



Mr Compton outlined some of the proposals that the Trust will make decisions on in the future. He stressed that any proposed savings planned under service redesign, will result in services being delivered more efficiently and effectively.

- A 5 day surgical ward at Lagan Valley Hospital. Emergency surgery is no longer provided in Lagan Valley Hospital
- Reducing medical bed provision at the Ulster Hospital site
- Moving into the new Downpatrick Hospital next year
- Review of community mental health services. There are 2 different systems in place in the 2 legacy Trusts and the South Eastern Trust wants to standardise this.
- Reprofitting of some of the family support services
- Reshape of Ards Minor Injury Unit – This unit currently has around 8000 new referrals and 2000 reviews per annum. The Trust is proposing that the money currently allocated to this Unit be divided up for:-
  1. out of hours and supportive/triage nursing which will provide improved 24 hour nursing cover
  2. improving Accident and Emergency services at the Ulster Hospital

Mr Compton stressed that proposed changes have to be discussed with commissioners, with the ultimate responsibility resting with the Minister for Health and the DHSSPS.

- Details of the Phase II Proposals for Years 2 and 3. The savings in these years are too large for efficiency savings and therefore will involve examining initiatives that will fit within existing strategies, such as:
  - Safety and professional standards, which are moving and changing all the time
  - Sustainability in recruitment and retention of staff
  - Value for money. This will involve making active decisions on where it's best to spend money
  - Advances in technology. It is anticipated that by 2011, 5000 people will use home based technology to manage chronic conditions cutting down the number of multiple admissions
  - Informed debate

Phase II proposals will signal major change for:-

- All hospitals in provision of both acute and mental health services
- Development of housing for care across a range of client groups
- Rationalising community services
- Reshaping institutional care
- Reviewing administrative support

Mr Compton spoke about some areas where major change has been proposed:-

1. Relocation of Psychiatric Intensive Care Services in the Downshire Hospital. Next year when the new Downpatrick Hospital opens it will have an acute admissions unit and care of the elderly unit. At this time 55 patients will be left on the Downshire site. This site used to house over 1000 patients. Of the 55 patients remaining approximately 35 require continuing care, 14 would be classified as having challenging behaviour and 6 would have intensive psychiatric care needs, due to severe behavioural problems.

2. The closure of St Johns nursing home – Mr Compton said that this facility was a service of its time and had provided an excellent service. However, it is now time to move forward from this model and to develop alternative housing with care.
3. Changes to the Obstetric Unit in Lagan Valley Hospital. This unit has approximately 1250 births per year. The numbers, together with issues around professional standards and training, mean that this unit is no longer viable in its current form. With new doctors coming through the system there will be new ways of working and different expectations for training and clinical standards. For these reasons and for value for money, the Trust believes it is time to look elsewhere for the delivery of these 1250 babies. In order to have proper planning it is crucial that the transition to new ways of delivering the service requirements starts now. The Unit could continue providing antenatal and post-natal care with deliveries being carried out in other units that currently have capacity for more deliveries. The Trust recognises the problems in making decisions like this, given the great feeling and concern about this issue in the local community. However, Mr Compton said that the existing service cannot survive in the changing clinical climate and that wider debate will be held on proposals.

The allocation letter for the South Eastern Trust has not been finalised yet but the estimate of the investment allocation for the Trust over the period 2008-2011 is approximately £76 million. This will be used to retain existing services (approximately £40 million) and to develop new services. Some of the proposed areas for further investment within the Trust include:-

- The primary care infrastructure
- Local hospital services
- Independent living
- Children's services
- Community mental health
- Learning disability
- Respite care, particularly for physical disability
- Elderly care services. A 36% projected growth in the 60+ age group in the South Eastern Trust area, is anticipated in the next decade.

Mr Compton concluded by saying that we are entering a process of accelerated change and the Trust is committed to delivering efficient, modern services. He said that in the future outcomes will drive the nature of services. Service frameworks developed by the professionals delivering the service and the patients receiving the service will specify how services must be provided.

Miss McMillan thanked Mr Compton for his detailed presentation and asked Members and Dr Kilbane if they had any questions.

Mr Compston thanked Mr Compton for his excellent presentation. He said that although sceptical, he is pleased that some terrible situations that were unacceptable about the health service, have been turned around within the last year, for example trolley waits. He was particularly interested that with a projected 36% increase expected in the elderly population in the Trust area within the next decade, there are proposals to reduce the number of medical beds in the Ulster Hospital. He asked if there are plans to better utilise theatres and various diagnostics at the Ulster Hospital and also asked if there are plans to improve customer service, especially at the first point of contact.

