

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

**Twelfth Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday 27 January 2004 in the Armagh  
City Hotel, Armagh**

<b>Present:</b>	Professor Roy McClelland (Chair)	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
	Professor David Bamford	Mrs Siobhan Bogues
	Dr Paschal McKeown	Ms Moira Davren
	Mr Brendan Mullen	Mr Nevin Ringland
	Mr Patrick Convery	Dr Oliver Shanks
	Mr Bill Halliday	Dr Diana Patterson
	Dr Fred Browne	Master Brian Hall
	Mr Brian Dornan	Professor Geoff Shepherd
	Mr Mark Timoney	Mr Leslie Frew
	Mr Martin Daly	Ms Eileen Sherrard
	Dr John Owens	Professor Scott Brown
	Mr Roy Keenan	Mrs Maureen McCartney
	Miss Vikki Greenwood	Mr Michael Kelly
	Miss Maureen Dodd	
	Mr Neil Hempton	
 <b>Apologies:</b>	Rev Trevor Williams	Mr Colin Beck
	Det S/tend Andrew Bailey	Ms Marie Crossin
	Ms Martha McClelland	Miss Joanne McDonald
	Dr Raman Kapur	Professor Alan Ferguson
	Mr Winston McCartney	Professor Tony McGleenan
	Mrs Marian Nicholas	Dr John Hunter

### **Welcome and Introductions**

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee. He especially welcomed Colette McGinnity, Down and Lisburn Carers Forum on Learning Disability, Dr Mary McClean, a carer who worked with Armagh and Dungannon Trust, and Professor Scott Brown, who was

replacing Walter Boyd as GP representative, and attending for the first time. He asked members to briefly introduce themselves for their benefit.

### **Presentation by Colette McGinnity, Down Lisburn Carers Forum on Learning Disability**

2. Colette McGinnity focussed on issues of concern raised by carers and professionals, and suggestions for addressing them (a copy of her handout is attached). Members raised questions, especially on the provision of respite care and Aspergers Syndrome. As regards the latter, Professor McClelland advised that the Committee would be making decisions on how it would handle ASD/Aspergers Syndrome within the Review in the near future.

### **Presentation by Dr Mary McClean on Experiences as a Carer in the NI Mental Health System**

3. Dr McClean's presentation related to her experiences as a carer in the NI Mental Health system (a copy of her slides is attached). Members discussed some of the issues raised, including confidentiality about patients, carers' needs, management issues and ECT. These applied to both mental health and learning disability, and Dr McClean was asked to identify policy issues and send in a list of proposed recommendations for consideration.
4. Professor McClelland thanked both speakers and assured them that the challenging points they had raised would be fully considered by the Review.

### **Note of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising (Paper SC 52/03)**

5. The note was agreed without amendment. On matters arising, the following points were covered:

**(i) Workforce Issues**

6. Professor McClelland tabled a paper (SC 5/04), “Workforce Skills – A Vision for Change,” which he and Professor Bamford had written. It covered Medical Treatments, Psychotherapy and Psychosocial Intervention, Core Skills, Legal Context, Support Workers and Deficits in the Current Workforce. The emphasis was on user and service provision perspectives. This paper would be passed to David Bingham, as a starter paper. The chairman reminded the Convenors that a request was expected from David Bingham, asking them to supply information on their workforce needs. The request had not yet been received, however, and Professor Bamford agreed to send him a reminder.

**(ii) Information Requirements**

7. Professor McClelland advised that work was ongoing to establish the information needs for the Review. It was felt that the Review needed to map the current position, to establish a baseline for future planning. The system has to be simple, yet robust. On the learning disability side, Professor McConkey’s work should be completed by May.

**(iii) Funding Issues**

8. Professor Bamford reported on an initial meeting with DHSSPS personnel on 9 January, from which regular monthly meetings would now be scheduled. These offered the Review the opportunity to be involved in Departmental thinking on future funding, in line with its priorities.
9. Leslie Frew advised that additional resources of £8m had been allocated to Mental Health and Learning Disability for 2004/05. This was on top of the annual uplift. £5m, including £3m for Crisis Response, would go to Mental Health, while the remaining £3m would go to Learning Disability.

**(iv) 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Newsletter**

10. Dr McKeown was thanked for her work to produce the accessible version of the first Newsletter. Work was progressing on the second edition. Convenors were reminded to submit their contributions as soon as possible.

**(v) Media Contacts**

11. Siobhan Bogues advised that Sam Simpson had been engaged to publicise Learning Disability conference on 29<sup>th</sup> and could be a useful contact for future events where publicity was required.

**Classification of Evidence (Paper SC 2/04)**

12. Professor McClelland referred to this paper. He advised that it further developed the proposed system of classifying evidence and represented an attempt to achieve a uniform system for the whole Review – as at paragraphs 2 and 3. Members endorsed the proposals, which would be brought to the next Adult Mental Health Working Committee.

