

plans to transfer antenatal or postnatal services, so mothers could still receive these services in LVH.

The Trust is working to publicise the reasons for this proposed change and Mr Compton stressed that while the value for money debate is important, the decision is essentially about quality standards and future sustainability.

Mr Graham said that he understands that the Royal College of Midwives have concerns about this proposal and how it will impact on training for midwives. Mr Compton said that the capacity of midwives in NI is a major concern. With recent increases in the birth rate, the Royal College is concerned about choices for women, availability of services and staff availability to deliver services. He said the Trust is committed to managing the transfer process sensibly. There has been increased capacity in Craigavon Hospital and Royal Hospital Maternity sites and the South Eastern Trust can increase capacity on the Ulster Hospital site. MLUs' are commonplace in the rest of the UK and would provide an additional option, whilst working in partnership with consultant led units regarding transfer of care.

Mr Compton explained that in the mid-1990's there had been debate on shaping future services. At that time LVH was not given general district hospital status and the status of local hospital was reconfirmed in 2003 in the Developing Better Services report. He said it is now time to have a debate and make decisions about services that have been there for nearly a decade. Obviously the Trust strives to provide local services for local people, but realistically some services are best provided elsewhere.

In response to a question from Mr Dixon, Mr Compton stressed that the Minister will have to make the decision as to whether a MLU will be put in place in LVH, should consultant led care be moved elsewhere. He said that although the priority in the decision to move consultant led care from LVH was mainly based on sustainability and safety issues, in order to have brought LVH up to a District General Hospital status, £200m would have been required and the investment put into services in Belfast would have to be reduced. Realistically this is not going to happen. Whilst this decision is contentious and the LVH maternity unit is working well at the minute, the Trust wants to have a planned transfer of services rather than a future rapid closure.

Mrs McGarry lives in the Lisburn area and said that whilst she has concerns for the proposed removal of consultant led care from LVH, she can accept that in this age of technology we must move forward in order to channel our expertise and technology.

Mr Compton confirmed that the Trust has further capital priorities for LVH with a planned spend of £50 million on the site. He hopes that this will reassure local people that the Trust is committed to providing a high level of local services for local people. In the last year a modern CT scanner has been installed on site, together with new state of the art endoscopy facilities that are now about to open. The Trust is also committing to two new theatres on site.

Cllr Mullaghan asked if VFM had been the deciding factor in making the proposal to move consultant led services. Mr Compton accepted that VFM had been a major part of the decision. He explained that NI spend £40 million more on obstetric services than the mainland and that is because there is a higher number of smaller units. He confirmed that some of the money saved by the transfer of consultant led services

would be transferred to the units taking on the deliveries from LVH. However, it is hoped that when the Commissioner is deciding on where the rest of the money should be spent, it would be directed to services for the population of Lisburn.

The Chief Officer said that Council has not made public any views it has on proposals for the LVH obstetric unit. Mr Dixon proposed that he prepare a draft statement outlining any views or concerns Council has on this proposal. It was agreed.

(d) Elderly care services

Mr Compton confirmed the Minister has now decided that St Johns House in Downpatrick and Seymour House in Lisburn will close. The Trust is now working on planning the closure process of both these elderly care facilities. A planning application has been made for a new 24 bed facility to replace St Johns House. In the interim period the use of the existing facility will be gradually reduced from using two floors to using one. There will be discussion with residents and family about transfer.

In relation to Seymour House there are already some alternative services up and running and further arrangements are being made for a planned move of the nursing home component of these facilities. The Trust has met with relatives and staff.

Mr Compton said that future public debate will be needed on how we care for older people. He said that in the South Eastern Trust area alone, it is expected that in the next 10 yrs there will be an increase of 36% in the population aged over 65 and there will be a doubling of the population aged over 85, with one in three people aged over 85 having significant dementia. Although people find change difficult, the two facilities being closed, whilst providing an excellent service, are now outdated.

Mr Compton explained that the Trust spent £90million last year in the independent sector providing care. Several thousand patients a day receive community care in the Trust area and 98% of the time this works well. The Trust wants to review and put right things which may not be working so well. It is committed to providing the service elderly people want, which will involve reshaping services and providing alternative choices in the future.

Mrs McGarry asked what the Trust plans are for the St Johns House and Seymour House sites. Mr Compton confirmed that there are currently no plans for the St Johns House site. There are proposals that the Seymour House site could be used to build a Health and Care Centre for Lisburn. This would require £8.5 million funding and it looks promising that funds will be made available to proceed with the plans that are already underway. This would provide a 'one stop shop' for GPs, primary nursing and community care staff.

Mr Dixon confirmed that the Trust has always kept the Council well informed about plans for these two facilities. Council was in approval of plans for the two homes once assurances were received from the Trust that services currently provided at the homes, will be provided elsewhere and advocacy was provided for the residents and their relatives. Mr Compton assured Council that no-where will be closed until alternative services of the same, if not higher standard, are provided to residents elsewhere.

