

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of One Hundred and Thirtieth meeting of the
Western Health and Social Services Council
held at Lusty Beg Island, Boa Island, Kesh, Co Fermanagh
on Friday 18 June 2004
at 2.00PM

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

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C34/04 Chairman's Business:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, the last before the summer break. He thanked everyone present for their contribution to the Joint Councils Conference which had taken place over the previous day and a half. He told members that the outcome of their deliberations would be made known, to all those who had missed the conference and workshops, at the next Council meeting in September. He said it was quite remarkable how similar each of the four Councils were on the question of the future role and design of Health and Social Services Councils and how strongly all members had felt in favour of greater working together on Regional issues whilst retaining a firm, independent local voice.

C35/04 **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 27 May 2004 were adopted on the proposal of Mrs Helen Quigley and seconded by Mr Eddie Friel.

C36/04 **Matters Arising from Minutes:**

Response to Action Points AP: a/05/04 – d/05/04:

Action AP: a/05/04: Mrs Helen Quigley proposed that the Council write to Mr Rogan expressing their gratitude to him for the work he had done for the Council not only as Chair but also as a member.

The Chief Officer said she was pleased to say that Mr Rogan had accepted the Council's invitation to both the Conference and this month's meeting. Both she and the Chairman acknowledged Mr Rogan's valuable and very experienced contribution to the previous days' debate. She informed members that there would be an opportunity for members to express their thanks to Mr Rogan at the close of the meeting.

Action AP: b/05/04: Schedule of meetings for the Oral Health Planning Teams to be requested from the Director of Dental Health at the Western Health and Social Services Board.

The Chief Officer confirmed that dates for meetings to be held on the 20th May 2004 (Strabane), 24th June 2004 (Limavady) and 25th June 2004 Fermanagh had been received from the Director of Dental Health.

Action AP: c/05/04: Training in Northern Ireland for Quality Initiative Assessors. The Chief Officer said she would contact the Royal College of General Practitioners about the dates for training.

Awaiting Information

Action AP: d/05/04: Trusts Liaison Agenda.

The Chief Officer asked members who have any issues they would like to include on the agenda for the various Trust Liaison meetings to let her know. She said she hoped to have the meetings arranged for the Autumn.

Action AP: a/06/04

Chief Officer to collate issues for inclusion on Agendas.

Mrs Valerie Brown drew the member's attention to the fact that there was an extra Cataract Clinic being held at the Erne Hospital on Saturday morning.

Mr Paddy Gilgunn said that there was an improvement in the waiting lists for hip replacement operations.

C37/04 **Trusts' Business:**

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

- Minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on 3 June 2004 and Agenda for a meeting to be held on 1 July 2004 were noted.
- Notice of the postponement of the launch of the Hospital's Major Redevelopment Project was acknowledged.

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

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 28 May 2004 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 25 June 2004 were noted.

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

- A copy of the Trust's Service Improvement Plan for submission to the Trust Board meeting was received.
- A copy of the Trust's Risk Management Strategy was received.
- A copy of the Trust's User Involvement Strategy April 2004 was received.
- A copy of the Trust's Patient/Client Experience Annual Overview Report 2003/04 was received.

4. ***Green Park Healthcare Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 3 June 2004, and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 5 August 2004 were noted.
- A copy of the Trust's Newsletter 'Grassroots' June 2004 was acknowledged.

C38/04 **Any Other Business:**

Policy Advisory Sub-group:

The Chief Officer asked that members give consideration to setting up a Council Policy Advisory sub-group. She said this would greatly assist both the Chairman and herself in helping to give direction and advice on issues relating to the work of the Council. Following members agreement to this proposal Ms Reilly suggested that the first meeting of the group would assist in clarifying the terms of reference and

scope of their work. The outcome would be brought back to a full council meeting for approval.

Mr Joe Campbell, Mr Eddie Friel, Mrs Helen Quigley, Ms Marilyn Trimble, Mr Victor McKelvey agreed to sit on the sub-group along with the Chairman and Chief Officer.

