

THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW (NI)
THIRTY FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2005 at 10.00AM
CLARION HOTEL, CARRICKFERGUS

Present:

Professor Roy McClelland (Chair)	Dr Oliver Shanks
Master Brian Hall	Mr Martin Daly
Dr Paschal McKeown	Dr Fred Browne
Dr Diana Patterson	Mrs Martha McClelland
Mrs Maureen McCartney	Mr Roy Keenan
Mr Michael Kelly	Miss Vikki Greenwood

Apologies:

Professor D R Bamford	Mrs Mary O'Boyle
Mrs Marie Crossin	Mr Leslie Frew
Rev Trevor Williams	Mr Mark Timoney
Ms Moira Davren	Miss Joanne McDonald
Mrs Maureen Ferris	Mr Patrick Convery
Ms Eileen Sherrard	Professor Geoff Shepherd
Mrs Siobhan Bogues	Mr Brian Dornan
Dr John Owens	Mr Colin Beck
Mr Brendan Mullen	Mr Bill Halliday
Dr David Cameron	Mr Glenn Houston
Professor Alan Ferguson	Mr Nevin Ringland
Dr John Hunter	Mrs Marion Nicholas

In Attendance:

Dr Ian Bownes	Mrs Geraldine O'Hare
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Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the thirty first meeting of the Committee and noted the apologies received.

Chairman's Communications (paper SC 66/05)

2. Members were reminded that this paper was issued for information. Professor McClelland particularly referred to the meeting with the new DHSSPS Permanent Secretary on 26 October and a proposed one with Shaun Woodward, DHSSPS Minister, on 3 November 2005.

Note of the Last Meeting (SC 62/05)

3. The note was agreed, as drafted.

Matters Arising**(a) Communication and Influencing Strategy**

4. Members were advised that Sam Simpson had replied to Professor McClelland's letter with revised proposals. These had been copied to the Convenors. It was agreed that members would receive a copy for information. The launch of the Equal Lives report had featured in some newspapers: Mrs McCartney circulated these extracts for information.

(b) Workforce Issues

5. A revised paper was awaited from Joyce Cairns, DHSSPS. Siobhan Bogue and Agnes Lunny had held a useful meeting with her earlier in the month on learning disability issues.

(c) Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

6. Updating members on progress, Professor McClelland reported that the Carers' Group had discussed the draft report at their meeting on 8 October and that members had been issued with a copy of the comments from Professor Brugh, University of Leicester, as agreed at the last meeting.
7. Dr Shanks reported on the meeting that he and Dr Noel McKenna had attended of the Western Health and Social Services Board's ASD Forum. At this it was clear that members did not see the report's recommendation on organisational responsibility as the right way forward. The Review now had now to firm up its position on this.
8. Members were advised that the Convenors had discussed the recommendation again at their meeting on 13 October. The outcome was agreement to revise the report, stressing the issues of accountability, acknowledging the different local arrangements within provider units on ASD, but still stating the Review's recommendation that organisational responsibility should best be located in the mental health programme of care. Members endorsed this more flexible approach.
9. Finally on this issue, Professor McClelland informed members that he had arranged a meeting with Arlene Cassidy, PAPA, on Tuesday 1 November, at her request, to discuss the report.

Draft Report: Forensic Services Working Committee (paper SC 63/05)

10. Professor McClelland asked Dr Fred Browne to introduce his Committee's draft report.

11. He began by introducing Mrs Geraldine O'Hare and Dr Ian Bownes, members of the Working Committee, who were in attendance to help with members' questions.
12. He explained that work on the report was still ongoing, but that he hoped to be able to shortly circulate the consultation version. The report was one of two products from the Committee: the other was a literature review and stakeholder survey produced by Jackie McCall (Eastern Health and Social Services Board) which would act as a complementary volume. He said that the report was not yet complete, but he wanted to give the Committee the chance to see and comment on what had been done, as they worked towards preparing a consultation version.
13. He also explained that the report was not just about Forensic Services. It was a broader document, work on which had been affected by ongoing changes, such as the transfer to DHSSPS from the NIO of responsibility for healthcare in prisons. He then summarised the key issues and recommendations, chapter by chapter.
14. Dr Bownes and Mrs O'Hare added that the work and its interface with the criminal justice system was resource intensive. A root and branch appraisal of the whole system was needed. The "blame culture" was a constraint to practitioners and needed to be addressed. One of the main themes of the report was, therefore, to move away from this. Also, the need to provide equality of access to healthcare provision. A better interface between the criminal justice and health systems would be welcomed.
15. Summing up, Dr Browne said that some issues had still to be finalised and some sections to be reworked, but he welcomed members' comments as part of that process.
16. Professor McClelland thanked Dr Browne and his Committee for their work so far. He recognised that the task had not been easy and the report offered a creative response to the "blame culture" and an imaginative way forward for forensic services.
17. As regards possible legislative changes, Dr Browne pointed out the overlap in the Committee's work and membership with Legal Issues Sub Group 4. Any such proposals could be channelled through that Group. He also agreed, in response to comments on the need for equality of access to community services for discharged prisoners, to enhance Chapter10 and develop specific recommendations on this.
18. It was agreed that it was essential to clear any interface issues with the other Working Committee Convenors. The aim was to produce a consultation draft for the next Steering Committee meeting, if possible, with a view to issuing the report for consultation by the end of the year. A separate Executive summary was also planned. Professor McClelland added that he would be writing to the Director General of Prisons and the Probation Service, proposing meetings to discuss their concerns, principally on people with a personality disorder.

