

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

**Thirteenth Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday 24 February 2004, in the
Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast**

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

Welcome and Introductions

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to the 13th meeting of the Steering Committee. He especially welcomed Gregor Henderson and David Bolger (Scottish Executive) and Lynne Friedli (Freelance Mental Health Promotion specialist) and thanked Professor Ferguson for arranging their visit. He asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Mr Francis Rice, Nursing and Midwifery Group, DHSSPS and Mr Billy McClintock, Health and Safety Executive, NI, also attended for the presentation.

Presentations by David Bolger, Gregor Henderson and Lynne Friedli

2. David Bolger looked at mental health in Scotland. He covered Promotion, Prevention and Recovery, Care and Treatment, and the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. Users' and carers' interests were central to the work. He pointed out that there was a lack of evidence available on performance and quality of service provision, and that workforce information was not being supplied. Implementation plans were needed. Needs had to be identified and responsibilities agreed.
3. Dr Lynne Friedli dealt with evidence-based practice in mental health promotion. She advised that there were links between promotion of mental and physical health and key issues such as social justice, quality of life, promoting social inclusion, alcohol and substance abuse, and the equality agenda. Links needed to be made and relationships established with a wide range of professional/community/user groups. The recognition that everyone has mental health needs had to be developed, and the concept of the universality of mental health. In Scotland, the 3 big health issues were heart disease, cancer and mental health. By linking mental health with the first two in health promotion work, everyone can benefit.
4. Gregor Henderson dealt with the National Programme Action Plan 2003-2006. It had 4 key aims, with 6 associated priority areas. Again this was an area where linkages among interested agencies needed to be made. He emphasised the importance of publicity to set the ball rolling.
5. Professor Bamford thanked all three for their helpful and thought-provoking presentations, which would be expanded on later at the Working Committee meeting.

Chairman's Communications

6. Professor Bamford informed the Committee that representatives from the Review had met the Ministerial Group on Public Health on 11 February. They had been well-received. As a result, there would be invitations from other NI Departments to make presentations. The Convenors will look at these when received, with a view to doing joint presentations. The Group's interest was welcomed, as there were several common themes across Departments on which a shared approach was crucial.
7. The Chairman also noted that the launch of the Equal Lives' and Carers' reports received good press coverage, and that Clive Gowdy, Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS, had congratulated those involved. There would, hopefully, be presentations on these reports to the Committee in due course.
8. Meetings had also been held with senior representatives of some Trusts, to discuss the future direction of services which the Review would be advocating.
9. He also advised on a meeting with Tom Frawley, Chair of the Review of Public Administration, later that day, which he and Professor McClelland were attending.
10. Professor Bamford thanked Maureen McCartney and her colleagues for their work to update the Review's web site. A fuller appraisal of the site would be carried out in due course.
11. Finally, he thanked everyone for their continuing hard work on the Review and looked forward to the Learning Disability and Adult Mental Health reports being issued by the Summer.

Note of the last meeting and matters arising (Paper SC 6/04)

12. The note was agreed without amendment.
13. Nevin Ringland raised the issue of additional funding for Dementia services. Leslie Frew reported that the annual uplift had been agreed, but he awaited the Minister's decision on what additional monies might be made available for these.

(i) Workforce Issues: DHSSPS exercise

14. David Bingham's letter was still awaited. A further reminder has been sent. However, the exercise was underway. Maureen Dodd advised that the group had developed a proforma for gathering information, which was to be piloted in Down Lisburn Trust. She and other Review representatives had concerns on this: for example, it did not cover sub-specialities within mental health, staff recruitment and retention, the situation in the voluntary and private sectors, or staff shortages. As such, its usefulness was limited.
15. It was agreed that a meeting would urgently be arranged involving the Review's representatives on this exercise with Professors Bamford and McClelland, Siobhan Bogues and the Support Team. The aim was to identify the main concerns/issues. Steering Committee members would then be asked to consult with their "constituencies" on these and relay the outcome back to the Committee.

(ii) Funding/Progress Meetings

16. An initial, useful meeting had been held with DHSSPS. Another one was planned for the next day.

(iii) Media Contacts

17. There had been no further contact from BBC or UTV. Trevor Williams and Raman Kapur agreed to take the matter forward. It was recognised that the press and media preferred “an angle” to a story to give it better coverage.

(iv) Information Requirements

- 18 Professor McClelland advised of the meeting with DHSSPS Information personnel on 9 February, which had been useful. This was a huge and complex area essential to the Review’s work, but progress was being made. Siobhan Bogues reported that the audit on the learning disability side was going well.

(vi) 2nd Edition of Newsletter (Paper SC 12/04)

19. The draft version of the 2nd edition of the Newsletter was circulated. It was hoped to have the final version issued shortly. Paschal McKeown volunteered to provide an accessible version.

(vii) Chairman’s Diary etc (Paper SC 11/04)

20. Professor Bamford reminded members that a record of his meetings/events in January and February 2004 was in members’ papers for information.

