee, with members expressing a keen interest in seeing the final printed document.

Reports from Working Committees

Learning Disability Working Committee

29. Siobhan Bogue informed members that this Committee had met three times earlier in the year with DHSSPS with the aim of moving forward the

recommendations of the Equal Lives report. The dialogue had been useful. However she was concerned at the change of direction with regards to the proposed Director post.

Mental Health Promotion

30. Professor McClelland noted that NIAMH had taken a lead in working with the Review to brief MLAs and other key decision-makers, and thanked Alan Ferguson for his efforts in taking this forward. With regard to the specific mental health promotion agenda, Alan indicated this needed to be looked at again in the context of the Bamford Review, drawing not only from his own Committee's report, but from the strong emphasis on promotion which flowed through all the reports from the Review.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

31. Moira Davren indicated that, whilst the Committee had not formally met since the publication of its report, individual members had been working extensively to develop and steer a new direction for CAMHS. She was also involved at a Departmental level in the development of proposals for nursing which would emphasis training and development of new skills.

AOB

32. Professor McClelland took the opportunity at this last meeting to express his thanks to all the members of the Steering Committee and to all those involved with making the Bamford Review a success. He also expressed his thanks to the Support Team, past and present, for their efforts.
33. Following this, the Steering Committee expressed their thanks to Professor McClelland for the work he had done in taking over from Professor David Bamford and carrying forward the work to its completion.

Close of Final meeting