

**MINUTES OF THE EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2007 AT 1.30PM IN THE
CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB, UPPER BRANIEL ROAD, BELFAST**

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs E Campbell
Mr B Compston
Cllr D Curran
Mrs E Hamilton
Mrs S McGarry
Mrs P McGrogan
Miss P McMillan
Mr R Marshall
Mr D Meredith
Mrs M Muldoon
Mrs R McGrotty

Miss P McMillan was in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Angela Campbell, Job-Share Office Manager - Meeting Facilitator
Mr Sean Brown, Senior Manager - deputising for the Chief Officer

Mr Raymond Newman, Senior Manager
Ms Helen Mallen, Job-Share Office Manager
Miss Samantha Lindsay, Clerical Officer
Miss Una McCann, Information Analyst
Mrs Laura Waite, Advocacy Worker, Bryson House
Mrs Una Torrens, Advocacy Worker, Bryson House

106/07 APOLOGIES were received from Cllr M Henderson, Mr J Hutchinson,
Cllr M Jones, Cllr A Leslie, Mr J McDowell and Mr E O'Neill.

In addition, apologies were given for the following:

- Council Members Mr Cecil Graham and Miss Muriel Patterson who were addressing the Health Committee at Stormont with the Chief Officer, Mr Richard Dixon.
- Dr Paula Kilbane, Chief Executive of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.
- Mrs Hamilton was expected to join Members for the visit to NIAS.

The Chair noted that Council had been informed that Mr James Hutchinson is quite ill at present.

107/07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record subject to one amendment on page 11, Minute 104/07 (c), last sentence of paragraph
“Cllr Mrs Campbell said she was aware of a similar project in Poleglass/Dunmurry and said such excellent services were to be commended.”

Cllr Mrs Campbell did not recall mentioning the services referred to and requested that the sentence be deleted.

The minutes were signed by the Chair and witnessed by Mr Sean Brown on behalf of the Chief Officer who was in absentia.

108/07 MATTERS ARISING

Mr Sean Brown, Senior Manager updated Members on the following:

(a) Minute 94/07 – Vice-Chair

A get well card was sent to Mr Roy Marshall who was in attendance at today's meeting. Mr Marshall thanked the Members for their good wishes.

(b) Minute 98/07 (a) – Consultation on Mental Health reconfiguration: Council's Response

The Council welcomed the proposals. However, the consultation response highlighted the risk of inadequate community care funding affecting the proposals and their core purpose; to reduce the number of beds in mental health.

(c) Minute 98/07 (d) – Members' Travel reimbursements and tax allowances

New guidelines have been published this week by the Department of Finance and Personnel. A copy has been issued to Mr Cecil Graham who will take this forward.

(d) Minute 98/07 (e) – Working Party for Midwifery Led Care in Downe Hospital: Response

This working party met in the previous week. Mr Brown will ask Mr O'Neill if he was given an invitation. If this is not the case, Council will write a reminder to the Chair of the working party indicating that Mr O'Neill is the Council representative. The minutes have been requested and a copy will be provided for Members who wish to view these.

(e) Minute 103/07 – Alpha Proposal for provision of NI Air Ambulance Service

The Chief Officer has asked the Northern HSS Council to provide updates on this topic.

(f) Minute 104/07 – Comprehensive Spending Review

The Council held a seminar on Wednesday 5 December 2007. Members were thanked for their contributions. A reply is being drafted during the week commencing 17 December 2007 for submission and all Members will receive a copy of this response.

109/07 INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

No Members had any meeting reports to present.

110/07 CHAIR'S REPORT – PAPER EC/19/07

The Chair updated Members on the following engagements:

(a) National Pharmaceutical Panels Appeal, Castle Buildings, Stormont on 16 November 2007

This meeting was adjourned until January 2008.

- (b) South Eastern Health and Social Services Trust Board meeting in Dufferin A, Downshire Hospital, Downpatrick on Wednesday 21 November 2007

A highlight of the meeting was a presentation on “Investing for Health”. The implementation plan focused on the correlation between deprivation and poor health outcomes.

- (c) Patient Public Involvement Seminar in Shakespeare Room, Grand Opera House, Belfast on Thursday 29 November 2007

The facilitating consultants for the seminar will provide feedback on the day. The Chief Officer will include this feedback in formulating a strategy/vision for the way forward in respect of Patient Public Involvement.

- (d) Pre-Council Meeting on Wednesday 5 December 2007

It was noted that the originally proposed abolition of Council in three to four months’ time is on hold. This is creating a difficult environment for Council staff and Members and it is important that the situation is monitored.

- (e) Seminar on Comprehensive Spending Review Wednesday 5 December 2007

The Chair noted that this was a worthwhile two and a half hours Comprehensive Spending Review seminar, attended by several Members. The Chief Officer is formulating the Council’s response and will keep Members informed.

- (f) EHSSB Meeting 13 December 2007

The Chair commended the Anti Smoking Report contained within the Board papers.

111/07 CHIEF OFFICER’S REPORT FROM MR SEAN BROWN, SENIOR MANAGER

Mr Brown reported that Council was now at the end of the third quarter of its annual work programme. Detail on all activities associated with the progress of workplan will be provided to Members prior to the next Council meeting and questions will be taken at the January 2008 meeting by the Chief Officer on any aspect of the work undertaken.

112/07 CORRESPONDENCE – PAPER EC/20/07

Paper EC/20/07 was taken as read. The Chair reminded Members that if any items listed were of interest to them, they should contact the office to access documents within the following week.

113/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Belfast Telegraph report “Health Services ‘have failed MOT’”

Mr Compston drew Members’ attention to a media article in the Belfast Telegraph on Friday 7 December 2007; this was an interview with Dr Brian Patterson, Chairman of the

British Medical Association's NI Council, in which he claims the health services in Northern Ireland "are not fit for purpose". Mr Compston asked if Council had a view on the issues raised within the article? It was agreed that the article would be copied and distributed to all Members for comment at the January 2008 meeting.

(b) BBC Television Programme featuring Management guru Mr Gerry Robinson - "Can Gerry Robinson Fix The NHS?"

Mr Compston raised the subject of the second Mr Gerry Robinson programme, "Can Gerry Robinson Fix The NHS?" It was agreed that a viewing would be arranged in the office for members. Mr Sean Brown agreed to undertake this.

(c) Future of Health and Social Care Authority

Mr Marshall queried the position for the future of the Health and Social Care Authority following the recent resignation of Mr David Sissling, the Chief Executive Designate?

Mr Brown explained that the decision on future structures for health and social care lay with the Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey. However, establishment of new structures is not anticipated before April 2009.

Mr Marshall asked what repercussions would be for the Boards?

Mr Brown said there would be a huge impact from an operational perspective as the Boards had expected to be dissolved in March 2008. This period of uncertainty is a cause for concern.

Mr Meredith said this uncertainty was indicative of the entire health service.

Mr Brown stated that the current Minister has expressed a desire to make the right decision and this may take some time. However the Comprehensive Spending Review plans for health contained an element dependent on savings from the Review of Public Administration and the delay in making changes may mean the intended redirection of funding to frontline services may not be available.

114/07 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 17 January 2008 at 5.30 pm in The Link Room, The Mount Conference Centre, 2 Woodstock Link, Belfast.