

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

**EIGHTEENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY
31 AUGUST 2004, GROSVENOR HALL CONFERENCE CENTRE, BELFAST**

Present:	Professor Roy McClelland (Chair)	Professor David Bamford
	Dr Pascal McKeown	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
	Dr Diana Patterson	Mrs Maureen Ferris
	Miss Joanne McDonald	Ms Eileen Sherrard
	Rev Trevor Williams	Master Brian Hall
	Mr Brian Dornan	Dr Fred Browne
	Mrs Siobhan Bogues	Ms Moira Davren
	Mrs Marie Crossin	Dr John Owens
	Mr Nevin Ringland	Mr Mark Timoney
	Professor Geoff Shepherd	Mr Leslie Frew
	Professor Scott Brown	Mrs Maureen Piggot
	Mr Roy Keenan	Mrs Maureen McCartney
	Mr Sean Ferrin	Mr Michael Kelly

Apologies:	Mr Patrick Convery	Dr Oliver Shanks
	Mr Martin Daly	Mr Brendan Mullen
	Professor Alan Ferguson	Mrs Martha McClelland
	Professor Tony McGleenan	Mr Colin Beck
	Dr John Hunter	Mr Bill Halliday
	Mr Winston McCartney	Dr Raman Kapur
	Det S/dent Andrew Bailey	

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everybody to this eighteenth meeting of the Steering Committee, especially Mrs Maureen Piggot, from the Learning Disability Committee. He offered the Committee's condolences to Ms Siobhan Bogues on her recent bereavement. He noted the apologies received.
2. Mr Sean Ferrin was introduced. He has joined the Support team and will be involved with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Committee, the Social Justice and Citizenship Committee and its Human Rights and Equality Sub Group, the Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People Committee and the Mental Health Users' Group.

Chairman's Communications

3. Professor Bamford reported on a useful progress meeting with Mr Andrew Hamilton (DHSSPS) on 17 August 2004. He had advised him of progress and of the additional resourcing that would be required for the mental health, learning disability and other reports. Concern was relayed on the impact of the current efficiency review. Mr Hamilton advised that the purpose of this review was to achieve the same outcomes in a more efficient way and to achieve better outcomes for the same level of resources. This was very much in line with the Review's aims. He encouraged the Review to be radical in its recommendations, but grounded in reality. They should be aimed at promoting change.
4. The discussion also covered the possibility of the Review undertaking a comparative study on levels of funding for services in N. Ireland and with the rest of the United Kingdom. Mr Hamilton urged caution on this, and following further discussions with Brian Dornan, Professor Bamford proposed that, on balance, the Review should not precede with this exercise. There were, for example, significant service level comparisons in the draft Equal Lives report, and the draft Strategic Framework also referred to comparative spending levels.
5. Members agreed that the burden of ill-health could justify additional spending in N Ireland and that should an Assembly be re-formed, there was the potential of arguing for more resources for mental health and learning disability against other local competing priorities. However, the meeting agreed not to undertake this comparative exercise, but asked Convenors to ensure that their Committees' reports included rounded and balanced arguments on spending, in consultation with the Needs and Resources Committee.
6. Professor McClelland then advised that he and Moira Davren were recently interviewed by UTV and BBC respectively about young people's suicide in North and West Belfast. Transcripts of these interviews are available to members, if required.

Chairman's Meeting Programme (Paper SC 38/04)

7. Copies of this paper had been passed to members for information.

Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC36/04)

8. This was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Workforce Issues

9. Professor Bamford met with the Review's representatives on the DHSSPS exercise on 20 July. A further draft report on the subject was awaited and will be commented on. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman will meet with the Review's representatives on this exercise at that stage.

(ii) Autistic Spectrum Disorders(ASD)

10. Eileen Sherrard informed members that she had sought comments on a list of issues from those with knowledge of ASD to help her prepare the overarching paper for the Steering Committee. Responses had been sought by 31 August, but this had been extended to 30 September. However, she was then advised that "a four-Board approach" had been adopted by the Health and Social Services Boards to develop, by 31 October, strategy document(s) for future services and funding bids.. It was agreed, therefore, that Professor Bamford would write to the relevant Board personnel seeking confirmation that this work would be completed by that date and that Review members would be involved. The Review then proposes to hold a stakeholder conference in November/December 2004, to complete this exercise
11. The Review will critically appraise the work coming from the "4 Board approach" in considering the overarching report and reserves the right to criticise it and suggest other recommendations, as necessary.

Reports from Working Committees

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

12. Moira Davren advised that her stakeholder event on 7 and 8 September was well-supported. She had met with John Hunter (DENI) and they are looking at joint future working in schools. She had also spoken to Dr Fred Browne, Convenor, Forensic Services Working Committee, and they will be hosting a joint event on forensic issues for young people, which Professor Sue Bailey would hopefully facilitate. A drafting group is being established and it is hoped to have a report by Christmas 2004.

