

Minutes of Special Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 30 November 2017 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Members Present: Councillor Ashton, Chair

Councillors Buchanan, Burton (7.05pm), Cuddy, Doris, Gillespie, McAleer (7.07pm), Mullen, Reid and Wilson

Officers in Attendance: Mr M Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mrs E Forde, Member Support Officer

In Attendance: **Southern Health and Social Care Trust & Southern Local Commissioning Group**

Stephen McNally, Acting Chief Executive
Melanie McClements, Acting Director of Older People and Primary Care
Presenting Gerard Rocks, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing

Northern Health & Social Care Trust & Northern Local Commissioning Group

Oscar Donnelly, Director of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Community Wellbeing
Phil Hughes, Director of Community Care

Councillor Burton arrived at 7.05pm
Councillor McAleer arrived at 7.07pm

SC35/17 Apologies

Councillors Bateson, Bell, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mulligan, O'Neill, M Quinn, Robinson, G Shiels and Totten

SC36/17 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

SC37/17 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Ashton acknowledged that the attendance was just reaching the quorum level and with this in mind stated that both presentations would be heard followed by a question answer session.

SC38/17 Health and Social Care Trusts & Local Commissioning Group

The Chair Councillor Ashton welcomed representatives of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) to the meeting. Ms McClements and Mr Rocks delivered a presentation to the meeting. (Appendix one)

The Chair Councillor Ashton welcomed representatives of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) to the meeting. Mr Donnelly and Ms Hughes delivered a presentation to the meeting. (Appendix two)

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked the SHSCT and the NHSCT for their presentations and expressed her thanks to the front line staff from both Trusts who delivered services throughout the district. The Chair invited Members questions.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Agewell and also the Community Plan thematic group Vibrant and Safe Communities.

Councillor Burton thanked both Trusts for their presentations and drew attention to the delivery of care in the home. The Councillor advised that she represented the Clogher Valley area which was geographically rural and thus received queries regarding care packages, the timing in relation to processes in the establishment of the care package, care in nursing homes and bed blocking as a result of delays. With regard to the increase in birth rates Councillor Burton stated that apparently the Southern Trust area was the highest in relation to caesarean sections and asked if there was a birth choice clinic that promotes natural births and related neonatal care.

In response Ms McClements stated that in relation to care packages in the community there were struggles as some clients may require 50 hours per week and others 5 hour per week. It was highlighted that the SHSCT offer the package to independent providers, who are approached in turn, they are permitted 15 minutes to accept the work and if there is no response the Trust contacts the next provider. Ms McClements acknowledged it was particularly difficult for both the Trust and Independent sector to attract the domiciliary care workers required and emphasised that it was an aging workforce. In relation to bed blocking Ms McClements agreed time taken to organise relevant care packages did block beds but that the Trust endeavoured to make the process as swift as possible as delays have no advantage for either party. Ms McClements highlighted that currently she knew of two patients who had remained in hospital yet fit to go home but relevant care packages was not in place. In relation to care homes Ms McClements stated that they too are struggling with workforce issues and achieving standards. Ms McClements advised that on occasions patients are released into care homes prior to returning home.

Ms McClements spoke of the acute care service delivering care in the home and stated that areas of South Down, South Armagh and the Clogher Valley were the last

areas to have the service rolled out and stated it was hoped to have teams, for example, day care enabling teams and dementia teams in place by March 2018. In response to the question surrounding birth rates and caesarean sections Ms McClements stated that the higher birth rate was challenging. Ms McClements also stated she would come back to the Member regarding caesarean sections as she was not in a position to comment other than to acknowledge that all decisions were based on what was best for mother and child and confirmed that the Trust worked to a 'Woman and Family Choice' model.

Councillor Wilson stated that the minor injuries unit provided by the SHSCT in Dungannon was an excellent service and an asset to the people of Cookstown. He also acknowledged that the SHSCT were excellent in keeping Members informed of current situations even though his constituency falls within NHSCT.

Councillor Wilson thanked both Trusts for the presentations but stated that they come on the heel of the proposed cuts and highlighted that Members had attended meetings in relation to same. He further acknowledged that all services highlighted were money driven and welcomed the proposed plans for the revamp of the mental health unit. In relation to the Westland site in Cookstown, Councillor Wilson sought clarity regarding future plans and services.

In response, Mr Donnelly emphasised that the revamp of the mental health unit business case had been submitted to the Department for Health and the NHSCT were awaiting outcome and highlighted that Members support would be welcome. With regard to the Westland site he confirmed that the potential investment in Westland would be in relation to community services and that it was the plan of the NHSCT that all main towns would boast a health and wellbeing centre similar to that in Ballymena. Mr Donnelly emphasised that plans could not come to fruition until there was a Minister in place thus he could not comment on time frames.

Councillor McAleer thanked both Trusts for their presentations and drew attention to domiciliary care packages stating that in speaking to families when acute care was needed, followed for example by nursing home care, people were complaining that they were losing their care packages and asked if personalised budgets was the problem. In relation to workplace health and wellbeing Councillor McAleer asked if the Trusts invested in their own staff health and wellbeing.

Ms McClements, advised that when patients are rehabilitating the first option is to provide relevant domiciliary in their own home but sometimes an interim option is residential homes which is referred to as a 'step down bed' and during this process there was a risk that the current care provider would accept new clients. Ms McClements explained there was a lot of good will but if the acute care was prolonged it presents challenges. In relation to personal budgets Ms McClements stated she could not make comment. With regard to Health and Wellbeing of staff Ms McClements advised there was currently a consultation with regard to same and there was a focus group on health and wellbeing.

Mr Donnelly stated that within the NHSCT region there was a dedicated resource and a range of support programmes. He highlighted examples of staff of adult centres attending 'away days' to focus on their health and wellbeing.

Ms Hughes in relation to domiciliary care issues concurred with the comments of the SHSCT but stated that they have retained 50% of domiciliary care provision in house thus it helped in preventing breakdown of care package provisions.

Councillors Wilson and Reid left the meeting at 7.59pm

The Chair Councillor Ashton thanked the Trust representatives and Members for attending the meeting. The Chair advised the meeting would have to close to as there was no longer a quorum.

SC39/16 Duration of meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00pm, commenced at 7.08pm and ended 7.59pm

CHAIR

DATE
