

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

**FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2003  
AT THE SEAGOE HOTEL, PORTADOWN**

|                 |                                 |                          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Professor David Bamford (Chair) | Master Brian Hall        |
|                 | Professor Roy McClelland        | Mr Brendan Mullen        |
|                 | Dr John Owens                   | Dr Fred Browne           |
|                 | Mrs Martha McClelland           | Mrs Mary O'Boyle         |
|                 | Dr Raman Kapur                  | Mr Patrick Convery       |
|                 | Dr Paschal McKeown              | Mrs Eileen Sherrard      |
|                 | Dr Oliver Shanks                | Rev Trevor Williams      |
|                 | Professor Alan Ferguson         | Det S/tend Andrew Bailey |
|                 | Ms Marie Crossin                | Mrs Maureen McCartney    |
|                 | Mr Mark Timoney                 | Mr Roy Keenan            |
|                 | Mr Martin Daly                  | Mr Michael Kelly         |
|                 | Ms Siobhan Bogues               | Ms Vikki Greenwood       |

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|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Apologies:</b> | Professor Tony McGleenan | Mr Neill Wilson   |
|                   | Dr Walter Boyd           | Mr Leslie Frew    |
|                   | Mrs Maureen Dodd         | Mr Geoff Shepherd |
|                   | Mr Winston McCartney     | Mr Colin Beck     |
|                   | Dr John Hunter           |                   |

**In Attendance:** Dr Janice Thompson

**Welcome and Introductions**

1. Professor David Bamford welcomed everyone to this fourth meeting of the Steering Committee. He thanked Professor McClelland for chairing the last meeting and welcomed those who were attending for the first time. He advised that, all being well, Geoff Shepherd would be attending the next meeting.
2. Updating members on the work of the Review since the last meeting, he said that this still centred on the following main areas:
  - continuing initial meetings with stakeholders;
  - finalising membership of the first 4 expert Working Committees;
  - meetings regarding statistical and financial information with personnel within DHSSPS (Liz McWhirter and Karen Campbell respectively); and
  - preparing for this fourth meeting.

3. The meetings with stakeholders were still proving very informative and useful. All were minuted. Some of the material from the responses to Professor Bamford's initial letters in October had been made available to the members of the Adult Mental Health Expert Working Committee. In due course, relevant extracts or papers would be issued to all the Working Committees to inform their work. Professor Bamford also pointed out that the Review Team have moved to new offices on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Dundonald House.
4. A meeting had been held with Dr Liz McWhirter, Information and Analysis Unit, DHSSPS, about the support which her Unit could provide to the Review and in particular about establishing a statistical baseline. Discussions are ongoing and there may be a need to commission some research support.
5. At the meeting with Dr Karen Campbell, she agreed to attend the next Steering Committee meeting to present an information paper on the Regional Capitation Formula.
6. Dr Denis McMahon in DHSSPS had agreed to put a note about the Review into the draft Regional Strategy, to be issued in September 2003.
7. The issue of mental incapacity had been raised with the Office of Law Reform (OLR). They have suggested setting up a working group to develop a more detailed consultation paper, based on the 1999 one. Some of the proposed membership of that group overlaps with the members of the Legal Issues Committee, which will take decisions on the extent of the Review's involvement in the issue. Members will be kept informed of developments.
8. Finally, Professor Bamford advised members of his meeting with his "counterpart" in Scotland, Dr Sandra Grant, who has just started a review of Mental Health Policy and Practise there.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

9. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed without amendment.

### **Mission Statement and Strategic Framework for the Review**

10. Professor Bamford referred to Papers SC18/03 and SC19/03 and to the relevant changes made, as suggested at the last meeting. These papers were agreed.

### **Management of Working Committees, Roles of Convenors, Communication Issues**

11. This Paper, SC15/03, was carried over from the last meeting. Professor Bamford explained that its aim was to set down some basic principles and procedures on how the Convenors of the Working Committees carry out their tasks and on general communications issues. While each Working Committee will have delegated authority, all their work will be brought back to the Steering Committee for approval. Key proposals include:

- Regular Convenors' meetings;
- Convenors to be members off/attend Steering Committee meetings; and
- a quarterly Information Day for all Steering Committee, Working Committee and Sub Group members.

As regards cross cutting issues, Convenors will identify these and discuss at the Convenors' meetings to agree which Committee has lead responsibility. Members approved the proposals.

## **Reports from Working Committees**

12. The Convenors of the four Working Committees gave an update on their work to date:

### **(i)Legal Issues – Master Brian Hall**

The Committee met for the first time on 6 March. The main topic was to agree a list of areas to be examined. They clustered these into 4 groups, which would form the basis of work by 4 Sub Groups. Each has at least 3 items to consider. The next meeting was set for 17 April, when the main agenda item would be to finalise these groupings and to agree the chairs and membership of the Sub Groups.

### **(ii)Social Justice and Citizenship - Martha McClelland**

Following a pre-meeting on 4 March with Professor Bamford, the Support Team and some key members of this Committee, the first formal meeting was held on 18 March. The meeting agreed its remit and agreed to take this forward through 2 Sub Groups – one on Human Rights & Equality (Lady Eames) and one on Social Inclusion (Leslie Frew). These Groups will be meeting before the end of April and would report back to the next Committee meeting on 6 May, when the timescales, management of the work etc.would be the main agenda item.

### **(iii)Adult Mental Health – Professor Roy McClelland**

The Committee has met twice and agreed:

- Terms of Reference;
- The Nature, Scope and Aims of its work;
- a Work Plan and Methods of Working;
- to sub-divide into 2 Sub Groups (Severe Mental Illness and Community and Primary Care);
- the membership of these Sub Groups; and
- “Leads” to examine some specialist policy and related services.

Details were issued to members. The Sub Groups are meeting fortnightly, with the next full Committee meeting after the 4 Sub Group sessions. The aim was to have a Framework document by early 2004, which Professor McClelland admitted was an ambitious task.

#### **(iv) Learning Disability – Siobhan Bogues**

Siobhan Bogues advised that she was still working on the membership of this Committee, which would meet for the first time on 16 April. Members agreed the list of proposed members tabled.

13. Professor Bamford thanked the Convenors for their reports. He advised that he was working on nominations for the second wave of Working Committees and he hoped to have some names for the next meeting. Meantime, he asked the Committee to agree to Fred Browne's nomination to convene the Forensic Services Committee. Members gave their approval.

#### **Establishment of a Steering Committee Reference Group**

14. Introducing Paper SC20/03, Professor Bamford said that at the last meeting it was agreed that work should progress on the establishment of a Reference Group for the Steering Committee. The aim was that the model used could then be extended to establish Reference Group(s) for the Working Committees. A wide ranging discussion took place on the merits of establishing such a group at present, its membership, when should it meet, its remit etc.. As a way forward, the issue would be discussed at the Convenors' meeting that afternoon and a report given at the next meeting.

#### **Strategic Phasing of the Review's Recommendations**

15. Due to time constraints, this issue was left until the next meeting.

#### **Any Other Business**

16. Papers were circulated on the NIAMH Seminar being held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2003, on the Cavan/Monaghan project; and the CREST Seminar being held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003. Andrew Bailey advised that the PSNI conference was now on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Papers will be issued later.

#### **Dates of next meeting**

17. Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Island Civic Centre Lisburn. The May meeting will be held in the Great Hall, Magee Campus Londonderry on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2003. The June meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> at the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown.