
THESE MINUTES ARE EMBARGOED UNTIL
THURSDAY 1 MAY 2003 AT 5.00PM

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of One Hundred and Eighteenth meeting of the
Western Health and Social Services Council
held in Omagh Community House, Drumragh Avenue
Omagh, Co Tyrone
on Thursday 3 April 2003
at 2.00PM**

Present:	Mr R Rogan, Chairman	Mr P McGowan
	Mr H Andrews	Mr R McKelvey
	Mrs V Brown	Mrs H Quigley
	Miss M Burke	Ms M Reilly
	Mr P Gilgunn	Mrs F Robson
	Mr I Maguire	Ms M Trimble
Apologies:	Mr M Coyle	Mr B McAleer
	Mr E Friel	Mr W Page
	Mrs M Hamilton	
In Attendance:	Mr S Millar	Mrs K Loughran

-oOo-

Prior to the business of the meeting Mr Conor McGale a Director in the Community House extended a welcome to the Chairman and Members. He said the Council was one of the first groups to hold a meeting in the new building which was erected on the site of the 1998 "Omagh Bomb". The Community House provides a base for 12 local charitable and voluntary groups. Mr McGale said the development was unique in "the troubles" in Northern Ireland and the final design of the foyer which is the centre piece of the building will be decided by the local community.

C32/03 Chairman's Business:

Mr Rogan thanked Mr McGale for the use of the Training Room and wished all of the tenants every success in their endeavours on behalf of the local community.

The Chairman also recorded an appreciation to Mrs Geraldine Keys for her co-operation in the arrangements for the meeting and the refreshments provided.

Mr Rogan extended the congratulations of the Members to Ms Marilyn Trimble who was attending her first meeting following her recent marriage.

The Chairman said he experienced very mixed feelings as he introduced Ms Maggie Reilly as the Council's new Chief Officer before she takes up her position on 7 April 2003. The delight in the announcement was tempered somewhat by the confirmation that Mr Stanley Millar will vacate the Chief Officer's post on 31 May 2003 when he will have completed 39 years in health and social services. Mr Rogan assured Ms Reilly of the encouragement and support of the Members as she transferred from the position of Vice Chairperson to the Chief Officer's role.

Mr Millar said he was pleased to be able to hand over his responsibilities on a managed basis. He shared a confidence that the local consumer voice in the West will continue to be heard and the role of the Council remains more relevant than ever. Mr Millar identified the qualities which Ms Reilly brought to the post from her wide management experiences in the voluntary and community sectors. He wished the new Chief Officer success and satisfaction on a personal level and also on the behalf of the Council's Officers.

Ms Reilly thanked the Chairman and Mr Millar for their congratulations and initial encouragement as she looked forward to accepting the responsibilities of Chief Officer.

Mrs Quigley spoke for the Members and offered Ms Reilly both their congratulations and support for her new role in the Council.

C33/03 **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

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

C34/03 **Matters Arising from Minutes:**

C26/03 State Pathologists Department - The Way Forward:

The Chief Officer said he had contacted Dr Maurice O'Kane Consultant Clinical Chemist in Altnagelvin Area Hospital following the Council meeting in March to clarify the concerns of the medical staff on the proposals in the consultation document.

In a letter Dr O'Kane wrote to stress the difference between the State Pathology Department and the diagnostic NHS Pathology Services in the individual Trusts. The services were both funded and staffed separately. The Altnagelvin Histopathologist have never had any involvement in State Pathology post mortems.

Dr O'Kane was aware an option in the consultation suggested the hospital Pathologists could take over a component of the State Pathology workload and that the option was being supported by funeral directors in the Western area. Dr O'Kane identified two issues of concern:

- (1) The NHS diagnostic Pathology Service is already under considerable stress. There is a national shortage of Histopathologists and Altnagelvin Hospital currently has one unfilled Histopathologist Consultant post. State Pathologist's

post mortems are time consuming and any such work taken on by NHS Histopathologists would have a very serious impact on their NHS diagnostic workload. This would manifest itself in significant and unacceptable delays in reporting times for diagnostic work for example cancer diagnosis.

- (2) The State Pathology Department's post mortem examinations constitute a very specialised area and anyone undertaking this work would require a period of training. Inevitably this would have serious implications on the ability to provide a diagnostic service. The Doctor confirmed the quality of the State Pathology Service in Northern Ireland is dependent on a team approach and would not be best served by NHS Pathologists performing post mortems on a part time basis.

