

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of One Hundred and Seventeenth meeting of the
Western Health and Social Services Council
held in The Training Room, Limavady Borough Council Offices
Connell Street, Limavady, Co Londonderry
on Thursday 6 March 2003
at 2.00PM**

Present: Ms M Reilly, Chairperson
Mr H Andrews
Mrs V Brown
Mr M Coyle
Mr E Friel
Mr P Gilgunn
Mr I Maguire
Mr B McAleer
Mr P McGowan
Mr R McKelvey
Mr W Page
Mrs H Quigley
Mrs F Robson

Apologies: Mr R Rogan, Chairman
Mr P Bogan
Miss M Burke
Mrs M Hamilton
Ms M Trimble

In Attendance: Mr S Millar
Mrs L Preston

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C21/03 **Chairman's Business:**

The Chief Officer said he had received a message from the Chairman to state that due to illness he could not attend the meeting.

In conforming with Standing Orders the Vice-Chairperson was elected as Chairperson for the meeting on the proposal of Mr McGowan and the support of Mr McKelvey. Ms Reilly then assumed the role of Chairperson.

Ms Reilly asked the Chief Officer to convey messages of good wishes from the meeting to Mr Rogan for a speedy recovery, to Member Ms Marilyn Trimble on the recent occasion of her marriage, and to Mrs Kitty Loughran Personal Secretary to the Council following her Orthopaedic Day Procedure.

The Chairperson also asked for an appreciation to be passed to Mr John Stevenson Chief Executive of Limavady Borough Council and his staff for the courtesy and co-operation extended during the meeting.

Mr Coyle was thanked for the invitation to use the excellent Borough Council facilities.

C22/03 **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on **Thursday 6 February 2003** having been previously circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

C23/03 **Matters Arising from Minutes:**

C88/02 Sub Fertility Services:

The Chief Officer reported on his attendance at a meeting in the Royal Maternity Hospital on **17 February 2003**. A representative group of Users of Sub Fertility Services, Providers of the Services, Board Managers and the four HSSCs' Chief Officers examined the issue of waiting lists and the uncertainty patients experience as to whether and when they can expect treatment. Mr Millar said the matter is exceedingly complex. There are 20 waiting lists for various aspects of treatment. He said the single issue which generated most debate was the need to remove the uncertainty. The Chief Officer of the Eastern Council will co-ordinate further discussion on the basis of (1) Identifying up to 10 patients who will be guaranteed treatment during a period of 12 months (2) Improving the quality of information for patients on waiting lists and (3) The development of Care Pathway Protocols.

C05/03 Nurses from Overseas:

The Chairperson referred to a letter the Chief Officer had received from the Sperrin Lakeland Trust Director of Acute Hospital Services. In the letter Mr Eugene Fee raised a concern about the discussion of the matter of nurses from overseas being recruited by the Trust which was reported in a local newspaper. Mr Fee was specifically concerned in relation to the tone and nature of the discussion as reported. Ms Reilly said she was disappointed the Director had responded to a newspaper report which took her comments out of context. She did not in any sense make any comments which could be construed as being racist. Mr Andrews said he also had been misquoted by the newspaper in contrast to the minutes of the meeting. Mrs Quigley as a public representative sympathised with the Members and cautioned against correspondence in the newspapers to clarify the situation. Following further discussion the meeting agreed to draw the minutes of the meeting to the attention of Mr Fee and the newspaper reporter.

C06/03 Services for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder:

Mrs Robson referred to previous discussion and a letter from the Western Board's Assistant Chief Nurse which was circulated to Members. She said children with the condition had a right to be developed to their full potential and shared some of the problems being faced in the education of the children. Mrs Quigley agreed there is a need for the Education and Health and Social Services Boards to work together and draw up a joint strategy on a priority basis. Members said they wished to learn of the current gaps in provision and how the Western Board intends to address them. Mr Gilgunn said this is a classic example where health and social services and education need to work together. The Chief Officer was asked to compile additional information on services.

