

**THE BAMFORD REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING
DISABILITY (N IRELAND)**

**39th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 25 JULY 2006, IN THE
PARK PLAZA HOTEL, ANTRIM AT 10.00AM**

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland	Master Brian Hall
Mr Glenn Houston	Dr Paschal McKeown
Mrs Maureen Ferris	Mr Colin Beck
Mr Patrick Convery	Mrs Siobhan Bogues
Mrs Mary O'Boyle	Mr Nevin Ringland
Professor Alan Ferguson	Mr Bill Halliday
Mr Brian Dornan	Ms Eileen Sherrard
Mr Roy Keenan	Miss Vikki Greenwood
Mr Michael Kelly	

In attendance

Dr Ian Bownes	Mr Noel McKenna
Lady Christine Eames	Dr Maria McGinnity

Apologies:

Mr Leslie Frew	Mrs Marie Crossin
Dr Diana Patterson	Dr Oliver Shanks
Rev Trevor Williams	Mr Brendan Mullen
Professor Geoff Shepherd	Dr David Cameron
Mrs Martha McClelland	Dr Fred Browne
Ms Moira Davren	Dr John Owens
DI Gary Mullan	Miss Joanne McDonald
Mr Mark Timoney	Mr Martin Daly

Welcome and Introduction

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the 39th meeting of the Committee, especially Mr Colin Beck; Dr Ian Bownes and Mr Noel McKenna, who were attending for the Forensic Services Working Committee report; Lady Christine Eames, who was presenting the Human Rights and Equality pre-final draft report; and Dr Maria McGinnity, who was heavily involved in preparing the Legal Issues report.

Chairman's Communications

2. Professor McClelland drew members' attention to paper **SC 44/06** which detailed his meetings in June and key Review meetings and events in August.

(i) Equal Lives Action Group

3. He went on to advise of the Equal Lives Action Group, led by Sandra Harris. He intended to write to them on behalf of the Steering Committee. Members agreed that it should be in a general and supportive manner. Anyone who required further details of the group, which is keen to attract parents from across Northern Ireland, should contact Siobhan Bagues.

(ii) Discharge Guidelines

4. Professor McClelland referred to problems implementing the DHSSPS Discharge Guidelines and to correspondence between the Department and the Royal College of Psychiatrists on this. He was prepared to speak to the Department about these problems and possibly do some joint work to identify which could be implemented. Mary O'Boyle agreed to forward the Homefirst Trust's guidelines on this to him for information.

NOTE OF THE LAST MEETING (Paper SC 39/06)

5. The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Communication and Influencing Strategy

6. Professor McClelland reported on the meetings that had been held with the DHSSPS Departmental Board on 9th June; with the Minister on 19th June; and with the Permanent Secretaries' Group on July 7th. Minister was very interested in the work of the Review, especially in the phasing of reports and their implementation.
7. The meeting with the Permanent Secretaries was chaired by Nigel Hamilton, Head of the Civil Service, while Dr Andrew McCormick, DHSSPS, introduced the Review's representatives. Nigel Hamilton offered a further meeting in the Autumn, which was being set up. Professor McClelland thanked those members of the Review who had accompanied him to these meetings. He had also written to the Nick Perry, NIO, seeking a meeting on the legal issues work and its implications for criminal justice as the NIO Permanent Secretary had not been present on 7th July. At Nigel Hamilton's suggestion, seminars were

being planned for the “next tier” of Civil Servants on the policy issues from the Review’s reports. A meeting with the Court Service was also being arranged.

8. Members agreed that the Review needed to stay engaged with the MLAs. A further meeting to exchange thoughts on progress had been arranged for 8 September, after their meeting with the Minister.
9. Letters will be sent to the Chief Executives of the new Trusts, the Chief Executive of the new Health & Social Services Authority and the new Chief Medical Officer, seeking meetings. A Press Release on the appointment of David Sissling as Chief Executive Designate of the Health and Social Services Authority was tabled for information. Considerations would also be given to holding either meetings or a workshop with Health Service Commissioners.

(ii) Workforce and Training Issues

10. Members expressed concern that there was still no conclusion to the DHSSPS report on these issues. Time was running out. It was 2 years since the initial group met. It was suggested that members contact their professional colleagues in the Department to ask if they have any relevant data which could be fed into the process.
11. Professor McClelland agreed to speak to Leslie Frew, expressing the Steering Committee’s deep concern.

(iii) Joint Experts by Experience/Carers’ Report

12. It was hoped to have the paper available for the next Steering Committee meeting.

Strategic Priorities Report

13. Professor McClelland advised that this would be a main agenda item for the next Convenors’ meeting, which was on Tuesday 15 August 2006. It was intended to bring a final draft to the August Steering Committee for approval, as work on the report was ongoing.

DHSSPS Implementation Plans and Review’s Concluding Conference

14. Professor McClelland advised that the proposed post of Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability was to be advertised by the Department. The postholder would chair an inter-departmental task group to oversee implementation, which would include User and Carer representation. Draft Frameworks would be prepared on mental health and learning disability. It was hoped to have fuller details on implementation plans and progress at the next meeting.