Dr O'Kane concluded that the proposal was not viable and if it was pursued could have implications for patient diagnosis and management.

Mrs Quigley said she feared the medical opinion confirmed a movement of the State Pathology Service to the centre which would mean Belfast. She advised the meeting that Derry City Council intended to resist such a move.

The Chairman asked the Chief Officer to submit a robust response based on Members comments before the closing date on 30 April 2003.

C26/03 Patients' Experiences of Cancer Services:

The Chief Officer shared the details of a meeting to be convened with Macmillan GP Facilitator in Palliative Care Dr Michael Healey. The meeting will be held in Waterside Health Centre on 29 April 2003 at 1.00pm and Members living in the Foyle Trust area will be asked for suggestions as to how Cancer patients' experiences can be improved.

C26/03 Developing a Regional Strategy for the Health and Personal Social Services 2002-2022:

The Chairman asked the Members to consider attending one of two workshops to facilitate a Council submission to the development of a new Regional Strategy for HPSS.

- (1) Tuesday 8 April 2003 at 6.30pm in the Tower Hotel, Derry.
- (2) Thursday 10 April 2003 at 6.30pm in the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh.

Mr Rogan said he was anxious to ensure the Regional Strategy had a significant input from the West.

C27/03 "Developing Better Services" - The Ministerial Announcement:

The Chief Officer circulated a question and answer paper prepared by Sperrin Lakeland Trust. The paper recorded the questions staff raised at a series of information sessions following the Minister's announcement on 24 February 2003 regarding the future provision of acute hospital services. The paper included the relevant responses provided by the Trust.

Mr Gilgunn said he was aware that later in the evening Omagh District Council intended to meet and discuss the case for making an application for a Judicial Review on the Minister's decision. He feared that if such a decision were taken the process could take years and in the interval services will drift away from both Omagh and Enniskillen. The uncertainty will not help the recruitment of key medical personnel. Mr Gilgunn pleaded against a legal challenge.

The Chief Officer advised the meeting he had accepted an invitation from Omagh District Council to present on 24 April 2003 the HSS Council's response to the Minister's announcement.

C26/03 Office of Fair Trading Report: The Control of Entry Regulations and Retail Pharmacy Services in the UK:

Ms Reilly said she understood the Minister had made an announcement that the recommendations in the Report were not appropriate for Northern Ireland at this time. Mr Gilgunn suggested there was an alternative need for a Community Pharmacy Strategy. He was aware of communities in Co Fermanagh such as Lisbellaw which did not have a Pharmacy Service for the local population.

C17/02 Human Organs Inquiry:

Members were circulated with copies of the DHSSPS Human Organs Enquiry Line Report 26 March 2003. The report carried an analysis of the contacts received since the Enquiry Line was launched on 20 November 2002. Contact has been established with 81 families.

C16/03 Allied Health Professions Review:

Mr Maguire reported that the last meeting of the Project Team had agreed that an adaptations sub group should be established in order to develop recommendations for this service on behalf of the Project Team. Mr Maguire accepted a nomination from the Project Team to join the group.

The Chief Officer recalled the Review Action Plan highlighted that delays for major and minor adaptations were known to be lengthy. The Report proposed the creation of a unified adaptations team with specific powers loaned from each relevant public body, staffed by the relevant professionals, and controlled by a specific budget derived from each statutory body. Mr Millar suggested it was important Mr Maguire was kept informed of any adaptations problems which Members encountered.

C35/03 Equality and Human Rights Business:

The Council was represented at events during the month of March.

- Mr McAleer attended an Equality Workshop on **13 March 2003** in Cookstown. During the Workshop consideration was given to (a) The effectiveness of the Region-wide Equality Impact Assessment Programme and (b) The future direction of the Equality Schemes.

- Mrs Loughran accepted an invitation to a seminar on the Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2003 – Implications for Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland. The seminar on **19 March 2003** in Belfast was arranged by the NI Council for Ethnic Minorities.
- Mrs Robson was present at an information seminar for the International Week against Racism 2003 on **20 March 2003** in Strabane. The seminar was organised by the Western Health Action Zone and examined the means of Putting the Race Relations Order into Practice.
- Mr Bogan represented the Council at a Conference in Cookstown on **31 March 2003** when health and social services staff, black and minority ethnic groups and other stakeholders were able to find out more about the process and objectives of the Regional Health and Social Services Interpreting Project.