Endoscopes issue:

The Chief Officer gave an update to members on the issue of Endoscopes. She said she had received an E Mail from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety listing the following Key Messages on the issue:

- **IMMEDIATE RESPONSE** - Following the experience with an Endoscope at Lagan Valley Hospital, the Department initiated a wider review to provide complete assurance with respect to the effective cleaning and decontamination of all Endoscopes.
- **RIGOROUS AND URGENT REVIEW** -A rigorous and urgent review was undertaken by all Trusts during the past weekend. The Royal was the first to identify potential areas of vulnerability in a very small number of scopes that were in use. Subsequently, four other Trusts have raised issues requiring further investigation.
- **SCOPES TAKEN OUT OF USE** - Where there was any doubt, the scope was taken out of use. A total of 25 Endoscopes are involved out of more than a 1,000 scopes used in hospitals in Northern Ireland. Any scope over which issues have been raised has either been immediately withdrawn from service, or subjected to revised decontamination procedures.
- **ENDOSCOPES NOW IN USE SAFE** - An expert group established by the Department has already reviewed the issues and concluded that a number of the areas of potential concern can be discounted as posing no risk to patients' health. The Department can also reassure the public that any Endoscope currently in clinical use is entirely safe and fit for that purpose.
- **RISKS TO PATIENTS EXTREMELY LOW** - On the basis of current evidence, the risk to patients is thought to be extremely low – this has been established by expert international medical opinion. However the Department's first duty is to patients, and further work is being undertaken to more accurately determine the level of risk. This aspect will involve the input from national and international medical experts and will determine whether there is any need for individual patients to be contacted.
- **LAGAN VALLEY DEMONSTRATED NO CAUSE FOR ALARM** - Of the 440 patients recently contacted at Lagan Valley hospital, the initial results showed no

cause for alarm. This finding was entirely consistent with international evidence in relation to the likelihood of transmission of infection through the use of Endoscopes.

- **PATIENT SAFETY PARAMOUNT** - Patient safety will continue to be paramount in the Department's decisions on the best way forward. A regional helpline has been established Tel: 0800 9120099.

The Chief Officer said she had been informed that Altnagelvin were currently using 1 Endoscope which required the higher level of sterilisation.

The Council had also been informed that Altnagelvin had received advice from national and international experts that its procedures for decontaminating Endoscopes are satisfactory. Altnagelvin was one of a number of hospitals that had sought clarification following an audit of decontamination procedures carried out in hospitals throughout Northern Ireland.

The Chief Officer informed members that she had given an interview to a local radio station on the subject. She said that along with her colleagues in the other 3 Councils she had been quite concerned that the Department had appeared to delay on carrying out a rigorous review when the Lagan Valley Hospital situation had become known. What seemed to have added to the confusion about compliance with decontamination procedures, she added, was that it appeared that there were at least three different compliance standards in use namely manufacturers, national and international. It may have been that some of the older endoscopes were being cleaned following out of date manufacturers procedures and had not been updated in light of the higher standard and best practice. Ms Reilly said there were obvious Clinical Governance and Patient Safety issues to be addressed. She said there was an urgent need to review this whole issue and particularly how the Department ensures that best practice is communicated, acted upon and monitored by Trusts.

Sperrin Lakeland Trust Catering Contract:

Mr Danny Sutherland gave an update on his involvement representing the Council on this committee. He explained that the catering contract in the Sperrin Lakeland Trust had now expired and that this committee had been set up to look at the catering contract arrangements. He said that any new contract was going to cost a lot more than the previous one even if the contract was in-house or external.

Mr Sutherland said he had a concern on the issue of how the quotes were handled. He said that he hoped the extra cost would not be taken out of existing patient care budgets.

The Chief Officer said that the quality issues relating to catering within all Trust facilities had been a concern for this council and raising these issues was legitimate

for the Council. However she said that she had some concern about including Council members in the decision making process about awarding contracts. She added that this could undermine the independence of the council in monitoring and acting as a watchdog body.

Action AP: b/06/04

Chief Officer to discuss this issue with other Councils.

In response to Mr Gilgunn's query if the contract met all standards laid down by the Department Mr Sutherland said they were.

Chiropody Clinics:

Mrs Valerie Brown said that the Erne Hospital had a card system in operation for patients attending the Chiropody clinic which the patient posts back for their next appointment. She said that it can take 4 months before the patient is seen again.

Action AP: c/06/04

Chief Officer to find out how this system operates and why there is a delay in appointments.

Proposed Practice Amalgamation:

Mr Paddy Gilgunn enquired as to how the Council were taking forward concerns from the Belcoo residents on the possible closure of the Branch Surgery.

Ms Reilly said Mr Eugene Gallagher, Western Health and Social Services Board Head of Primary Care and Family Practitioner Support Services would be meeting with herself on these and other issues arising out of this proposal.

In the meantime, the Chief Officer said, that a questionnaire was being sent out to every patient in the area who uses the Practice to find out what their feelings are on the proposal to amalgamate the three surgeries. She assured Mr Gilgunn that the Council had taken a very active role on this proposal since it was first mooted over a year ago and had chaired and participated in a number of local meetings. She also noted that Mr Eugene Gallagher had commissioned the Fermanagh Community Network to engage with the local patient population to further ascertain their views on the proposal. Ms Reilly said she was confident that the WHSSB was committed to open engagement and that patients had been reassured that no decision had yet been made on the proposal.

