

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of One Hundred and Twenty-sixth 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 5 February 2004
at 2.00PM

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

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C01/04 Chairman's Introduction to Presentation:

Mr Rogan welcomed Mr Liam Mclvor Acting Chief Executive and Mr Alan Cahill Divisional Officer NIAS who were going to make a Presentation on Ambulance Services in the Western area.

The Chairman said that in view of recent public concern not only in Derry City but in the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area about the availability of ambulances and crews it was timely that the Council hear directly from the Ambulance Trust. It is hoped we will hear what exactly the issues are for appropriate ambulance provision in the West and also how they will be addressed and within what time-frame.

Mr Rogan said that following the public outcry about the apparent lack of ambulances the Chief Officer and he had met with the Western Health and Social Services Board and as a result they will both attend the Western Ambulance Local Ambulance Group meetings, the second of which takes place next Monday.

He explained that the Local Ambulance Liaison Group will meet regularly to discuss routine ambulance business and the Chief Officer will attend these. However a sub group has been set up to look at the specific issues and concerns raised by the Council and both the Chief Officer and himself will attend these and report back to members.

He said members will be anxious to hear where we are in relation to the recommendations which came out of the Ambulance Review.

C02/04 **Presentation:** Mr Liam McIvor Acting Chief Executive NIAS
Mr Alan Cahill Divisional Officer NIAS
"Ambulance Services in the Western area"

Mr Liam McIvor thanked the Council for the opportunity to make the presentation on the issues of where the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service is in relation to, not only the strategic review, but the other changes which have impacted upon their capacity to deliver a service in the Western area and Northern Ireland as a whole. These changes include Developing Better Services and the new GMS Contract and Out of Hours.

He said that the Strategic Review that had been referred to previously was a wide ranging document that deals with every aspect of the service. As it is now five years old the information in it needs to be brought up to date and implementation of recommendations needs to be done in the context of current activity pattern levels. Over the period the ambulance service has not seen an increase in accident and emergency resources although the service has recorded increases year on year in accident and emergency activity.

Mr McIvor said that the changing pattern of services had impacted on their capacity to provide cover because of extended journey times which he said, is a direct result of the closure of services in local hospitals. The capacity has also been reduced because of a European regulation which means only one stretcher patient can be carried in the back of an ambulance. This Mr McIvor said was an entirely appropriate measure because there was only one member of staff in the back of the ambulance to support the patient.

Mr V McKelvey asked if a second ambulance is alerted on all occasions because of this new regulation that only one stretcher patient can be carried in an ambulance at a time. Mr McIvor explained that in the case of a significant road traffic accident that several ambulances are activated. The first ambulance to arrive will report back to control and give a situation report to advise how many ambulances are required and they will then treat and stabilise on the scene and triage the patients. If a major incident is declared such as a multi car pile up then an Officer will attend who will take command of the situation and mobilise extra resources. Mr McIvor said the Patient Care Vehicle can also be called upon if there was a significant number of walking wounded.

Mr McIvor said that following the publication of the Strategic Review there was a consultation phase. The Minister then asked the Ambulance Service working with the Department to develop an Implementation Plan which went out for consultation and was endorsed by the Minister in 2002.

Mr McIvor advised the members on the development of the Implementation Plan. He said there were Pre-requisites and Supporting Measures and there were also measures to directly improve ambulance response times. He said it was crucial not to underestimate the importance of the Pre-requisites and Supporting Measures. Delivering an effective ambulance service he said, is about more than having vehicles on the road.

- Pre-requisites and Supporting Measures
 - ~ Control and Communications
 - ~ Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System
 - ~ Clinical Governance
 - ~ Increased Training Capacity
 - ~ Enhanced Clinically Safe Skills
 - ~ Emergency Planning
 - ~ Fleet Replacement
 - ~ Fleet Management
 - ~ Estates Upgrade and Replacement
 - ~ Management Capacity

Mr McIvor said the ambulance service need to be able to capture the calls coming in, deal with them promptly, effectively and efficiently. They needed to categorise the calls to identify which are the most clinically urgent calls. This meant not just the 999 Service but also calls from the GPs who are requesting transfers of patients into hospital. Another area of service demand are the hospitals who are seeking patients to be either admitted or discharged or indeed brought in as out-patients and increasingly the transfers of patients from Altnagelvin and Enniskillen to the Belfast hospitals in particular because of the centralisation of services there.

