
THESE MINUTES ARE EMBARGOED UNTIL
WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2004 AT 6.00PM

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of One Hundred and Thirty-first meeting of the
Western Health and Social Services Council
held in the Group Discussion Room, Library Headquarters
Spillar's Place, Omagh, Co Tyrone
on Thursday 16 September 2004
at 8.30PM

Present: Mr P McGowan, Chairman
Mr H Andrews
Mrs V Brown
Mr J Campbell
Mrs M Hamilton
Mr I Maguire
Mr M Mclvor
Mr R McKelvey
Mr V McKelvey
Mr W Page
Mrs F Robson

Apologies: Miss M Burke
Mr M Carten
Mrs M Devlin
Mr E Friel
Mr P Gilgunn
Mr B McAleer
Mrs H Quigley
Mr D Sutherland
Ms M Trimble

In Attendance: Ms M Reilly
Mrs L Preston
Mrs K Loughran

-oOo-

C49/04 Chairman's Business:

The Chairman welcomed everyone back to the One Hundred and Thirty-first meeting of the Western Health and Social Services Council and hoped all had had an enjoyable and healthy summer break.

Mr McGowan said that even though formal Council meetings were suspended in July and August the Council had been very busy continuing to represent the public interest including responding to the Western Health and Social Services Board's Out of Hours proposals. He said the outcomes of the Joint Health and Social Services Councils' Conference held at Lusty Beg in June and how the Council plan to take

these forward will be discussed later in the meeting but he said the Conference was a huge success not just in terms of the quality of the debate and discussions but also in the way that it brought Council members from all over Northern Ireland together. He said he would like to sincerely thank all the members who attended and who made it an enjoyable and successful conference.

C50/04 **Annual Joint Meeting between the Western Health and Social Services Board and the Western Health and Social Services Council:**

Mr McGowan welcomed the Chairwoman of the Western Health and Social Services Board Ms Karen Meehan, the Chief Executive Mr Steven Lindsay and the Head of Consumer Affairs Mr Michael Gormley who were present for the Annual Joint Meeting between the Board and Council which was item 3 on the agenda.

Following the conclusion of the joint meeting the Council returned to the main agenda. (Separate Minutes).

C51/04 **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 18 June 2004 were adopted on the proposal of Mr Joe Campbell and seconded by Mrs Frances Robson.

C52/04 **Matters Arising from Minutes:**

Response to Action Points AP: a/06/04 – c/06/04:

Action AP: a/06/04: Trust Liaison meetings.

Ms Reilly said that the date for the Liaison meeting with the Foyle Trust has been arranged for Monday 1 November 2004 in Foyle Trust HQ, Riverview House at 11.00am-1.00pm.

Dates for Altnagelvin and Sperrin Lakeland Trusts should be known in the next week and members will be informed.

The Chief Officer asked members to contact the WHSS Council offices with any issues they wish to have raised at the appropriate liaison meeting so that these may be added to the agenda.

Ms Reilly encouraged members to attend the various Liaison meetings.

Action AP: b/06/04: Council members becoming involved in the decision making process when representing the Council at Board or Trust Committees.

The Chief Officer informed members that the four Councils were drawing up guidelines about participation on sub-groups and committees. In future if the Council is invited to nominate a representative to sit on a committee/group the decision to

accept will be based on such criteria as the purpose of our involvement, how involved we will be, how influential can we be and are we involved in decision making processes etc.

When these guidelines are drawn up the Council will have an opportunity to discuss them.

Action AP: c/06/04: Card system for patients attending Chiropody clinics at the Erne Hospital.

Ms Reilly said the current waiting list in Enniskillen was five months with Omagh's list being nine months. The Service is provided across the two sites.

The card system only operates in Enniskillen. She said it was brought in as a pilot and that staff in Enniskillen were aware of problems with the system and were currently reviewing it.

Some of the issues being addressed include:

An increase in the elderly population;

Not enough podiatrists;

Ms Reilly said they were hoping to target 'most in need' via GP referral and discourage self referral because it is often not based on clinical need.

The card system will be suspended when an alternative is put in place.

Ms Reilly said she has asked to be kept informed of the outcomes of this review.

C53/04 **Equality and Human Rights:**

The Chief Officer informed members that the Western Health and Social Services Council had submitted its Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission. She said a copy of the report was available from the Council Offices.

