



**MINUTES OF THE EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2008 AT 5.30PM IN THE  
HEANEY ROOM, MOUNT CONFERENCE CENTRE, 2 WOODSTOCK  
LINK, BELFAST, BT6 8DD**

**PRESENT:** Mr B Compston  
Mr C Graham  
Mrs E Hamilton  
Cllr A Leslie  
Mr R Marshall  
Mr J McDowell  
Mrs P McGrogan  
Mrs R McGrotty  
Mr D Meredith  
Mrs M Muldoon  
Cllr P C Mullaghan  
Mr E O'Neill  
Miss M Patterson

Mr C Graham was in the Chair

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Richard Dixon, Chief Officer  
Mrs Angela Campbell, Job-Share Office Manager

**40/08 APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr D Curran, Cllr R Drysdale,  
Mr M Jones, and Mrs S McGarry

The Chair welcomed Cllr Leslie back to his first meeting of Council after a one-year period as Mayor of North Down Borough Council. It was noted that Cllr Drysdale who had submitted apologies for today's Council meeting had been Mayor of Ards Borough Council for the same period.

**41/08 PRIVATE BUSINESS SESSION**

The Chair suspended Standing Orders according to the EHSSC's Standing Order Number 23 as approved by the Members present at the meeting. The private business closed at 6.15 pm.

**42/08 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 May 2008 were approved subject to the following amendments:

- (a) Minute 33/08 (b) Northern Ireland Ambulance Service  
Page 4, first paragraph of minute should read "Mr Meredith reported that Mr Marshall and he had attended ...". This was agreed.

- (b) Minute 37/08 - Members of the Public  
Mr Bennett, from the public gallery, requested that page 7 Minute 37/08, paragraph two, sentence four which reads “sought from the public” should be amended to read “sought from complainants”. This was agreed.
- (c) Minute 38/08 (b) Fall in MRSA rates within Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust  
Page 9. Due to a photocopying error of page 8 the first two sentences at the top of page 9 were a duplication of the previous page. The black minute book will contain the correct version. In addition, Mrs McGrotty requested that the final sentence of the first paragraph be amended to read “Mrs McGrotty asked if the EHSS Council would consider if the same procedures could be adopted in Trusts throughout Northern Ireland.” This was agreed.

#### **43/08 MATTERS ARISING**

The Chief Officer reported on the following:

- (a) Minute 32/08 (c) – Farewell to Chair and Members  
Mr Bingham, Director of Human Resources, DHSS&PS has responded to the Chief Officer’s request for clarification in respect of the ten-year membership ruling. Mr Bingham’s response dated 12 June 2008 indicated that there was no issue about special treatment/unfairness or equity in respect of the two EHSSC Members whose ten year tenure had not been extended. (A copy of Mr Bingham’s response can be issued to Members if requested). The Chair stated that it was not within the gift of the Council to replace the District Council nominees as this was a matter for their respective organisations. The Chief Officer will inform Cllr Michael Henderson and Cllr Mrs Betty Campbell and request if they wish to be reinstated.
- (b) Minute 32/08 (d) - Meeting with Sir Reg Empey on 13 March 2008  
The Chair reported that at the meeting with Sir Reg Empey, he was sympathetic to support being provided to persons being discharged from Muckamore Abbey Hospital, but until European allocations are known, it is difficult to confirm the position. Therefore a letter was sent seeking confirmation of the position and names of officials that EHSSC can liaise with. The Chief Officer added that Mr Tony Montgomery, Disablement Advisory Service (DAS), met him and confirmed that all the organisations which bid for funding had received what they requested. The Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) have increased the contribution to match funding to 25%. Whilst DAS are not aware of any negative pressures, it was agreed confirmation of this position be sought in writing from the Minister.

It was also reported that there are resettlement of children targets for 2008-09 but no meeting of the Resettlement Board (on which the Chief Officer sits) has been held since April 2008; the next meeting is scheduled for September 2008.

Cllr Mullaghan asked, if when the European money runs out in 2014, will there be any pressures on funding? The Chair replied that his understanding is the next round will determine if Northern Ireland is to be a benefactor.