Mr McIvor explained that when calls are received there are three levels of service which can be provided:

The Accident and Emergency Service;

An Intermediate Care Service;

A Patient Care Service which includes the voluntary car service.

- Improving Ambulance Response Times
 - ~ Procure Additional Patient Care Service Vehicles
 - ~ Recruit and Train Additional Patient Care Service Staff
 - ~ Implement Patient Care Service Management Structure
 - ~ Procure Additional A&E (+Rapid Response Vehicles) Vehicles
 - ~ Recruit and Train Additional A&E (+Rapid Response Vehicles) Staff
 - ~ Introduce New A&E Response Points
 - ~ Introduce Clinical Supervision

There has been a phased approach to improving response times. The first phase of the Strategic Review was about introducing additional Intermediate Care and Patient Care services. This is because Accident and Emergency vehicles are being used to do non emergency work. He said this was most prevalent in the Southern Division, Northern next and then the Western.

Mr McIvor said that before the summer it was intended to introduce 64 additional staff into the Intermediate Care Service. He said three will be coming out of the training course next week to go into the Western Division and a further four will start training the week after. Training takes a month.

He said that the second phase of the Strategic Review calls for the introduction of ten additional Accident and Emergency vehicles and four additional Rapid Response vehicles. The Rapid Response vehicles have been introduced into each of the four Divisions. Mr McIvor said funding had not been made available for the second phase but was potentially available for the vehicles however the cost of the crew was approximately £300,000 per vehicle.

Mr McIvor shared a number of overheads with the members:

**Current Ambulance Cover
Activity Profile July–September 2003**

<i>A&E Cover</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Night</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>A&E</i>	<i>Urgent</i>
East	27	17	East	10618	3599
West	11	8	West	2869	1272
North	16	10	North	4962	2062
South	14	7	South	2998	1733
N. Ireland	68	42	N. Ireland	21447	8666

**Response Performance in West
July–September 2003**

<i>A&E Cover Location</i>	<i>Typical Cover</i>	<i>Number of Incidents</i>	<i>Avg. Response Time (mins)</i>	<i>Non-Local Response (%)</i>
Erne	2	385	16.10	5
Omagh	2	381	11.44	15
Castledearg	1(part-time)	34	14.10	58
Derry	3-4	1235	8.50	15
Limavady	1	218	12.23	40
Strabane	1	172	14.13	44
West	11	2558	11.15	N/A

Mr Mclvor explained the non-local response (%) column figure by using the example for the Erne i.e. 5% of the number of incidents (385) were done by vehicles not based in Enniskillen. He explained that 51 hours per week are not covered in Castledearg and the high non-local response (%) figures for Limavady and Strabane were due to the fact that an ambulance is rostered from Derry for these areas.

In response to Mr Page who asked where the 15% of ambulances came from when responding to the Derry incidents Mr Mclvor said they came from Strabane, Castledearg and Limavady.

Mr Mclvor explained that calls are measured from the time they get the location of the emergency from the caller.

WHSSB Ambulance Resources Recent Local Investment

- Vehicle Replacement
- Additional Intermediate Care Service Vehicles and Staff
 - ~ Enniskillen
 - ~ Altnagelvin
- Patient Care Service Control Staff
- Backlog Maintenance – Estate
- Staff/Vehicle Security

Improving Performance in Western Division

- Liaison with WHSSB/WHSSC/Political Representatives

- Implementing the Strategic Review
 - ~ Phase 1 Additional Intermediate Care Service Vehicles
 - ~ Call Prioritisation and GIS Mapping
 - ~ Clinical training
- Developing Better Services
 - ~ NIAS Input
- Winter Pressures Initiatives
 - ~ A&E for West Bank (Weekend)
 - ~ Extra cover for Castlederg.

Mr Mclvor said a Mobile Control Vehicle and an Emergency Equipment Vehicle had been introduced in the Western Division and are located at Altnagelvin specifically because of the issues around the airport.

The Ambulance Service had now introduced Officer On Call throughout Northern Ireland. There are now 5 On Call officers employed 24 hours per day 7 days a week and they are supplemented by a Director On Call.

Mr Mclvor said fleet replacement was a major issue and was a Pre-requisite and Supporting Measure. He said the Ambulance Service cannot function without the tools to do the job and one of the very basic tools is a modern ambulance which is well serviced and young enough and without too many miles to allow it to do the job it is there for.