**Reports from Working Committees**

**13. Social Justice and Citizenship**

Bill Halliday reported that both the sub groups were working well. He had written to the other Convenors seeking feedback on Social Justice and Citizenship interface issues and was still awaiting some replies. The Convenors' meeting on 7 January had discussed how they would deal with Human Rights and Equality issues in their reports, and had agreed that each will contain a front-loaded, introductory section on these issues, with human

rights and equality also embedded in them, as necessary. This would be achieved in consultation with the Human Rights and Equality Sub Group, using a set of guiding principles, which they were now developing. On Promoting Social Inclusion, it was hoped that a draft report would be ready by April 2004. This will be shared with users, carers, other groups and Convenors.

## **Needs and Resources**

14. Brian Dornan advised that there were quite a few issues to be looked at including use of resources, capitation formulae, community morbidity and deprivation and under funding compared with neighbouring countries. A paper to help guide the costing of recommendations had been issued to Convenors for comment. Work was ongoing to finalise this. User representation on the Group was still a concern.

## **Mental Health Promotion**

15. In the absence of Alan Ferguson, Professor Bamford reported on this Committee. He advised that presentations by “experts” from Scotland and England were being arranged for the next Steering Committee and Working Committee meetings. Professor Ferguson had written to Convenors, and was awaiting their replies on how they saw their Committees’ links with his Committee, and how they would include mental health promotion issues in their reports. At the meeting the day before, the Committee had focussed on children and young people’s issues, with presentations on education topics.

## **Mental Health Issues in Old Age and Dementia**

16. Nevin Ringland told members that the Committee had agreed to operate as 2 sectoral groups: Mental Health Issues in Old Age (chaired by Ian Sutherland) and Dementia (chaired by Kate Thompson). He was aware of sensitivities on

the handling of Dementia, but had received extremely positive feedback from members at their first meeting.

### **Legal Issues**

17. Master Brian Hall began by reporting on the recent Conference held in the Dunadry Hotel. This has resulted in Maria McGinnity's Sub Group establishing 3 small groups to take forward the issues raised and to develop values and principles for new legislation. He explained that his Committee was a filter for ideas from other Committees and it was not their role to scrutinise everything. A further full meeting of the Committee had been arranged for 18 February.

### **Learning Disability**

18. Siobhan Bogues reported that the Carers' and Equal Lives Groups' reports would be launched on 29 January at the Implementation Issues Conference in the Fitzwilliam International Hotel. She thanked Committee members for their help/input in producing these reports. She raised the issue of the timescale of the whole Review, in order to help her Committee judge the pace they needed to work at. Professor Bamford advised that he thought a minimum of 12, with a maximum of 18, months should be the norm for a Committee's deliberations, although there was a need to be flexible.

### **Forensic Services**

19. Dr Fred Browne said his Committee had set dates for a series of meetings and that the work was on schedule.

## **Child and Adolescent Mental Health**

20. Moira Davren advised that a work plan was being written following a couple of successful meetings. Plans were in place to meet with Dr Patterson and Dr Browne to discuss interface issues. Letters from Bill Halliday and Alan Ferguson have been circulated to members and comments were awaited. Workforce issues were a big concern, with a lack of support staff to help the voluntary sector. The Committee had split into 3 groups to look at: Tier 1 and 2 services; Tier 3 and 4 services; and the Marginalised and At Risk population. The Committee was also exploring the possibility of consulting with users, carers and stakeholders.

## **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

21. Dr Diana Patterson reported that her Committee had now met 4 times and were in the process of preparing a manpower paper. Areas to be addressed by the Committee included employability and homelessness, tobacco, pregnant substance users and dual diagnosis substance misuse. In April, they intend to look at the new regulations regarding substitute prescribing.

## **Adult Mental Health**

22. Professor McClelland advised that interface issues were currently being discussed by his Committee, and, if required, his draft report will be refined accordingly. Following a series of roadshows, proposals have been received to meet with local councils and this is being considered. In addition, an MLA had also offered to host a meeting with colleagues in the Long Gallery, Stormont. This was also being considered as a means of covering the “political perspective.”

## **Date of Next Meeting**

23. **Tuesday 24 February - the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast at 10.00am.**

## **Any Other Business**

### **(i) Format of Review Reports**

24. Professor Bamford advised that the Convenors were considering a paper on this and would report to the Committee once decisions had been made.

### **(ii) Primary Care Strategy**

25. Professor McClelland referred to this paper **(SC 4/04)** – Primary Health and Social Care: A Strategic Framework for People, Families and Communities. This was a draft DHSSPS document, issued in confidence to members, setting out a framework for primary health and social care. Members were asked to respond to this document.

### **(iii) Meeting with the Ombudsman**

26. Professor McClelland advised that a meeting had been arranged with Mr Tom Frawley, Ombudsman, who is carrying out a review of public administrative structures in Northern Ireland. Should members have view/comments, these should be sent to the Support Team prior to the meeting on 24 February.

### **(iv) Mental Health Promotion Committee/ Seminar**

27. Professor Bamford reminded members of the invitation to them from Alan Ferguson to attend the Promoting Mental Health Working Committee on

24 February, following the next Steering Committee meeting. He had arranged for senior staff from the Scottish Executive and an expert from London would be providing presentations.