Mr Compton feels that the way in which people are received is getting better and he reported that the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), were visiting some South Eastern Trust facilities over the last few days and they were complimentary about the way people are received. Mr Compton said that diagnostics in the last 12 months have been outstanding and has impacted greatly on reducing waiting times. He said that with focus increasing on preventative measures and early diagnosis more people will be managed in the community and this will improve the appropriate use of medical beds.

There are approximately 2000 people in the South Eastern area who receive support services in the community. On the whole community care works well with millions of contacts per year, but the Trust accepts that they will not get all of these contacts right all of the time.

Cllr Campbell said that whilst she fully supports proposals to increase community-based services for the elderly, she wondered if realistically, efficiency savings could be made for re-investment in this area.

Mr Compton said that the Trust would be keen to see the direct payments process made an opt-out of process rather than an opt-in process. This would mean people would have more control over their care in a way that suits their individual needs. The target for maintaining people at home will be 50% and the resources for this will be released from patients requiring less institutional care.

Dr Kilbane thanked Mr Compton for his excellent presentation. She confirmed that the EHSSB agrees with most of what had been discussed and the direction that the Trust is taking. The Board will continue to work with the Trust and the incoming Local Commissioning Groups (LCGs) around the details of the proposals. The Board will want assurances that:-

1. Propositions are feasible
2. Proposals are in keeping with current strategies
3. Where there are proposals to change services to make efficiency savings, there must be no increased cost to the commissioner for getting these services elsewhere.

Dr Kilbane confirmed that the EHSSB have to sign off the Health and Well-being Investment Plan by 18/04/08. This is meant to outline proceedings for investment to meet targets over the next 3 years. At this stage it is difficult to provide detail on years 2 and 3 due to RPA arrangements. The Board will continue to work with local providers, but any decisions made will be subject to Ministerial agreement.

It is important to also remember that there is a requirement on the Board to release £32 million worth of capitation money over the next 3 years. This will be an issue for all commissioners and given the magnitude of the situation with efficiency savings and capitation money the Board has discussed expectations with the DHSSPS. The Board needs to be careful how capitation is applied and will attempt to get approval to manage this over a longer time period.

Mr Dixon asked whether the future model of 1 single body, responsible for commissioning all services for the entire NI population, would eradicate the issues that have often arisen around funding allocation of regional services.

Mr Compton said that one commissioning body may eradicate problems in commissioning hospital services, but may run into problems on the purchasing of local community services that will differ across all Trust areas.

The Chair thanked Mr Compton for his excellent presentation and detailed discussion.

## **18/08 DR PAULA KILBANE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

Dr Kilbane reported back on the following issues:-

- a) Health and Well-being Investment Plan  
Dr Kilbane had talked about this earlier in the meeting but confirmed this will be presented at the Board Meeting in April. This will not be complete given some issues that still have to be clarified including capitation requirements. The Board are keeping the LCGs' closely involved in the process and any decisions made on how to manage or spread the capitation money will have to fully involve the LCGs', as the Board will cease to exist on 31 March 2009 under RPA arrangements.
- (b) Outbreak of e-coli  
There have been 2 probable cases of e-coli of children resident in East Belfast, reported on 12 March. One child goes to Ravenscroft Nursery School. As there had been an exchange visit last week between Ravenscroft and a nursery school in West Belfast it was decided that screening be offered as a pre-cautionary measure. Around 60 staff and pupils were offered screening. To date 4 people have tested positive and over 50 people have tested negative with some results still awaited. The Board have managed the outbreak in line with the Health Protection Agency in England and the situation continues to be monitored.
- (c) Tribute to Miss Patricia McMillan  
As Miss McMillan has resigned as Chair and Member of Council, Dr Kilbane said that she must thank her for the work that she has carried out over her time with the EHSSB on behalf of Council. At the Board Meeting that morning the Chairman, Mr Tony McMullan, who was standing in for Mr David Russell, recorded formally the Boards appreciation and gratitude to Miss McMillan. Dr Kilbane read the tribute paid to Miss McMillan, which will appear in the Minutes of the Board Meeting.  
  
Miss McMillan thanked the Board and said that she had also received lovely letters from both Dr Kilbane and Mr Russell.
- (d) Review of Public Administration (RPA)  
Dr Kilbane confirmed that the Minister for Health will be going to the EHSSB on 14 March 2008 for a question and answer session. There will be a Board Workshop on the 8 April 2008, before the Board formulates its response to the RPA Consultation. The response will go to the Board meeting in May for approval. Dr Kilbane said that the Board welcomes any input the Council may have to the Boards response.

## **19/08 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008, were agreed as an accurate record subject to one amendment on page 6, Minute 07/08. The paragraph

reads 'Mrs McGarry explained that there is a 'volunteer drivers' scheme operating in Omagh.'

