

# WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Minutes of One Hundred and Twenty-fifth meeting of the  
Western Health and Social Services Council  
held in the Training Room  
Strabane District Council Offices  
47 Derry Road, Strabane, Co Tyrone  
on Thursday 8 January 2004  
at 2.00PM**

Present:	Mr R Rogan, Chairman	Mr P McGowan
	Mr H Andrews	Mr M McIvor
	Mr J Campbell	Mr R McKelvey
	Mr M Carten	Mr V McKelvey
	Mrs M Devlin	Mr W Page
	Mr P Gilgunn	Mrs H Quigley
	Mrs M Hamilton	Mrs F Robson
	Mr I Maguire	Mr D Sutherland
Apologies:	Mrs V Brown	Mr B McAleer
	Miss M Burke	Ms M Trimble
	Mr E Friel	
In Attendance:	Ms M Reilly	Mrs K Loughran
	Mrs L Preston	

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## C01/04 **Chairman's Business:**

Mr Rogan opened the meeting by wishing everyone a happy new year and welcomed them back after what he had hoped was an enjoyable Christmas break.

The Chairman said he wished to inform the meeting that Mr Gerard Keown who joined the Council in June 2003 had written to formally tender his resignation due to ill-health.

Mr Rogan said that it was with regret that the Western Health and Social Services Council accepted the resignation and the loss of someone who was committed to the ideals and values of the Council. On behalf of the members he wished Mr Keown a return to good health.

Mr Rogan said that unfortunately Mr Liam McIvor, Acting Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and his colleagues were unable to attend today's meeting as arranged. He said they have agreed to attend the February meeting and make their presentation then.

The Chairman said that it had been too late to organise an alternative presentation but it had given an opportunity to discuss the Council's Work Programme/Business Plan for April 2004-March 2005.

Mr Rogan said that just before Christmas both himself and the Chief Officer were invited by Mr Quentin Coey Chief Executive of Belfast City Hospital to visit the hospital. He said they met with the Trust Board Chairperson Mrs Joan Ruddock and the new Director of Nursing Ms Eleanor Hayes.

The Chairman and Chief Officer visited the Bridgewater Suite, Cancer Day Care hospital facilities where they were able to hear of the patient experience from morning admission until evening discharge. Mr Rogan said it was important to realise that this was not an out-patient service but a day hospital which because of certain procedures often necessitates people having to stay all day.

Mr Rogan said they had an opportunity to see how new technology can be used to link patients and Clinicians at their local hospital with Belfast City Hospital in order for example to test and reset pacemakers. This he said was an excellent example of enhanced patient care and better and more equitable service access through the benefits of modern technology.

The Chairman said he wished to record thanks on behalf of himself and the Chief Officer to Mrs Ruddock Ms Hayes and Mr Coey and his staff for a very useful and interesting visit. He said the Council may want to include an organised visit for members at a later stage in the year.

Mr Rogan said himself and Ms Reilly had met with Mr Bernard McAnaney and Mr Tommy Monteith of Foyle Health and Social Services Trust and were given a very comprehensive presentation on the Foyle Trust's Mental Health Review which was carried out over the last twelve months.

The Review document is about to be published and will be subjected to a twelve week consultation period. Mr Rogan said the Council expect to

receive the document this month and he recommended that all members especially those who had shown a particular interest in mental health to engage with the Chief Officer when a response is undertaken.

Without prejudicing the outcome of the consultation Mr Rogan said that Foyle Trust should be commended for undertaking a very comprehensive review of existing services and being innovative in their proposals on the shape of future services. He acknowledged the role of the Western Health and Social Services Board in supporting the review.

The Chairman thanked the members who attended the CIPFA training at Hillsborough and confirmed that all new members had now completed this training.

Mr Rogan said himself and Ms Reilly had met with Mr Hugh Mills Chief Executive Sperrin Lakeland Trust and two of his officers just before Christmas and were provided with an update on the New Hospitals. He said as members would know from press coverage the Trust was now actively seeking an appropriate site for the North of Enniskillen Hospital and they will use a weighted criteria in order to determine the best site.