C16/03 Confidential Briefing by Altnagelvin Hospitals Trust on the events leading up to the death of Raychel Ferguson:

Members who attended the Confidential Briefing on **19 February 2003** discussed the outcomes of the meeting and the Press Release published by the Trust. The Members who attended agreed they had received a detailed presentation on the circumstances. Mrs Quigley was disappointed the Trust did not give answers to her specific written questions. Mr Friel noted the Trust was facing litigation which

meant it could not make any further statements to counter speculation and rumour in the community. Mr Page said the Trust had to tackle the important matter of a lack of confidence in Children's Services. The meeting agreed to discuss with the Trust (1) A means whereby the Trust can place its perspective on controversial issues before the public (even in the context of threatened litigation) (2) An arrangement to call upon a Council Member on a strictly confidential basis to assist in the investigation of controversial issues. The Members accepted the proposals could help redress public disquiet over the self investigation process. The Chief Officer was asked to ascertain the cost of litigation arising from medical negligence in the past five years in the Western area and whether the Western Board holds a contingency fund to meet the costs.

C24/03 Equality and Human Rights Business:

The Chief Officer drew the Members' attention to a number of important developments:

1. A Regional Health and Social Services Interpreting Pilot Project has been initiated. The Project stemmed from an application for Executive Government Funds by a number of Government Departments and the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities. Funding was granted to pilot a three year interpreting project and DHSSPS asked Eastern Board to undertake lead responsibility in delivery. The Project is named "More Than Words". The key objectives include (1) to identify interpreting needs in the HPSS sector throughout the region and (2) to establish a register of sessional interpreters and administer a central co-ordinating service for Hospitals, GPs and Community Health and Social Services.
2. Following the development of the Western Equality and Human Rights Forum's Communication Strategy 2002-2003 a poster campaign stressing Equality and Human Rights with an obligation for everyone to comply has been set up. The campaign will be launched in April 2003. In addition an Equality and Human Rights Information Booklet has been developed to be made available to the general public on request. Council Members will receive a supply of the posters and booklets.
3. The Chief Officer attended a meeting of the Forum on **25 February 2003**. Significant progress was reported on the development of a policy register by the organisations in the area, the e learning proposal being compiled by Westcare and an agreement on a draft response template to the Priorities for Action 2003-2004 document.

C25/03 Trusts' Business:

1. *Altnagelvin Hospitals Health and Social Services Trust:*

- The Trust Chief Executive Mrs Burnside has responded in a letter to the Council's concerns about patients under the influence of alcohol causing disruption to other patients. Mrs Burnside explained as an Acute Hospital, staff are required to care for all patients who present with a medical problem. On occasions this means there are patients admitted with alcohol or drug related problems that can lead to disruption on wards. Generally with appropriate

medical intervention this disruption can be minimised so that it does not interfere with the welfare of other patients. On some occasions it can take time to resolve the problems and in these cases nursing staff do try to care for these patients in single rooms to minimise disruption. When serious disruption develops a risk assessment is carried out and if necessary intervention from Psychiatric Services and/or the Police Service is discussed with Senior Management in the Trust to ensure that patients and staff feel supported in these circumstances.

- Mrs Burnside also provided information on the usage of the 5 ICU and 6 HDU beds. The Trust considers the current ICU provision is insufficient to meet the need and it is anticipated the hospital will have to move to 8 beds in the medium term. This development will require additional physical space to accommodate the beds. Members will discuss with the Trust in a future Liaison meeting how to support the need for the additional care provision.

2. Foyle Health and Social Services Trust:

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting on **31 January 2003** attended by Mr Page and an Agenda for a meeting on 28 February 2003 were noted.
- A copy has been received of a schedule of Trust Board meetings planned during 2003. Details will be shared with Members living in the area of Foyle Trust.
- The Trust Chief Executive has replied in a letter to the Council's concern over weekend Consultant Psychiatric cover to offer assurance that the Programme Manager (Mental Health) is not aware of any gaps or difficulties in the service.
- Mrs Way also advised that the Trust has recently embarked on a major review of its Mental Health services and the issue of disruption caused by people under the influence of alcohol/drugs in hospital wards will be considered as part of the Review. The Review is due to be completed in September 2003 with a final report being shared for consultation during September/October 2003.
- Miss Burke was provided with copies of Trust correspondence in relation to the Home Help Service. Advice was recorded that Home Help Staff are not routinely vetted and whilst it is not mandatory the Trust is keen that the staff work in accordance with the Code of Conduct recently launched by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.
- Miss Burke was also told the Trust, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Fold Careline have worked together to find ways to use technology and build reassurance and safety for older people living in their own homes. One of the ways of doing this has been the introduction of an innovative approach encompassing modern technology – referred to as Assistive Technology.

3. Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust:

- A copy of the Trust Core Brief February 2003 has been received.
- A Special Core Brief on the Ministerial Announcement on the Future Provision of Acute Hospital Services has been circulated. Members will be provided with copies of both Core Briefs.

- The Trust Chief Executive Mr Hugh Mills has advised there are 2 beds designated to ICU/HDU at Tyrone County Hospital and 5 similar beds at the Erne Hospital. The matter will be placed on the Agenda for a liaison meeting with the Trust Board in May.
 - Mr Mills has also provided a comprehensive confidential report on the measures adopted by staff to minimise the disruption caused by patients admitted under the influence of alcohol and drugs.
 - Mr Gilgunn acknowledged the efforts of the Chief Officer and Trust staff in having specific Occupational Therapy assessments completed.
4. ***Belfast City Hospital Health and Social Services Trust:***
- A copy of City View the Trust Newsletter of March 2003 was acknowledged.
5. ***Green Park Healthcare Trust:***
- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 27 January 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting on 24 February 2003 were noted.
 - A copy has been received of “Grassroots” the Newsletter of the staff and patients February 2003 edition.
6. ***The Royal Group of Hospitals and Dental Hospital Health and Social Services Trust:***
- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 9 January 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting on 6 March 2003 were noted.

C26/03 **Consumer Interests:**

(i) ***Members Issues:***

The Chief Officer was asked to investigate issues raised by Members during the meeting:

Mr McGowan:

A need for a review of Psychology Services in the area of the Western Board.

Mr Andrews:

Difficulties which patients experience in the reimbursement of travel costs incurred in attending hospital appointments.

Mr Gilgunn:

The provision of explanatory leaflets by Trusts to explain the procedure for the reimbursement of travel costs for patients.

The implications for community pharmacies across the Western area from the Office of Fair Trading Report: The Control of Entry Regulations and Retail Pharmacy Services in the UK.

Mr Page:

The arrangements for the re-opening of the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit following refurbishment in Gransha Hospital.

(ii) *Patients' Experiences of Cancer Services:*

The Chief Officer asked the Members to recall the outcomes from the meetings on 11/12 November 2002 with Doctors O'Hare and Healey the Macmillan GP Facilitators in Palliative Care in the Western area.

Mr Millar said Members had an opportunity to consider the fourteen points raised . He asked for agreement to convene follow up discussions.

Mr McGowan suggested the one issue which generated most criticism was the arrangement for transporting patients for treatment and clinics in Belfast. He wholeheartedly supported the proposal of "shadowing" patients from they leave home until they return in order to witness the problems and delays which patients encounter.

Mr McKelvey commended an arrangement whereby blood samples can now be tested in local hospital laboratories rather than formerly when the tests were undertaken when patients travelled in Belfast.

The meeting agreed the earlier discussions were very informative and asked the Chief Officer to make appropriate arrangements to meet again.

(iii) *State Pathologists Department – The Way Forward:*

The Chairperson introduced and welcomed to the meeting Mr Brian Ingram Consultation Project Co-ordinator from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO).

Mr Ingram thanked the Council for the opportunity to present the consultation document and apologised on his inability to attend the February meeting. He was keen to give members an opportunity to raise questions on the document.

Mr Ingram referred to the major increase in the number of autopsies conducted in recent years to a present level of 1500 in 2002. The work was generated by the Coroners. Only 3 Pathologists were in post and they were exposed to huge workloads in the event of one being taken ill. A very high quality service was being provided. However the issue had to be addressed as to how the State Pathologist's Department can cope with the pressures whilst meeting the demands of the legal profession for additional detail in an already specialised field.

Mr Ingram explained the problems encountered over the past eighteen months when a Pathologist was absent from work due to a long term illness. This was the reason for the temporary arrangement to centralise in Belfast the undertaking of autopsies at weekends and Public Holidays. Mr Ingram said there was a world wide shortage of Forensic Pathologists and previous attempts at recruiting staff had drawn a blank response.