The Council has received a number of related reports:

- ~ Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2002;
- ~ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland Annual Report 2001-2002;
- ~ Oral Health Strategy Equality Impact Assessments Final Report;
- ~ Caring for Difference – the experiences of Black and Minority Ethnic people living in the Western area;
- ~ Annual Report on WHSSC Equality Scheme Progress – period ended March 2002 (The Equality Commission Response).

A meeting of the Western Equality and Human Rights Forum (WEHRF) was held on 1 April 2003. The items discussed and agreed included the Equality and Human Rights poster campaign, an extension to the Equality and Human Rights awareness training programme, an update on the online E-Learning site, a Good Relations Framework Pilot in Foyle Trust and draft responses to an Age Concern questionnaire on Policies relevant to disability/sight loss.

The Chief Officer chaired a meeting of the WEHRF Good Practice Review Steering Group on **27 March 2003**. The meeting considered the responses to the consultation undertaken with 485 community and voluntary groups and 35 HPSS organisations following the closure of the process on 14 March 2003. Mr Millar said he was pleased with the quality of the 76 responses to the User Involvement Guidelines. Each comment was carefully considered and the majority were incorporated into the text. The Guidelines were “signed off” by the Steering Group and WEHRF and will be presented to the Regional Equality Liaison Panel with a view to developing good practice standard guidelines for user involvement across HPSS. The Guidelines and the full report entitled “Have Your Say” were placed on the DHSSPS Website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk (click on published information).

C36/03 **Trusts’ Business:**

1. *Altnagelvin Hospitals 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.
- The minutes identified an intention to relocate the Trust Headquarters and support accommodation from the main hospital into a Modular Clinical Administration Office Development on an alternate site in the grounds.
- Minutes of a Cancer Unit Development Group meeting on **22 January 2003** which Mrs Devlin attended and an Agenda for a meeting on 19 March 2003 were noted.
- Ward 10 has been agreed for the new location of Oncology/Haematology care. It is planned to open the ward as soon as possible.
- The Chief Officer Mr Millar quoted from the Trust Chief Executive Mrs Burnside's letter - We are in the process of developing a User Involvement Strategy for presentation to the Clinical and Social Care Governance Committee, in the first instance, and then to Trust Board. We are anxious to secure the best partnership working with users in the planning and delivery of services as we are required to do by the DHSSPS. We do recognise the importance of and always have adhered to a principle of openness and honesty with the public which we serve. This value will be a central tenet of the User Involvement Strategy.
- Mrs Quigley asked for the issue of supporting a case for additional ICU/HDU beds to be placed on the agenda for the forthcoming Liaison meeting between the Council and the Trust.
- Council Members were present at the annual service held on **23 March 2003** in memory of babies who have died as a result of miscarriage, stillbirth, or neonatal death. The service took place in the hospital's Clinical Education Centre.

2. *Foyle Health and Social Services Trust:*

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 28 February 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting on 28 March 2003 were noted.
- Attention was drawn to significant progress recorded in the minutes of development in children's homes at Rosstowney Road, Upper Galliagh Road and Scroggy Road Limavady.
- The Chief Officer will ensure Members will have an opportunity (1) to visit the developments (2) to learn of the Trust's efforts to secure challenging behaviour residential services for a number of patients who currently reside in Stradreagh Hospital and (3) to gain an understanding of a Chance for Change Programme aimed at primary school children aged 7-11 years.
- In relation to the Trust's Home Help Service the Chief Executive Mrs Way has written to the Council to report significant progress has been made in the

induction, training, development, supervision and monitoring of Trust care staff. Whilst it is not expected the Northern Ireland Social Care Council's Code of Practice for Social Care Workers and for Employers will extend to Home Helps in that they will not be required to register as Social Care Workers, Mrs Way recorded that the Trust did not differentiate in the approach to promoting quality services, whether it is Home Help or Home Care.

- The Chief Officer confirmed he has written to the Trust to support the Review of Mental Health Services and to request an input by WHSSC Members. Mr Rogan said he wished to ensure the assessment centre at Ballycan is an integral part of the Review.
- Mr Rogan attended a presentation ceremony on **11 March 2003** for Sure Start Project workers who completed an Open College Network Accredited Programme devised by Trust Speech and Language Therapists.

