

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

**34TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2006,
PARK PLAZA HOTEL, AT 10.00 AM**

Present

Dr Diana Patterson (Chairing)
Dr Fred Browne
Prof Geoff Shepherd
Mr Leslie Frew
Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mr Brian Dornan
Dr Oliver Shanks
Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Rev Trevor Williams

Master Brian Hall
DI Gary Mullan
Dr Paschal McKeown
Miss Joanne McDonald
Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Mrs Maureen Ferris
Mr Pat Convery
Mr Roy Keenan
Mr Michael Kelly

Apologies

Prof Roy McClelland
Prof Alan Ferguson
Mr Nevin Ringland
Mr Bill Halliday
Mrs Martha McClelland
Ms Moira Davren
Mr Glenn Houston
Dr John Hunter
Miss Vikki Greenwood

Mr Colin Beck
Dr John Owens
Mr Brendan Mullen
Mr Martin Daly
Dr David Cameron
Mrs Marie Crossin
Mr Mark Timoney
Mrs Marian Nicholas

In Attendance

Lady Christine Eames
Dr May McCann

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Dr Patterson welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Professor Geoff Shepherd, Lady Christine Eames and Dr May McCann, who was deputising for Marie Crossin.

Chairman's Communications

2. The meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Professor Bamford who had sadly passed away the previous Thursday.

3. Several members then paid tribute to his work and commitment to the Review and the meeting agreed that the Review as a whole should make a contribution in his memory to the Romanian After Care Project, based in Hollywood. The Support Team would co-ordinate this and notify everyone connected with the Review as quickly as possible as to how to make responses. It was also recognised that many Review members would wish to send personal cards or letters to his widow and family.
4. Members also stressed that the Review itself would be a lasting tribute to him and it was suggested that its title be changed to "The Bamford Review", with "The Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability (Northern Ireland)" as a sub-heading. The suggestion would be discussed initially with Professor McClelland and DHSSPS.

Chairman's Engagements (SC 12/06)

5. Dr Patterson reminded members that this paper had been issued for information and included major Review events in February.
6. She also advised that a copy of this paper, entitled "Improving the Mental Health of the Population: Towards a Strategy on Mental Health for the European Union", to which Professor McClelland had referred at the November meeting, had now been issued to members.

Note of the Last Meeting (SC 8/06)

7. The note was agreed with the exception of revising paragraph 13 – omitting the 4th sentence and making any other necessary changes to the following sentences.
8. The Support Team would revise this and the amended note would be included in the papers for the next meeting.
9. Responding to a question, Dr Browne confirmed that the Royal College of Psychiatrists' seminar on ASD (referred to at paragraph 14) was scheduled for 24 February, but was not an "open" event.

Matters Arising

(i) Implementation of the Review

10. Leslie Frew advised that Maureen McCartney had now left the Review's Support Team to head up a new branch in this Directorate responsible for mental health policy and implementation of the Review. This change took effect on 23 January, with Roy Keenan now leading the Support Team for the remainder of the Review's timespan.
11. Members welcomed this development, paying tribute to Mrs McCartney's work on the Review and expressing their pleasure that someone with such experience of it and the issues would be leading on implementation.

(ii) Communication and Influencing Strategy

12. Dr Patterson reported on developments with this ongoing work: the 4th Review Newsletter was in the process of being issued (members had received a copy with their papers); Professor McClelland had met with the representatives of the Ulster Unionist Party on 19 January; and there would be publicity around the publication of her committee's report on Alcohol and Substance Misuse in February.
13. Members agreed that an easy-read version of the newsletter should also now be prepared.

(iii) Budget 2005 Letter

14. Leslie Frew reported that a reply from Andrew McCormick was in preparation. While it was unlikely to offer anything concrete in terms of resources, it would point out that there was a spending round in prospect in which bids could be logged for mental health and learning disability. The reply would also offer a meeting with the Review.
15. For clarification, also, he explained that the resources allocated for suicide awareness work in Mr Hill's October letter to the HPSS were "general" rather than in relation to Review recommendations. It was important to remember, though, that the Task Force on Suicide was due to report in the near future and this could well have an important bearing on how these funds were deployed.
16. Geoff Shepherd cautioned on the prospect of substantial additional monies for mental health and learning disability from his experience in England and Wales, citing examples where decreasing budgets were the more likely current and future scenarios. In these circumstances, it was not possible to develop as many new services as planned, however much was being achieved through the redeployment of resources – and this was perhaps also the way forward and challenge for Northern Ireland.

