

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 24 March 2022 at 2.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Zoom

Chairperson:	Councillor C Mason (via Zoom)	
In attendance via Zoom:	Councillor O Hanlon Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Malone
Officials in attendance via Zoom:	Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active & Healthy Communities	
Officials in attendance In Chamber:	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer	
Also in attendance: Via Zoom:	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive David Robinson, Director of Hospital Services Jane Loughrey, Head of Communications	

SC/007/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Brown, Curran, Magennis, Rice, Trainor and Savage.

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation to the meeting and Councillors and officers introduced themselves.

SC/008/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/009/2022: RESPONSE FROM SOUTH EASTERN AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Mrs Coulter provided an update to members on services across the South Eastern Trust, highlighting that Thursday 24 March 2022 was a National Day of Reflection. It was now 2 years since the pandemic and the impact lockdown had on everyone living in Northern Ireland and the staff of the South Eastern Trust. She took the opportunity to thank Councillors for all their support and positive feedback received.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Coulter for a really useful overview and for pulling together the recent Health and Social Care Partnership Forum meeting which was very informative, stating that working together in a collaborative community approach was the way forward.

Councillor Hanlon thanked the delegation for the comprehensive overview and highlighted a lot of issues were interlinked, particularly in terms of Mental Health and Children's Services, and the impact lockdown had on children that were in the system. She welcomed the update and clarity provided around current situation regarding residential homes and the impact on the domiciliary care staff with the cost of fuel increasing and asked if there were plans for services in Strangford clinic to be reinstated that had previously been suspended due to Covid?

Mrs Coulter confirmed that the Trust previously operated a satellite service at Strangford clinic from the Downe hospital, there had been a change in the GP model provided and provided an assurance that she would follow up and revert with an update to Members regarding a timescale when services were likely to resume.

In a response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mrs Coulter confirmed that a further roll out of the Model of Works across Northern Ireland had just been announced by the Minister of Health, Mr Swann and she would come back with an update.

Councillor Sharvin welcomed the work that had been done regarding the Mental Health Hub, stating that more focus was needed on Mental Health in the area, particularly as a result of covid and the increase in the cost of living.

Councillor Hanlon asked whether more advertising could be carried out in relation to the Wellness Recovery Network as great work was being done in Downpatrick and the wider area especially as there has been a noticeable increase in eating disorders since Covid. Councillor Sharvin suggested that the Trust, Council and Members could all share the Wellness Recovery Network page on their social media, this would raise the awareness and widen the range of people it reached.

Councillor Sharvin asked if there were any plans to make changes or amendments to services in Down hospital that have not yet reopened?

Mr Robinson confirmed there were no plans at this stage, all services were up and running and he advised that staff had done an amazing job in all departments to provide one hospital service across 3 sites throughout Covid.

Mrs Coulter advised the Downe Hospital in her opinion was an exemplar model for smaller hospitals across Northern Ireland and was the way forward, it was safe, sustainable and staff want to stay. An initiative was launched on 16 March 2022 by the department called a Regional Review of Emergency Care which looked at what models need to look like in all hospitals. A public consultation would be circulated in the near future in relation to the model in the Downe Hospital.

Mrs Coulter thanked members for their feedback and said it was a good idea to establish a Down Area Health and Social Care Partnership Forum and would be happy for an independent Chair to be appointed to work together with a wide variety of partners including the Community and Voluntary Sector, The Health Board, The Public Health Agency. It was extremely important to invite service users and carers, people living in the Down area to come together as equal partners.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for a really useful overview and for pulling together the recent Health and Social Care Partnership Forum meeting. She stated it was evident in order to move forward a collective working together responsibility was to be had by all

partnerships involved, having honest discussions and learning from each other.

The meeting concluded at 14:58.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 April 2022.

Signed: Councillor C Mason

Signed: Mr M Lipsett