

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

**Tenth Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday 28 October 2003  
in the Killyhelvin Hotel, Enniskillen**

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

**Welcome and Introductions**

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to this 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee. He especially welcomed Mr Nevin Ringland, Convenor of the Mental Health Issues in Old Age Expert Working Committee. Members briefly introduced themselves for his benefit.

**Note of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising (Paper SC 40/03)**

2. The notes were agreed without amendment.

**(i) Replacement for Walter Boyd**

3. Professor McClelland advised that Professor Scott Brown had been nominated by the Royal College of GPs to replace Dr Walter Boyd on the Steering Committee. It was hoped he would be able to attend the next meeting. The Support Team was trying to confirm his acceptance of this nomination and to obtain pen picture details.

**(ii) DSD/NIHE Representation on the Steering Committee**

4. See paragraph 13.

**(iii) Dr Gordon Marnock's proposed Evaluation of the Review**

5. The Support Team was trying to arrange a meeting with Dr Marnock to discuss his proposal, and will report back at the next meeting.

**(iv) Workforce Issues – (Paper SC44/03)**

6. Members felt the proposed representation from the Review, as set out in this paper, was good and balanced, but there was a need for approved social worker input. The NI Division, Royal College of Psychiatrists should be approached for a nominee in lieu of Professor McClelland's nomination. There was also a need for a balance in membership between mental health and learning disability.
7. As regards the proposed Terms of Reference, the meeting agreed that point 1 should include non-statutory and non-professional staff. Maureen Dodd advised of a conference on Workforce Issues in London on 13 November. Members agreed that she should attend and feed back to the Group.
8. The issue of the timing of David Bingham's exercise was also raised, vis a vis the reports emanating from the Working Committees. The draft Adult Mental Health Committee report was nearing the stage when input on workforce issues was needed. It was agreed, therefore, that David Bingham should be asked to concentrate initially on this, and then learning disability. In addition, each Working Committee should scope its workforce requirements to feed into the exercise.

**(v) Freephone**

9. The Freephone will go live next month. Stakeholders will be informed and it will be advertised in the media. British Telecom are yet to advise of the number.

**(vi) Discussion Forum with Allied Health Professionals**

10. This has been set for 26 November 2003. Professor McClelland advised that he will attend and thanked Patrick Convery for arranging. The meeting will focus primarily on adult mental health services.

**Update on the Review (Paper SC 41/03)**

11. Professor Bamford outlined the various meetings and events he had attended during October 2003.

**Strategic Direction of the Review**

12. Introducing this item, Professor McClelland said that it had been discussed at the last Convenors' meeting. Now that one year had passed, it was felt that a stock-take was needed to assess how the Review was meeting its objectives and operationalising its strategic values. The convenors had made the following points:
- i. User and carer input needed to be embedded in the Review, whose reports needed to reflect their endorsement;
  - ii. Information was needed on what other reviews were currently ongoing and how this Review can input to these, if necessary;
  - iii. The importance of the authority and autonomy of the Working Committees and linkages among them was stressed;
  - iv. The need for the Convenors to spot potential problems at an early stage was emphasised to protect the credibility of the Review; and
  - v. The need to think through the staging and phasing of the Review's recommendations. While this process had been endorsed by the DHSSPS Minister, thought had to be given to how this would work in practice.
13. Members raised the issue of engaging with other Departments which have an interest in the Review and whether some needed to be represented on the Steering Committee. Professor McClelland advised that the Support Team was arranging for the Review to give a presentation at a meeting of the Ministerial Group on Public Health before the end of the year. This Group, chaired by the DHSSPS Minister, comprised senior officials from other Departments. As part of this presentation the Chair and Deputy Chair would ask about other Departments joining the Steering Committee.

14. Members also highlighted the importance of additional funding to secure implementation of the Review's recommendations and to strengthen mental health and learning disability services in general. Professor Bamford agreed to write to DHSSPS about this, and the important role of the Needs and Resources Committee, in quantifying the consequences of withdrawing funding, was recognised. It was essential that this point was emphasised when the Review next met the DHSSPS Departmental Board in December.

### **Reports from Working Committees**

15. Updates on work to date were given as follows.

- i. **Learning Disability – (Paper SC 42/03)**

Siobhan Bogues referred members to this paper which gave a report on and an evaluation of this committee's work so far.

- ii. **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

Dr Patterson's Committee was meeting again that day.

- iii. **Legal Issues**

Master Hall's report on the work of his Committee was tabled. Professor Bamford reported that his sub-group had sub-divided into groups looking at the Mental Health Commission, the Mental Health Review Tribunal, Compulsory Admissions and Guardianship. He will arrange to have the papers on the Mental Health Review Tribunal and Compulsory Admissions forwarded to Convenors. Dr Fred Browne's sub-group had met again on 22 October.