This should read:-

'Mrs McGarry explained that there is a 'volunteer drivers' scheme operating in the Western Board.'

The minutes were signed by the Chair and Chief Officer.

## **20/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The Chief Officer updated Members on the following:

### **(a) Minute 05/08 (a) Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and Minute 07/08 Category C Calls**

At the last meeting a number of proposals had been made as follows:

- it had been agreed that once the budgetary announcement was made, Council should request a private session with the Health Committee and invite Mrs Iris Robinson, Chair of the Health Committee, to attend a future meeting in order for Council to voice their concerns.
- it had been agreed that a workshop be held to discuss a number of NI Ambulance service issues, including Category C Calls.

As there are a number of meetings planned for the coming months, including a Workshop for Members to discuss the RPA consultation and a 4 Council workshop to decide on Councils' response, Mr Dixon suggested that the 2 above issues be postponed in order to pursue other urgent business.

Miss McMillan said that Council increasingly has to reassess its priorities and whilst not dropping these issues indefinitely, agreed there needs to be the flexibility to re-evaluate the work programme. Members agreed that these issues can be postponed.

### **(b) Minute 11/08 Unscheduled Care Update**

The Report is in preparation following widespread stakeholder engagement on the new A&E admission and discharge targets. The final Report has to go to the Reference Group at the DHSSPS on 31 March 2008, and the Report will be made available to Members following this meeting.

## **21/08 ADDITIONAL MATTERS**

### **(a) Extension of term end for Vice Chairman**

Mr Dixon asked Members to consider the extension to tenure, of Mr Cecil Graham in his position of Vice Chair to the 31 March 2009, subject to his agreement. Members agreed.

### **(b) Council Meeting in April 2008**

Mr Dixon asked for permission to cancel the formal Council Meeting scheduled for 17 April 2008, given that there is a workshop in April and one in May to discuss RPA consultation. Members agreed

### **(c) Travel claim submissions**

Mr Dixon reminded Members that travel claims need to be submitted no later than the 7 April 2008 for the 2007/2008 period.

(d) Election of new Chair

As Miss McMillan will be leaving the Council on 31 March 2008, the election process for a new Chair will commence on 1 April 2008, with nomination papers being issued on that date.

**22/08 FAREWELL TO CHAIR AND MEMBER**

As this would be Miss McMillan's last Council Meeting, Mr Dixon offered thanks on behalf of the Council, for her dedication and commitment during her time as Council Member, but in particular in her role as Chair. He wished also to thank her on a personal basis, for her help since he had commenced in post 3 years ago and said that he had thrived and flourished in his role with her assistance.

On behalf of the Council Members, Mr Des Meredith said that as Chair, she had put Members at ease and led them effectively in the meetings and that she would be greatly missed by them all.

Mr Dixon said that Cllr Michael Henderson had sent his apologies for not being at the meeting in person, but had asked that his congratulation for a job well done, be passed to Patricia McMillan.

A presentation was made to Miss McMillan and Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Campbell, who was also leaving on 31 March 2008, having served her maximum term as Council Member.

Mr Dixon offered Councils gratitude to Cllr Campbell who as a long-standing Member, had served Council with dedication and commitment. Council are also waiting on the Public Appointments Unit confirming whether Cllr Michael Henderson's term ends on 31 March 2008.

Cllr Campbell said she wished to thank Council Members, Council staff and in particular the Chair, for their work. She paid particular tribute to the non-elected Members on Council who are the only public appointments who receive no remuneration for their work. She said their commitment to the Council is a tribute to the public in general, and wished the Council well in its transitional period.

Cllr Dermot Curran thanked Miss McMillan for all her assistance as Chair over the last 4 years. He congratulated her on the way she conducted her business on behalf of Council, having put the interests of the public at the forefront of everything. He thanked Cllr Campbell for her excellent work on Council and said he will no doubt have contact with her in the future in their City Council roles.

Miss McMillan thanked everyone and said that she had learnt a great deal from Council Members during her work with them. She said that there are 12 very challenging months ahead for the Council and wished everyone well for the future. She also extended her best wishes and thanks to all the Council Members who are leaving at the end of March.

## **23/08 INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

(a) GMSIS System Stakeholder Workshop, 28 February 2008

Mr Meredith reported on his attendance at this workshop. Delegates were given a demonstration of how Departmental statisticians could use this GMSIS system to analyse patient information that GP's hold, with view to improving services etc. Mr Meredith said that the general consensus from GPs' and service users was that there needs to be caution about the access to this highly confidential information and on how the information is used.

The DHSSPS will rethink the process considering the feedback at the workshop.

Mrs Hamilton, who had also attended the workshop, said that the group she had worked with during the day had been very surprised about the wealth of information available that is under-utilised. Although patient confidentiality must not be jeopardised, she said a lot of the information available could be used for providing information on the needs of the public and the direction of services.