Draft Report: Alcohol and Substance Misuse Working Committee (paper SC 64/05)

19. Professor McClelland asked Dr Diana Patterson to present the latest version of her Working Committee's report. She explained that it was not finalised, but incorporated the main changes necessary to reflect the outcome of the consultation exercise. These were:
- making a separate chapter on the non-statutory sector to recognise its strong contribution to services;
 - firming up the section on dual diagnosis, recommending an integrated approach delivered through adult mental health services (an extra focus group had been held on this, details of which were on the Review's website);
 - changes to the chapter on children and young people (an extra focus group had also been held on these services, provision of which was scanty. This had provided good feedback which, anonymised, had also been placed on the website);
 - trying to firm up on the available benchmarks and adding recommendations that they should be developed (as they were currently poor);
 - adding separate chapters on specific groups and issues;
 - enhancing the employability section as the Committee was not happy with the original.
20. Dr Patterson also advised that they had borrowed heavily from the recommendations of the National Service Framework for Alcohol and Drugs. This has led to the Report recommending adoption of the 4 Tier model of service delivery.
21. The meeting was then given the chance to comment. The main general issues raised were:
- The availability of costings. (Dr Patterson said that the main costs were staffing, but no figures were yet available. The final document would not contain an overall figure. The Needs and Resources Committee were examining costs);
 - Infrastructure issues (eg workforce; research and development, information requirements) needed to be added. (Dr Patterson said that the workforce details were finalised and available on the website. They could be in the Executive Summary which was being prepared and, if so, would be cross-referenced to the main report);
 - Citizenship issues were not addressed, especially for people with mild learning disability who often don't get help as they don't access mainstream learning disability services. There was a link here with the mental health promotion and the promoting social inclusion reports.
22. Some specific comments were also made.
23. Dr Patterson thanked members for their constructive comments, which would be taken into account in finalising the document for printing. She was also preparing an Executive Summary, based on the same style as the Adult Mental

Health document. Members agreed that she should contact Siobhan Bagues to establish how the report should be presented to the Equal Lives Group. An easy read version of the final report and other versions (ie Braille, audio tape) would be available, on request.

Draft Strategic Priorities Report (paper SC 65 and 67/05)

24. Professor McClelland reminded members that an earlier draft of the report (SC 65/05) had been sent to the Permanent Secretary in early September and would be discussed with him on 26 October 2005. There were still some unfinished aspects, which will be discussed with the Convenors and it was hoped to have a final document by December 2005.
25. Mrs McCartney tabled paper SC 67/05 which sets out the questions to be resolved around organisational recommendations. She outlined the various sections of the paper and the areas for discussion.
26. Due to pressure of time, however, and the need for members to consider the paper, it was agreed that discussion would be deferred until the November meeting. Meantime, the Convenors would discuss it at their next meeting and comments would be sought from some Steering Committee members with particular experience of management in the HPSS.
27. It was also noted that the imminent report on the Review of Public Administration was a factor in finalising the document.

Reports from Other Working Committees

Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People

28. The Committee was meeting later that week and hoped to present a draft at the November meeting.

Legal Issues

29. Work was ongoing on a draft Framework for Future Legislation paper. A presentation on this would be an agenda item for the 10 January 2006 meeting.

Needs and Resources

30. The Committee was currently working on the costings of the Alcohol and Substance Misuse report.

Mental Health Promotion

31. The report had been issued for consultation, with comments requested by Friday 2 December 2005.

Social Justice and Citizenship

32. It was hoped to have presentations on both of the consultation reports from the 2 Sub Groups at the November meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

33. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 29 November 2005 at 10.00am** at a venue to be confirmed.
34. Due to pressure of business it is was agreed to have two meetings in January 2006 - on Tuesday 10th and 31st.
35. Following these, meetings will be held on 28 February, 28 March and 25 April 2006.