

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

**SIXTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 27th MAY 2003
IN THE GREAT HALL, MAGEE COLLEGE, LONDONDERRY**

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

Welcome and Introductions

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to this sixth meeting of the Steering Committee. He especially welcomed Dr Diana Patterson, Convenor of the Alcohol and Substance Misuse Working Committee, who was attending for the first time.

Mental Health Services in Australia

2. Gavin Davidson and Ciaran Shannon gave a presentation on the findings from their recent visit to Australia, where they visited Mental Health Service facilities in Sydney and Melbourne. Copies of the slides used were circulated to members and a question and answer session followed. Issues discussed included the greater focus on early intervention, the different approach to risk, the establishment of the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) guidelines, suicide and assessment. Professor Bamford thanked them and advised that, no doubt, members would be in touch to obtain/discuss further details.

Note of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

3. The note was agreed with the following minor changes:-
 - Brian Dornan's name would be added to the list of attendees;
 - paragraph 3, bullet point 1: - the words "well off" to be replaced by "funding for" and the word "were" deleted.

These changes would be made and a final revised version will be issued with the papers for the next meeting.

4. Professor Bamford informed members that he had written to Professor McClelland conveying the Steering Committee's congratulations on his award of the Geneva Prize for Human Rights in Psychiatry. He also advised that meetings had been held with Leslie Frew and Departmental advisors on the "Staging of Recommendations" issue; and one was planned for mid June with Andrew Hamilton, Director of Finance, DHSSPS, on finance issues. A letter had also been issued, on behalf of the Committee, to Patricia Lewsley, former Chair, All Party Assembly Group on Learning Disability, seeking any input she would have to the Review.

Update on the Review (Paper SC 25/03)

5. Professor Bamford advised that meetings were continuing with stakeholders, and that a letter had been issued updating them on progress on the Review and advising them how they can contribute to the Working Committees. He had also written to the Convenors of each Working Committee asking them for details on their Committee's Information/Research requirements. Finally, he was able to advise that the web site was live and could be accessed at www.rmhdni.gov.uk.
6. As regards meetings with stakeholders, he mentioned in particular those with the Down Lisburn Carers' Forum on Learning Disability, his attendance at the ARC (NI) Annual Conference and his meeting with PAPA. At this last meeting, the issue of where Autism fitted within the Review was raised. Members discussed this, and Eileen Sherrard and Maureen Dodd agreed to work jointly on a paper on Autistic Spectrum Disorder, to enable the Steering Committee to form a view on the issues at a later meeting.

Reports from Working Committees

7. The Convenors of the four current Working Committees gave an update on their work to date:
 - (i) **Adult Mental Health** – Professor Roy McClelland

A paper was tabled outlining the 3 fronts on which this Committee was working. The next full meeting will be on 2 June 2003, and the 2 "new" Working Group Convenors, Dr Diana Patterson and Dr Fred Browne, had been invited to attend, to discuss interface issues affecting their respective groups. Professor McClelland's Sub Group will meet on 16 and 30 June and 21 July while Dr Graeme McDonald's Group have arranged a meeting for

16 June. A further meeting of the full Committee has been arranged for 28 July 2003. Professor McClelland had also asked the 4 Leads on Specialist Services for papers by mid July. The aim is to have a first draft report ready by the end of July and to address major structural issues (manpower and finance) in the autumn. In reply to a question about input on Occupational Therapy Services, Professor McClelland said this would be raised at the next Committee meeting.

(ii) **Learning Disability** – Siobhan Bagues

A report was tabled by Siobhan Bagues, which identified the Committee's 12 priority themes and interface issues. Meetings were arranged each month until the end of 2003, and it is hoped to have a full report a year from now. DHSSPS was currently putting together a database of user and carer groups, to whom letters will shortly be sent, about the Review and the establishment of "Reference" groups.

(iii) **Legal Issues** – Master Brian Hall

Master Hall tabled a paper which detailed the agreed membership and remit of the Legal Issues Committee and its Sub Groups. He advised that a meeting of all members involved was being held on Friday 6th June at the Maynard Sinclair Pavilion, Stormont. It was hoped that this meeting would identify a timetable, working methods etc. He also hoped that the Sub Groups would all have met before the summer break. Discussion took place on the involvement of users and carers. Brian Hall explained that the plan was for the Committee to draw on the pools of users and carers being developed by Siobhan Bagues and Martha McClelland, as part of their Committees' work. There may also be a need for permanent membership on the Groups. This will be kept under review.

(iv) **Social Justice and Citizenship** – Martha McClelland

Martha McClelland reported that the Committee was meeting again on 12 June. Two Sub Groups have been established. Lady Eames' Human Rights and Equality Sub Group will also meet again that day, while the Promoting Social Inclusion Sub Group will meet for the first time on 11 June.

Convenors for 2nd Wave Working Committees

7. Members agreed Professor Bamford's proposal that Moira Davren, RCN, convene the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Working Committee. The post of Convenor of the Mental Health Issues in Old Age Working Committee had still to be filled. Professor Bamford was still working on this.

Needs and Resources Working Committee (Paper SC 26/03)

8. Paper SC 26/03 was discussed. Members agreed that the word "Department" should be added to paragraph 2, bullet point 2 and that the proposed membership of the Committee should be expanded to include representation from the voluntary sector, both mental health and learning disability, the Department of Education and the Housing Executive. Professor Bamford asked if members would let him know if they

wished to become involved with this Committee, and that he would endeavour, with the help of the Support Team, to identify a Convenor and to have it up and running shortly.

Dates of Meetings to December 2003

9. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th June at 10.00am in the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown. Further meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month ie. 26 August, 30 September, 28 October, 25 November and 27 January 2004.

Any Other Business

- (i) Professor Bamford advised that the Support Team was compiling a contact list of everyone involved in the Review, which will be circulated in due course.
- (ii) He reminded members of the Information Day on Wednesday 25th June 2003 in the Kings Hall, Belfast and asked them to confirm attendance as soon as possible.
- (iii) He also advised that Mr David Bingham, Director of Human Resources, DHSSPS, will make a presentation at the next Steering Committee meeting on Workforce Issues.