

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

**SEVENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 24th JUNE 2003
IN THE SEAGOE HOTEL, PORTADOWN**

Present:	Professor David Bamford (Chair)	Mr Brian Dornan
	Professor Roy McClelland	Dr John Owens
	Mrs Martha McClelland	Master Brian Hall
	Dr Walter Boyd	Dr Fred Browne
	Miss Maureen Dodd	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
	Dr Paschal McKeown	Ms Eileen Sherrard
	Dr Oliver Shanks	Dr Diana Patterson
	Ms Marie Crossin	Ms Siobhan Bogues
	Professor Alan Ferguson	Mrs Maureen McCartney
	Mr Leslie Frew	Mr Roy Keenan
	Professor Geoff Shepherd	Mr Michael Kelly
	Miss Joanne McDonald	Miss Katie Doran

Apologies:	Professor Tony McGleenan	Rev Trevor Williams
	Mr Brendan Mullen	Mr Patrick Convery
	Dr Raman Kapur	Det S/tend Andrew Bailey
	Mr Colin Beck	Mrs Moira Davren
	Mr Winston McCartney	Mr Mark Timoney
	Mr Martin Daly	Ms Vikki Greenwood
	Dr John Hunter	

Welcome and Introductions

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to this seventh meeting of the Steering Committee.

Workforce Issues in Mental Health and Learning Disability

2. Mr David Bingham, Director of Human Resources, DHSSPS, had been due to make a presentation to the Committee but this was postponed until the August meeting.

Note of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

3. The note was agreed with the minor change the Patricia Lewsley was former Chair of the All Party Assembly Group on Disability. Professor Bamford reported that he had subsequently met with her.
4. Maureen Dodd and Eileen Sherrard informed members that work was progressing and that they were meeting on Thursday 26th June to begin to draft their paper on Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

5. Professor Bamford asked the Committee to endorse his proposal that Brian Dornan be asked to convene a Needs and Resources Working Committee. Members were happy to agree. Members then discussed the work that this Working Committee was intended to cover. Brian Dornan indicated that he hoped that the first meeting would be held in September.
6. Further discussion then ensued on the need for separate but related work dealing with the workforce and training implications of the review. While it was recognised that it was not the function of the review to carry out detailed manpower planning, the review would be making strategic recommendations which had workforce and training implications. These might cover issues such as strengthening team working, establishing a common value base and enhancing the competences of support staff as well as professionals. Some members expressed the view that these issues should be dealt with within each of the Working Committees, while other members felt that there was a need for a specific group to bring this work together. It was decided to return to this issue at the next meeting, when it was hoped that David Bingham would be present.

Update on the Review (Paper SC 25/03)

7. Professor Bamford reported on the meeting which he and Professor McClelland had had at the start of June with the Minister, Des Browne, who had been wholehearted in his support for the Review. He advised that Angela Smith had since replaced Des Brown as Minister and that a proposed Ministerial reception for review members at Hillsborough now awaited her approval.
8. Professors Bamford and McClelland had also attended a DHSSPS Departmental Board meeting. This proved very useful, as it has helped raise consciousness within the senior officers of the Department. As a result of that meeting, Mr Gowdy has accepted Professor Bamford's invitation to attend a Steering Committee meeting.
9. Professor Bamford reported that further meetings with stakeholders had taken place and that he had been particularly impressed in his meetings with the Camphill Community, Omagh and Barnardo's. He had also attended the annual conference of the NIAMH, at which Martha McClelland had made a presentation which was well received.
10. A meeting had been held with Peter Deazley, Head of Elderly and Community Care Unit, DHSSPS, to discuss dementia services. This issue may be dealt with by a sub group of the Mental Health Needs of Older People Working group but details have yet to be finalised. The review team had also met DHSSPS Finance Directorate officials to discuss finance issues.
11. Professor Bamford indicated his intention to write to Queens University, University of Ulster, Open University, Loughry and Greenmount Colleges seeking details of what each University/College does in relation to mental health promotion, prevention and service delivery for its staff and students, and about its provision in the field of learning disability. Replies will be sought by the end of August.

Reports from Working Committees

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

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

Master Hall advised that the Legal Issues Working committee meeting held on 6th June had been very successful. The 4 established sub groups have, or will have, all met by the end of June. He explained that a draft English Bill on mental incapacity had been prepared but not yet released. It is thought to contain definitions on capacity and incapacity and to cover issues regarding powers of attorney, welfare matters, property and affairs, refusal of medical treatment etc. The Office of Law Reform is currently working on a Northern Ireland Incapacity Bill, which should be completed before the end of the Review.

(ii) **Adult Mental Health** – Professor Roy McClelland

A paper was tabled outlining the work of the Adult Mental Health Working Committee. Substantial progress has been made with the first draft of papers now prepared for primary and community care and the majority of secondary care services. A small group has been established to consider the information needs and methods of meeting information needs. Interface issues have been raised with the four Working Committees dealing with specific aspects of mental health services but there are also interface issues connected to Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Professor McClelland indicated that he would also need to speak to Maureen Dodd and Eileen Sherrard regarding these.

(iii) **Learning Disability** – Siobhan Bogue

Copies of the June 2003 Learning Disability Newsletter were tabled by Siobhan Bogue, who reported that the Working Committee had identified the need for 6 task groups. Convenors have been appointed and it is hoped that these groups will all be up and running by October 2003. Work in ongoing on the establishment of user and carer reference groups.

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

Martha McClelland reported that the Committee had met on 12 June. There are large interface issues, especially between learning disability and social inclusion. Lady Eames' Human Rights and Equality Sub Group had met and, among other things, is currently considering how to hear the views of individuals who felt that they "have been wronged by the system". Leslie Frew reported that the Promoting Social Inclusion Sub Group have also met and are currently discussing their terms of reference and work programme.

Convenors for 2nd Wave Working Committees

13. Dr Fred Browne advised that he is currently drawing up a list of names for his Forensic Services Committee. Dr Diana Patterson has looked at the areas of work for her Alcohol and Substance Misuse Committee and would be grateful for further nominations from members. Professor Bamford has met with both Professor Alan Ferguson and Mrs Moira Davren to discuss major issues, terms of reference and membership of their relevant Working Committees. Members were again asked to provide nominations. The post of Convenor of the Mental Health Issues in Old Age Working Committee had still to be filled and Professor Bamford indicated that he was still working on this.

Strategic Phasing of Review's Recommendations (Paper SC 29/03)

14. Professor Bamford advised members that Paper SC 29/03 set out some initial proposals, which reflected the discussion at the recent meetings with the Minister and the Departmental Board. As there was not sufficient time to discuss, he asked members to consider it and send their comments to Professor Bamford by the end of July.

Dates of Meetings to December 2003

15. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th August at 10.00am, a venue has yet to be confirmed. Further dates agreed were:
 - 30 September
 - 28 October
 - 25 November and
 - 27 January 2004.

Any Other Business

- (i) Professor Bamford advised that he intends to ask Steering Committee members to share in the work arising from future invitations from stakeholders etc.
- (ii) He stated that he would be going to Sweden next month to visit mental health and learning disability groups, where there was much evidence of good practice.