The Chief Officer informed members she would participate in Western Equality and Human Rights training on carrying out EQIA's in October.

C54/04 **Trusts' Business:**

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

- Minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on 1 July 2004 and Agenda for a meeting to be held on 2 September 2004 were noted.

- Notice of the Trust's Annual Public Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21 September 2004 at 2.30pm was acknowledged and members were encouraged to attend.
- An invitation to the Launch of the Redevelopment Plan to be held on 20 October 2004 at the City Hotel was received.

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

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 27 August 2004 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 24 September 2004 were noted.
- Notice of the Trust's Annual Public Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21 September 2004 at 7.00pm was acknowledged and members were encouraged to attend.
- Copies of the Trust's Magazine 'Infusion' September 2004 were received.

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

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 27 August 2004 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 24 September 2004 were noted.
- Notice of the Trust's Annual Public Meeting to be held on Tuesday 28 September 2004 at 7.00pm was acknowledged and members were encouraged to attend.
- Copy of the Trust's Newsletter 'Spotlight' Summer 2004 was received.

4. ***Belfast City Hospital Trust:***

- Minutes of a Trust Board meeting held on 30 July 2004 and an Agenda for a meeting to be held on 24 September 2004 were noted

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

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

6. ***Northern Ireland Ambulance Services Trust:***

- Notice of the Trust's Annual General Meeting to be held on 23 September 2004 was acknowledged.

C55/04 **Members' Issues:**

Fluoridation:

Western Health and Social Services Council Members who sit on the Oral Health Planning Teams said that at recent meetings they had attended Dental Practitioners were very strong in advocating for Fluoridation of water supplies. This issue they believe would benefit the people in the Western Health and Social Services Board area which has the worst dental health record in the UK. It was felt the issue should be brought before the public again for discussion.

Members welcomed a statement from Mr Steven Lindsay Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Services at the Joint Meeting held earlier in the day that Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) were currently undertaking a piece of research for comparison between the North Western Health Board in Donegal who have their water fluoridated and the Western Health and Social Services Board area who do not. Members agreed the comparison was a very worthwhile exercise and should help to inform the debate.

Members proposed asking speakers from the pro and anti fluoridation debate to attend a future Council meeting to speak on the subject so that both sides of the argument could be heard. This will be arranged after the results of the CAWT research is known. It was agreed that the speaker from CAWT scheduled to give a presentation at next months Council meeting would be asked to update members on the research.

Action Point: a/09/04

Chief Officer to invite Speakers to attend a future Council meeting.

Mr Billy Page said that a recent Oral Health Planning meeting the Director of Dental Health was very enthusiastic about the input and support from Western Health and Social Services Council members sitting on the various groups.

Mr Page informed members that a mouthguard scheme was being launched in schools.

No Smoking Policy:

Mr Reuben McKelvey asked if the Western Health and Social Services Council would go on record supporting the current no smoking lobbying to stop smoking in work places. The Council said they fully supported the proposal.

C56/04 Chief Officer's Report:

Work Programme:

Ms Reilly said following the four Council Conference held in June the Chief Officers have produced a draft work programme. The programme is for three years. Members were issued with a handout called 'The Next Steps' and what the Councils propose to do.

The key objectives will be:

- To increase Visibility and Accessibility to Members of the Public;
- To Monitor the Health and Personal Social Services Provided to the Public;
- Advise on Health and Personal Social Services Policies, Strategies and Operation;
- To Provide Complaints Assistance;
- To Develop a Medium/Long Term Strategy/Plan for the Councils;
- To Fulfil Organisational Requirements;
- To Respond to Local Issues in the Provision of Health and Personal Social Services to the Public.

Joint Council's Working Group:

It had been agreed at the Conference to set up a working group to take forward future planning. The group would comprise the Chairs, Chief Officers and two members from each of the four Councils.

Mr Eddie Friel and Mrs Frances Robson were nominated to represent the interests of the Western Health and Social Services Council.

Ms Reilly said the first meeting has been arranged for the 13 October 2004.

WHSSB Out-of-Hours Arrangements Consultation:

The Chief Officer explained that the Western Health and Social Services Council had held five public meetings in order to devise a response on the Western Health and Social Services Board's Out-of-Hours Services Proposals. She said Strabane and Limavady participants strongly objected to the proposal that after 12 midnight patients would have to travel to Altnagelvin to access the Out-of-Hours Service. Ms Reilly said that in the Council's submission which all members had received the Council had highlighted this issue with the potential for inequalities in access particularly for the elderly, people with a disability and single parent family/single householder where there is a dependant. She gave an example where a young mother from Strabane with a child that suffers with asthma said she was not

prepared to drive to Altnagelvin after 12 midnight with a child in the back of the car suffering from an asthmatic attack as she would not be able to support her child and drive so she would be forced to ring for an ambulance. There was also a fear that the if the elderly in particular needed the Out-of-Hours Service they may decide to leave it to the morning rather than look for someone to take them to Altnagelvin and that this could have repercussions for their health.

Ms Reilly said that prior to making the response she had been communicating with Mr Eugene Gallagher Head of Primary Care and Family Practitioner Services with the Western Health and Social Services Board and had informed him of the kind of issues that were being raised. She said she was confident that the Board was listening to what people were saying and indeed they were also hearing the same thing from their own consultations. Ms Reilly said she was hopeful that there would be no imposition of this system unless there is some way of ensuring that accessibility particularly for the vulnerable is safeguarded.

Mr Michael McIvor said that the people of Limavady had grave concerns about the new proposals and some were prepared to take it up as an equality issue as it impacts unfairly on people such as the elderly, the young, people on low incomes. He also said that there were no taxis available in Limavady three nights a week.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Officer and the Staff for taking the time to attend the Out-of-Hours Public Meetings held at night across the Western Board area. He also thanked the members who attended.

Ambulance Service:

Mr Billy Page said that members of the ambulance service had approached him and issued an invite to the Health Council to visit their Headquarters based at Altnagelvin.

The Chief Officer said that at the next Local Ambulance Liaison Group (LALG) meeting it was planned to include a visit to the local control room and she will discuss the member invitation then.

Mr McGowan said he understood there was a problem around ambulance control at the minute on the issue of relocation to one central unit for the North. The Chief Officer will clarify the problem with Mr McGowan and raise this at the LALG meeting and keep members updated.

Ms Reilly said members had been issued with a copy of the report on ambulance cover which had been launched on 11 June 2004 and that there had been a positive response locally. However she remains on the Local Ambulance Liaison Group and they will be monitoring the implementation of the recommendations that the sub-group had made. Some of these have already been implemented and others will

take a bit longer but each recommendation is set with a timeframe for action. She said she will keep members updated.

Freedom of Information:

The Chief Officer said the Council are continuing to prepare for Freedom of Information and are currently involved in standardising the Records Management system. Mr McGowan said he had a serious concern that once Freedom of Information goes live that the Council's workload will increase. Ms Reilly said that the four Councils had highlighted this issue to the Department.

Council Premises:

Ms Reilly drew member's attention to the fact that there were three members of staff currently based in Hilltop with only two offices available and a fourth member to be appointed shortly. She said she will raise this issue with both the Western Health and Social Services Board and the Department.

Western Health and Social Services Board's Strategic Commissioning Teams (SCTs):

The Chief Officer said that the Council would be inputting into advising on how best to involve service users in the SCTs set up by the Board in place of the Programmes of Care. These teams are part of the Board's Business Improvement Plan and will radically change the way services are commissioned. Previously the Board managed its commissioning through 9 Programmes of Care. The new SCTs will be based on services for: children, adults and the elderly.

Sperrin Lakeland Acute Services Risk Assessment Review:

Ms Reilly said she had accepted an invitation to be involved with the Sperrin Lakeland review on risk assessment for Acute Services.

C57/04 **Any Other Business:**

The Chief Officer informed members that the Council's budget for the year was £122,000 saying that due to a very full agenda at a previous meeting that this information had been omitted.

Belfast City Hospital Questionnaire:

The Chief Officer referred members to a Questionnaire she had just received from Belfast City Hospital and whilst welcoming the invitation to participate she felt that there was an issue about asking the Council to prioritise areas of service provision. Members felt it was not appropriate to make a response to such questions as these services were already a priority.

New Appointments:

Ms Reilly made members aware of the appointment of Mrs Stella Burnside Chief Executive of Altnagelvin Hospitals Trust to the post of Chief Executive of the new Health and Personal Social Services Regulation and Improvement Authority (HPSSRIA). She also informed members that Miss Patricia McMillan had been appointed as the new Chair of the Eastern Health and Social Services Council succeeding Mr Brian Coulter who has been appointed Chairman of HPSSRIA.