In the last financial year 44 modern state of the art ambulances were introduced eight of which came to the West.

In the Western Division there are currently three vehicles which are more than seven years old or more than 140,000 miles on them.

Mr Mclvor said the Ambulance Estate is an area that needs major investment. Staff need a safe, secure environment to work from. He said a new station had just been opened in Limavady. Mr Mclvor said he believed that an Ambulance Station needed to be in the centre of the population.

There followed a very robust discussion with a number of issues being raised by Members for further clarification including:

- Communication:
 - > Mr Rogan indicated to Mr Mclvor the Council's disappointment that they had not been informed of the opening of the new Station at Limavady before today's meeting.
 - > NIAS gave a commitment to engage with Health and Social Services Councils and meet with the Chief Officers of the four Health Council in the near future.

- > Mr R McKelvey expressed a concern about the lack of communication generally in the NHS.
- Training:
 - > £0.5million identified for training. £1.5 million per year has been spent over the last three years. A lot of this is going on replacing staff and training new staff but is also about ensuring that staff go through efficiency training and getting re-accredited for their paramedic training so that they remain qualified.
 - > Enhanced Clinically Safe Skills: Courses introduced such as How to Manage Children when being transferred in an ambulance. Advanced pre hospital trauma life support which is advanced skills in terms of dealing with the major incidents such as road traffic accidents. Care and responsibility training which is about training staff to deal with violent situations.
- Decision taking in prioritising calls:
 - > Mrs Robson asked who makes the decision as to whether one call is more serious or life threatening than another . Mr McIvor said there is training which is protocol driven and is in use in nearly every ambulance service in the UK and used throughout the world. He said it is quality assured and tested and there has never been an issue with it.
- Geographical Mapping:
 - > Mr McIvor explained that in the control centre there is a paper map and that is how they identify where the call is coming from which means relying on local knowledge. He said the Ambulance Service were moving to a system where they will have a screen with a digital geographical map of Northern Ireland and when a call comes in the incident will be plotted on the screen as well as the resources available being shown on the screen.
 - > Mr Page asked about funding for Geographical Mapping. Mr McIvor said there was no funding identified for this at present.
- Control Centres:
 - > Mr McIvor said there were currently four control Centres one each in Derry, Craigavon, Antrim and Belfast but they were moving towards have one Control Centre for the whole of Northern Ireland.
- Resources:
 - > Mr McIvor explained that he Department gives funding to the four Health Boards who then allocate resources to the Ambulance Service. He said that funding for training was ring-fenced.
 - > Mr V McKelvey expressed a concern that the Strategic Review called for additional ambulances but the funding is not there. He said the Council should express a concern to the Department that if there is a Strategic Review set up the results should be implemented as soon as possible. He said it was scandalous because it is in fact a life or death situation.

- > Mr Andrews said that until the Government put enough money into the NHS there will always be problems.
- Digital Trunk Radio:
 - > Mr McIvor said that Digital Trunk Radio had not yet been introduced but assured members that the Analogue Radio is functioning and having put contingency communication plans in place staff are not completely isolated.
- Confidence within the Community:
 - > Mr R McKelvey said there was a danger of losing the confidence of the people within the community because of all the different reviews taking place and a lack of implementation.
- Cross-border:
 - > Mr Campbell asked if there was any strategy to liaise with cross-border stations. Mr McIvor said that arrangements were in place. They have a radio link with Ballyshannon which is tested on a weekly basis.
 - > Cross-border exercises have been run with the Garda/PSNI and also with the Coastguard in Foyle.
- Immediate Issues for discussion with Western Ambulance Liaison Group:
 - > Omagh – Additional Night Crew
 - > Derry – Additional A&E – West Bank
 - > Castlederg – Increase to 24 hour cover
 - > Additional Hours for local cover in Strabane and Limavady
- Attacks on Ambulance Personnel:
 - > Mrs Robson queried the seriousness of attacks on ambulances. Mr McIvor said they needed to work with the community, better liaison with the police, alerting and training staff in care and responsibility, identifying situations as they arise.
 - > Mr Andrews said he could not understand the mentality of people who attack ambulance crews.
- Voluntary Car Service Drivers:
 - > Mr McGowan paid a tribute to the Voluntary Car Service Drivers and asked if the Ambulance Service worked with the Voluntary Car Drivers and if they were trained in First Aid. Mr McIvor said at the moment they were not. He said it was an area they needed to put more work into and they were currently working with them on the issue of identification of training needs.