Mr Rogan said that since the meeting with Mr Mills and his officers a Project Manager Mrs Maguire had been appointed and on behalf of himself and the members he offered congratulations and wished her every success on what was a very important project.

Members met in Omagh to discuss the Council's response to the Review of Public Administration. This same group also met later as a focus group to review a leaflet which will be widely distributed throughout Northern Ireland informing the public about the changes in the new GMS Contract. Mr Rogan thanked the members who had attended and given a considerable amount of time to these two endeavours.

#### **C02/04 Council's Work Programme/Business Plan for April 2004-March 2005:**

Ms Reilly outlined the format of the Work Programme which she was required to submit to the Department. She said there were certain pre-requisites within the Work Programme which are classified into distinct areas:

- Visitation of Facilities;
- Research;
- Consultation;

- Monitoring;
- Support and Management;
- Equality and Human Rights and Targeting Social Need Agenda.

The Chief Officer suggested that the Council should set up a small working group made up of the Chairman, the Chief Officer and members to work on producing a draft Work Programme. This draft document will be brought to the March Council Meeting for approval by the full Council.

Ms Reilly said that she proposed setting up a number of small ad-hoc working groups focusing on the issues highlighted in the Work Programme. These issues or themes would link directly to the Visitation of Facilities.

Areas discussed included:

- Resources and capacity to deliver on Work Plan;
- Raising Public Awareness:
  - ~ Better use of local papers and media;
  - ~ Localised Council Leaflet;
  - ~ Annual Conference;
  - ~ Annual Report;
  - ~ Meet with members of the other three Councils;
  - ~ Use of local community facilities for Council meetings;
  - ~ Closer working with Western community and voluntary sector;
  - ~ Developing a Website.
- Mental Health Review:
  - ~ Regional and Local;
- Services for people with disabilities:
  - ~ Children with Autism;
  - ~ Respite care for adults with disabilities;
- Services for Older People:
  - ~ Assisted Feeding;
- Cancer Services:
  - ~ Regional and Sub Regional;
- Developing Better Services:
  - ~ Implementation Plans;
- Primary Care:
  - ~ Implementation of GMS Contract;

- ~ Enhanced Service Provision;
- ~ Out-of-hours;
- Occupational Therapists:
  - ~ Assessments and Adaptations;
- Ambulance Services;
- Waiting Lists:
  - ~ Focusing on Specialties with longest waits.

Mr McGowan, Mr McIvor, Mr R McKelvey, Mr V McKelvey, Mrs Quigley, and Mr Sutherland agreed to sit on the Working Group.

A meeting of the Working Group was arranged for 6 February 2004 at 10.30am in The Conference Room, Hilltop.

**C03/04 Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on **Thursday 4 December 2003** having been previously circulated were adopted on the proposal of Mr B Page and seconded by Mr R McKelvey.

**C04/04 Matters Arising from Minutes:**

***C80/03 Response to Actions 1-6:***

***Action 1 (Resignation of Nurse from A & E):***

The Chief Officer said she had raised the issue with Mr Hugh Mills at the meeting she had attended before Christmas. She said that Mr Mills had given a fairly detailed response to the background of the matter. He said there were other issues not reported in the local paper regarding the particular member of staff and as these were personal they were not at liberty to discuss them. Mr Mills reassured the Chairman and Chief Officer that nobody had been put in any danger due to lack of staffing and that there was an appropriate level of staffing at all times.

A wide ranging discussion followed on the recent spate of press coverage of issues relating to Sperrin Lakeland Trust and in particular Tyrone County Hospital.

Members were concerned that where clearly conflicting quotes from the Trust and local politicians or members of the public appeared in the press then the Trust should at the earliest opportunity respond with the facts.

Members suggested that the public were becoming confused and worried about the state of services in their area. This in turn might lead to an erosion of public and staff confidence.