3. *Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust:*

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on **23 January 2003** and attended by Mr Andrews and an Agenda for a meeting on 20 March 2003 were noted.
- Reference was made to a much improved positive financial situation at the end of 2002 and a proposal to establish a Project Board and appoint a Project Manager to compile an extensive project plan for the new acute hospital in the south-west.
- At the end of January 2003, 2085 patients were on the Trust's inpatient waiting list with 13 patients waiting over 18 months which exceeded the Charter Standard. The 13 patients had either been allocated a date for their surgery or other action had been taken.
- Members will be circulated with copies of the Trust Core Brief March 2003. The Core Brief carries an appeal to the public to work with the Trust in reducing waiting lists. In 2002, 4356 people failed to attend their outpatient appointment at the Erne Hospital whilst in the Tyrone County Hospital 4979 failed to attend. This represents 10% of all appointments sent out for in-house and visiting clinics.
- In response to Miss Burke's queries the Trust has provided reports relevant to (1) the safety of vulnerable clients in receipt of Home Care Services and (2) vetting procedures and a Code of Conduct for the Home Help Service. Miss Burke said her concern was to ensure the Home Help Service was able to place people who could earn the total confidence of older people.
- The Trust's Chief Executive has reissued to Heads of Departments for dissemination to all staff, copies of the Internal Complaints Procedure (Revised September 2002).
- Details of the re-launch of the Trust Quality Award Scheme have been widely circulated. The scheme gives wards and departments an opportunity of recognition for ongoing commitment and the quality of services provided.

4. ***Belfast City Hospital Health and Social Services Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 31 January 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting on 28 March 2003 were noted.
- Reference was made to construction work continuing on the conversion of C Floor in the Tower to create the new Oncology/Haematology Day Hospital. The scheme was on target for completion by April 2003.
- The Cancer Centre itself was also on target and building works are due to be completed by December 2005.
- The new two-tier car park for visitors is due for completion by April 2003. Car Park charges have been revised and increased for stays beyond two hours. Patients required to attend the Hospital frequently over an extended period of time are allocated free parking under special arrangements.

5. ***Green Park Healthcare Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 24 February 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting on 24 March 2003 were noted.

6. ***Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Services Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 16 January 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting on 27 March 2003 were noted.
- It was noted the Service Development Manager had advised the Trust Board meeting that 40 new Accident and Emergency Vehicles had been ordered and that the Trust expected to take delivery of them by 31 March 2003. Eight new Patient Care Service vehicles were delivered in February 2003. The new vehicles will be deployed on an operational need criteria. The Chief Officer agreed to contact the Trust to ascertain the condition of the fleet in the Western Division and the number of replacement vehicles supplied in the past year.

C37/03 **Consumer Interests:**

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

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

Mr Andrews:

Will an “alleged” requirement to undertake Information Technology training have an adverse effect on the recruitment of Home Helps?

Mrs Robson:

The rights of a 90 year old man to reject Primary Care deemed necessary by a Carer?

Mrs Quigley:

Can the Council receive progress reports on the implementation of the Priorities for Action programme?

The rights of a 76 year old lady under the Equality and Human Rights legislation who was admitted to a hospital Geriatric Ward rather than the ward selected by her GP?

Mr Gilgunn:

Why Haematology Out Patient Clinics are being discontinued in Erne Hospital?

(ii) ***Commissioning Alcohol and Drugs Services: An Integrated Service for the West:***

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Jack Houlahan who had been appointed as Facilitator of the Western Board's Commissioning Strategy for Alcohol and Drug Services.

Mr Houlahan said he was pleased to be able to consult with the Council having received an invitation during his initial meeting with the Chief Officer on **14 February 2003**.

Mr Houlahan asked the question why was it necessary to have a strategy for the Western Board? He provided some of the answers as he identified the structures of the Regional Drugs and Alcohol Strategy and the Western Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Team. Mr Houlahan pointed out the Western Board was the main provider of recurring funding to services in the West and there was a need to plan beyond 2006 for the end of the Drugs Strategy funding initiative. He accepted there was confusion over the role of the Board and the Western Co-ordination Team. The Board had a role to access priorities and commission appropriate services. The outcome will be a more coherent strategy.

Mr Houlahan agreed there were currently problems in the pattern of services with gaps and areas of unmet need. Greater emphasis had to be focused on an evidence base of what actually works. In the earlier part of the consultation several priorities for attention were readily flagged up for example crisis intervention, brief intervention by Primary Care, and health promotion and the drinking culture. He asked the Members for other suggestions.