Mr McIvor in response to Mr Maguire said the Ambulance Service would work with the Council and the Board in relation to unnecessary call outs.

Members commended Mr McIvor on the good and valuable work the Ambulance Service do but remained concerned about a number of these issues.

Mr Rogan thanked Mr McIvor and Mr Cahill for their presentation.

C03/04 **Chairman's Business:**

Mr Rogan began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and in particular Mr Eddie Friel who had been unable to attend the last few meetings due to work and family commitments.

Mr Rogan explained that Mr Barney McAleer had also been unable to attend the last few meetings due to ill-health. Mr McAleer had hoped to make a return in the New Year but due to a small set back he had been unable to do so. The Members joined with Mr Rogan in wishing Mr McAleer a speedy recovery and looked forward to him re-joining the Council.

The Chairman also reported that Mrs Ann Bell who represented Strabane District Council had not attended for the last twelve months. He said the Western Health and Social Services Council having not received any notification regarding her absence were obliged to make the Department aware of the situation so that Strabane District Council could if they so wished nominate an alternative representative.

Mr Rogan informed members that the Western Health and Social Services Council had received a letter from the Department stating that Mrs Bell will be returning as a member.

The Chairman said that he had mentioned earlier when introducing the presentation both the Chief Officer and himself now sit on the Ambulance Liaison Sub Group.

The first meeting for the sub group is expected to be arranged after the next Liaison Group meeting in February. They hoped to hear more specific information about service provision and gaps within the Western Board area. Mr Rogan said they have also pressed for an update on the seventy or so recommendations which came out of the last review and advised members that they will be kept up to date on these meetings.

Mr Rogan stressed that it was important that everyone should continue to monitor what is happening on the ground and to feed back any information they might have to either the Chief Officer or himself so that specific questions can be brought to these meetings.

The Chairman said the Foyle Trust Mental Health Review document that he had referred to last month and which the Council now have is ready for consultation. Responses are to be made by April.

Mr Rogan said he wished to make a comment on the document which is the fruition of a major piece of commendable work. He said it had the look of a finished and published piece of work, rather than a consultation document. Consultation, he said, suggests changes might be made following all the submissions. Mr Rogan said that the Chief Officer had spoken with Mr John Doherty the Director of Social Care at Foyle about this and he had pointed out that the review itself was the result of considerable consultation and therefore there was an expectation that there will be no significant changes. Mr Doherty did however assure the Chief Officer that in the event that they had missed something it was possible to publish a supplementary text to accompany this document. Mr Rogan said the Council would reflect this concern in it's submission.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the result of the public consultation on State Pathology Services had now been published. Additional copies of the analysis of the consultation have been requested and will be forwarded to members when received. This item will be included on the agenda for discussion at the March meeting.

Action AP: a/02/04

The State Pathology Services Document to be included on Agenda for March meeting.

C04/04 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

As the Minutes of the meeting held on **Thursday 8 January 2004** were not distributed prior to the meeting members took a few minutes to look at them before being adopted on the proposal of Mr Danny Sutherland and seconded by Mr Michael Carten with a typing error being highlighted on page 2 line 4 (McKeown should read Keown).

Mr Maguire drew members attention to Action 6 on page 6 where the date for the abolishing of the means testing of parents for adaptations to their home had now been changed from 1 February 2004 to 16 February 2004.

C05/04 Matters Arising from Minutes:

Response to Action Points AP: a/01/04 – g/01/04:

Action AP: a/01/04: *Concerns that the public were becoming confused and worried about the state of services in the Sperrin Lakeland area.*

This issue will be on the Agenda at the bi-monthly meeting with the Sperrin Lakeland Trust Chief Executive.

Action AP: b/01/04: *Proposal to send a letter to Mr Brendan McKeever, Facilitator, Family Information Group congratulating him on his work with the Homes Fit for Children Campaign.*

A letter of congratulations has been sent to Mr McKeever.

Action AP: c/01/04: *Proposal that voluntary/community group/provider speakers should in future be invited to the Council's Christmas Dinner.*

This will be done at the appropriate time.

Action AP: d/01/04: *Lack of OTs (raised at Allied Health Professions meeting).*

The Chief Officer will raise the issue with Western Health and Social Services Board Officers at their next meeting.