Mr Paddy McGowan said it was important to engage with everyone who uses the Practice.

School Bullying:

In response to a query if the Health Council had a role on the issue of bullying at school the Chief Officer said that clearly the effects of bullying can have consequences for students emotional well-being but that the issue was best dealt with primarily by the education sector. There is, she said, a role to be played by Health Promotion.

WHSSC Additional Funding:

Mr Sutherland enquired about funding for extra staff for the Western Health and Social Services Council. The Chief Officer said that in light of the current review of public administration and the consequent uncertainty over the future of the Council there would be no additional funding from the Department. However, she reported, she was very grateful to the Western Health and Social Services Board who had made funding available to employ a Business Support Manager. The Chief Officer said she hoped to advance the recruitment process over the summer months.

Change of Date to Future Council Meetings:

The Chief Officer explained to members that the change of date for Council meetings coincided with the Western Health and Social Services Board meetings and a new list of dates would be sent out to members to establish a more suitable date.

Meetings and Events attended by Members

Date: 4 June 2004
Workshop: Communications Workshop
Venue: Waterfront, Belfast
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 8 June 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust User's Association
Venue: Drumcoo, Enniskillen
Nominated: Miss Burke

Date: 9 June 2004
Meeting: Strule Erne LHSCG Partnership Sub Group
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Trillick
Nominated: Mr Andrews

Date: 15 June 2004
Meeting: Foyle Trust Multi Disciplinary Research Group

Venue: Riverview, Londonderry
Nominated: Mrs Devlin

Date: 16 June 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust Officers (Root Cause Analysis)
Venue: Strathdene House, Omagh
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 16 June 2004
Meeting: Pre-Conference Meeting
Venue: Lusty Beg Island, Boa Island, Kesh
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 17/18 June 2004
Conference: Joint Four HSS Councils Conference
Venue: Lusty Beg Island, Kesh, Co Fermanagh
Nominated: Mr Andrews Mrs Brown Miss Burke Mr Campbell
Mrs Devlin Mr Friel Mr Gilgunn Mrs Hamilton
Mr McGowan Mr V McKelvey Mrs Quigley Mrs Robson
Mr Sutherland Ms Trimble

Meetings and Events attended by Chief Officer/Staff

Date: 28 May 2004
Meeting: Complainant (OF)
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 28 May 2004
Conference: Case Conference (OF)
Venue: Social Education Centre, Omagh

Date: 1 June 2004
Meeting: Local Ambulance Liaison Group
Venue: MDEC, Altnagelvin Area Hospital

Date: 1 June 2004
Meeting: WEHRF
Venue: WHSSB Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry

Date: 1 June 2004
Meeting: Closure of Branch Surgery
Venue: Belcoo, Co Fermanagh
Date: 3 June 2004
Working: Community Development Steering Group Strategy Shaping
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Strabane

Date: 3 June 2004
Meeting: Altnagelvin Trust Board
Venue: Trust Headquarters, Altnagelvin Area Hospital

Date: 4 June 2004
Workshop: Communications Workshop
Venue: Waterfront, Belfast

Date: 4 June 2004
Meeting: Chief Officers (Pre Conference)
Venue: EHSSC Offices, Belfast

Date: 7 June 2004
Meeting: Pre Conference Meeting (Myra Weir)
Venue: Beeches Management Centre, Belfast

Date: 7 June 2004
Meeting: Chief Medical Officer (LC)
Venue: Castle Buildings, Belfast

Date: 11 June 2004
Meeting: Chief Officers (Pre Conference)
Venue: Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

Date: 11 June 2004
Meeting: Briefing Pre Press Release re Ambulance Report
Venue: WHSSB Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry

Date: 14 June 2004
Event: Women's Health Question Time
Venue: St Columb's Park House, Londonderry

Date: 15 June 2004
Meeting: Clinical and Social Care Governance
Venue: Castle Buildings, Belfast

Date: 15 June 2004
Meeting: WHSSC Chairman
Venue: Drumquin, Co Tyrone

Date: 16 June 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust Officers (Root Cause Analysis)
Venue: Strathdene House, Omagh

Date: 16 June 2004
Meeting: Pre Conference Meeting
Venue: Lusty Beg Island, Kesh, Co Fermanagh

Date: 17/18 June 2004
Conference: Joint Four HSS Councils Conference
Venue: Lusty Beg Island, Kesh, Co Fermanagh

C39/04 **Next Meeting:**

Date: 16 September 2004
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Library Headquarters
Spillar's Place
Omagh
Co Tyrone

The meeting ended at 3.05pm