The new Chief Officer of the Southern Health and Social Services Council is Ms Stella Cunningham who will be taking up post next month.

Members expressed their congratulations on all of these appointments.

Meetings and Events attended by Members

Date: 24 June 2004
Meeting: Altnagelvin Cancer Unit Drop In Centre
Venue: MDEC Altnagelvin Area Hospital
Nominated: Mrs Devlin

Date: 24 June 2004
Meeting: Investing For Health
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Strabane
Nominated: Mrs Quigley

Date: 24 June 2004
Meeting: Oral Health Planning Team
Venue: Borough Council Offices, Limavady
Nominated: Mr McIvor

Date: 25 June 2004
Meeting: Foyle Trust Board
Venue: Riverview House, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr Page

Date: 28 June 2004
Meeting: GMS Communications Sub Group
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr Sutherland

Date: 7 July 2004
Presentation: Sperrin Lakeland Review of Mental Health Services
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh

Nominated: Mr Campbell Mr Gilgunn Mr McGowan Mr R McKelvey
Date: 9 July 2004
Meeting: Area Programme Board
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 23 July 2004
Meeting: WHSSC Chairman/Chief Officer
Venue: Lusty Beg Island, Co Fermanagh
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 29 July 2004
Meeting: WHSS Board
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 9 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours (P Cosgrove)
Venue: Strabane District Council Offices
Nominated: Mr McGowan Mr McKelvey

Date: 10 August 2004
Workshop: Emerging Models of Care for more effective integration of services
Venue: Dunadry Hotel
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 11 August 2004
Meeting: Strule/Erne Community Partnership Sub Group
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Trillick
Nominated: Mr Andrews

Date: 12 August 2004
Meeting: Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop
Nominated: Mr Campbell Mr McGowan Mrs Robson

Date: 19 August 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Trust Board
Venue: Coleshill, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mr Andrews
Date: 19 August 2004
Workshop: Standards Development Task Group for Domiciliary Care Agencies
Venue: Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

Nominated: Mr Campbell
Date: 19 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Campbell Mr McGowan Mr R McKelvey

Date: 23 August 2004
Meeting: GMS Communications Group
Venue: County Hall, Ballymena
Nominated: Mr Sutherland

Date: 24 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Clinton Centre, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mr Andrews Mr McGowan Ms Trimble

Date: 26 August 2004
Meeting: Oral Health Planning Team
Venue: Borough Council Offices, Limavady
Nominated: Mr McIvor

Date: 26 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Strabane
Nominated: Mrs Bell Mr McGowan Mr V McKelvey

Date: 27 August 2004
Meeting: Oral Health Planning Team
Venue: Erne Hospital, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mr Andrews

Date: 2 September 2004
Meeting: Oral Health Planning Team
Venue: Health Centre, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Campbell

Date: 2 September 2004
Meeting: Consultation Day Standards Development Task Group (Hospice Standards)
Venue: Fitzwilliam Hotel, Aldergrove
Nominated: Mr V McKelvey

Date: 2 September 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Waterfoot Hotel, Londonderry
Nominated: Mr McGowan Mr Page Mrs Quigley

Date: 3 September 2004
Meeting: Palliative Care Forum
Venue: Clinical Education Centre, Altnagelvin
Nominated: Mrs Robson

Date: 7 September 2004
Meeting: Oral Health Planning Team
Venue: District Council Offices, Strabane
Nominated: Mr V McKelvey

Date: 10 September 2004
Short-listing: EHSS Council Chief Officer Post
Venue: EHSS Board Offices, Belfast
Nominated: Mr McGowan

Date: 14 September 2004
Meeting: Oral Health Planning Group
Venue: Derry City Council Offices
Nominated: Mr Page

Date: 15 September 2004
Meeting: Fermanagh Inter-Agency Group for Older People
Venue: Coleshill, Enniskillen
Nominated: Miss Burke

Date: 16 September 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Clinical and Social Care Governance
Venue: Library Headquarters, Omagh
Nominated: Mr Campbell

Meetings and Events attended by Chief Officer/Staff

Date: 7 July 2004
Meeting: Mental Health Sub Group
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 8 July 2004
Meeting: Complainant
Venue: Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh

Date: 8 July 2004
Meeting: Information Governance
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Trillick

Date: 19 July 2004

Meeting: Investing for Health
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Strabane

Date: 20 July 2004
Meeting: HSS Councils' Chief Officers
Venue: Eastern HSS Council Offices, Belfast

Date: 23 July 2004
Meeting: WHSSC Chairman/Chief Officer
Venue: Lusty Beg Island, Co Fermanagh

Date: 26 July 2004
Meeting: WHSSB Finance Officer
Venue: Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 27 July 2004
Meeting: Clinical and Social Care Governance Officer
Venue: Castle Buildings, Belfast

Date: 27 July 2004
Meeting: Clinical and Social Care Governance
Venue: Castle Buildings, Belfast

Date: 27 July 2004
Meeting: PEAT (Dr S Gallagher)
Venue: Belfast

Date: 28 July 2004
Meeting: WHSSB Director of Dental Health
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 29 July 2004
Workshop: Acute Services
Venue: St Columb's Park House, Londonderry

Date: 2 August 2004
Meeting: Closure Branch Surgeries (E Gallagher)
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Londonderry

Date: 2 August 2004
Meeting: Western Equality and Human Rights Forum
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Londonderry

Date: 3 August 2004
Meeting: HSS Councils' Chief Officers

Venue: Enterprise Centre, Cookstown
Date: 9 August 2004
Meeting: Out-of-Hours Arrangements (P Cosgrove)
Venue: District Council Offices, Strabane

Date: 10 August 2004
Meeting: HSS Councils' Chief Officers (D Donnelly, A V Brown, D Galloway)
Venue: Island Civic Centre, Lisburn

Date: 11 August 2004
Meeting: Mental Health Sub Group
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 12 August 2004
Meeting: Local Ambulance Liaison Group
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 13 August 2004
Meeting: HSS Councils' Chief Officers
Venue: Ramada Hotel, Belfast

Date: 16 August 2004
Meeting: Strategic Commissioning Teams (M Gormley)
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Londonderry

Date: 17 August 2004
Workshop: Clinical and Social Care Governance Standards
Venue: Pavilion Sports Centre, Stormont

Date: 18 August 2004
Meeting: Complainant (ST)
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 19 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
Nominated: Ms Reilly Mrs Preston

Date: 20 August 2004
Meeting: Regional Complaints Review Working Group
Venue: EHSS Council Offices, Belfast

Date: 23 August 2004
Meeting: Complainant (ST)

Venue: Mageramason, Londonderry
Date: 24 August 2004
Workshop: Out-of-Hours Mutuality
Venue: Mellon Country Inn, Omagh

Date: 24 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Clinton Centre, Enniskillen
Nominated: Ms Reilly Mrs Preston

Date: 26 August 2004
Meeting: HSS Council's Chief Officers
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Cookstown

Date: 26 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Enterprise Centre, Strabane
Nominated: Ms Reilly Mrs Loughran

Date: 31 August 2004
Meeting: Complainant (M O'P)
Venue: Waterfoot Hotel, Londonderry

Date: 31 August 2004
Meeting: Assessors/Complainant (M O'P)
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Londonderry

Date: 31 August 2004
Meeting: Out of Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Raddison Hotel, Limavady
Nominated: Ms Reilly Mrs Preston

Date: 1 September 2004
Meeting: Community Development Steering Group
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Londonderry

Date: 2 September 2004
Meeting: Chairman/Chief Officer
Venue: Altnagelvin Trust Board HQ

Date: 2 September 2004
Meeting: Out-of-Hours Public Consultation
Venue: Waterfoot Hotel, Londonderry

Nominated: Ms Reilly Mrs Loughran

Date: 3 September 2004
Meeting: Sperrin Lakeland Protocols (B O'Rawe)
Venue: Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 3 September 2004
Meeting: Strategic Communications Group
Venue: DBS Headquarters, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 7 September 2004
Workshop: Records Audit
Venue: White Horse Hotel, Campsie
Nominated: Mrs Loughran

Date: 7 September 2004
Workshop: Drama for Training Diversity
Venue: Killyhelvlin Hotel, Enniskillen
Nominated: Mrs Preston

C58/04 **Next Meeting:**

Date: Wednesday 6 October 2004
Time: 3.00pm
Venue: Glenshane Community Development Offices
Glenshane Business Park
50 Legavallon Road
Dungiven
Co Londonderry

The meeting ended at 9.15pm