ASD/Aspergers Syndrome (Paper SC 7/04)

21. Professor Bamford referred members to this paper, which was tabled, about which he had spoken to Eileen Sherrard. She had already informally consulted with a group of stakeholders in developing it. He asked members to submit **comments to him within 2 weeks**. The revised paper could then be discussed

with interested groups, to enable a final document to be submitted to the Committee for decisions on how ASD/Aspergers Syndrome would be handled within the Review.

Mental Health Carers Group

22. Marie Crossin advised that a list of people was being finalised for invitations to a first meeting in mid-March. Members were asked to suggest urgently possible names from the North and North West of the Province.

Report from Convenors' Meeting on 12th February

23. Professor Bamford reported that Convenors had agreed that at future Steering Committee meetings, 3 Convenors would provide detailed reports, including a written (2 pages maximum) report for issue in advance. The remaining Convenors would provide brief, update reports (accompanied, if they wish, with any written material). Convenors also agreed that external presentations would be limited to one per meeting, lasting a maximum of 30 minutes. These measures would allow more time for detailed discussion of issues emerging.

Reports from Working Committees

Alcohol and Substance Misuse (Paper SC 8/04)

24. Dr Diana Patterson referred to this report on her Committee. She asked members to add Ms Nuala Cassidy to the membership list, as it was missing, and highlighted several interface issues with other Committees, which were being addressed.
25. Smoking and mental health had been identified as a major area to consider. It was part of the culture of mental health patients in long stay wards.

Dr Patterson advised that the Committee will be conducting focus groups and other meetings to gain user and carer opinions on the work.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Paper SC 9/04)

26. Ms Moira Davren reported that her Committee had split into 3 sub groups and were seeking nominations to each one. They had planned out their future work, which included consideration of interface issues. They also hoped to hold a seminar in June 2004, which will be open to Steering Committee members. She had spoken to Pip Jaffa (Parents Advice Centre) and they will meet to discuss parent input. Martha McClelland will be asked to suggest contacts for user/carers involvement. Alison Morrow (Casper Project) had been identified as a contact point for consultation with young people.
27. Professor Bamford added that the Committee's last meeting had been poorly attended. He urged members to try to maximise their attendance at meetings, while fully recognising other work-related pressures.

Forensic Services (Paper SC 10/04)

28. As Dr Browne was unavailable, Professor Bamford tabled his report. He advised members that the Committee proposed to hold a conference to discuss Assessment and Management of Risk on Friday 4 June 2004. Members were asked to submit any observations/comments direct to Fred Browne.

Adult Mental Health

29. Professor McClelland reported that work was progressing well. Recommendations were currently being scrutinised. Feedback from various services had been received and the Committee was starting to consider implementation issues.

Learning Disability

30. Siobhan Bogues advised that all the Task Groups' reports should be available by the end of March 2004. Implementation and drafting sub groups had been established. It was hoped to have the report ready by June/July 2004.

Legal Issues

31. Master Hall stated that the Committee had set monthly dates to May 2004 and would have papers from Sub Groups for consideration at each. He was arranging a discussion forum on Monday 29 March to consider whether it was possible/appropriate to make future legislative provision for all persons with mental health needs and learning disability in a single Bill.

Mental Health Issues in Old Age

32. Nevin Ringland reported on two Committee meetings already held. A third was being held later that week. The Committee was clarifying its brief and establishing a framework for services. The idea of holding a series of public meetings was also being developed, but matters are at a very early stage.
33. He said the Committee wanted to change its name to 'Dementia and Older People with Mental Health Problems'. Members suggested other possible titles also, including Dementia and Related Issues in Old Age and changing Old Age to Older People. Professor Bamford recognised the sensitivities around the title and asked Nevin Ringland to consider this further with him before bringing back to the Steering Committee for a final decision.

Mental Health Promotion

34. Professor Bamford referred to the central importance of this Committee's work, which was emphasised even more so after the earlier presentation. He invited members to stay for the afternoon presentation to the Committee.

Needs and Resources

35. Professor Bamford advised that Brian Dornan's Committee was dealing with complex work but that it was of central importance. He would check with him on user/carer involvement.

Social Justice and Citizenship

36. Bill Halliday had sent his apologies, and Professor Bamford welcomed Martha McClelland back after her accident. Members were advised that Bill Halliday had taken over the permanent role of Convenor, while Martha McClelland was concentrating on developing a User Group.

Date of next meeting

37. **Tuesday 30 March at 10.00am in the Quality Hotel, Carrickfergus.**

Any Other Business

(i) Structure(s) for the Delivery of Mental health and Learning Disability Services

38. Professor Bamford briefly advised members of discussion at the last Convenors' meeting about possible recommendation on the future structure(s) for the delivery of services. The importance of this issue meant that the next

Convenors' meeting would be devoted almost entirely to this, and there was the possibility of a half day seminar being organised in due course to clarify the Review's position.