

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 March 2019 at 6pm in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,
Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor M Murnin

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

(Officials)

Mr. L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr J McGilly, Acting Assistant Director, Community
Planning and Performance
Ms S Trainor, Senior Environmental Health Officer -
Health Improvement
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

County Down Rural Community Network

Mr N McCrickard, Manager
Mr N McKinney, Social Prescribing Consultant

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Mrs M McClements, Director of Older People & Primary
Care

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Mrs R Coulter, Director of Planning, Performance and
Informatics

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Mr M Bloomfield, Chief Executive

SC/04/2019

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Bailie, Carr, Craig, Devlin, Hearty, Howell, Savage, Sharvin, Stokes and Taylor.

SC/05/2019

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SC/06/2019

**PRESENTATION FROM COUNTY DOWN RURAL
COMMUNITY NETWORK – SOCIAL PRESCRIBING**

The Chairperson invited the delegation from County Down Rural Community Network to make their presentation. A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

Members welcomed the provision of Social Prescribing which would provide non medical services in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector for the Down area and highlighted the need for rollout to the whole Newry, Mourne and Down District.

Members voiced their support for the initiative and the need for assistance from the Department of Health.

During discussion Mr McCrickard referred to the role Council had to play in assisting Social Prescribing and highlighted the following:

- There was a lottery funded programme run by Clanrye within the Newry and Mourne area.
- Council was a huge resource with various outdoor and leisure facilities that could play a part in the provision of services.
- Meetings with all the District Electoral Area Networks were due to take place in the next week.
- Recruiting users into GP practices would grow the whole sector.

It was agreed a copy of the presentation from County Down Rural Community Network would be circulated to Members.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation.

**Councillor McAteer joined the meeting during the above presentation – 6.25pm.
Councillor Enright left the meeting – 6.30pm.**

At this point of the meeting the Chairperson invited the Health Trusts and Northern Ireland Ambulance Service to make their presentations with a question and answer session to follow.

SC/07/2019 **PRESENTATION FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST - IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING IN PARTNERSHIP & RESPONSE TO SOUTHERN HEALTH CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP QUESTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Melanie McClements to the meeting and invited her to deliver a presentation, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Mrs McClements provided an overview of the written submission in response to the questions raised by the Southern Health Consultation Working Group which had been circulated with the agenda.

SC/08/2019 **RESPONSE FROM SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST TO SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP QUESTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Roisin Coulter to the meeting. The key message she wished to reinforce was the tremendous collaboration across the Trusts, NIAS and others to focus on the prevention of ill health and encourage healthy wellbeing.

Reference was made to the written submission from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in response to the questions raised from the South Eastern Health Consultation Working Group, copies of which had been circulated with agenda.

The following points were also highlighted:

- The Downe Hospital had been selected as an elective care centre pilot site for cataracts. The Lagan Valley Hospital had been selected as one of two sites for the elected for varicose veins.
- There was a roll out of the enhanced Care at Home Model across the Down area which was positive news in enabling the care for elderly within their own homes.
- The Health Trusts recognised the importance of working in partnership and were committed to doing so for the benefit of everyone.
- Council through its investment in leisure centres in Newry and Downpatrick had a role to play in encouraging people to take more responsibility for their own wellbeing.
- The Public Health Agency had led the implementation of the regional 'New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs'. There was a need for a recognised statutory body including Health Trusts, PSNI, NIAS, Council etc.
- A workshop held in February 2019 with Health Trusts and Council staff had proved very helpful in providing information on secondary care mental health services.

SC/09/2019

**RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND
AMBULANCE SERVICE TO SOUTHERN AND
SOUTH EAST HEALTH CONSULTATION WORKING
GROUP QUESTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Executive from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), Mr M Bloomfield to the meeting.

Mr Bloomfield provided an overview of the written submission from NIAS in response to the questions raised from the South Eastern Health Consultation Working Group, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda.

