

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes of One Hundred and Thirty-sixth meeting of the
Western Health and Social Services Council
held in the Committee Room, Derry City Council Offices
Strand Road, Derry
on Wednesday 2 February 2005
at 3.00PM

Present: Mr P McGowan (Chair)
Mr H Andrews
Mr J Campbell
Mr M Carten
Mrs M Devlin
Mr E Friel
Mr P Gilgunn
Mrs M Hamilton
Mr J Kerr
Mr I Maguire
Mr V McKelvey
Mr W Page
Ms F Robson
Mr R Rogan
Mr D Sutherland

Apologies: Mrs A Bell
Mrs V Brown
Miss M Burke
Mr B McAleer
Mr R McKelvey
Mrs H Quigley
Ms M Trimble

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

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C10/05 Chairman's Business:

Mr McGowan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that due to the Christmas and New Year break last months meeting was on 19 January 2005 and so as to return to the first Wednesday of each month it meant that there had been only 9 working days between meetings. Nevertheless he said there was a very full agenda to get through.

C11/05 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 January 2005 were adopted on the proposal of Mr Victor McKelvey and seconded by Mr Michael Carten.

C12/05 **Matters Arising from Minutes:**

Response to Action Points AP: a/01/05 – o/01/05:

Action AP: a/01/05: Letter to Mr Rogan.

The Chief Officer said she had written to Mr Rogan on behalf of the Council conveying condolences on his recent family bereavement and in his presence at the meeting reiterated those condolences.

Action Point AP: b/01/05 Sperrin Lakeland Users Group.

The Chief Officer said that the Trusts and Board have been asked to provide information on their User Groups. Information requested is: the Name of the Group, the date when first set up, number of participants, name and designation of members the group (whether lay/user/client/patient status), name of Chair (whether lay or HPSS person), how often they meet, terms of reference, who sets the agenda and how are meetings minuted, how are concerns and issues dealt with and taken forward which are raised at the meetings and actioned, are there specific policies regarding such groups. The issue was discussed at a joint meeting of the four Chief Officers and the Southern Council have also decided to carry out a base-line audit in the Southern Board area.

Ms Reilly said she felt that the Council may want to carry out a general evaluation of User Groups once this data has been received and she shall keep members updated on the matter.

Action Points AP: c/01/05 – f/01/05 Autism.

Ms Reilly proposed that the issue of Autism be included in a joint piece of work for the 2005/2006 Work Programme. In the meantime she said she had asked the Board's Service Planner to supply her with a range of information re current and planned service provision including:

The number of children and young people diagnosed with Autism.

The range and types of services currently commissioned by the Board and provided by which Trusts.

The assessment of service needs across the Board area.

The Board's response to the Priorities for Action on Autism (Department 2004/2005) i.e. the number of teams set up, the service capacity within these teams, and where across the Board area these are located.

What plans the Board has to address these needs and over what timeframe.

What impact Consortium West has had on addressing need and supporting parents and children (Consortium West is a group set up about two years ago. It uses a

partnership approach involving the Board, the Trusts, PAPA and Parents of children with Autism).

When the information is received a sub-group from the Council will meet and discuss.

The Chief Officer informed members that a date has been set to meet with the parents who attended the January meeting, who wished to pursue a separate complaint issue.

Action Points AP: g/01/05 Chiropody Services at Erne Hospital and o/01/05 Occupational Therapy Services/Letter.

Ms Reilly said she had met with Mrs Clare McGartland, Commissioner, Allied Health Professions Western Health and Social Services Board and raised the concerns of the Council regarding AHP services in the Community i.e. Chiropody and Occupational Therapy.

Mrs McGartland was aware of the problems with the method of reminders for appointments for Chiropody Services being used in Fermanagh and has assured the Chief Officer that following the internal systems review this practice will be phased out.

Mrs Clare McGartland was also aware of the matter of the on-going Occupational Therapy problems and the specific matter of the letter sent by the Omagh Community OTs to the Council. This letter has also been sent to both the Trust Directorate and Chief Executive as well as the Board.

Members agreed to the Chief Officer's proposal that she should write on behalf of the Council to the Western Health and Social Services Board's Chief Executive to support any measures Mrs McGartland plans to take which will get to the heart of the OT problems and in particular highlighting the issues around Sperrin Lakeland OT Services.

Members requested that Ms Reilly invite Mrs McGartland to the Council meeting in May to outline how the Board planned to address these issues.

Action Point AP: a/02/05

Chief Officer to write to Chief Executive, WHSS Board.

Action Point AP: b/02/05

Chief Officer to invite Mrs McGartland to the May Council meeting.

The Chief Officer informed members that due to a full diary it would be after Easter before she would be able to hold a planned second meeting with home helps. She said following the second meeting she will contact Directors of Elderly Care services and seek a meeting to discuss the Council's concerns.

Action Points AP: j/01/05 and k/01/05 Orthopaedic Waiting Lists.

Ms Reilly informed members she had followed up Mr Gilgunn's concerns regarding Orthopaedic Waiting Lists. She confirmed his assertion that patients may indeed discover having waited 12-18 months for an outpatient appointment that the Consultant may refer the patient to his/her colleague. The patient then goes to the bottom of that waiting list and could wait another 12 months before being seen. Additionally patients may also require an MRI scan either for diagnostic purposes or to check for changes since the last scan. They are then put on another waiting list. If the patient requires surgical intervention they then go on to the inpatient waiting list.

Members were very concerned at the implications of this for patients.

Members were issued with a copy of trauma and orthopaedic surgery waiting times for Western Board residents from Fermanagh who are seen in Green Park. There was no available data for numbers on these lists waiting on MRI Scans.

The MRI Scanners in the Western Board area is 1 In Altnagelvin and 1 CT Scanner. The MRI staff work 9.00am – 5.00pm. The CT staff provide an emergency service for the evenings/nights and weekends. They work with the on call radiographer.

Sperrin Lakeland Trust do not have an MRI Scanner, they have 2 CT Scanners; 1 in Tyrone County Hospital and 1 in the Erne Hospital. The staff work 9.00am – 5.00pm and an emergency service is available in the evenings/nights and weekends.

The Chief Officer said she had received from the Eastern Health and Social Services Council a list of all the Orthopaedic Surgeons in Musgrave and what their waiting lists and waiting times were.

The Chief Officer proposed setting up a working group to investigate issues such as how patients are allocated to Consultants. She said the more generalist surgeons appear to have disproportionate numbers of patients waiting for an outpatient appointment.

The Eastern Health and Social Services Council invited an Orthopaedic Consultant from Musgrave to attend a meeting about issues relating to their area and the Chief Officer proposed that the same Consultant should be invited to a meeting of the Western Health and Social Services Council.

Ms Reilly referred to a letter that had been written from the Chair of the Eastern Health and Social Services Council to the Health Minister about the fracture service.

They asked for her intervention to ensure that the existing target which was introduced in 2002/03 for Northern Ireland and which aimed to treat fracture patients within 48 hours of presentation is met and an indication of when progress might be made to the Royal College recommendation. The Royal College of Physicians recommended that, for patients with hip fractures, the operations should be carried out within 24 hours but despite some investment in the fracture services over the past 5 years this target had not been achieved.

The Eastern Health and Social Services Council have been in discussion with the Board and the Royal Group of Hospitals Trust to try to get answers as to why the delay from presentation to surgery is getting worse. It is their understanding that a service is to be introduced in Antrim and Craigavon but this will not be operational until 2010. The Eastern Council are concerned that resources will be taken from the existing service to achieve this. They are seeking assurances that this will not happen and that workforce planning and training will begin now to prepare for this.

They recognised that there has been some improvement in the service in terms of outcomes and an expansion of the spinal surgery service. However, they have concerns about increasing pressures and the lack of a complete seven-day service which would require extra theatre lists and all support services to be in place.

Action Point AP: c/02/05

A working group to be set up and further information gathered before inviting a speaker.
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The Chief Officer said she will be meeting with the Western Board's Waiting List Task Force and she will raise the issue about GP referral and the criteria used for allocation to a Consultant.

Action Point AP: l/01/05 Out of Hours - New Arrangements.

The Chief Officer said she had spoken to Mr Eugene Gallagher, Head of Primary Care and Family Practitioner Support Services, WHSS Board. He explained that the Board were using an agency for Locum GPs to fill the out-of-hours vacancies. There are seven Locum GPs currently working in the Out of Hours Service who are from Poland. Of the seven, three have completed a six month working period in Donegal. They are fully registered with the General Medical Council and have met all requirements including the language requirement in order to work in Northern Ireland. The Western Health and Social Services Board are working with other GPs who are involved in a professional development programme which is a supporting programme for new GPs doing Locum work. In relation to concerns patients have had out-of-hours GPs are supported by an additional GP after 12.00pm. Mr Gallagher said the Board are delighted with both with the input of the local GPs to

the out-of-hours and their Eastern European colleagues. The Council will continue to monitor out of hour arrangements.

Action Point AP: m/01/05 General Medical Council Hearing.

The Chief Officer reported that the GP involved in the GMC hearing in Manchester regarding his fitness to practice had been found guilty and as a result was struck off the register.

However given the right of the GP concerned to lodge an appeal within 28 days of the GMC decision it was decided not to discuss further the details of the case. Members will expect to know by the time of the next Council meeting whether an appeal has been lodged.

It was agreed that the Chief Officer should contact the patient she has been supporting in this case and reaffirm the Western Health and Social Services Council's support and to acknowledge her courage in taking this stand by bringing her complaint into the open.

Action Point AP: n/01/05 Member Resignation from Sperrin Lakeland Trust's Clinical and Social Care Governance (CSCG) Committee.

Members were issued with copies of the minutes of two previous CSCG Committee meetings. They were asked to read them in the context of determining whether it is appropriate for the Western Health and Social Services Council to have a member at these meetings.

Action Point AP: d/02/05

Include item on March meeting Agenda.

C13/05 **Equality and Human Rights Business:**

Notes of the Western Equality and Human Rights Forum meeting on 10 January 2005 were acknowledged.

C14/05 **Trusts' Business:**

The Chief Officer informed members that dates for Liaison meetings with the three Trusts on a quarterly basis two of which will be with the Chief Officer and Chief Executive and respective Chairpersons are currently being arranged and members will be notified of the dates when completed.

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

- Minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on 6 January 2005 and Agenda for a meeting to be held on 3 February 2005 were noted.
2. *Foyle Health and Social Services Trust:*
- A copy of the Trust's Team Brief January 2005 was acknowledged
3. *Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust:*
- A copy of the Trust Newsletter 'Spotlight' January 2005 was acknowledged.
 - A copy of the Trust's Core Brief January 2005 was acknowledged.
 - A copy of the Trust's Telecommunications Update was received.
4. *Belfast City Hospital Trust:*
- Minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on 26 November 2004 and Agenda for a meeting to be held on 28 January 2005 were noted.
5. *Green Park Healthcare Trust:*
- Minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on 6 January 2005 and Agenda for a meeting to be held on 3 February 2005 were noted.

C15/05 **Members' Issues:**

The Chief Officer was asked if the Western Health and Social Services Board had provided the information they promised to provide to the Council members at the December meeting which was:

- A full list and description of all of the services currently being provided in each of the local hospitals (Omagh and Enniskillen).
- The proposed service provision for the new Acute Hospital (North of Enniskillen) and the new Local Hospital (Omagh).
- A clear argument and rationale as to why these changes and service re-design are better for patients.
- Where services are removed from Omagh a clear picture of where these will be provided and access to them.
- A detail on all of the services regarding the circumstance and type of provision i.e. whether they are Consultant Led, Nurse Led and/or 9.00am –5.00pm, 24 hour or 7 day access.

The Chief Officer had not yet received the above information and it was proposed that she should withdraw from the DBS Communication Groups if no written information is received by the next Council meeting to be held on 2 March 2005. It was agreed the Chief Officer should contact the Board and relay members concerns.

Action Point AP: e/02/05

Chief Officer to contact WHSS Board.

Mr Victor McKelvey queried the issue of the PSNI asking the Chairman of the Hyponatraemia-related Deaths inquiry not to include the Lucy Crawford case with the rest of the public inquiry due to police investigations into an alleged cover-up by Sperrin Lakeland Trust.

Ms Reilly said that this was the case and a ruling would be made at the public hearings on 3 and 4 February 2005.