Mrs McGrogan asked if the Trust has plans to provide integrated services such as housing with care projects.

Mr Compton said that the Trinity Court complex in Lisburn is an example of the housing with care project. The Trust worked with the local housing association and the dementia centre to come up with what was needed in the new complex. He explained that the complex is so different to the traditional residential homes, with residents having their own front door and a more homely environment, with thought given to how colours, heights of ceilings etc, impact on peoples condition.

Mr Graham said that it is clear that there needs to be debate on the future of elderly care services. Mr Compton said that not only is the older population increasing, but a lot of older people are healthier and fitter and contribute widely to society. We therefore need to enable older people to maintain their health and personal needs as long as possible and for those that need support we need to debate how this is done.

Cllr Leslie was unable to attend the Council meeting but asked the Chief Officer to raise a number of issues on his behalf. He wanted to know what changes are going to be made in regard to care in the community in North Down and Ards.

Mr Compton said that there will be the same theme of plans for future services as outlined earlier in the meeting for Downpatrick and Lisburn. Housing with care and improved community support is the way forward. The Trust spent approximately £10.5 million last year on community care in North down and Ards and this will increase. The debate for the future will be what people want the money spent on, with money targeted at the most frail and those with the most complex needs

Mr Dixon said that every year the usual winter pressures occur, but he asked Mr Compton if he anticipated an increase in admissions of older people due to social factors that are being affected by the cost of fuel etc. Mr Compton said that the Trust will endeavour to provide additional support and do expect to be busier but it is difficult to estimate how this could impact on hospital and community services.

Mr Graham thanked Mr Compton for providing such a comprehensive update. He asked him to extend Council's thanks to the people responsible for the hospitality and to the Directors in the Trust who joined Members over lunch.

53/08 WELCOME TO MEMBERS

Mr Graham welcomed back Cllr Drysdale and Mr Spence as it had been some time since they had been able to attend a Council meeting.

54/08 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Mr Graham explained that the minutes had been circulated late due to pressures in the office. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 21st August 2008 were agreed as an accurate record, signed by the Chair and witnessed by the Chief Officer.

55/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Chair and Chief Officer updated Members on the following:

(a) Minute 43/08 (b) Meeting with Sir Reg Empey on 13 March 2008

Following a meeting that representatives of Council had with Sir Reg Empey, a letter was sent to him asking for confirmation that resources would be available for the resettlement of patients from Muckamore Abbey Hospital into the Community.

Mr Graham confirmed that a reply was received from Sir Empey's office and he read the letter at the Council meeting. The letter referred to the discussions at the meeting with Sir Empey, which had included an outline of:-

- actions being taken by the Department of Employment and Learning, to support training and employment options for people with learning disability
- plans/initiatives that would support the aim of resettlement of patients from Muckamore Abbey Hospital into community settings.

At the meeting the Minister thought that the scope for provision for people being resettled might be clearer once decisions and allocations of the latest round of European funding were made.

The reply confirmed that these decisions have now been made and appropriate contacts have been put in place. Whilst the Minister is not aware of any pressures on Departmental Services arising from the Resettlement Programme, he said that the Disablement Advisory Service officials, mainly Tony Montgomery and Vincent Donnelly, are happy to meet with Council to provide information on the Departments:-

- revised methods of service delivery in job centres and benefits offices
- current provision available to help people with disability, including those with learning disability
- access to employment
- projects that are being supported under the European Social Fund.

The Minister has given his assurance that the Department is committed to providing support and guidance to former residents of Muckamore Abbey Hospital, ensuring that their training and employment requirements are assessed and met.

Mr Graham proposed that a further meeting be arranged with Mr Montgomery or Mr Donnelly. Mr Dixon confirmed that contact was also made with the Department of Social Development (DSD). He explained that whilst it is clear that these discussions to date are about the mental health and learning disability populations, there is a population with cognitive disability where there is an enormous expectation on the creation of social housing options. Although Council had met with a representative of the DSD, it was proposed that a meeting should be sought with Minister Ritchie.

Mr Graham asked Members to contact him or the Chief Officer if they have any particular issue they wish to have raised at these proposed follow-up meetings.

(b) Minute 44/08 (b) East LCG

Mrs McGrotty attended a meeting of the East LCG on 11 September 2008. If anyone is interested in a particular subject matter they should request a copy of the minutes from the EHSSC office. Mrs McGrotty said that Members can contact her if they have any enquiries or issues to raise. Mr Graham confirmed that papers from meetings that Members attend are available in the office and can be requested from the office, as can the information listed on the Correspondence List.