**Action AP: a/01/04**

Chief Officer to communicate the Council's concerns about public confidence.

**Action 2** (*Issue of a lady waiting for over a year for a motorised wheelchair*):

Mrs Hamilton was asked to provide further information to the Chief Officer in order to pursue this concern.

**Action 3** (*Information on waiting lists for hip replacements in the Western Board area*):

A copy of a paper with information on hip replacement waiting lists from Altnagelvin Area Hospital was issued to all members.

**Action 4** (*Briefing paper covering issues such as location of ambulances, numbers of ambulances, condition of ambulances etc.*):

All members were issued with the relevant papers and were reminded that they would be of use for the next Council meeting when NIAS would make their re-arranged presentation.

**Action 5** (*Barnardos information leaflet on poverty*):

The Council were unable to get an information leaflet but a report on child poverty in the UK has been produced and will be accessed by the Council and made available to members.

**Action 6** (*Means testing of parents when adaptations are required to the home of a child*):

Mr Ignatius Maguire confirmed that means testing of parents when adaptations are required to the home of a child had been abolished. He said that it would take effect from 1 February 2004.

Mrs Helen Quigley proposed sending a letter to Mr Brendan McKeever, Facilitator, Family Information Group congratulating him on his work with the Homes Fit for Children Campaign. Mr McKeever gave a presentation on the issue to the Council at their November meeting

**Action AP: b/01/04**

Chief Officer to write to Mr McKeever.

Mr Reuben McKelvey proposed that voluntary/community group/provider speakers should in future be invited to the Council's Christmas Dinner.

**Action AP: c/01/04**

Chief Officer will include such people on the guest list.

**C05/04 Equality and Human Rights Business:**

Members will be kept updated on any new developments.

**C06/04 Trusts' Business:**

**1. *Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Trust:***

Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 13 November 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 22 January 2004 were noted.

**2. *Foyle Health and Social Services Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 12 December 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 30 January 2004 were noted.
- A copy of the Trust's review of adult mental health services was acknowledged.
- Copies of the Trust's Magazine 'Foyle Times' Winter 2003 were received.

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

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 18 December 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 22 January 2004 were noted.
- The Trust Core Brief December 2003 was received.

**4. *Royal Hospitals Health and Social Services Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 6 November 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 15 January 2004 were noted.
- A notice of a Board of Directors meeting to be held on 3 June 2004 was noted.

5. ***Belfast City Hospital Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 28 November 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 30 January 2004 were noted.
- A supply of Revised Complaints leaflets were received.
- A copy of the Trust Newsletter 'Cityview' January 2004 was acknowledged.

6. ***Green Park Healthcare Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 4 December 2003 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 8 January 2004 were noted.
- A copy of the Trust's Newsletter 'Grassroots' was acknowledged.

C07/04 **Members Issues:**

Mr Victor McKelvey said he had attended a recent meeting of Allied Health Professionals where the subject of lack of OTs arose. He said Mr Steven Lindsay Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Services Board who was also present made a commitment to examine the issue to create more stabilised resources.

**Action AP: d/01/04**

Chief Officer to raise with Mr Lindsay.

Mrs Helen Quigley asked what the comparison with other Board areas was in relation to OTs.

**Action AP: e/01/04**

Chief Officer to raise this question at the next joint HSSC meeting.

Mr Harold Andrews raised a concern about the sudden death of a 31 year old man who was told by his Doctor he had heartburn and who subsequently died in the Westdoc out-of-hours Practice.

**Action AP: f/01/04**

Mr Andrews to find out more details and discuss with Chief Officer.

Mr Raymond Rogan referred to an article in the Sunday World about a woman living in the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area who needed to go into hospital but has a disabled son dependant on her and she claimed she was getting no support from the Trust.

**Action AP: g/01/04**

Chief Office to get copy of article from paper and follow up.

Mrs Helen Quigley asked if there was any priority given to Senior Citizens attending Ophthalmology Clinics.

