

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

**SIXTEENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING,  
TUESDAY 25 MAY 2004, AT CANAL COURT HOTEL, NEWRY**

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| Present :     | Professor Roy McClelland (Chair)<br>Dr Paschal McKeown<br>Mr Patrick Convery<br>Mrs Marie Crossin<br>Dr Diana Patterson<br>Miss Joanne McDonald<br>Rev Trevor Williams<br>Mr Brian Dornan<br>Dr John Owens<br>Professor Alan Ferguson<br>Mr Michael Kelly | Professor David Bamford<br>Dr Oliver Shanks<br>Mrs Mary O'Boyle<br>Mrs Maureen Ferris<br>Mr Brendan Mullen<br>Mrs Eileen Sherrard<br>Mrs Martha McClelland<br>Mr Nevin Ringland<br>Mrs Maureen McCartney<br>Mr Roy Keenan |
| In attendance | Lady Christine Eames<br>Mrs Molly Kane<br>Mr Ian McFaul   | Mr Ian Sutherland<br>Mr Seamus Logan  |
| Apologies:    | Dr Fred Browne<br>Master Brian Hall<br>Mr Mark Timoney<br>Professor Scott Brown<br>Professor Geoff Shepherd<br>Det S/dent Andrew Bailey<br>Professor Tony McGleenan<br>Mr Leslie Frew   | Mrs Siobhan Bogues<br>Mr Colin Beck<br>Ms Moira Davren<br>Mr Bill Halliday<br>Dr John Hunter<br>Mrs Marion Nicholas<br>Dr Raman Kapur<br>Mr Winston McCartney   |

**Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to this sixteenth meeting of the Steering Committee. He particularly welcomed Dr Ian Sutherland, Lady Christine Eames, Mrs Molly Kane and Mr Seamus Logan, who were attending the morning session; and Mr Ian McFaul, who has been appointed by the DHSSPS to work on implementation. He noted the apologies received.

**The Review's first Draft Report**

2. Professor Bamford took over as chair to allow Professor McClelland to present his Committees draft Report and to handle any questions etc. He advised that this

report represented the product of a vast amount of work and that all drafts put before them were at a very advanced stage.

3. Professor McClelland advised that there was still work to be done, with further amendments to be included. He reminded members that it may seem a long document, but it was a vision for the next 15-20 years.
4. In discussion which followed, members raised various issues, including:
  - a. Resources. Money is a major issue in the whole of the Review. Chapter 2 has costs and builds the argument for the Strategy. It is hoped that modernisation will release funds, but at this time it is not known when this will occur.
  - b. Human Rights and Equality Principles. This is currently an Annex to the document but following discussion, members agreed that it should be an integral part of the Introduction. Lady Eames will look at it and amend it accordingly.
  - c. Contact details for Good Practice Examples. There are still some contact numbers to be inserted, particularly in Chapter 3. Work on these was ongoing.
5. Members suggested the following changes:-
  - Chapter 1 – paragraph 1.3 should form a 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point in para 1.1
  - Chapter 2 – the expenditure figure on Adult Mental Health in year 2002/03 is £110 million.
  - Chapter 3 – Recommendation 3 should read ‘development, delivery, evaluation and monitoring....’
  - para 3.10 should include “Social Workers”
  - para 3.13, 2<sup>nd</sup> line should read “where they become commissioners of services, it will.....”
  - para 3.21, delete “generic social services”
  - para 3.24, replace “bed” with “place”
  - Chapter 4 – para 4.8, delete “ minimum” and change “300,00” to “250,000”
  - Recommendation 23 should read “Agreed protocols appropriate for....”
  - Recommendation 25, replace “considered” (line 3) with “included”; omit “Learning Disability” (line 2) and consider cross-referencing with the Adults with Mild Learning Disability section and /or Chapter 6
  - Recommendation 28, replace “yearly” with “annual”
  - Recommendation 46, omit “relaxed”, and consider an alternative wording such as, “deliver a therapeutic and safe atmosphere”
  - Recommendation 64, include “and expertise” after facilities.
6. Discussion took place on the section in Chapter 6 entitled Services for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Professor McClelland advised members that he was still working on this paper prepared by Eileen Sherrard. He

had kept the recommendations and members agreed that a community needs assessment should be carried out as a priority. There are gaps in the service provision and the recommendations should reflect this. Members agreed that rewording of Recommendation 245 was needed to clarify what exactly it meant. Recommendation 241 should be reworded to make clear that this referred to a regional body.