Mr Harold Andrews voiced his concern at the delay in starting to build the new hospital and local hospital in the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area.

C16/05 Chief Officer's Report:

Ms Reilly copied papers from the Emergency Care Conference to all members.

The Chief Officer informed members that the post for the Business Support Manager would be advertised shortly.

Ms Reilly informed members that she had met with officers from the Department for the annual review. Among the issues discussed were the concerns that:-

- The lack of office space at Hilltop and concerns that some members of the public had voiced over the Councils 'independence' whilst remaining on a Trust property.
- The continued underfunding of the Western Health and Social Services Council is now having an impact on existing staff and the very real risk that the quality of service provision by the Council will be undermined.

Whilst the department has acknowledged these issues they are unwilling to provide the additional resource until after the outcome of the RPA is announced and there is a clearer picture on the future of HSS Councils.

The Chief Officer reported that two members would be retiring from the Council in May having served the full term allowed.

Sperrin Lakeland Trust has issued an Equality Impact Assessment for staff affected by the DBS decisions.

Members wondered if the Trust had issued this document for consultation too soon. Members felt as they were still not clear about the service re-design it would be very difficult to comment or evaluate the impact on staff.

Mr Maguire voiced a concern about the workload of the Chief Officer. Members advised her to work to the priorities but to make it clear to all of the stakeholders that one officer and two administrative staff could not meet all of their demands.

The Chair said the Council were under resourced by three full time staff. Mr Campbell proposed the Chair write to the Department expressing the members' feelings and request resources.

Action Point AP: f/02/05

The Chair to write letter to the Department.
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C17/05 **Any Other Business:**

Meetings and Events attended by Members for period 20/1/05 – 1/02/05

Date:	20 January 2005
Meeting:	Sperrin Lakeland Trust Board
Venue:	Conference Room, Coleshill, Enniskillen
Nominated:	Mr Andrews
Date:	24 January 2005
Conference:	Safer Entertainment – Safer Communities
Venue:	Manor House, Killeadeas, Co Fermanagh
Nominated:	Mr Andrews Mr Gilgunn
Date:	26 January 2005
Conference:	Emergency Care
Venue:	Tara Centre, Omagh
Nominated:	Mr McGowan
Date:	27 January 2005
Meeting:	Altnagelvin Cancer Unit Development Group
Venue:	Denis Desmond Room, Altnagelvin Area Hospital
Nominated:	Mrs Devlin
Date:	28 January 2005
Meeting:	Fermanagh Oral Health Planning Team
Venue:	Erne Hospital, Enniskillen

Nominated: Mr Andrews

Meetings and Events attended by Chief Officer/Staff for period 20/1/05 – 1/02/05

Date: 20 January 2005
Meeting: Communications (WHSSB)
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, L'Derry

Date: 21 January 2005
Visit: GP Practice (QOF Visit)
Venue: Florencecourt, Co Fermanagh

Date: 21 January 2005
Visit: GP Practice (QOF Visit)
Venue: Kinawley, Co Fermanagh

Date: 24 January 2005
Meeting: Fermanagh Funeral Directors
Venue: Derrylin, Co Fermanagh

Date: 24 January 2005
Meeting: Adoption Services
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, L'Derry

Date: 25 January 2005
Visit: GP Practice (QOF Visit)
Venue: Quayside, L'Derry

Date: 25 January 2005
Meeting: Commissioner, Allied Health Professions, WHSSB
Venue: WHSS Board Headquarters, Gransha Park, L'Derry

Date: 26 January 2005
Conference: Emergency Care
Venue: Tara Centre, Omagh

Date: 27 January 2005
Meeting: Complainant (SC)
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh

Date: 28 January 2005
Meeting: Annual Review (DHSSPS)
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 28 January 2005
Meeting: HSSCs' Chief Officers
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh

Date: 31 January 2005
Meeting: Commissioner, Allied Health Professions, WHSSB
Venue: Conference Room, Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Date: 31 January 2005
Meeting: Chairman WHSSC
Venue: Hilltop, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

C18/05 **Next Council Meeting:**

Date: Wednesday 2 March 2005
Time: 3.00pm
Venue: Fermanagh District Council Offices
Townhall
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh

The meeting ended at 6.15pm