

**BAMFORD REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY  
(N IRELAND)**

**38<sup>th</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 30 MAY 2006, IN THE  
STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST AT 10.00AM**

**Present:**

Professor Roy McClelland	Master Brian Hall
Mr Glenn Houston	Dr Paschal McKeown
Mrs Maureen Ferris	Mrs Marie Crossin
Mr Leslie Frew	Dr Oliver Shanks
Mr Patrick Convery	Mr Brendan Mullen
Dr Diana Patterson	Dr David Cameron
Mrs Mary O'Boyle	Dr Fred Browne
Rev Trevor Williams	Mr Roy Keenan
Mr Michael Kelly	Miss Vikki Greenwood
Lady Christine Eames	

**Apologies:**

Professor Geoff Shepherd	Mr Colin Beck
Mrs Martha McClelland	Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Mr Brian Dornan	Dr John Owens
Ms Eileen Sherrard	Mr Nevin Ringland
Mr Bill Halliday	Miss Joanne McDonald
Professor Alan Ferguson	Mr Mark Timoney
Mrs Moira Davren	Mr Martin Daly
D I Gary Mullan	

**Welcome and Introduction**

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to this 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, especially Lady Christine Eames, who was attending for the discussion on the draft Promoting Social Inclusion report. He noted the apologies received.

**Chairman's Communications**

2. Professor McClelland advised that Mrs Heather Bamford and other members of David's family had written to him expressing their appreciation about the Minister's agreement to change the name of the Review.

3. He then drew members' attention to paper **SC 37/06** which detailed his meetings in May and the forthcoming Review meetings in June.
4. The ASD report had been finalised and placed on the Review's website. He had written to Arlene Cassidy advising of this and expressing his hope that the report addressed her main concerns.
5. He also advised that he had recently responded to a letter from a carer about the support needed for her son who suffered from Tourettes Syndrome and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder. This letter highlighted the need to ensure that the needs of under-recognised groups such as these were addressed within the spirit of the Review; and the possibility that this point could be made in the Strategic Priorities paper.

### **Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC 35/00)**

6. The note was agreed as drafted.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **(i) Communication and Influencing Strategy**

7. Professor McClelland reported on a very successful and well-attended launch of the Mental Health Promotion Committee's report in the Long Gallery at Stormont, on Friday 5 May, hosted by Mrs Iris Robinson MP MLA. There had been good messages in the presentations by speakers and good feedback from those attending.
8. He had also recently received a letter from Newry and Mourne District Council, which advised that it had approved the Adult Mental Health report and was writing to the Minister to have it endorsed.
9. In addition, there were 3 very important meetings coming up for the Review: with the DHSSPS Departmental Board on 9 June; with the Minister on 19 June; and with the Permanent Secretaries' Group on 7 July. The Review had settled its teams for each one. There was also the possibility that the Review would be asked to join the MLAs when they meet the Minister to discuss the Review and its implementation. Carmel Hanna, SDLP, would be attending the Carers' Reference Group meeting on 3 June. In summary then, the communication and influencing work had reached a crucial stage.

#### **(ii) Workforce Issues**

10. Professor McClelland advised that he awaited Departmental clearance of the paper prepared by Joyce Cairns. Members expressed concerns at the delay in this and the apparent lack of progress. The Review's representatives on this

joint exercise were anxious to see the paper to comment on it. Leslie Frew advised that he was in discussions with David Bingham on a programme of action on workforce matters, involving, for example, re-training for staff and other developmental work which could be done with minimal resource implications. He appreciated the concerns expressed by members and would report back on progress at the next meeting.

### **(iii) Joint Experts by Experience/Carers' Report**

11. Professor Mc Clelland reminded members of the background to the report provided by Helen Kirkpatrick at the last meeting, and the need to take forward the issues which it identified and were current within the Review. Marie Crossin advised that the best way to address these seemed to be another joint meeting of the groups in early July, which Convenors would attend. She would discuss a possible date with Martha McClelland. She also agreed to critique Helen Kirkpatrick's paper on what had gone wrong with the Review's process of involving service users and carers and add recommendations for the future, which would be help as regards their involvement in implementation work.
12. She also advised that she had received from Rosie Winterton in the Department of Health in London a press release on the national resource centre for patient and public involvement, which she would send to Professor McClelland.

### **DHSSPS Implementation Plans and Review's Concluding Conference**

13. Leslie Frew updated members on the present position with the Department's work to implement the Review. He stressed that this was already under way, with the thrust of everything now being geared to accord with the Review's future vision for mental health and learning disability. The Department planned to respond to the Review's reports by developing Service Frameworks on Mental Health (incorporating all the various elements) and Learning Disability, by the end of the year. The aim was for the Minister to make a keynote speech on this work at the Review's proposed concluding conference.
14. Members welcomed these proposals, but expressed concern that funds were currently being taken from the mental health and learning disability programmes, and about staff recruitment and retention problems. There was a fear that any new money would have to be used to bring the services back up to the current level, rather than to support reform and modernisation developments. There was no doubt that strong cases could be made for catch-up, investment and modernisation, but members recognised that the Review would be implemented at the same time as the RPA changes were coming in and the possible resource constraints this might mean.