(c) Minute 33/08 (c) – Midwifery-Led Unit in Downpatrick

It was reported that the Chief Officer had written to Mr John Compton, Chief Executive, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT), inviting him to attend the September Council Meeting to discuss a range of issues including:

- (i) Downe Hospital
- (ii) Care of Older People within South Eastern Trust
- (iii) Lagan Valley Hospital

(d) Minute 35/08 (a) - Joint EHSSBoard/EHSSCouncil meeting

A brief report on the joint meeting of the EHSSBoard and the EHSSCouncil, held on 25 June 2008, was presented.

(e) Minute 37/08 - Complaints Implementation Group, External Reference Group

Members were reminded that Mr T Bennett was present at the 15 May 2008 Council meeting when he tabled a letter for Members' consideration. It had been intended to hold a Council meeting on 19 June 2008, but this was subsequently cancelled due to the joint EHSSBoard/EHSSCouncil Meeting on the 25 June 2008. The Chair therefore convened a meeting with the Chief Officer and Vice Chair and issued a response to Mr Bennett on 18 July. A reply to that response has subsequently been received from Mr Bennett, and this issue is still under consideration.

#### **44/08 INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Chair reported that Council representation on committees had been allocated. In doing so it had been decided not to involve elected representatives due to the pressure on them to attend public meetings.

(a) Belfast LCG June

Mr Meredith reported that the Local Commissioning Group appears to be in a limbo situation as they await confirmation if they will have a role from September/October 2008 onwards. The next meeting is scheduled for 25 September 2008.

(b) Eastern LCG 15 August 2008

Mrs McGrotty reported that this was an introductory meeting and she would forward the minutes and her member's report when she receives the minutes. Various items were discussed including the Euro project on Long Term Conditions, Remote Monitoring Telehealth for heart failure, COPD and possibly asthma and diabetes. Some of these services are currently out for tender. The South Eastern HSC Trust is hoping for 200 people by June 2008 and 5000 telepatients by 2011. The Parliamentary legislation second reading in July for the Regional Health and Social Care Board was also discussed and they are considering consultation responses.

- (c) NI Cancer Registry meeting 27 May 2008  
Miss Patterson presented a report on this meeting at which Melanoma statistics were discussed. Miss Patterson noted that the EHSSB Cervical Cytology meeting scheduled for 9 June 2008 was cancelled.

#### **45/08 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

- (a) The Chair reminded Members that Council is now in the last six months of its role and two events are being arranged to take place before March 2009.
- (i) Wednesday 22 October 2008 at 9.30 am  
The four HSS Councils will visit the Assembly buildings, Parliament buildings, Stormont and meet with members of the Health Committee. The business will take 1-2 hours followed by lunch and a tour of the building. Domestic issues such as bus travel, car parking and security are to be considered.
- (ii) Mid February 2009  
There will be a final joint-Council event to be held on a residential basis in Armagh. It is hoped the Health Minister, Mr Michael McGimpsey will be present.
- (b) The Chair attended the EHSSB meeting on Thursday 14th August. The issue of the cessation of the Minor Ailments service formerly provided by Community Pharmacists was discussed. This service was introduced in 2005. However, it was reported that negotiations between the DHSS&PS and the Pharmacist have broken down. The Chair's statement of response to the Board meeting was tabled for Council Members. It was proposed that Members accept this statement of concern at the loss of such a valuable service.

Mrs Hamilton supported the Chair and informed the meeting that she had been asked to sign a petition. She added that she was saddened at the decrease in the service as she was aware of the assistance provided by the Pharmaceutical profession.

It was agreed that the Council issue a press statement expressing concern about the withdrawal of services and urging relevant parties to resolve outstanding issues.

#### **46/08 REPORT FROM CHIEF OFFICER**

- (a) Patient Client Council (PCC) Implementation Group  
The PCC Implementation Group was set up to deliver the Patient Client Council by 1 April 2009. Members of the group include a representative Chair from the SHSSC and the four Chief Officers. Their remit is to detail the key functions of the three workstreams:
- (i) Membership, led by SHSSC
- (ii) Governance of the organisation including financial matters

(iii) Strategic Planning.

There is an expectation by the DHSS&PS that this will be led by the HSSCs and must take priority over other HSSCouncils workplan, but not over the monthly Council meetings and the complaints/advocacy work. The Chief Officer was not present at the first meeting but this information was reported to him. This creates an additional burden and will have a subsequent impact on the workplan, for example, cardiac rehabilitation, diabetes and primary care, mental health and learning disability respite services.