Forensic Services

13. Dr Fred Browne reported that early drafts of a number of papers have been produced in areas such as epidemiology and courts/prisons. Liaison with Moira Davren and Dr Diana Patterson is ongoing on interface issues. He is also looking again at the possibility of holding a Risk conference. Eileen Sherrard agreed to pass to him some information on a proposed offenders/risk management event to be held later in the year.

Mental Health User/Carer Reference Groups

14. Members were advised that these groups were continuing to meet on a regular basis. Marie Crossin said, however, that they needed time and support to carry out their work and members were asked to provide this by attending these meetings, when requested.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

15. Dr Diana Patterson stated that her Committee were still drafting and it was hoped to have a report by December 2004.

Legal Issues

16. Master Hall reported that Dr Maria McGinnity's Residential had been extremely useful. Progress had been made on the 3 issues discussed: principles for new legislation; capacity; and definitions. All 4 sub groups were busy, with papers expected from them between now and December 2004. Work on capacity legislation was ongoing, and he asked members to note the visit of Professor Robert Gordon on 19 October, when he will be at Malone House, Belfast to answer questions on aspects of Guardianship of interest in Northern Ireland. The Support Team will be issuing fuller details on this seminar in due course

Mental Health Promotion

17. In Professor Ferguson's absence, Professor Bamford advised that papers are being produced for their next meeting on Monday 13 September 2004. It is hoped to have a final draft report for their November meeting, with a presentation to the January 2005 meeting of the Steering Committee. Professor Ferguson planned to meet Lynne Freidli who would hopefully "proof" the draft.

Social Justice and Citizenship

18. In Bill Halliday's absence, Mr Leslie Frew reported that he, Bill and Christine Eames were meeting Brian Hall and Diana Patterson to discuss mutual human rights and equality issues. His own sub group was continuing to work on its Promoting Social Inclusion report.

Needs and Resources

19. Brian Dornan reported that their information gathering exercise was ongoing. The Department's draft Revised Capitation Formula report is due out later this month for consultation. His group will look at it and report to the Convenors and possibly to the Steering Committee.

Adult Mental Health

20. Professor McClelland stated that comments were being received on the consultation document. The deadline for replies was 17 September 2004. It was hoped to bring the final, revised version back to the November meeting of the Steering Committee and then present it to the Minister of Health and Social Services in January.

Draft Equal Lives Report (Paper SC 37/04)

21. Siobhan Bogues presented her Committee's draft report, "Equal Lives: Review of Policy and Services for People with a Learning Disability in Northern Ireland." She began by thanking those who were on her team and the sub groups responsible for producing this report.
22. She then made a Powerpoint presentation (copy attached) on the journey undertaken to reach this stage. It gave an overview on what the Committee were asked to do and the process used. A set of 6 Task Groups was established to examine specific issues along with a Family Carers Group and an Equal Lives group, which met monthly. Key issues and concerns were identified, which covered such areas as Children and Families, Accommodation and Support and Growing Older. The problem areas of professional territorialism, postcode lottery access to services and discrimination were also highlighted. There were 12 high level objectives and around 70 minimum recommendations in the report, which will go out for consultation within the next few weeks.
23. Professor McClelland thanked her for the overview and offered congratulations to all those involved in producing this well-written document. He invited members to comment.
24. Members agreed that this was a well-constructed report, whose balance was right. It concentrated on the (approx) 90% of people with a learning disability, but additional funding was needed for the other (approx) 10% who had particular needs, such as those with challenging behaviours. However, the document should include examples of the long-term options needed for this group and spell out the cost effectiveness of the options proposed. It was also important to examine the data on services and present the findings.
25. The "signing-up" of the Department of Education and other Departments to the recommendations was a cause for concern, but discussions are ongoing. Problems have been experienced with direct payments of benefits. Again, the postcode lottery issue was mentioned, with services being extremely variable across Northern Ireland. Employment was an area that needed to be dealt with, not only the work options available, but also the financial aspect and a disability awareness programme for employers.

26. Maureen Ferris referred to a particular scenario, where a group of nurses were qualifying next year with skills in learning disability, but there were no facilities in the community in which they could work.
27. Professor McClelland thanked members for their helpful comments. He asked that Convenors particularly check on interface issues between the report and their Committees' work and advise Siobhan Bogues of any further changes. He suggested that human rights, equality and social justice issues should figure prominently at the start of the report.
28. Paper **SC 39/04**, which set out proposals for the consultation process for the Equal Lives document, was tabled. Its aims and methods were endorsed. Members commended the inclusive nature of the process employed to develop the report and hoped that the consultation responses would reflect on this.

Date of next meeting

29. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 28th September 2004** at the Quality Inn, Carrickfergus, beginning at 10.00am.

Any Other Business

30. Marie Crossin asked the Support Team to provide information on the number of recent telephone calls received on the Freephone telephone line.
31. Members were reminded of the Advocacy Information Seminar which the Human Rights and Equality Group were organising on Saturday 25th September 2004 in Armagh