7. Chapter 7 was then discussed. This Chapter deals with the 4 key elements of Workforce, Financial Resource, Information and Research and Development. Work was still ongoing and a comprehensive costing exercise was being undertaken. Members advised that there were numerous initiatives occurring locally, but it was agreed that these could not all be included in the document.
8. Members were asked to send any points on, for example, the need for strategies on Workforce, Research and Development and Information, to the secretariat as soon as possible. This was not the final product and Professor McClelland advised members that it was almost at a stage where it could be exposed to stakeholders. He also informed them that there was still a lot of work to be done when comments have been returned from consultees.

#### **Chairman's Communications**

9. Professor Bamford reminded members that there should be user and carer representation on all working committees. He specifically mentioned meetings with DSD in April and DEL in May at which good Review representation teams were present. Further meetings with other Departments were anticipated. A meeting with the Health Minister was scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> June and members were invited to submit points to raise. He pointed out that the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Committee had organised a 2 day stakeholder consultation event on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

#### **Note of the Last Meeting**

10. This was agreed as drafted.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **(i) Workforce issues:**

11. Professor Bamford reported on an important meeting with David Bingham where the Review's concerns were aired. Mr Bingham undertook to set up a committee to address these broader, strategic issues, while aiming for an initial report for June. Data on the voluntary sector would be provided to him as a result of the meeting.
12. Members reported that staffing/manpower figures are being produced. A lot of work is being done throughout the United Kingdom and they could be of use to the Review.

13. Professor Ferguson advised that other Departments e.g. Education will have to be made aware of workforce/resource implications. Working Committees need to take this into account in producing their reports..

**(ii) Mental Health Users and Carers Group**

14. Marie Crossin reported that the Carers Group continued to meet on a regular basis, and that it seemed to have a long-term future beyond the Review.
15. Martha McClelland's User group had met on 12th May and a further meeting was arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> June. They were concentrating on the Adult Mental Health report and were covering a wide range of issues such as personal dignity, privacy, training of staff, culture and spiritual dimensions. It was hoped to produce a Charter of Rights, in bullet format with guidelines and timetables, to check against the document.
16. Members agreed that user/carer involvement needs to be discussed further. It was suggested that a list be prepared of models of good practice that have been identified during the course of the Review, so that they were not lost.

**Reports from the Working Committees**

**17. Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

Dr Patterson reported that her group were meeting monthly. A presentation on smoking will be made at their next meeting. Other areas being looked at are a Needs Assessment regarding young people in substance misuse and substance misuse with school leavers with a learning disability. They are also working with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health group in June. A couple of regional studies have been published and these will help shape the group's recommendations. A paper on manpower has been sent to some of the other convenors. Dr Patterson agreed to look at the cross-referencing, as well as the recommendations in the Adult Mental Health paper.

**18. Mental Health Promotion**

Professor Alan Ferguson advised that his group had been looking at such areas as stigma, suicide and mental health promotion in primary care and educational issues. They were also looking at the existing health promotion strategy implementation and are meeting with DHSSPS officials to discuss this. Mr Brian Symington, RNID, is producing a paper for the group. Other interface issues are being looked at and Mr Maurice Devine is speaking on Learning Disability at their next meeting. The working committee report is expected to be produced by December 2004.

**Learning Disability Working Committee Key Messages on Interface Issues – Paper SC31/04**

19. In Mrs Siobhan Bagues absence, Dr Oliver Shanks introduced the above paper. He began by reporting that cross-departmental involvement in the work of the Social Justice and Citizenship committee was very important and this was to be

raised with Mr Leslie Frew, DHSSPS. The issue of how to deal with Autistic Spectrum Disorders was discussed. It was felt that this was an issue that the Review as a whole needed to deal with, as it interfaces with several Working Committees. The Review needed to give a steer on this. Professor Bamford agreed to consult key review personnel on the issue with the aim of possibly setting up a small group to produce a paper. This issue would be put on the agenda for the Convenor's meeting and be reported back to the next steering committee.

20. The interface between learning disability and forensic services was also raised. Discussion between the Learning Disability Committee and Dr Fred Browne was ongoing on this. The Committee's view was that these issues should be specified in the Forensic Services Committee's report. This was essentially a process issue, however, rather than an outcome one. The Chair, Deputy Chair and the Support Team would consider the way forward. Comments from members of the Committee would be welcome to help inform the process.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

21. Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am in the Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena.

### **Any Other Business**

22. Professor McClelland asked members to send the secretariat the names of those who they thought should receive a copy of the Adult Mental Health Strategic Framework document. Copies will be available by e-mail and it will also be posted on the Review's website for easy access.