15. Members were advised that the Review's Conclusion Conference was on Tuesday 31st October 2006 in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast. Discussion took place on its format, invitation list etc. User and carer involvement was seen as critical. Professor McClelland and the Support Team would construct and circulate a draft programme in light of members' comments, for further discussion at the August Convenors' meeting.
16. Members also discussed the format and timing of the proposed inter-departmental event(s). It was important to get the timing right and the audience should not just be from the Health Service. Other Departments' and Agencies' involvement was crucial. They needed to state what they planned to do in regard to implementation. Each speaker could be allotted a 10-minute slot. This would allow everyone to hear each other's plans and comment on inter-departmental links. A group of members would be established to plan for this and the Concluding Conference.

Draft Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity Report (Paper SC 40/06)

17. Christine Eames presented the post-consultation version of this report. She advised that 25 responses had been received, many of which were detailed and helpful. Almost without exception, consultees were supportive of the draft. The group had met twice to consider the points raised and their relevance. A final meeting was planned for 8 August. No response has been received from the Equality Commission.
18. She thanked the group members, especially Bill Halliday, Pascal McKeown and Roy Keenan for all their work and input. It was hoped to have the final draft available for the August Steering Committee meeting, with publication scheduled for September.
19. Consultees had raised a wide range of issues, and in response the group had agreed a number of changes to the report, particularly:
 - the discussion papers annexes had been removed. These would be placed on the website on publication;
 - the Preface would be re-written as an Overview;
 - the Foreword had been rewritten;
 - the Guidelines had been reviewed, with some re-ordering and re-drafting;
 - the Access to Rights chapter had been expanded, including more on Carers' needs. Also, there were 4 extra recommendations in this chapter:

two on Access (one of which is original No 13 relocated as new No 3); one on Carers; and one on stigma.

- There was some re-writing of the chapter on Voting, Founding a Family and right to Life;
- a new recommendation had been added in the Education chapter on lifelong learning, to address “catch up” issues;
- there was some re-wording to other Recommendations;
- there was a new Conclusion chapter.

20. Members agreed the high level strategic approach being taken by the group in dealing with the consultation responses and in finalising its report. Some specific points were suggested:

- Paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7: consideration should be given to omitting these or moving them to the end of the report.
- Recommendations 19 and 21: should be looked at again to check there is no contradiction.
- Paragraph 8.11, bull point 3 and 9.17, bull point 1: should harmonise?

21. The Steering Committee agreed that, having heard the members’ comments and with some final editing after the 8th August meeting, the report could go to Professor McClelland for final clearance to publish.

Draft Final Report of Forensic Services Committee (Paper SC 41/06)

22. Professor McClelland asked Dr Ian Bownes and Noel McKenna to present the Forensic Services Committee’s draft final report as Fred Browne was on leave.

23. Dr Bownes advised that the forensic service was the cinderella of the health service. He highlighted some of the recent changes in services, such as the establishment of 5 community forensic teams, a regional forensic network and the opening of Shannon Clinic. He summarised the key findings and issues in the report, which was seen as a long haul measure for the next 15 years to address these issues.

24. As regards comments from members, they:

- commended the inclusion of performance indicators which would help to track progress;

- advised that the Committee needed to decide whether a separate Executive Summary, with all the recommendations, was their preferred option on this, rather than have it in the main document;
 - considered more comment was needed on mentally disordered people in police stations;
 - advised that Noel McKenna's name should be added to the Committee members list; and
 - pointed out that most targets were "early ones": any medium term targets?
25. It was hoped to publish the final report in September, following Dr Fred Browne's return from leave, and final consideration of the points raised.

A Comprehensive Legal Framework (Paper SC 42/06)

26. Brian Hall and Dr McGinnity introduced his part report, which comprised the contents page and Chapter 6 – Framework Proposals. Master Hall took members through the contents page and the issues to be covered at each item, including the overall sequence of the document.
27. Dr McGinnity then briefly introduced the Framework chapter. She explained that she was in ongoing discussions with users and carers as well as colleagues here and in Great Britain to finalise its proposals. The overall aim was that the new legislation should service those with mental health needs and **not** the protection of the community. The dignity of the person was the key, with an underlying human rights and principled approach.
28. Members raised some issues which would be covered in the report, eg:
- the proposed enhanced role for the Mental Health Commission and its place within the RQIA;
 - the need for a consistent procedure on transfers.
29. Dr McGinnity thanked members for their comments and asked specifically for their views over the next few weeks on the Framework's proposal to strengthen the MH Commission's role in the admission to hospital process, including it approving documentation, and with more frequent access to a Tribunal for a patient, rather than recommending the Scottish system whereby the Tribunal approved admissions, which seemed to be over-administrative for such a small area as N. Ireland.
30. The aim was to provide a further, fuller draft for the next meeting. Some issues (eg on CTOs) needed further debate, including during the consultation process, which it was hoped to begin before the concluding conference.

Reports from Working Committees

Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People

31. The report had been issued for consultation with a response deadline of 29 September. It had also been posted on the Review's website.

Needs and Resources

32. Glenn Houston advised that the Committee's work was ongoing. Members had been sent the notes of their meeting on 10th April 2006 for information. They were still working on the spreadsheet and hoped to have it ready for the next meeting. It was essential to have a clear fix on what can realistically be delivered.
33. Costings on ASD were also raised. The Adult Mental Health report and the CAMH's report included a figure for the ASD element. While it was hard to be specific for any individual service, Glenn Houston agreed to ask Adrian Walsh to look at whether it was possible to produce a costing figure.

Social Justice and Citizenship

34. The Promoting Social Inclusion report was to be circulated within that group shortly for final approval before being issued for consultation.

Date of Next Meeting

35. The next meeting has been arranged for **Tuesday 29th August @ 10.00am.** The venue would be advised later.