Mr Ingram said the document set out a number of options and the NIO was keen to hear what people had to say in reply. The solution to the pressures may be the adoption of several options which he presented:

- Retention of the current arrangements for the delivery of forensic pathology.
- Provision of drivers to transport forensic pathologists.
- Recruitment of additional forensic pathologists.
- Extension of hospital pathologist remit and
- Centralisation of mortuary facilities to meet modern demands.

The Chairperson invited the Members to raise questions.

Mrs Robson asked why there was a shortage of Pathologists and suggested the problem should be met by better manpower planning in the Universities and the medical profession.

Mr McGowan queried why two Pathologists in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) were able to provide a State Pathology Service across a much greater geographical area.

Mrs Quigley referred to her discussions with Funeral Directors who inferred many of the Coroners' Post Mortem examinations were not necessary. She wondered whether the unavailability of medical records to the GP Out of Hours Co-operatives was a contributory factor when it came to decisions on a cause of death.

The Funeral Directors had also shared concerns in how they were expected to present bodies at the City Mortuary at Foster Green Hospital in Belfast. Mrs Quigley stressed that whilst facilities for embalming bodies were not a matter for the NIO the problem had to be resolved at other locations across the Province where the procedure had been banned in hospital mortuaries.

Mr Page asked whether there was cross border co-operation in Pathology Services.

Mr Andrews asked whether the proposals had been fully costed as considerable additional finance will be needed particularly for bodies being transported from the area of the Western Board.

Mr McKelvey pleaded for a retention of the Northern Ireland cultural arrangement whereby a body is normally buried not later than the third day following death.

Mr Gilgunn added that transport arrangements for Coroners' Post Mortems for deaths occurring in Co Fermanagh had resulted in confusion and added distress and grief for relatives.

In reply to the Members queries Mr Ingram explained:

- In relation to the recruitment option money was not a problem.
- In ROI only 300-400 autopsies are conducted per annum.
- Provisions at Foster Green mortuary were excellent including an embalming facility.

- The State Pathologist does not require the embalming procedure.
- The Pathologists in ROI and NI enjoyed excellent professional relationships.
- Some Hospital Pathologists undertake Coroner's autopsies.
- Bodies may not be released in England earlier than 12-28 days.
- Since the centralisation arrangements very few delays had occurred.
- Funeral Directors are given 1½ hour timeslots at the City Mortuary and then return the body to the family.
- The City Mortuary is managed by Belfast City Council.
- Undertakers pay the City Council for use of the embalming facilities.
- Hospital mortuaries are subject to Health and Safety requirements. This was the reason why Coroner's Autopsies are not undertaken in Erne and Craigavon Hospitals' Mortuaries.

In conclusion Mr Ingram asked the Council to make a formal response before 30 April 2003.

The Chief Officer undertook to obtain the opinions of the Pathologists in Altnagelvin Area Hospital for a further discussion in the April Council meeting.

Mr McGowan suggested "Change is inevitable – improvement is optional".

The Chairperson thanked Mr Ingram for his attendance.

(iv) ***Developing a Regional Strategy for the Health and Personal Social Services 2002-2022:***

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms Bridget Bergin who was seconded by Foyle Trust to the DHSSPS Regional Strategy Team and Mr Michael Gormley Head of Consumer Services in the Western Board.

Mr Gormley said the introduction of the subject to the Council is the start of a long process which was very important. He stressed the opportunity for opinions from the west to be incorporated into a strategy for the region. The Council had a role to play in identifying both the positive issues and concerns. Mr Gormley was pleased that the Chairman Mr Rogan was a member of the Western area Sub-Group which had been established earlier in the year by the Board's Chief Executive to secure and co-ordinate input from as many stakeholders as possible across the area. The Board has planned a workshop on 14 April 2003 to complete initial explanatory work to define the key issues, to gain the perspective of key stakeholders on the issues to be addressed and to collate relevant information and resources.

Ms Bergin explained the previous strategy ended at 31 December 2002. An opportunity was being provided in a new twenty year strategy to clearly state the health and social services that the population want over the period and to identify

the issues which may shape services. The process will also identify the top priorities.

Ms Bergin circulated to the meeting a paper which set out the key issues. She suggested the strategy will be developed through an exercise to listen to the public, staff and expert views. Account will be taken of what works and doesn't work in Northern Ireland and the European dimension. People were presented with an opportunity for change which was why the Council should also have a real say.