Action AP: e/01/04: *What is the comparison with other Board areas in relation to OTs.*

Awaiting this information from the various Trusts and should be able to report on this at the next meeting.

Action AP: f/01/04: *Sudden death of a 31 year old in the Westdoc out-of-hours Practice.*

Mr Andrews will get details after the family receive the results of the Post Mortem.

Action AP: g/01/04: *Sunday World article 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.*

The Chief Officer has got a copy of the newspaper article and will raise the issue with Mr Vincent Ryan Acting Director of Community Services at a future meeting.

Action AP: h/01/04: *Is there any priority given to Senior Citizens attending Ophthalmology Clinics.*

Altnagelvin do not give a priority to senior citizens attending Ophthalmology Clinics but the Chief Officer will raise this further with Altnagelvin.

Action AP: i/01/04: *How many personnel were employed by the Board and how much of their time is spent on private sessions as opposed to other sessions.*

As this was a very complex area the Chief Officer said she felt it would be useful to invite an Officer from the Western Health and Social Services Board to meet with the Council to provide information on this type of professional contract.

Action AP: b/02/04

Chief Officer to issue invitation to WHSSB Officer.

C06/04 **Equality and Human Rights Business:**

The Western Equality and Human Rights Forum are planning an Equality Fair for late Spring and member will be kept up to date on this venture. Ms Reilly explained that as Council members there was a responsibility to carry out our own work within the legislative framework of equality and human rights both in terms of legislative compliance and the Council's own work practices. Any opportunities that members have to increase their knowledge or understanding of this area are to be welcomed and taken advantage of. She hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend the Fair.

C07/04 **Trusts' Business:**

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

- Minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on 8 January 2004 and Agenda for a meeting to be held on 5 February 2004 were noted.

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

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 30 January 2004 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 27 February 2004 were noted.
- Notice of the re-appointment of Mr Anthony Jackson as Chairman of the Trust to 8 November 2005 was acknowledged.

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

- Minutes of a Clinical and Social Care Governance meeting held on 20 November 2004 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 19 February 2004 were noted.
- Notice of the appointment of Dr Diana Cody as Medical Director for the Trust from 1 March 2004 to 30 September 2004 was acknowledged.
- Copies of the Trust Newsletter 'Spot Light' Winter 2003 were acknowledged.

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

- Notice of Board of Directors Meeting to be held on 4 March 2004 was noted.

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

- A copy of the Trust Bi-monthly Report for complaints from 1 November 2003 – 31 December 2003 was acknowledged.

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

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 8 January 2004 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 5 February 2004 were noted.

C08/04 **Members Issues:**

The Chairman reminded members that if anyone wanted the Council to pursue a specific issue regarding individual service users he would ask them to please make the Chief Officer aware of the details so that she can take the issues forward in an appropriate manner.

Mr Joe Campbell said he had spoken with Mr Kieran Downey, Health and Disability Programme, Community Services Department Sperrin Lakeland Trust about the building of a unit for learning disabled adults with challenging behaviour. Mr Downey said that rumours that a site had already been identified were not true. He said that five organisations were in for tender and they had not got to the stage of identifying an organisation or site.

Mr Rogan informed the meeting that Altnagelvin Hospitals Trust had a new Chairman. Members voiced their concerns about the lack of communication with Altnagelvin Trust. It was agreed to follow this up with Altnagelvin Trust and send a letter of congratulations to the new Chairman.

Action AP: c/02/04

Contact Altnagelvin Trust Chief Executive to discuss communication concerns.

Mr Sutherland asked if it was possible for the Council to get a copy of the Review of Public Administration document Organisation Charts and Service to the Citizen Maps for all members.

Action AP: d/02/04

A copy for each member will be requested.

Mr Harold Andrews drew to the attention of members that Sperrin Lakeland had paid in the region of £1 million pounds in eight months to Locums.

Mr Maguire proposed that the Council ask what the net difference was in employing full time staff and agency staff.

Action AP: e/02/04

Chief Officer to request this information across all three Trusts.

Mr McGowan raised a concern about the waiting lists for Psychology Services. He proposed that the Lead Psychologist from Sperrin Lakeland Trust and the Foyle Trust be invited to make a presentation to the Council.

Action AP: f/02/04

Chief Officer to include in the Council's new work programme April 2004-March 2005.