(iv) Strategic Priorities Paper

17. Dr Patterson reported that this paper, as revised, would be discussed at the Convenors' meeting on 9 February. A further draft would be brought to the Steering Committee at the end of February.
18. Siobhan Bogues said that her Learning Disability Committee had found it difficult to comment on the paper at their meeting the previous day, as they were confused about its purpose: was it intended to be a summary of the Review; or a strategic document for bidding purposes for the first 3 years of implementation?
19. Other members shared these concerns. However, it was recognised that the document **was** intended to encompass these two objectives: to set out the key priorities which the Review considered essential for years 1-3 (rather than have the Department or Ministers decide on these); and also to be a summary of the entire Review. A further factor was that implementation would not solely fall to DHSSPS: it encompassed the

responsibilities of several Departments. These issues, therefore, had to be carefully considered in the continuing drafting process.

(v) Draft Human Rights and Equality Report

20. Christine Eames spoke of paper **SC 10/06**, summarising the outcome of her Sub Group's discussion on 17 January of the comments from the last Steering Committee meeting. She emphasised that the Group wanted to press on with early consultation on its report and had made changes to the recommendations and text, as necessary, in line with the Committee's comments. These changes had been discussed and agreed with Professor McClelland on 25 January. He was also prepared to "sign off" the outstanding work on a couple of chapters in the report without the Steering Committee having to see another draft – subject to members' agreement to this.
21. The meeting agreed the suggested rewording of the recommendations and Professor McClelland's suggestion that he clear the consultation draft. It was pointed out that employment issues may need to be further flagged up in the report and as clear as statement made on them as possible, especially in relation to the public sector, as the report had done with education issues. It was also recognised that there was an overlap between this, and some other issues with the Promoting Social Inclusion report. While these two reports would be issued for separate consultation, the possibility of combining the final versions into one document would be kept in mind.

(vi) Workforce Issues

22. The DHSSPS revised paper was still awaited. Professor McClelland was keeping in contact with Joyce Cairns on this. The Review's representatives to this exercise would be involved in commenting on the document.

Draft Forensic Services Consultation Report

23. Dr Browne introduced the revised report, referring to the changes which had been made since the meeting saw the first draft in October. This had included developing the community services and prisons chapters; and taking account of comments from the Carers' Group. There was still some work remaining, most of which (Executive Summary, Implementation Issues, Glossary) could be left until the final version. The one key point at present was whether references should appear in the consultation version.
24. Members were strongly in favour of this, even though it would take a couple of weeks to complete. Maureen Ferris agreed to help with this work.
25. On terminology, the meeting agreed that the phrase "community and voluntary sectors" should be used, if this is what was meant in a particular section; while the phrase "independent" or "non-statutory bodies" should/could also be used in other contexts in the report. The key was to decide at each instance what exactly was intended.

26. In addition, it was suggested that:
- the recommendations should be numbered and possibly also included together as a separate annex;
 - as necessary, adding “involving stakeholders including” before “users and carers”;
 - the report should make it clearer that “mainstream” services should be readily available to those subject to the criminal justice system; and
 - the values and principles (paragraph 2.3) might better reflect mental health **and** learning disability.
27. It was also suggested that the Managed Clinical Networks referred to in the report could provide a mechanism for implementation for other elements of the Review because of how they operate and deliver services.
28. Dr Browne agreed to consider all these points further as he moved to finalise the consultation version. Dr Patterson thanked him for his further work on the report and looked forward to seeing the consultation version in the near future.

Reports from Other Working Committees

Legal Issues

- 29 Brian Hall reported that work on the key Framework paper was continuing, with meetings planned over the next 7-10 days with Sub Groups 2 and 3 and with their chairs. A completed draft would follow at the March Steering Committee, as part of a first draft report. An initial outline for the report will be presented at the February meeting.

Learning Disability Committee

30. This Committee would meet again in March. There was good feedback from stakeholders on Equal Lives, which was in its second print.

Promoting Social Inclusion

31. Leslie Frew advised that the consultation draft would be presented to the February meeting.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

32. The Committee met on 10 January and will have a further meeting to finalise their response to the consultation comments. The aim is to present the final report to the March Steering Committee meeting.

Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People

33. The Committee was meeting on 1 February and would present a first draft report to that month's Steering Committee.

Mental Health Promotion

34. Final redrafting was in progress as a result of the consultation, with the aim of presenting the final version to the February Steering Committee meeting.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

35. The report would be published in February.

Date of Next Meeting

36. **Tuesday 28 February.** Venue to be advised.

AOB

(i) Minister's Briefing on Mental Health

37. Leslie Frew reported that the Minister had requested a briefing and discussion meeting on mental health, on Sunday 5 February. This would include current policy, the Review and implementation. He saw it as an excellent opportunity to flag up mental health and learning disability issues and the need for modernisation and reform in light of the Review. He would report back, as necessary, on the outcome.