

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

**TWENTY FIFTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – TUESDAY  
26 APRIL 2005 AT 10.00 AM AT PARK PLAZA HOTEL, BELFAST  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**Present:**

Mr Bill Halliday (Chairing)  
Professor Roy McClelland  
Master Brian Hall  
Professor Alan Ferguson  
Mrs Maureen Ferris  
Mr Patrick Convery  
Professor Geoff Shepherd  
Mr Brian Dornan  
Ms Eileen Sherrard  
Mrs Maureen McCartney  
Mr Michael Kelly

Dr Oliver Shanks  
Mrs Mary O'Boyle  
Mrs Marie Crossin  
Dr Diana Patterson  
Rev Trevor Williams  
Mr Leslie Frew  
Mr Colin Beck  
Mr Glenn Houston  
Dr David Cameron  
Mr Roy Keenan

**Apologies:**

Dr Paschal McKeown  
Mr Brendan Mullen  
Mr Mark Timoney  
Mrs Siobhan Bogues  
Dr Fred Browne  
Ms Moira Davren  
Mr Winston McCartney  
Mr Martin Daly  
Miss Vikki Greenwood

Mrs Martha McClelland  
Mr Nevin Ringland  
Professor David Bamford  
Miss Joanne McDonald  
Dr John Owens  
Mrs Marion Nicholas  
Dr John Hunter  
DCI David Wallace

**In Attendance:**

Dr Noel McCune  
Mrs Judith Lee  
Mr David Twyble  
Mrs Alison Deane

Dr Graham McDonald  
Mr Kieran Blaney  
Mr Sean Ferrin

**Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

1. Mr Bill Halliday welcomed everyone to the twenty fifth meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received.
2. He advised that Professor Bamford had received treatment for his impaired vision, and that he hoped to resume his duties in May.

3. A particular welcome was extended to both Geoff Shepherd and Colin Beck.
4. Members were also introduced to Glenn Houston and Dr David Cameron who were attending their first Steering Committee meeting.

### **Chairman's Communication**

5. Bill Halliday drew members' attention to paper **SC 26/05**, Chairman's Diary Engagements, which was issued for information.
6. On forthcoming events, the meeting with the Permanent Secretary of DHSSPS, Clive Gowdy, to discuss the 2005-08 Budget, had been arranged for 16 May, and was particularly important. Members stressed the need for sustainable funding, especially for learning disability and the need to be able to plan the down-sizing of hospital provision. The workforce was another area which needed investment. It was seen as particularly important to emphasise all the issues at this time, with the possibility of a new Minister taking up post.

### **Note of the last meeting (Paper SC 23/05)**

7. The note of the last meeting was agreed as drafted.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **(i) Workforce Issues**

8. Joyce Cairns, DHSSPS, had been sent information from the Review's working committees, with the exception of Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People, on which work was continuing. To date, no response had been received from her.

#### **(ii) Validation Exercise**

9. Leslie Frew advised that members of the Learning Disability Committee had recently met with Andrew Hamilton. He was in the process of arranging meetings with the relevant HPSS bodies. A paper would be put to the Departmental Board in due course.

#### **(iii) Autistic Spectrum Disorders**

10. Professor McClelland had written to stakeholders who attended the consultation event in December 2004, advising of the outcome of the exercise and enclosing a copy of Eileen Sherrard's final report, as endorsed by the Steering Committee.
11. Maureen Ferris reported that the Eastern Health and Social Services Board had met with voluntary organisations to discuss this issue and she expected that they will submit comments. Members were reminded that this issue does not sit solely within mental health and that a co-ordinated approach is seen as the way forward

## **Draft Report – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Committee (Paper SC 24/05)**

12. Maureen Ferris introduced this document and apologised for the absence of Ms Moira Davren, who was attending the annual RCN Congress in England. She introduced Dr Noel McCune, Consultant Psychiatrist, who advised that there were some items in the text that would be transferred into the recommendations and there were some other minor changes to be made.
13. Dr Patterson said that the draft contained good emphasis on funding and strategic planning. However, the substance misuse figures quoted were not really relevant to N Ireland and she agreed to draft a contribution/response, including local figures.
14. Eileen Sherrard said she was confused about the recommendations on severe learning disabilities. She would forward further comments, as necessary, on the ASD linkages, when she had the chance to read the draft more fully.
15. Dr Oliver Shanks welcomed the coverage of mental health promotion, but stated that the diagram appeared slightly confusing. Colin Beck pointed to the absence of comment on children who self harm.
16. Members agreed that the creation of an integrated service was important, with health, education and the police all needing to work together.
17. Glenn Houston advised that the information on page 35 was very helpful for his committee. They wanted a dialogue on where the main focus of the recommendations lay.
18. Leslie Frew informed members that a local 4 churches group had met with Clive Gowdy to discuss the issue of abused children, so it was under consideration. He wanted to see the recommendations prioritised and the resources which had to be allocated to them, to see what can be done now. All the recommendations must be substantiated in the body of the report.
19. On the way forward, Professor McClelland had written to Moira Davren suggesting a meeting as soon as convenient, and including the Support Team, to pick up on the feedback. Sean Ferrin was arranging this. Interface issues were particularly important and needed to be fully covered.
20. Marie Crossin advised that the Carers' Reference Group needed time to look at the report. With this and other re-drafting needed, it was hoped to have the report signed off by the Committee in June and issued to stakeholders, including children and young people, in September.