C09/04 **Chief Officer's Report:**

The Chief Officer began her report by referring to the meeting of the sub group which had worked on the response to the Review of Public Administration. She said that since then she had an opportunity to attend a Board Workshop on the subject. The Chair of the Review Mr Tom Frawley made a presentation which helped set a context for examining issues relating to public administration.

Ms Reilly said she had accessed the review's Website www.rpani.org which contains all of the associated research and pre consultation material. She assured the meeting that it made for fairly weighty reading. She said she had also talked to her colleagues at the other three Health Councils to hear how they were dealing with the response.

The Chief Officer said this had taken longer than she had anticipated to complete and she would therefore provide the members with a draft response from the Council by Monday 16 February 2004. She asked that anyone wanting to comment or make changes should do so by Monday 23 February 2004 in order to allow time to make any changes necessary before submitting it to the Review body by the 27 February 2004.

Action AP: g/02/04

Distribute draft RPA response to members before submission.

Ms Reilly said that ever since Developing Better Services and indeed before in Fit for the Future a question mark had hung over the future of the four Health Councils. She said that the Joint Chief Officers had asked the Department to provide a lead in opening this debate internally and to the wider public.

The Chief Officers had discussed a number of ways that the debate could be kick-started by the Councils. One option she said was to provide a forum for the four Councils to come together through a Northern Ireland wide Conference. Ms Reilly said they were currently looking at this option and she will report back on any developments.

The Chief Officer said that all of the Councils had experienced a greater demand for their services but had not had this growth matched with additional resources.

She explained that the work of the Councils had evolved over the last twelve years not least because of all the changes within Health and Social Services and increased public expectations. She said there is a much greater and more varied demand being placed on them by all of the Council's stakeholders.

Ms Reilly said there was concern that the Councils were drifting and had become 'all things to all people'. The public, media and service users think of the Councils as watchdog bodies and expect them to have the power and authority to carry out this function.

In view of these concerns and apparent drift the four Councils are involved in a strategic review of their work. The Chief Officer said she would put this on the agenda for the March meeting in order to keep members informed of any outcomes.

Action AP: h/02/04

Put HSS Council review on March Agenda.

Still staying with resourcing and capacity Ms Reilly said she had met with Mr David Galloway Acting Director of Performance Management at the Department to discuss additional resources for the Western Council. Although it has to be said that we will not get all of the resources which would bring us level with the other Councils because of the uncertainty over the future of the Councils she said she was hopeful that a submission for two new staff might be successful and she will be making the submission in the coming few weeks.

On a more positive note she said she was beginning the recruitment process for a Business Support Manager funded by the Western Health and Social Services Board in the next week.

Ms Reilly said as a Council there was an opportunity to be represented at each of the Trust Board meetings and that members do attend both Sperrin Lakeland and Foyle Trust Board meetings. However because Altnagelvin Trust Board meet on the same day as the Western Health and Social Services Council, the first Thursday of each month the Council do not have anyone attending the Altnagelvin Trust Board meetings. The Chief Officer said she believed it was important that the Council are represented at the Altnagelvin Trust Board meetings and she proposed looking at the possibility of changing the Council meetings to either the second, third or fourth Thursday of each month to facilitate this.

The members present agreed that from April the Council should meet on the fourth Thursday. The Chief Officer said she would contact members not present and in particular District Council representatives who have commitments to District Council meetings to check if this was suitable for them.

Action AP: i/02/04

All Members will be contacted re the suitability of the fourth Thursday.

The Chief Officer said that as a body the Council only meet ten times per year and on a few other occasions as members of various working groups. She said with the increased workload on staff and members there were few opportunities to discuss anything other than agenda items.

She proposed that the Council should hold a two day residential possibly on a Thursday and Friday in June at Lusty Beg Island.

This could take the form of workshops on the Thursday and hold the monthly meeting on the Friday.

Members will be contacted to check on numbers who may be interested in this proposal.

Action AP: j/02/04

Members will be contacted on their availability and interest.

The Chief Officer said she had attended the recent launch of Post Mortem Examinations: Good Practice in Consent and Care of the Bereaved consultation document. She said this was the implementation of one of the recommendations of the Human Organs Inquiry Report of 2002. It is also consistent with the proposals contained in the new Human Tissue Bill currently before Parliament.