(c) Minute 46/08 (a) Patient Client Council (PCC) Implementation Group

Mr Graham confirmed that the post of Chair of the new PCC was advertised and the date for applications has closed. The post of Chief Executive has now been advertised.

(d) Minute 46/08 (b) Bamford Review and Learning Disability Services

The consultation response on the Bamford Review closes on the 3 October 2008. Notes from a session held for Members earlier that day on the Bamford Review, will assist the Councils response. Issues raised included concerns about lack of funding to allow expansion of social housing for this target group.

Mr Graham said the Minutes of the last EHSSBoard Meeting had included an interesting summary of the Boards response to the Department on the Bamford vision and he encouraged Council Members to read this.

The Chief Officer stressed that as the response must be in by 3 October 2008, he would be grateful if Members could contact him or Samantha Lindsay in the office within the next week, if they have any particular point that they want highlighted within the response. From discussions at the Bamford Session that morning the Mr Dixon said he will highlight that Council are:-

- concerned about the adequate care of people with higher level needs on discharge
- interested and concerned about prevention and immediate intervention and how this will work across different departments
- conscious that the Bamford Review requires £300m to be spent of which only £67m has been secured.

Due to deadlines the response will be shared with the Chair.

(e) Minute 46/08 (e) Cardiovascular Service Framework Workshop 10 September 08

Mr Dixon confirmed that the Workshop on the 10 September had been well supported and very worthwhile.

(f) Minute 48/08 (a) Mr Tom Bennett re: HPSS Complaints Procedure

Mr Bennett had attended the previous Council Meeting and the Chair confirmed that the response to Mr Bennett's latest correspondence is still outstanding. A lot of issues have been raised by Mr Bennett that are outside the Councils scope. At the last meeting the Chair had reiterated to Mr Bennett that he may wish to raise some of his issues with local Councillors, MLAs and MPs. A response will be made to Mr Bennett advising him that as he has went through the procedures available, Council is unable to add anything more.

(g) Minute 45/08 (b) Minor Ailment Service

At the last meeting it had been agreed that Council should issue a press statement expressing concern about the withdrawal of services and urging relevant parties to resolve outstanding issues. This is still pending.

(h) Minute 49/08 (b) Consultation on 'Review of the Roles and tasks of social workers in NI' by the NI Social Care Council (NISCC)

The closing date for this consultation is 17 October 2008. Mrs McGrogan said she attended a meeting organised by the NISCC. There had been a broad spectrum of attendees and the biggest message was defining roles.

Mrs McGrogan said that at a recent Council Complaints Sub-Group meeting it had been noted that there was an increasing number of complaints from the social care sector. There appears to be a lot of misunderstanding about what peoples roles are so the public will be confused. A formal response to the consultation will be made by 17 October and key issues will be highlighted. Mr Graham asked Members to inform the Chief Officer of any particular issues they wish to highlight in the response.

Mr Dixon suggested that a theme for a future Council Meeting could be Social Care and an expert speaker could be invited to attend. This was agreed.

(i) Minute 45/08 (b) Hospital Acquired Infection

Cllr Leslie had raised the issue of the number of deaths attributable to C Difficile and asked if Council could obtain statistics. Mr Dixon confirmed that a report on C Difficile is imminent on this matter.

(j) Minute 49/08 (a) Services at the Downe Hospital

The Chief Officer said that this had not been raised with Mr Compton earlier. A briefing had been provided to Members and this includes a service profile for the Downe Hospital.

56/08 INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

(a) East LCG

Mrs McGrotty had attended a meeting on 11 September 2008 as reported earlier in the meeting. In response to a question from Mrs McGrotty regarding nurse representation on LCGs', the Chief Officer agreed to re-issue to Members, the brief for current LCG representation and future representation under new arrangements.

Mrs McGrotty said that an audit was recently carried out on LCGs' and the Report has been published. The audit information will assist the LCGs' in preparing standing orders and governance issues.

Mrs McGrotty explained that she had met Michelle Tennyson who is looking at best practice for Carepathways in the Board and across the Trusts. Mrs McGrotty had taken the opportunity to mention about the various appointment letters going out to patients and said that she would like to see the DHSSPS standardising letters across NI in 'plain English' terms.

The Chair agreed that work could be done to standardise letters and suggests that Council get involved in this process if approached.

Mrs McGrotty took the opportunity to commend the way the Cardiovascular Services Framework had been written and said that the clarity of the document was excellent. Miss Patterson and Mr Dixon agreed and Mr Dixon said he would pass this onto the Cardiovascular Services Framework Working Group.

(b) Experience of being a patient in Windsor Avenue

Mrs McGrogan said she and Mrs Hamilton and Mrs McGrotty had attended this event held by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). The Minister has backed this piece of

work which looks at the patient experience of being a client of Windsor Avenue in relation to respect; dignity; communication; appropriate behaviour and accountability.