## **Draft Report – Mental Health Promotion Committee (Paper SC 25/05)**

21. Bill Halliday welcomed Professor Alan Ferguson, Judith Lee, David Twyble, Kieran Blaney, Alison Deane and Graeme McDonald to the meeting, for the presentation the Committee's draft report, Mental Health Promotion - A Personal, Public and Political issue.
22. Professor Ferguson made a Powerpoint presentation (copy attached, **SC 27/05**). This gave an overview on what the Committee had looked at. They felt they had to do something different. It was not an attempt to deliver a new strategy, but to work within the context of the existing one and make recommendations to improve on its implementation
23. The problem areas and settings were identified, as well as the "at risk" groups with early intervention for those who have experienced mental health problems. The figures regarding resource allocation comparison of £5-6 million over a 3 year period were comparable to Scotland, while the estimate of £60 million to match the English share of the budget spent on mental health was supplied by the Sainsbury Centre and was part of the presentation by Mike Parsonage at the last Steering Committee meeting.
24. Glenn Houston stated that he thought it ambitious to try and match the GB figure of £60 million by increasing the spend on mental health services, but the £5 – 6 million was not seen as a huge figure.
25. Dr Shanks said that there was a strong need for joined-up government initiative and this may be an item for any further meeting with the Permanent Secretaries group. He also asked whether mental health could be built into equality assessments, as he felt there was a need for that kind of commitment. The benefits of employment were important
26. Dr Patterson said there was not enough on the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs.. She felt there was a need to target groups/areas such as pregnant women, parents, the home, the workplace and the general community. Health promotion education in schools was not having a great impact. There was also a risk of assuming other committees were looking at interface areas, so, to be on the safe side, it was best to cover them.
27. Dr Graeme McDonald advised that the workforce issue was a current constraint and that the re-skilling of staff would empower people.
28. Geoff Shepperd said that Standard One of the National Service Framework for Mental Health dealt with mental health promotion. It was good to have a specific committee looking at the subject in the Review. He reported that in the 4 primary care teams in his area, only one post was funded on promotion matters. There was a need to prioritise as research showed that targeted programmes are more effective (eg on changing attitudes among employers) than increasing general funding. "You only get out what you put in": to do this you have to identify the targets.

29. Professor McClelland congratulated the team on the document. He thought that suicide, including in prisons, needed to be further developed. Interface issues with other committees and the recommendation to establish a Mental Health Promotion Directorate should be expanded. The addition of timeframes was important. Other recommendations could be drawn out from the text. The next meeting of the Convenors would look at the interface issues and related internal and external initiatives. Leslie Frew would be invited to attend. A meeting would be arranged to discuss the draft, similar to the one being set up with Moira Davren.
30. Eileen Sherrard asked whether an objective could be added on the effective use of resources and their outcomes.
31. Mary O'Boyle stated that those who have been abused are a key group of people to whom mental health promotion is important, and should be included in the report.
32. Patrick Convey raised the issue of co-ordinating agencies in the mental health promotion field. It was important that they talk to each other, especially if a Directorate were to be established. There was much good work ongoing on the ground, but a central push, perhaps with Ministerial backing, was required.
33. Leslie Frew reminded members that all the Working Committees were producing free-standing reports and there needed to be something in them all to cross refer common issues. The focus should be on what needs to change, not on how this should be done. It is up to the government to implement the reports. He advised that the group being established to look at suicide was set up following lobbying of the Minister.

## **Reports from other Working Committees**

### **Adult Mental Health**

34. The final report was with the printers and would hopefully be presented to the Minister at the end of May.

### **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

35. The final document was due to go to Consultation in early May.

### **Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People**

36. Work was ongoing to produce a draft report.

### **Forensic Services**

37. A draft is being prepared, hopefully for the June meeting.

### **Learning Disability**

38. It is hoped to have the final draft available for the May meeting.

### **Legal Issues**

39. It was hoped to have a draft available after the summer. The second Professor Gunn seminar on 3 June was a crucial event in this process.

### **Social Justice and Citizenship**

42. Separate reports from the 2 sub groups are being drafted. It was hoped to have them available for the August meeting.

### **Needs and Resources**

43. Work was well advanced on costing the recommendations in Equal Lives. Work will move to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health report. Other Committees were asked to nominate a link person with whom this committee can liaise.

### **Date of next meeting**

40. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 31 May 2005** at 10.00 am. The venue has yet to be confirmed.