Mrs McGrogan said that with the proper safeguards in place, it sounds like this could be a tool that the public would be acceptant of, if it was used for planning and delivering services.

(b) Joint Council Workshop for Minister's Announcement on PCC – 27 February 2008

A number of Members had attended this event. Mr Meredith said that the day had focused on looking at the options for the new PCC that have been proposed by the Minister for Health under his latest RPA announcements.

## **24/08 CHAIR'S BUSINESS PAPER EC 03/08**

(a) HSSC Executive meeting, 11 February 2008

The HSSC Executive met with Mr Ivan McMaster, DHSSPS, regarding RPA proposals, which will affect the 4 Councils. There was nothing new to report from the meeting.

(b) EHSSB Board Meeting, 14 February 2008

Miss McMillan reported on one issue raised at the Board meeting regarding the increase in the number of emergency medical admissions. As Mr Dixon had not been at the Meeting, Miss McMillan had briefed him on this issue. Mr Dixon explained that quite a number of Hospitals have been demonstrating a 95% achievement of the A&E 4 hour waiting time target and this has raised questions as to whether this is linked to the increase in the number of emergency medical admissions of less than 24 hours. Mr Dixon has subsequently raised this question with the Service Delivery Unit (SDU) at the DHSSPS, who are already looking into this issue and will report back.

(c) EHSSC Visit to the Orchardville Society, 21 February 2008

Members had visited the Orchardville Society business centre and bottling plant. Miss McMillan said it was an excellent day where people were genuinely positive about their work because someone had taken the time and care to get them the right job.

Mr Dixon said that he, the Chair, Miss Patterson and Mr Meredith had the opportunity to pursue this agenda with Sir Reg Empey, Minister for Employment and Learning, at their meeting with the Minister this morning.

(d) EHSSB SMT Meeting, 27 February 2008

Just prior to the Board meeting, Miss McMillan had been provided with a document on 'Indicative Allocations and Planning'. Ms Angela Paisley, Director of Finance, had helped her make sense of this document at short notice. Miss McMillan said that Ms Paisley has an extremely difficult role at the moment, having to respond quickly to questions and documents that have very serious implications.

(d) Meeting with Sir Reg Empey, 13 March 2008

Miss Patterson, Mr Meredith, Mr Dixon and Miss McMillan had met with Sir Reg Empey, Minister for Employment and Learning. The main issue was asking him to support the overall vision for Muckamore Abbey Hospital. Council is aware that the people who are in Muckamore Abbey Hospital who have specific health needs, also have other far reaching needs that include housing, education and training. Miss McMillan said that the meeting was very positive.

## **25/08 REPORT FROM CHIEF OFFICER**

(a) Work Programme 2008/2009

Mr Dixon explained that the Council is experiencing a lot of changes at this time. There are 3, possibly 4 Members leaving at the end of March, there will be an election of a new Chair and there is consultation on RPA proposals. Mr Dixon and Mr Brown will be reviewing the key themes of the Work Programme for 2008/09, which will include areas suggested by Members. A draft work programme has been circulated, but there needs to be further discussion as to what can realistically be undertaken. A final work programme will be issued to Members.

(b) Stroke Strategy Update

The consultation on the Stroke Strategy ends next week. Mr Dixon will prepare a response and asked any Members who wishes to speak to him about input into the response, to contact him at the office. The Council's response will be informed by work carried out by Chest, Heart and Stroke, the Stroke Patient and Carer Reference Group and Speech Matters.

## **26/08 CORRESPONDENCE – PAPER EC04/08**

Paper EC04/08 was taken as read, with no additional items being discussed. Members were advised to telephone the office as soon as possible, if they were interested in requesting any of the documents itemised.

## **27/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) Replacement of locally elected representatives on Council

Cllr Campbell asked if the Public Appointments Unit (PAU) have confirmed whether locally elected representatives will be replaced on Council when terms end.

Miss McMillan said that Council are still awaiting confirmation from the PAU on this matter. She said that if replacements are to be requested this will be done directly between the PAU and local Councils.

Mr Dixon said that it is his understanding that no new appointments will be made.

Miss McMillan said that the issue of membership has continually been raised with representatives from the DHSSPS over the last couple of years. The knowledge and input from new and existing Members is essential and Miss McMillan said that she hopes that as numbers deplete, Council will not be affected by problems with quorums for meetings. She stressed to Members that it is now particularly important to notify the office of intentions on whether to attend meetings for facilitation purposes.

## **28/08 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

There will be no public meeting in April. The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 15 May 2008 at 5.30pm in the Lagan Room, The Mount Conference Centre, Woodstock Link, Belfast.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chair

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Officer