Mrs McGrotty wished to commend Mrs Mary Hinds, Director of the RCN, on this event. Mrs Hinds had encouraged Council Members to give their views. Mr Marshall said he had been unable to attend but had written a lengthy letter to Mrs Hinds. In her reply to Mr Marshall, she had thanked him and complimented the input of those Council Members who had attended the event.

57/08 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Mr Graham said he has not attended many external meeting but said that he had met with the Chief Officer a number of times and reported the following:

a) HSSC Executive Committee Meeting

This meeting is being held on 22 September 2008 and the following issues will be confirmed:

- (i) Visit to Parliament Buildings on 22 October 2008. This will be a visit in the morning followed by lunch. The office will confirm if members can park at Parliament Buildings and if there are any issues about parking a bus may be arranged to transport Members.
- (ii) Joint Council Celebratory Event. This will be discussed further at the HSC Executive meeting. It has been suggested that this may be an overnight event, held in Armagh in mid-February. This will be an opportunity to review the work of the Councils over the last number of years.

(b) EHSS Board Meeting 11 September 2008

Mr Graham had unfortunately been unable to attend. He said he had noted an interesting paper within the Board papers on capitation. While the date for response has finished, Mr Graham suggested that Council send a letter to the EHSSB stating the Council's support on the Board submission.

(c) Consultation on Belfast Trust 'New Directions' Strategy

The Belfast Trust is consulting on a strategy document that outlines strategic plans proposed for the future of the Trust. The Council will be responding to the consultation but has also sent a letter to the Trust saying that in principal the Council are supportive of the proposals. Mr Dixon confirmed that Mr Hugh McCaughey, Deputy Chief Executive and Denise Stockman, Director of Planning of the Belfast Trust will be attending the Council Meeting in October to discuss the New Directions paper.

58/08 REPORT FROM CHIEF OFFICER

(a) Workload planning

The Chief Officer reported that there are a number of major pieces of work that are due to finish at the end of September/beginning of October:-

- Acquired Brain Injury Review, of which Mr Dixon was Chair
- Response to Cardiovascular Services Framework consultation
- Response to Bamford Review consultation

Mr Dixon made Members aware that the Council is under extreme pressure at the minute with staff levels. He said he will need to review the workload and will have to spend more time in the office but he will keep Members informed about the situation.

(b) PCC Project Board

The Project Board that will establish the PCC is now meeting. Mr Dixon is Chairing one of the workstreams on 'How the PCC will do its business'. The other Chief Officers' are Chairing workstreams on 'Membership' and 'Governance'.

Although there have been many meetings by Council in the past on the PCC, Mr Dixon asked Members to inform him of any points that they would like raised at the Project Board. The Chair of the Project Board, Mr Bernard Mitchell, will take the recommendations of the Project Board to the Minister for approval and this process has already commenced.

59/08 CORRESPONDENCE – PAPER EC10/08

Paper EC10/08 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.

60/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Timing of future Council Meetings

Mr Marshall asked whether Members felt it was time to reconsider the timings of future Council meetings. Do we continue alternating between evening and afternoon meetings or move to all evening meetings? It was agreed that this will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

(b) Next Council Meeting

Mr Graham explained that he will be on holiday for the next Council Meeting. Mrs Mary Muldoon has agreed to Chair the meeting on the 16 October 2008 and will also deputise for Mr Graham at the next EHSS Board Meeting in October.

(c) Problems with Ambulance Service

Miss Patterson gave a detailed summary of an incident which had happened to a family member in September. Twice an ambulance had not been available to transfer a patient from the Ulster Hospital to an appointment at the Royal Victoria Hospital even though it had been booked well in advance. In the end Miss Patterson had to transport the patient in her car, in order that the man did not miss his appointment again as he was seeing a consultant in relation to a severe cardiac problem.

The situation was discussed and Members were alarmed at this situation and said:-

- that the duty of care to the patient had failed.
- the patient had been put at risk in missing his appointment and being transferred in the end by car
- this caused distress to the patient and his family
- extra money is being spent on keeping the patient waiting in hospital
- staff in the Ulster and RVH are striving to meet targets yet are compromised by a service they have no control over.

Miss Patterson said that the family will write to the Ambulance Service, the Trusts and the Minister for Health in due course.

Following lengthy discussion Mr Dixon said that he will take advice from the Complaints Officer at the Council. Council need to preserve the right of the family and patient to obtain advocacy should they wish to pursue their own complaint. However, Council will raise concerns about this situation and wants to know if this is indicative of services patients' receive. Council also wants to know if these services are being downgraded to allow for emergency targets and would view this with great concern.

61/08 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th October 2008, at 5.30pm in the Lagan Room, Mount Conference Centre, Woodstock Link, Belfast

Signed: _____ Date _____
Chair

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chief Officer