Ms Bergin confirmed the strategy will not overturn those decisions which already have been taken for example the "Better Services" initiative. Members were encouraged to think creatively and consider possible themes such as – involving the public, improving quality and accessibility, making different services work together and in specific terms better services for children, older people and people with disabilities. The key questions being asked are what do people think of Health and Social Services and how can they be improved? Ms Bergin reminded the Council that the health and social services provided the largest area of employment in Northern Ireland and recruitment and retention of staff was important as well as where the services are located.

The Chairperson asked the Members for initial thoughts on the proposed strategy.

Mr Gilgunn said it was important to attempt to anticipate the factors such as unemployment, emigration and economic changes which could impact on future health and social services.

Mrs Quigley reflected that other important issues to be considered revolved around the Review of Public Administration, the communications and transport infrastructure and a multi-agency approach to the delivery of public services. She was assured the District Councils will be enabled to offer suggestions.

Mr Gormley accepted that concerns based on bad experiences had to be teased out. He wished to see distinctive proposals from the West which reflected the best in health and social care.

The meeting accepted the Chief Officer's proposal to organise workshops for Members in Omagh and Derry early in April when the matter can be considered in a structured way.

C27/03 **"Developing Better Services" – The Ministerial Announcement:**

The Chief Officer confirmed to the meeting he had attended the Minister's announcement on **24 February 2003** in the Odyssey Arena Belfast on the future of Acute Hospital Services.

Following the event the Chief Officer arranged for the circulation of a copy of the Ministerial Announcement to each Member of the Western Council.

The Chairperson asked the Members to share their thoughts on the announcement and in particular the implications for services in the area of the Western Board.

Mr McKelvey said that whilst the announcement was well received in Co Fermanagh he took a business man's approach and had doubts as to whether the Public Private Partnership will realise the finances to build a new South West hospital. He added that staff grievances had to be addressed and he remained

cynical as to the basis on which the decision was taken and whether a new hospital will be built.

Mr McAleer as an Omagh District Councillor with Mr McKelvey sought the meeting's support to ensure vital services will be retained in Tyrone County Hospital pending the commissioning of the new hospital. He agreed staff confidence and morale must be restored including the issue surrounding short term contracts.

Mr Maguire noted the concept and provision of a local enhanced hospital for Omagh had been lost in local newspaper reports. He felt a full explanation of the proposals may help assure public fears. Mr Maguire agreed there must be no diminution of services across the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area.

Mr Page had regrets in the manner in which the Omagh and Fermanagh communities had been divided. He did not wish to see Omagh left with only an enhanced Health Centre.

Mrs Quigley was also sorry to witness the tug of war between the two District Councils. Whilst she did not wish to see one community short changed in hospital services she appealed against a Judicial Review which could delay for years the provision of modern facilities. Mrs Quigley remained anxious about the quality and choice in Maternity Services but warmly welcomed the announcement of funding for the completion of the Altnagelvin modernisation project.

Mr Gilgunn sought a meeting with the Western Board and Sperrin Lakeland Trust to discuss how services may be protected in the period leading up to the opening of the new hospital. He said both communities retained fears on this point.

Mr McGowan had a worry that ultimately the South West will be left with only two local Enhanced Hospitals.

Mrs Robson understood why the people in Omagh District Council area had a fear of isolation.

Mrs Brown a member of a Fermanagh Hospitals Action Group said she was pleased with the decision on the location for the hospital. Work had to start to ensure future services are properly staffed.

The Chairperson thanked the Members and identified issues such as the road infrastructure, the financing arrangements and the profile of future services all of which the Council will have an opportunity to discuss.

C28/03 **Correspondence:**

The Chairman asked the Chief Officer to identify important items of correspondence received during the month of February 2003:

- **DHSSPS Breaking Bad News... Regional Guidelines.** The guidelines have been developed to assist clinical staff break bad news to patients, relatives and carers. Whilst many of the themes are of a general nature, the emphasis of the guidelines are on breaking bad news to adults. They have been developed on

behalf of the Department by a multi-disciplinary group of the National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services (NI). It is recognised that the needs of children are different in terms of breaking bad news and this will be addressed in the development of separate guidance in the near future.