15. On the proposed Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability post, Leslie Frew advised that discussion on the detail of this was ongoing, but a paper would be put to the Minister in the near future. The aim was that the person appointed would chair an inter-Departmental Task Group to oversee implementation, with wide representation, including users and carers. The way ahead on all of the Department's implementation plans would be clearer by the time of the next meeting.

**Draft Report: Promoting Social Inclusion (Paper SC 36/06)**

16. Leslie Frew introduced this report, highlighting the changes and developments since the committee saw the first draft. Stigma, for example, was now covered, although it had been difficult to get material on this: Professor McConkey had provided some details. The report's recommendations would, hopefully, produce real change, and with the committee's endorsement, the document would be ready for consultation.
17. Members welcomed this further draft, which they said reflected good progress from the initial version and contained good recommendations. In discussion, the key general points raised were:
  - the report did not spell out the important contribution of the voluntary sector to achieving social inclusion;
  - the report did not cover the RPA changes and their possible impact on the social inclusion of those with mental health problems or a learning disability. These are usually small populations within areas, whose needs are not being thought through;
  - there needed to be more cross-referencing with the Human Rights and Equality Group's report, for example in the Introduction, Foreword and on Advocacy;
  - the report did not sufficiently challenge what other Departments are doing;
  - the need for a Performance Indicators and Targets chapter to map progress with the recommendations had to be considered;
  - more examples of good practice and joined-up working could be quoted.
18. There were, in addition, numerous specific comments and suggestions which the Support Team would combine into a composite note. As regards a date for consultation, Mr Frew agreed to consider the comments made as quickly as possible and issue the report, probably in July, with the aim of providing a final draft for the September Steering Committee meeting.

19. As regards publication, members agreed that on balance this report and Lady Eames' one should be published separately, in light of the fact, for example, that the PSI report served the dual purpose of a Review report and a report to OFMDFM.

### **Strategic Priorities Report**

20. Professor McClelland reminded members of the current position with this report: Convenors were preparing Performance Indicators and Targets, with Bill Halliday looking at how best to enhance the non-service elements such as human rights and equality. The work would be reviewed at the Convenors' meeting on 20 June, but the aim was to present (if possible) a draft version to the Minister at the meeting with him on 19 June.
21. Until then, the paper would be a composite one, but after this the learning disability element could be separated. In due course, also, the reports would be made public, but were currently "in-house" and confidential. They would form the basis of the Review's concluding conference. In summary, therefore, work was ongoing on this document, but a final draft could be ready for the next meeting.

### **Reports from Working Committees**

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

22. Some final changes were being made to this report in light of the discussions with Professor Williams from Wales. These were being cleared with the committee by correspondence. The Executive Summary was also being finalised. The meeting agreed that Professor McClelland could sign off these last changes, if the committee approved them, and the report could then go to the printers.

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

23. It had proved difficult to arrange the meeting proposed at the last Steering Committee between some of its members and Nevin Ringland to discuss final comments on the draft report. This would now be effected by correspondence, with the report being issued for consultation as soon as possible.
24. There was, in addition, an issue between this Committee and the Mental Health Promotion Committee about the separation of mental health and physical health promotion, as in the latter committee's primary recommendation. The relevant members of both committees would be meeting to resolve and ensure consistency of approach within the Review.

## **Forensic Services**

25. Dr Browne advised that his Committee was meeting on 7 June to discuss the consultation responses, and to finalise the Implementation Chapter and the Executive Summary. A draft final report would be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting.

## **Legal Issues**

26. Master Hall reported on the current state of play with the preparation of his committee's draft report. The committee had met the previous Friday to finalise several sub group reports and drafting of the full report was under way. The aim was to produce a first draft for the July Steering Committee meeting, following further consultation, as necessary, with the Experts by Experience and Carers' Reference Groups, and a further committee meeting in July.

## **Social Justice and Citizenship**

27. The Human Rights and Equality Group was meeting in late June to consider the consultation responses received and aimed to submit a final draft to the July Steering Committee.

## **Needs and Resources**

28. Glenn Houston advised that work was continuing to cost reports as they became available. This was difficult in some cases, given the general nature of some of the recommendations. In light of what was realisable in terms of the resources likely to be available, there was a need to agree on a strategy which would work best for the Review. To help inform members on costs, he agreed to provide a spreadsheet for the next meeting covering the whole Review and its separate components.

## **Dates of Next Meetings**

29. To enable the Forensic Services and Human Rights and Equality reports to be finalised, the next meeting would be **on Tuesday 25 July**.
30. Thereafter, meetings would be held on:
  - **Tuesday 29 August;**
  - **Tuesday 25 September;** and
  - **Tuesday 31 October.**