(b) Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability Services

The closing date for the Consultation regarding the government's initial response to Bamford Review is 4 October 2008. It was agreed it would be appropriate to hold a workshop to inform Members in terms of making a response. It was suggested this be held on the morning of 18 September prior to the next Council Meeting.

It was suggested that a suitable speaker might be either:-  
Professor Roy McConkey, Professor of Developmental Disabilities,  
University of Ulster; or a  
Chief Executive of major Charities such as Rethink or Aware Defeat  
Depression; or  
John McGeown Assistant Director of Mental Health Services;  
Friends of Muckamore Abbey.

(d) Service Delivery Unit Engagement

The four HSSCouncils have been asked to design and deliver community engagement regarding targets and consider if they are the right targets. There is a Chief Officers' meeting on Tuesday 26 August to discuss how to manage the workload.

(e) Cardiovascular Service Framework Engagement Workshop  
10 September 2008

A flyer was issued for this event. However, take-up to date has not been very high. This is a very important engagement workshop as frameworks describe how services are provided and funded, for example, the Cardiovascular framework covers services for conditions caused by stroke and diabetes and has been written in user friendly terminology. The Chief Officer asked Members to invite others to attend.

(f) Work programme 08/09 management arrangements

It was reported that Mrs Brenda Devine who was on secondment to the Northern Ireland Clinical and Social Care Governance Team has achieved another placement and will not be returning to the Council.

## **47/08 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

## **48/08 INPUT FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chair extended a welcome to Mr T Bennett.

### **(a) Mr Tom Bennett re HPSS Complaints Procedure**

Mr Bennett stated that he appreciated the Council needs time to consider his latest letter before responding. Mr Bennett expressed concern that the new HPSS complaints procedure is proceeding without input from complainants. He said that issues regarding accuracy and sanctions have not been addressed and that it was clear to him that presently there was no meaningful accountability. Mr Bennett said that he felt the consultation was a paper exercise and should be considered a serious matter, not trivial.

The Chair replied that Council understood Mr Bennett's interest and concern and had already noted the points made contained in previous correspondence, and asked Mr Bennett if he had any additional comments to make.

Mr Bennett had nothing further to add other than requesting that consideration be given to the points contained in his recent correspondence.

The Chair thanked Mr Bennett for his attendance and contribution and said the Council would consider Mr Bennett's latest correspondence in due course.

Mr Bennett stated that he did not think the Council fulfilled their mandate, emphasised the urgency of the matter and said he was obliged to Council for their consideration. The Chair reminded Mr Bennett that he might wish to raise his concerns with local Councillors, MLAs and MPs.

## **49/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Services at the Downe Hospital (Item requested by Cllr Curran, in absentia)**

Cllr Curran submitted a written apology for non attendance at the meeting but asked for this item to be raised on his behalf. Concerns have been raised by the local health group who are delighted about the new hospital being set up, but are concerned that some of the new services which people were led to believe would be provided, are now not going to be provided. No-one seems to know exactly what services are going to be provided.

The Chief Officer stated that the matter would hopefully be raised with Mr John Compton, Chief Executive, South Eastern Trust at the September Council meeting.

(b) Consultation on “Review of the roles and tasks of social workers in Northern Ireland” by the NI Social Care Council

Cllr Mullaghan asked if Council were planning on formulating a response to the above consultation? The Chief Officer replied that the intention is to respond, but given the closing date of 17 October 2008 there are time constraints. The Chief Officer therefore welcomed written submissions from members on whose behalf he would draft a response.

(c) Hospital Acquired Infections

Cllr Leslie raised the issue of the number of deaths attributable to C Diff as reported in the media, particularly the Antrim Area Hospital. He asked if Council could obtain statistics for the past five years from the independent sector for comparison. The Chief Officer undertook to attempt this request, but could not guarantee getting answers from private sector providers. Mrs McGrogan responded that they are licensed and regulated by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA). This being the case it was suggested that the statistics could be obtained from the Department. Mrs McGrogan said that the age of hospitals is a factor in the incidence rate, including the Belfast City Hospital Tower. The Chief Officer undertook to send a report to Members if successful. Mrs Hamilton stated that the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) website is a good source to view the statistics.

**50/08 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 18 September 2008. Time and venue to be arranged with the South Eastern Trust area, possibly the Lagan Valley Hospital or the Lisburn Civic Centre.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Officer