- **DHSSPS Promoting Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan 2003-2008.** In the Programme for Government the Executive committed itself to five priorities for action, one of which was working for a healthier people. Within this priority it undertook to take specific measures to promote mental and emotional health and reduce suicides. The Promoting Mental Health Strategy outlines an integrated approach which addresses the wider determinants of mental health and focuses particularly on inequalities. The document describes the aim of the Strategy, outlines an Action Plan to support mental and emotional well-being, and sets out how the Strategy will be taken forward.
- **Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland – Seventh Report 2001-2002.** The report covers Dame Rennie Fritchie’s second full year in office as Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland. One of her main themes for the work of the Office was “regulation revisited” and as part of this a revised Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies was drawn up. This Code which replaces the original 1996 Guidance on Appointments provides a regulatory framework for the appointments process. The Code was issued to Departments in May 2002. The Code of Practice applies to the appointment of Members to Health and Social Services Councils.
- **Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Department of Finance and Personnel: Policy Framework for Public Private Partnerships in Northern Ireland.** The Policy Framework for the use of Public Private Partnerships has been developed following consideration of the recommendations of the PPP Working Group’s independent report, responses to the public consultation on the report and within the context of the “Reinvestment and Reform Initiative” announced in May 2002. The policy document will be underpinned by detailed guidance materials.
- **WHSSB – Social Care Review 2001-2002.** The Chapters in the Directorate of Social Care Review are set out on a programme of care basis and describe how the Western Board has addressed the different elements of the Social Care agenda during the year. The Review aims to provide readers with information on the demographic and socio-economic indicators for the Western area and also provides an overview of the work undertaken and highlights significant developments.
- **Health Promotion Agency – Adult drinking patterns in Northern Ireland.** The report presents the results of a very detailed study into the drinking habits, patterns and styles of drinkers. It provides detailed information on a range of issues including consumption levels, frequency of drinking, places where people drink, the people drinkers drink with, problem drinking and binge drinking. The Report enables such issues to be looked at in terms of gender, socio-economic background and age. The information will be used as a baseline to measure the success of those efforts currently underway to address the problems associated with alcohol misuse.

- **Health Promotion Agency: Attitudes and behaviour of young adult drinkers in Northern Ireland.** The document presents the findings of qualitative research into the experiences, views and perceptions of 18-35 year-old adults in Northern Ireland. It provides insight into a range of issues, including perceived benefits of drinking, the actual drinking context or setting, their knowledge and attitudes in respect of the sensible drinking message and other alcohol-related public health issues and their perceived negative effects of drinking. The information will be used in any campaigns or initiatives aimed at addressing alcohol related issues.
- **NI Court Service and DHSSPS: The Children Order Advisory Committee.** The third report of the Children Order Advisory Committee covers the period 1 January 2001-31 March 2002. The work undertaken during the period is highlighted in the body of the document. The work is partly conducted through a series of sub-committees which focus in detail on the issues that cause concern and fall within the terms of reference.

The Chief Officer confirmed he had requisitioned copies of each report to inform Members of the issues.

C29/03 **Chief Officer's Report:**

The Chief Officer briefly reported on events he had attended during the month of February 2003.

Mr Millar hosted a meeting of HSSCs' Chief Officers in Omagh on **7 February 2003**. The Agenda provided for discussion on GP's Mortality Rates, HPSS Freedom of Information Publication Schemes, Arrangements for a meeting with the Permanent Secretary DHSSPS, Appointments to Regional Bodies and current Consultation Documents.

On **14 February 2003** the Chief Officer met Mr Jack Houlahan in Foyle Trust Headquarters. Mr Houlahan has been commissioned by the Western Board to compile an area Drug and Alcohol Strategy. Mr Millar said the Management Consultant had accepted his invitation to discuss the project with the April Council meeting.

On **21 February 2003** the Chief Officer provided a Radio Foyle interview on the announcement of an agreement on GP Contracts and on **24 and 25 February 2003** BBC Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle were provided with comments on the "Better Services" Hospitals announcement.

Mr Millar said he had received a copy of the Department for Social Development Outreach Programme Application Form submitted by the Western Investing for Health Partnership together with the DSD Timeframe and Spend Profile. Copies were available to Members.

In conclusion the Chief Officer referred to Ms Reilly's submission to the Review of Mental Health Legislation in Hilltop on **14 February 2003** and the Council's response to a consultation on Private Ambulance Operators.