- iv. **Child and Adolescent Mental Health**

Ms Davren stated that her Committee had met for the first time on 2 October and was scheduled to meet again next month. They had identified various interface issues with several other groups and she hoped to draw up an action plan at the November meeting. Professor McClelland will be attending the December meeting to discuss his Committee's report.

v. **Mental Health Issues in Old Age**

Mr Nevin Ringland said he was still organising his Committee and hoped to have a meeting in the near future. He was aware of important interface issues with Adult Mental Health, and will also contact the Learning Disability Ageing Issues sub-group.

vi. **Mental Health Promotion**

Professor Ferguson will hold a further meeting on 18 November and is building up his membership. His Committee has a lot of interfaces and inter-Departmental links. Pat Convery will speak to him about input from the Allied Health professionals.

vii. **Social Justice and Citizenship**

Unfortunately Martha McClelland had suffered a riding injury and was unable to attend. Professor Bamford reported that the 2 subgroups are meeting again shortly. In regard to various interface issues with the Legal Issues Sub Groups, Professor Bamford, Master Hall, Dr Fred Browne and Dr Maria McGinnity will have a meeting with Lady Eames and Mr Bill Halliday as soon as it can be arranged.

viii. **Forensic Services**

A report from Dr Fred Browne was tabled. The inaugural meeting was held on Wednesday 22 October. Most of the membership had been confirmed. Further discussions on interface issues need to take place. Due to overlap with Legal Issues sub-group 4, which he chairs, these 2 groups will hold back-to-back meetings, with dates set until next summer.

ix. **Adult Mental Health**

Professor McClelland advised that he has begun to arrange a series of meetings with Boards/ Departments/Trusts/Stakeholders, as well as a series of public meetings across Northern Ireland. These will run until around March 2004. He will provide a presentation on and draft of his Committee's report at the next meeting.

x. **Needs and Resources**

A further meeting of this group will be held in November. Convenors of Committees were asked to present their findings to this Committee at the appropriate times.

16. Members were asked to consider phasing convenors' reports at future meetings to allow more time for comments: either in a 5 and 5 or 3, 3 and 4 sequence. They also discussed language, format, content and style of papers and reports being produced as there was currently no structure to follow. The convenors would consider these issues further.

### **Information Requirements**

17. Professor McClelland advised that a workshop had been arranged for Friday, 14 November in the Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, with information providers from the Boards. This will concentrate on mental health information needs. Learning disability information needs are significantly different and these are being addressed by the Learning Disability Working Committee.

### **Communication/Newsletter (Paper SC 43/03)**

18. The draft Newsletter was tabled and members were asked to pass any concerns/queries to the Review Team. Dr Pascal McKeown will do a version for Miss Joanne McDonald and agreed to pass a copy to the Support Team. Mrs McCartney will ask the contributors to indicate when they want to publish again. Members were asked to consider particular angles which could have an immediate appeal/interest to the general public. The second edition could major on adult mental health and follow shortly after the first Newsletter.
19. Siobhan Bogues advised that the Department's Information Officer was assisting with a press release about the carers' roadshows.
20. Members stressed that a communication and public relations strategy was essential. People needed to be trained to speak on behalf of the Review. David Bamford reported that he was due to meet shortly with the BBC Health correspondent, Dot Kirby.
21. Some members felt that TV programmes are more interesting to viewers when there was involvement of people with a disability, but they would still require training. Siobhan Bogues advised that there are volunteers able to do this, but was not sure if they were able to speak on behalf of the Review.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

22. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 25 November in the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh, at 10.15am.**

## **Any Other Business**

23.
  - i. Members were advised that the Mental Health Commission was holding a public seminar on Tuesday 11 November in the Wellington Park Hotel on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Moira Davren was a guest speaker.
  - ii. Matt Muijen from the Sainsbury Centre will be at this hotel from 2.00 to 3.00 pm on Tuesday 18 November to meet Review members. Details/invitations were distributed.
  - iii. Members were reminded of the first meeting of the All Ireland Institute of Psychiatry being held on 6 and 7 November in the Armagh City Hotel. David Bamford was one of the speakers.
  - iv. Maureen Dodd asked about the status of her and Eileen Sherrard's paper on Services for Autistic Spectrum Disorders, and whether it could be shared with colleagues outside the Review. Professor Bamford advised that the matter had been discussed by the Convenors, who agreed that with some minor changes to exclude the recommendations and any reference to the Review, it could be issued as an "early discussion paper". He had spoken to Eileen about this.
  - v. Following on from this members agreed that a protocol on what can be released needed to be established. This will be looked at by the Convenors.