Mrs Quigley was concerned the strategy was too remote from the population. Services and the personnel involved had to be monitored. It was a matter of huge concern to hear of 10-12 year old children under the influence of alcohol.

Mr McGowan suggested the problem justified the introduction of a Taskforce. He asked why people could not have "detox" treatment at home. The fundamental problems needed to be worked out at the front line of drug/alcohol abuse.

Mrs Robson said the needs of the family as well as the drinkers had to be taken into account when children were also the victims.

Mr McKelvey was not satisfied as to the extent of related Health Promotion in the primary schools.

Miss Burke observed how the media had glamorised the consumption of alcohol and young people were being brainwashed. Responsibility started at home and the churches had a role in guidance.

Ms Reilly agreed with Mr McGowan that young people should be trained to work with their “peers” in reducing alcohol consumption. The use of appropriate language and culture was important.

The Chairman referred to a project in which he engaged with 1200 young people. They were treated as adults and encouraged to express themselves whilst developing a social and recreational dimension.

Mr Andrews noted that cigarette packets carried a health warning. He often wondered why alcohol suppliers did not have to accept a similar approach.

The Chairman thanked Mr Houlahan for his presentation and asked him to return with a consultation document for fuller debate. Mr Houlahan thanked the Members for freely expressing their points of view.

C38/03 **Correspondence:**

The Chairman invited the Chief Officer to review important items of correspondence received during the month of March 2003:

- **DHSSPS Circular HSS (MD) 7/2003 Good Practice in Consent.** The circular brings to the attention of HSS Trusts and health and social care professionals good practice in consent to examinations, treatment and care. The purpose of this circular is to ensure that the process of consent becomes properly focused on the rights of individuals and their relatives. The principle of seeking consent to treatment and care should be about enabling people to make health and social care choices which are right for them and recognising that different people will make different choices in apparently similar situations. The Department has published two related documents – **Reference Guide to Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care.** This gives a background to the law on consent for health and social care professionals and **Good Practice in Consent, Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care. A Handbook for HPSS.** This brings together the nine documents that were consulted on.
- **DHSSPS Draft Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) Order: Explanatory Memorandum.** The memorandum has been prepared by the Department in order to assist the reader of the Order and to help inform debate on it. The proposed Order in particular establishes a new independent body, the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services

Regulation and Improvement Authority (the Regulation and Improvement Authority) with overall responsibility for monitoring and regulating the quality of health and care services delivered in Northern Ireland. Since the circulation of the Explanatory Memorandum the Order has received Royal Assent. The Order puts into effect many of the arrangements which emerged from the consultation on “Best Practice – Best Care”.

- **DHSSPS Circular HSS (SC) 1/03 Improving Operating Theatre Performance and associated document: Step Guide to Improving Operating Theatre Performance.** Over recent years HSS Trusts have been working to improve operating theatre performance and a number already carry out many aspects of the good practice set out in the step guide. All Trusts are requested to review their existing approach to theatre management in the light of the guidance. The examples of good practice should be adopted where possible.
- **DHSSPS Circular HSS (PCD) 5/2003 Appraisal Scheme for Doctors.** This circular notifies changes to the General Medical Services Regulations (NI) 1997 which come into effect on 1 April 2003. The amending Regulations insert within the terms of service for doctors, the requirement to participate in an appraisal scheme provided by the respective Area Board. The practical effect of the change is that since 1 April 2003 doctors are required to participate in such a scheme.
- **DHSSPS Letter – Copyright Licensing Agency: License for HPSS Bodies and the Fire Authority for NI.** This letter is to advise the Department has made arrangements with the Copyright Licensing Agency for a single copyright licence covering all HPSS bodies including HSS Councils. The licence authorises the ad-hoc and systematic photocopying from published material. Its aim is to make the fullest possible use of published information without damaging the sales of material by copyright holders and without infringing copyright laws.
- **Chief Medical Officer DHSSPS: Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy (CESDI) Sixth Report Northern Ireland and Summary.** The Confidential Enquiry was established throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 1992. The aim of the enquiry is to improve understanding of the risks and causes of death in late fetal life and infancy. The confidential enquiry involves the assessment of anonymised clinical records by a multidisciplinary group of independent assessors. Members were circulated with copies of the summary report.
- **DHSSPS Letter and Office of Fair Trading Report on the Market for Private Dentistry in the UK.** The Report concludes a Fair Trading study into the market for private dentistry which was initiated following a super-complaint from the Consumer’s Association. The market is currently worth over £1 billion annually. The Chief Officer was pleased to note the comment he offered in a joint response from the HSS Councils to the study has been incorporated in the recommendations in the Report to achieve better self regulation. Although there

will be no formal consultation process the Department wishes to invite the views of stakeholders by 30 May 2003.