C30/03 **Any Other Business:**

Members were asked to consider participating in events during the month of March 2003:

- Date:** 11 March 2003
Conference: Primary Care – Moving Forward (DHSSPS)
Venue: City Hotel, Armagh
Nominated: Mrs Brown
- Date:** 11 March 2003
Presentation: Ceremony for Sure Start Project Workers (Foyle Trust)
Venue: Beech Hill Hotel, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr Rogan
- Date:** 11 March 2003
Meeting: Complaints Review (M McP)
Venue: Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Millar
- Date:** 12 March 2003
Meeting: Fermanagh Housing, Health and Social Care Needs of the Elderly
Venue: NI Housing Executive District Office, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mrs Loughran
- Date:** 12 March 2003
Meeting: Public Information Evening (Alzheimer’s Society)
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
Nominated: Mr McKelvey
- Date:** 13 March 2003
Workshop: Equality and Human Rights (DHSSPS)
Venue: Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown
Nominated: Mr McAleer
- Date:** 13 March 2003
Meeting: World Consumer Rights Day – Consumer Skills for All (GCC NI)
Venue: Waterfront Hotel, Belfast
Nominated: Mr Millar
- Date:** 14 March 2003
Seminar: New Regional Strategy for Health and Well-being (DHSSPS)
Venue: Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown
Nominated: Mr Rogan
- Date:** 19 March 2003
Meeting: HSSCs’ Chief Officers
Venue: Eastern HSS Council Offices, Belfast
Nominated: Mr Millar
- Date:** 19 March 2003
Visitation: Regional Wheelchair Service (SHSSC)
Venue: Assessment Centre Rehabilitation Unit, Musgrave Park Hospital

Nominated: Ms Trimble Mrs Preston
Date: 19 March 2003
Seminar: Nationality, Emigration and Asylum Act 2002 – Implications for Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland (NICEM)
Venue: City Hall, Belfast
Nominated: Mrs Loughran
Date: 19 March 2003
Meeting: Cancer Unit Development Group
Venue: Boardroom, Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry
Nominated: Mrs Devlin
Date: 20 March 2003
Seminar: Putting the Race Relations Order into Practice
Venue: Enterprise Agency, Strabane
Nominated: Mrs Robson
Date: 20 March 2003
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust Board
Venue: The Boardroom, Erne Hospital, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mr Andrews
Date: 24 March 2003
Consultation: Programme Shaping the Funding Environment 2004 and beyond (WEA)
Venue: Civic Centre, Craigavon
Nominated: Mr McKelvey
Date: 24 March 2003
Launch: Investing for Health Action Plan and Website
Venue: Manor House, Killeadeas, Co Fermanagh
Nominated: Ms Reilly
Date: 25 March 2003
Meeting: Allied Health Professions Review
Venue: Post Graduate Centre, Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Maguire
Date: 26 March 2003
Meeting: Omagh Locality Housing Health and Social Care Group
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital
Nominated: Mr McKelvey Mrs Loughran
Date: 26 March 2003
Meeting: Prosthetics Project Board
Venue: McKinney House, Musgrave Park, Belfast
Nominated: Mrs Preston
Date: 26 March 2003
Meeting: Investing for Health
Venue: The Boardroom, WHSSB Headquarters, Londonderry
Nominated: Ms Reilly Mrs Quigley

Date: 27 March 2003
Meeting: Western Health and Social Services Board
Venue: WHSSB Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr Rogan

Date: 27 March 2003
Launch: Investing for Health Action Plan and Website
Venue: Beechhill House, Londonderry
Nominated: Mrs Quigley

Date: 27 March 2003
Meeting: Good Practice Review (WEHRF)
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Millar

Date: 31 March 2003
Conference: Regional Health and Social Services Interpreting Service (DHSSPS)
Venue: Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown
Nominated: Mr Bogan

Date: 31 March 2003
Meeting: Mr C Gowdy (DHSSPS) with HSSCs' Chairperson and Chief Officers
Venue: Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast
Nominated: Mr Millar

C31/03 **Next Meeting:**

Date: 3 April 2003
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Omagh Community House
Drumragh Avenue
Omagh, Co Tyrone

The meeting ended at 5.22pm