**Action AP: h/01/04**

Chief Officer to ask Altnagelvin Area Hospitals Trust for this information.

Mr Paddy McGowan and Mr Victor McKelvey on the issue of private treatment asked how many personnel in each category were employed by the Board and how much of their time is spent on private sessions as opposed to other sessions.

**Action AP: i/01/04**

Chief Officer to investigate this issue.

C08/04 **Any Other Business:**

**Meetings and Events attended by Members**

<b>Date:</b>	1 December 2003
<b>Meeting:</b>	Children's Integrated Forum
<b>Venue:</b>	Western H&SS Board Headquarters, Londonderry
<b>Nominated:</b>	Mr Rogan
<b>Date:</b>	3 December 2003
<b>Meeting:</b>	New GMS Contract
<b>Venue:</b>	Western H&SS Board Headquarters, Londonderry



**Date:** 16 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Chief Executive S/L Trust (New Hospitals Update)  
**Venue:** Strathdene House, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh  
**Nominated:** Mr Rogan

**Date:** 18 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Sperrin Lakeland Trust Board  
**Venue:** Library Headquarters, Omagh  
**Nominated:** Mr Andrews

**Date:** 18 December 2003  
**Visit:** Belfast City Hospital  
**Venue:** City Hospital, Belfast  
**Nominated:** Mr Rogan

**Date:** 7 January 2004  
**Meeting:** (i) Review of Public Administration  
(ii) New GMS Contract (Patient Leaflet)  
**Venue:** Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh  
**Nominated:** Mr Campbell            Mrs Hamilton            Mr V McKelvey  
Mrs Robson                    Mr Sutherland

### **Meetings and Events attended by Chief Officer/Staff**

**Date:** 5 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Foyle Trust Officials (Mental Health Review)  
**Venue:** Trust Headquarters, Riverview House, Londonderry

**Date:** 9 December 2003  
**Training:** CIPFA Training  
**Venue:** White Gables Hotel, Hillsborough

**Date:** 10 December 2003  
**Meetings:** (i) New Business Improvement Plans  
(ii) GMS Focus Group  
(iii) Ambulance Services  
**Venue:** Western H&SS Board Headquarters, Londonderry  
**Date:** 10 December 2003  
**Meeting:** DBS Public and Staff Engagement Group  
**Venue:** Western H&SS Board Headquarters, Londonderry

**Date:** 12 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Records Management  
**Venue:** Dundary Inn, Templepatrick

**Date:** 15 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Chief Officers (S Bridge)  
**Venue:** Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen

**Date:** 15 December 2003  
**Prizegiving:** Sperrin Lakeland Trust Annual Review Competition  
**Venue:** Strathdene House, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh  
**Nominated:** Mrs Preston

**Date:** 16 December 2003  
**Meetings:** (i) Records Management CAPITA  
(ii) Council Chair  
**Venue:** Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh

**Date:** 16 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Chief Executive S/L Trust (New Hospitals Update)  
**Venue:** Strathdene House, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh

**Date:** 18 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Chief Executive Belfast City Hospital  
**Venue:** Belfast City Hospital

**Date:** 19 December 2003  
**Meeting:** Investing for Health  
**Venue:** Enterprise Agency, Strabane

**Date:** 6 January 2004  
**Meeting:** Hospital Watch (Pre Meeting)  
**Venue:** Western HSS Board Headquarters, Londonderry

**Date:** 7 January 2004  
**Meeting:** Hospital Watch  
**Venue:** District Council Offices, Omagh

**Date:** 7 January 2004  
**Meeting:** (i) Review of Public Administration  
**Focus Group:** (ii) New GMS Contract (Patient Leaflet)  
**Venue:** Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh

**Nominated:** Ms Reilly Mrs Loughran

C09/04 **Next Meeting:**

Date: 5 February 2004  
Time: 2.00pm  
Venue: Limavady Borough Council Offices  
Connell Street  
Limavady  
Co Londonderry BT49 0HA

**The meeting ended at 4.30pm**