It was proposed to set up a sub group to look at the document and Mr McGowan, Mrs Quigley, Ms Trimble, Mr McIvor, and Mr Campbell were nominated. The sub group will be contacted to check on availability when a suitable date in March is arranged. The submission date for responses is the 27 April 2004.

Action AP: k/02/04

Sub group members will be contacted about a date for the meeting to be held in March.

A sub group was also set up to discuss the Foyle Mental Health Review. Mr Rogan, Mr McGowan, Mrs Devlin, Mr Friel, Mr Page and Mrs Robson agreed to sit on the group. Members will be contacted with a date and venue for the meeting. The date for responses is 2 April 2004.

Action AP: l/02/04

Sub group members will be contacted about a date for the meeting to be held in March.

The Chief Officer said the Western Health and Social Services Board are publishing a new strategic document which will describe their vision and principles and they have invited a sub group from the Council to look at it. Mr Campbell, Mr Friel, Mr V McKelvey and Mrs Robson agreed to attend on 19 February 2004.

The Chief Officer drew to members attention that there were two Workshops arranged next week on Developing Better Services which are organised by the Board to look at:

ENT Services 9th February 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Children's Surgery 11th February 9.30am - 2.30pm

both at the Mellon Country Inn.

Mr V McKelvey said he hoped to attend the ENT Services and Mrs Robson the Children' Surgery.

The Chief Officer reported that she had a meeting with the Web Designers for the new Western Health and Social Services Council Website. She said the Designers were to forward a number of design options which she hoped to show members at the March meeting.

Action AP: m/02/04

Include Website design on March Agenda.

C10/04 **Any Other Business:**

Meetings and Events attended by Members

Date: 12 January 2004
Meeting: Hotel Services Steering Group
Venue: Cedar Villa, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Sutherland

Date: 12 January 2004
Opening: New Screening Room
Venue: Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Rogan

Date: 13 January 2004
Meeting: Cancer Unit Development Group
Venue: Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry
Nominated: Mrs Devlin

Date: 16 January 2004
Meeting: Western Ambulance Liaison Group
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr Rogan

Date: 19 January 2004
Meeting: Maternity Services Liaison Committee S/L Trust
Venue: Post Graduate Centre, Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh
Nominated: Ms Trimble

Date: 22 January 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust Board
Venue: Coleshill, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mr Andrews

Date: 29 January 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland PIP Group (Learning Disability)
Venue: Omagh Centre
Nominated: Mr Campbell

Meetings and Events attended by Chief Officer/Staff

Date: 12 January 2004
Meeting: Western Equality and Human Rights Forum
Venue: Post Graduate Centre, Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh

Date: 13 January 2004
Meeting: (i) Clinical and Social Care Governance
(ii) Primary Care Strategy Project Board
Venue: Castle Buildings, Belfast

Date: 16 January 2004
Meeting: (i) WHSS Board Officer – Council Budget
(ii) Ambulance Liaison Group
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry

Date: 19 January 2004
Meeting: Public and Staff Engagement Reference Group
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry

Date: 21 January 2004
Meeting: Review of Public Administration (WHSSB)
Venue: White Horse Hotel, Londonderry

Date: 21 January 2004
Meeting: CSF3
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry

Date: 22 January 2004
Meeting: (i) Regional Strategy on Public Engagement
(ii) Acting Director, Planning and Performance Directorate
Venue: Castle Buildings, Belfast

Date: 26 January 2004
Meeting: Post Mortem Examinations, Good Practice, Consent and Care of
the Bereaved
Venue: Fitzwilliam International Hotel, Belfast

Date: 27 January 2004
Meeting: Director of Social Care Foyle HSS Trust
Venue: Riverview House, Foyle Trust Headquarters

Date: 27 January 2004
Meeting: Assistant CSM, Review of Mental Health Services in S/L Trust
Venue: Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh
Date: 27 January 2004

Date: 27 January 2004
Meeting: Front-line Staff and Workplace Learning
Venue: Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
Nominated: Mrs Preston Mrs Loughran

Date: 28 January 2004
Meeting: (i) Joint HSSCs Strategic Review (S Bridge, Consultant)
(ii) Chief Officers
Venue: Southern HSSC Offices, Lurgan

C11/04 **Next Meeting:**

Date: 4 March 2004
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Derry City Council Offices
Strand Road
Derry

The meeting ended at 6.10pm