- **DHSSPS Information and Analysis Unit: Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland – A Statistical Profile 2002 Edition.** The objective of the document is to set the scene for preparation of the new Regional Strategy for Health and Social Care through provision of an overview of available analytical information. The evidence is drawn from a wide range of sources and where possible includes trends over time and comparisons with other UK countries and internationally.
- **Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Programme Inaugural Report.** Although this service has been available to women from the early 1970s it was not established as a national screening programme until the late 1980s. This resulted in all women aged between 20 and 65 being invited for cervical screening every five years. The publication provides information on the performance of the NI Programme including the Western area and confirms that it is achieving the national standard.

C39/03 **Chief Officer's Report:**

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

On **31 March 2003** Mr Millar attended a meeting between Mr Clive Gowdy Permanent Secretary DHSSPS and the Executive Committee of the NI Association of Health and Social Services Councils. He said the meeting had been very worthwhile with a good exchange of opinions on the agenda items which included - Service User and Public Participation in the HPSS, HSS Councils' Resources, Vacancies on Councils, Accountability, Charter Standards, Distribution of DHSSPS Circulars and a proposed European Commission Directive which will permit Health and Social Care workers from other European countries to practice in the UK without registration.

Mrs Preston deputised for the Chief Officer at a joint Council's visitation to the Regional Disablement Service in Musgrave Park Hospital on **19 March 2003**. The focus was to learn of the Level 3 Wheelchair Services provided at the hospital for the region. On **26 March 2003** Mrs Preston also attended a meeting of the NI Prosthetic Project Board in McKinney House. The Board learned of the establishment of a Users Forum which has amputees from each of the four Board areas. The Forum will consider all aspects of Prosthetics Services for patients.

The Chief Officer noted the Chest Heart and Stroke Association (NI) has produced "Notes for Patients awaiting Cardiac Surgery" which explain the role of the Cardiac Liaison Sister. This is a service provided by NICHSA whereby each patient awaiting cardiac surgery will be contacted and supported throughout their wait for

surgery. The Sister can also advise patients of their position on waiting lists for surgery. Members will receive copies of the notes.

The Goods and Services and Salaries and Wages Reports produced by the Western Board's Directorate of Finance and Information for the eleven months ended on 28 February 2003 indicated the Council continued to function within budget expenditure targets.

The Chief Officer advised the meeting of the retirement on 31 March 2003 of Dr Morris Brown Medical Adviser to the Western Board's Family Practitioner Services Unit. The Chairman paid a tribute to the excellent working relationship which the Doctor had encouraged. The Chief Officer was asked to record the Council's best wishes to Dr Brown for his retirement.

C40/03 **Any Other Business:**

The meeting gave consideration to opportunities for Members to serve on a range of bodies.

Mrs Brown accepted an invitation from the Executive Committee of the NI Association of Health and Social Services Councils to represent its interests on the Regional Advisory Group on Healthcare Workers and Blood Borne Viruses Policy Implementation.

Mrs Hamilton agreed to accept a position on the committee appointed by the Western Board to undertake a review leading to recommendations for a Strategy for Older People.

Mrs Robson was nominated to fill the vacancy created on the Northern Ireland Cancer Forum following the death of Mr Tony Carlin.

Ms Trimble, Mr McGowan and Mr Maguire expressed an interest in being considered as Lay Assessors in a practice accreditation scheme for GP practices in the Western area established by the Royal College of General Practitioners (NI).

Mr McKelvey and Mr Maguire invited the Members to attend two Safety and Well-being Fairs which have been organised by the Fermanagh and Omagh Localities Housing Health and Social Care Groups for the Elderly. The Omagh event will be held in the Leisure Centre on Wednesday 30 April 2003 whilst the Fermanagh event is scheduled for Wednesday 15 May 2003 in the Lakeland Forum. The multi Agency organised Fairs will provide a one stop shop event when older people will be able to learn details of services which are in place to ensure their well-being in their communities.