The following points were also highlighted by Mr Bloomfield:

- NIAS to provide details on response times following the introduction of a pilot for hospital receivers in the Ulster Hospital from October 2018 and other hospitals in January 2019.
- The response times provided for the Mourne area showed they were not being met. Response times were challenging due to the geography however it was also largely due to increase in demand and demand not being matched with ambulance resource.
- NIAS had recently consulted on a proposed Clinical Response Model which would be considered by the NIAS Board and then the Department for Health. This model changed the way in which NIAS categorised calls and highlighted there were too many calls included within category 8 which were not life threatening.
- Significant investment was required for resource.

Following representations from the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts and the NIAS the following points were raised by members:

- There was a real need for a rapid response vehicle to be positioned closer to the border and South Armagh. Reference was made to the Community Paramedic Initiative such as the one in Castlederg, County Tyrone.
- NIAS needed to lobby the Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) for South Armagh as it had weak provision.
- Day Care Centre in Crossmaglen was first proposed in 2010. What was the position on this as it had been stalled and the current provision was not appropriate.
- Reference was made to Community Navigators and how they were contracted, particularly within the South Armagh area.
- Concerns were raised regarding response times for the Mourne area.
- The opening of an autism clinic in Belfast was welcomed.
- The proposed reduction in breast cancer assessment centres in Northern Ireland had been announced. What impact would this have?
- Could assurances be given that first responders would not detract from paramedics?

- Reference was made to District Nurses being taken out of Bessbrook clinic.
- Social Prescribing was welcomed however concerns were raised regarding long term funding.
- The Downe Hospital was a fantastic facility which could facilitate more services.
- Was the Ear, Nose and Throat facility within the Downe Hospital being moved?
- Whilst working on preventative models of care the Health Trusts must be mindful of the need to be reactive.
- The NIAS Response times were alarming and needed to be addressed.
- Concerns were raised about the increasing use of prescription drugs and the need to work collectively to address this issue e.g. Arrange a workshop specific to the use of prescription drugs.
- Ongoing problem in the provision of care packages.
- Historically the Southern Trust area had been underfunded. Had this been addressed?
- Were there any plans to open a coffee shop within the Downe Hospital?

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- There was 1 more year to run on the Community Paramedic Initiative. NIAS was keen to roll out this out across Northern Ireland particularly in rural areas as it would support primary care and help improve response times.
- A Community Navigator was appointed and would take referrals from GPs and carry out individual assessments and direct to appropriate resources.
- More information on autism services to be provided.
- Ongoing funding for Social Prescribing was essential to make it work. The Health Trusts shared concerns regarding ongoing funding which was required for early intervention and investing in health and wellbeing within communities.
- There was a vision for integrated care teams to be based at one centre, Ivybrook in Newry to include District Nurses. The Trust had reinforced the message to the District Nurse team and a lot of investment has been made to the Ivybrook facility which the team would benefit from.
- The Trusts were supportive of the Departments proposal to have three breast cancer assessment centres as it would provide more equitable access for all to be assessed within the 14 day target.
- The NIAS clinical response model was to help improve response times, however investment in fleet and staff was essential.
- The Downe Hospital was an integral part of the hospital network and was full to capacity providing various services.
- The Downe Hospital was a pilot of good practice for elderly care with the Frail and Elderly Rapid Assessment Unit.

- Further information to be provided in relation to the Ear, Nose and Throat service within the Downe Hospital.
- The Health Trusts supported the idea of a workshop in relation prescription drugs as it would allow collective discussion on systems and processes for dealing with this.
- The provision of care packages continued to be challenge throughout Northern Ireland due to growing demand for care. Work was ongoing to make domiciliary care staff posts more attractive along with a range of approaches (as outlined within the Southern Health and Social Trust response circulated with the agenda).
- It was hoped that a coffee dock would be brought into the Downe Hospital in the near future.

Councillors Burgess, Curran, Hanna, Harte, Hyland, Loughran, Mulgrew, Quinn, Reilly and Walker left the meeting during the above discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 15 April 2019.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive