

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

**Eleventh Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2003 in the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh**

**Present:**

Professor David Bamford (Chair)	Mr Colin Beck
Professor Roy McClelland	Ms Marie Crossin
Miss Maureen Dodd	Dr John Owens
Dr Paschal McKeown	Miss Joanne McDonald
Rev Trevor Williams	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Mr Brendan Mullen	Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Mr Patrick Convery	Ms Moira Davren
Mr Bill Halliday	Mr Nevin Ringland
Dr Fred Browne	Dr Oliver Shanks
Mr Brian Dornan	Dr Diana Patterson
Mr Roy Keenan	Master Brian Hall
Miss Vikki Greenwood	Mrs Maureen McCartney
	Mr Michael Kelly

**Apologies:**

Mr Mark Timoney	Professor Alan Ferguson
Det S/tend Andrew Bailey	Professor Geoff Shepherd
Ms Martha McClelland	Mr Leslie Frew
Dr Raman Kapur	Professor Tony McGleenan
Mr Winston McCartney	Dr John Hunter
Mrs Marian Nicholas	Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mr Martin Daly	

**In Attendance:** Dr Graeme McDonald

**Welcome and Introductions**

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to this 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee. He especially welcomed Mr Bill Halliday who was acting as chair of the Social Justice and Citizenship Working Committee, due to the unfortunate riding accident injuries sustained by Martha McClelland.

**Presentation by Northern Ireland Approved Social Work Regional Group**

2. Professor Bamford welcomed Marie Crothers, Gerry McCanny and Nigel Stratton from this Group to give a presentation on their work. (A copy of their handout is attached). They covered areas such as the strengths and weaknesses

of the 1986 Order, guardianship, capacity and consent, the role of both the Mental Health Review Tribunal and the Mental Health Commission, assessment of needs, and resources. Mention was also made of the number of Boards and Trusts in such a small country. In relation to multi-disciplinary teams, they said that there was a misconception that all Trusts have these, which is not the case. Nigel Stratten added some points specific to learning disability. Discussion took place and one of the major points was the need to look at the area of legislation. Master Brian Hall said he would write with his comments.

### **Presentation by the Buzz Advocacy Group, Omagh**

3. Professor Bamford welcomed the Buzz Advocacy Group, which includes Steering Committee member, Joanne McDonald, and asked them to make their presentation (a copy of their handout is attached). Members of the Group were introduced by Margaret McDaid. Areas covered included independence, befriending, loneliness, available and accessible information and support services. Siobhan Bogues advised that she was holding a meeting in the hotel on 3 December and invited the Group to come along.

### **Note of the last meeting and matters arising (Paper SC45/03)**

4. The note was agreed without amendment. On matters arising, the following points were covered:

#### **(i) Replacement for Walter Boyd**

5. Professor Bamford advised that Professor Scott Brown had agreed to join the Steering Committee and hoped to be available for the January meeting.

#### **(ii) Workforce Issues**

6. Professor Bamford advised that he and Leslie Frew had both replied to David Bingham about the proposed membership and remit of his exercise; and that a reply was expected about the project starting.

#### **(iii) Freephone**

7. He further reported that the Freephone number ( 0800 328 4260) was operational, with 7 calls received so far.

#### **(iv) Information Requirements**

8. Professor McClelland said that a meeting with the Boards' and Trusts' information personnel had been held on 14 November. He would be shortly

writing to the Trusts seeking details of what information they routinely collect. A Sub Group will try to establish a set of information requirements. On the learning disability side, a meeting had been arranged for 8 December to consider the tenders received for that exercise.

**(v) Review Newsletter**

9. The first Review Newsletter had been issued widely, including to Boards and Trusts. It was hoped to have the second one ready in early 2004. Professor Bamford asked members to disseminate information on the Review to as wide a range of people as possible, not just in their own field, to increase the general level of awareness of the Review.

**(vi) Funding Issues**

10. Professor Bamford said that letters had been exchanged with Leslie Frew and a meeting would be set up on this subject.

**(vii) November Meetings (Paper SC50/03)**

11. This paper had been issued for information, given the full meeting agenda.

**(viii) Media Matters**

12. Rev Williams advised that he and Professor Bamford had met with the BBC Health correspondent, Dot Kirby, and that he was pursuing a similar meeting with the UTV correspondent. Dot Kirby had not yet responded.

**(ix) Carers and Users Roadshows**

13. Siobhan Bogues reported that the Carers and Users meetings were ongoing across Northern Ireland and thanked those Steering Committee members who had attended. A report on the meetings would be ready in January.

**Draft Report from the Adult Mental Health Working Committee (Paper SC46/03).**

14. Professor McClelland with Dr Graeme McDonald gave a presentation (a copy of which is attached) to introduce this paper on the work of the Adult Mental Health Committee. He advised that it was in draft at present. The paper had multi-authorship and was the result of a lot of work from a series of meetings of all those involved. There were still various issues to be dealt with eg interfaces, specialist services, but there were currently over 200 recommendations. The Social Justice and Citizenship Working Committee had approved the overarching values. Dr McDonald advised that discussion were still ongoing in the Community and Primary Care field.

15. Members made wide-ranging comments covering points on accommodation, advocacy, personhood, definitions, legal matters, IT system, structures and programmes for the delivery of care, perinatal issues, and interface issues. It was suggested that key principles and themes could be more accessible if put into a few points. This would be of benefit to carers and users.
16. Professor McClelland thanked members for their comments and asked them to keep the document confidential. He was currently involved in a series of meetings with interested groups. He asked members to send their comments to himself and Michael Kelly as soon as possible, **but no later than 31 January**.

### **Mental Health Issues in Old Age Committee**

17. Nevin Ringland supplied a provisional list of members of his Working Committee. He asked members for user and carer nominations and for any comments on the work of his Committee. His first meeting was scheduled for Thursday 27 November.

### **Strategic Phasing of Review's Recommendations (Paper SC 47/03)**

18. Mrs Maureen McCartney introduced paper SC 47/03 which developed the Minister's suggestion that the Review's recommendations should be implemented as quickly as possible, in a phased way, together with the Departmental response. She explained the thinking behind the 3 proposed options. Following discussion, members agreed to the recommendation in paragraph 8 of the paper, which was that the Review should conduct its own consultation as the reports emerge, and then submit the final products to the Department.
19. Advice was required, however, on how these proposals would be implemented. Infrastructure and timetable issues also needed to be looked at. It was agreed that the Convenors would look at these at their next meeting and a paper would be prepared for the next Steering Committee meeting.

### **Psychotherapy Services**

20. Dr Fred Browne tabled some papers about and raised concerns on the issue of psychotherapy. He will write to Professor Bamford. This will be looked at by the Convenors at their next meeting.

### **Dates of Meetings to June 2004**

21. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 27 January at Armagh City Hotel**. Subsequently, meetings will continue to take place on the last Tuesday of every month until June 2004. Venues will be advised in due course.

### **Any Other Business**

22. Professor McConkey's paper – 'Proposal to Grade Evidence' – was issued. It was agreed that the Convenors would discuss it at their meeting on Friday 28 November.
23. Copies of the Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health's submission to the Review – "Time for Change" were issued for information.
23. Master Brian Hall advised that he anticipated the early publication by the Joint Consultation Committee of an English Bill on Incapacity. This should allow the Northern Ireland Office of Law Reform to start work on local primary legislation.