Members were asked to consider representing the Council at events during the month of April 2003:

Date: 4 April 2003

Opening: "Woodlands" - a residential home for children and young people (SLHSCT)

Venue: 15a Beltany Road, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Rogan Mr Bogan

Date: 7 April 2003
Meeting: Extended Nurse Prescribing (WHSSB)
Venue: Seminar Room, WHSSB Headquarters, Londonderry
Nominated: Mrs Brown

Date: 8 April 2003
Workshop: Developing a Regional Strategy for Health and Personal Social Services 2002-2022 (1)
Venue: Tower Hotel, Butcher Street, Londonderry
Nominated: All Members WHSS Council

Date: 9 April 2003
Ceremony: Smart Snacks Awards
Venue: Omagh Leisure Centre
Nominated: Mr McKelvey

Date: 9 April 2003
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust Maternity Services Liaison Committee
Venue: Post Graduate Centre, Tyrone County Hospital
Nominated: Ms Trimble

Date: 9 April 2003
Conference: Achieving Excellence – Governance in Healthcare (RHSSST)
Venue: Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick
Nominated: Ms Reilly

Date: 9 April 2003
Meeting: Fermanagh Housing, Health and Social Care Needs of the Elderly
Venue: NI Housing Executive District Office, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mrs Loughran

Date: 10 April 2003
Reception: 5th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement (SDLP)
Venue: Waterfront Hotel, Belfast
Nominated: Mrs Quigley

Date: 10 April 2003
Workshop: Developing a Regional Strategy for Health and Personal Social Services 2002-2022 (2)
Venue: Residential Centre, Ulster American Folk Park
Nominated: All Members WHSS Council

Date: 10 April 2003
Launch: Research Project – Investing in Social Capital: An Evaluation Model for Voluntary and Community Activity
Venue: Malone House, Belfast

Nominated: Mr McGowan
Date: 11 April 2003
Meeting: 2001 Census Outcomes (WHSSB)
Venue: The Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital
Nominated: Mr Millar Ms Reilly

Date: 11 April 2003
Meeting: Omagh Inter-Agency Group for Older People
Venue: The Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital
Nominated: Mrs Loughran

Date: 14 April 2003
Workshop: Regional Strategy WHSSB Sub Group
Venue: Training Room, Lime Villa, Gransha Park, Londonderry
Nominated: Ms Reilly

Date: 14 April 2003
Overview: Medical Library Database Training
Venue: Medical Library, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Nominated: Mrs Preston

Date: 14 April 2003
Meeting: Complaints Review (PS)
Venue: Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen
Nominated: Ms Reilly Mr McGowan Mr Millar

Date: 15 April 2003
Training: Installation of Textphone
Venue: Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital
Nominated: Mrs Preston Mrs Loughran

Date: 16 April 2003
Presentation: Cash Grant Scheme 2002/2003 – Project Presentations
Venue: Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick
Nominated: Mrs Loughran

Date: 16 April 2003
Launch: Audit on 9 facilities in the West of the Province (Blind Centre for NI)
Venue: Share Centre, Lisnaskea
Nominated: Mr Bogan

Date: 17 April 2003
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust Board
Venue: Cross Community Centre, Douglas Bridge
Nominated: Mr Gilgunn

Date: 18 April 2003
Meeting: HSSCs' Chief Officers
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Millar Ms Reilly

Date: 23 April 2003
Meeting: The WHSSC's response to the Minister's announcement on "Better Services"
Venue: District Council Offices, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Millar

Date: 28 April 2003
Meeting: WHSSC Chief Officers Accountability Review (DHSSPS)
Venue: Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Millar Ms Reilly

Date: 29 April 2003
Meeting: PAMs Review Project Team
Venue: Post Graduate Centre, Tyrone County Hospital
Nominated: Mr Maguire

Date: 29 April 2003
Meeting: Macmillan GP Facilitators Palliative Care (Dr M Healey)
Venue: Waterside Health Centre
Nominated: Members living in area of Foyle Trust

Date: 30 April 2003
Meeting: Western Equality and Human Rights Forum (WEHRF)
Venue: The Boardroom, Foyle Trust Headquarters, Londonderry
Nominated: Ms Reilly

C41/03 **Next Meeting:**

The Members agreed to accept an invitation from Mrs Quigley to host the May meeting in Derry City Council area.

In accordance with the Council policy to rotate the times of meetings and venues the June meeting will be held in Omagh at 6.30pm.

Date: 1 May 2003
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Derry City Council Offices
Strand Road
Derry

The meeting ended at 4.43pm