

Minutes of the 116th meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group held at 2.00pm on Thursday 17th February 2022 via Zoom video link

PRESENT:

Cllr Richard Smart	-	Local Government/Chair
Cllr Terry Andrews	-	Local Government
Cllr Jenny Palmer	-	Local Government
Cllr Alex Swan	-	Local Government
Ms Heather McFarlane	-	PHA, AHP Consultant

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Paul Turley	-	South Eastern Commissioning Lead
Ms Emma Davison	-	South Eastern Commissioning LCG
Ms Sian Campbell	-	Commissioning Officer, South Eastern LCG
Mr Brendan O'Hara	-	Senior Planning & Commissioning Manager (South Eastern LCG)
Miss Hayley Thomas	-	Corporate Business Officer, HSCB
Ms Frances Dowds	-	PHA, Health and Wellbeing Improvement, Belfast and South East Manager

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ms Vivian Blakely

01/22	<p><u>APOLOGIES:</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Mr Michael Taylor, Ms Deirdre Cunningham, Dr James McGlew, Dr Jonathan Howe, Dr Michael Johnson, Ms Kate Fleck, Mr Nicholas McCrickard and Ms Jane McMillan.</p>	
02/22	<p><u>Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks</u></p> <p>The temporary Chair, Councillor Richard Smart welcomed everyone to the 116th public meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group. It was noted that Cllr Smart was fulfilling the role today following the departure of the former Chair, Dr Mark Timoney. Cllr Smart said Dr Timoney had played a very positive role in the SELCG over the previous 2 years, providing strong understanding and leadership and showing much dedication and passion at every meeting.</p>	

03/22

Chairman's Business

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Members confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest in respect of any of the items on the agenda, as listed and should any interests arise during discussion, they would be declared accordingly.

Correspondence

- Commencing, Mr Turley informed the Group of a link shared with him from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to a consultation process being taken forward by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS). The consultation he said is in relation to NIFRS proposals to realign district structures to the eleven Council boundaries in Northern Ireland. The proposed arrangements will improve the opportunities for people to become more involved, through shaping priorities and services, scrutinising the services provided by NIFRS, volunteering and will look at options for problem solving within the community in relation to fire prevention.

In addition, Mr Turley spoke of the importance of the proposed arrangements and how they very much speak to the work promoted by the Health and Social Care system, particularly in relation to health improvement and said the LCG would be very supportive and will be making comment back to NIFRS in relation to the consultation.

- Mr Turley referred to a letter received from Ms Corrina Grimes, Advanced Care Planning Lead, Department of Health, advising of the consultation process underway on a draft Advance Care Planning Policy for Adults in Northern Ireland which opened on 17 December 2021 and will close on 11 March 2022.

He reminded Members that Ms Grimes had joined a previous LCG meeting to provide an update on the work which she was leading on and this has now culminated in the development of this draft Policy. He said a response will be provided on behalf of the LCG to a brief questionnaire which accompanies the consultation.

In addition, it was noted that the Department of Health is offering grant seed money to Community and Voluntary Organisations to help raise the profile of Advance Care Planning. Mr Turley added that he had shared this information with Community Planning colleagues in Ards and North Down Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

- Correspondence has been received from the Local Government Boundary Commissioners for Northern Ireland relating to a Consultation on Revised Recommendations in Relation to Local Government Boundaries.

Mr Turley advised that on reading the correspondence, he did not feel there were specific points of concern which would require a response from the LCG.

- Mr Turley referred to the publication of a Domiciliary Care Audit for Northern Ireland. He explained that this is an annual publication of information collected and includes information such as:
 - the number of Domiciliary Care contracted hours provided each week
 - the number of Domiciliary Care visits provided to clients
 - the number of clients receiving services broken down across the various Health and Social Care Trust areas.

He advised a link to the publication is available and would be shared with Members.

In addition, he said it would be useful to co-ordinate with Ms Jane McMillan, Social Care Lead for Adults and Older People, HSCB at the next meeting to discuss the procurement of services, the relationships with the independent sector and any contractual issues.

Action:
E Davidson /
S Campbell/
J McMillan

Engagements

- It was noted that Mr Turley had met with and is a member of Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Planning Partnership. He advised he will be stepping down from this role on 31 March 2022 as the HSCB will no longer be a statutory partner of the Community Planning Partnerships. At the meeting he had the opportunity to present to them on the Future Planning Model and will be making the same presentation to Ards and North Down Council Community Planning Partnership in the coming week.

A question was asked if this meant there would be no future engagement going forward with the Commissioning Leads or the LCG's in terms of Community Planning. Responding, Mr Turley advised that it is hoped the situation would be quite the opposite and the focus going forward will be on the new planning arrangements and how the Integrated Care System will link with Councils and Community Planning Partnerships.

	<p>The System he said will be designed on the basis of more, not less engagement.</p> <p>He reminded Members of discussion at the morning workshop around the new structures, particularly at area and locality level and how the Community Planning Partnership Forum could be looked upon as one of the key forums at locality level.</p>	
04/22	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on 2nd December 2021</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2021 were approved. The minutes were signed by the Chair.</p>	
05/22	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Turley referred to the previous minutes and where reference was made to a regional meeting of LCG Members which took place on 8th December 2021. He reported that Members would be aware the Health and Social Care Board will cease on 31st March 2021 however, the Local Commissioning Groups will have the opportunity to continue, initially until end of September 2022 on the basis of the work around the Future Planning Model being concluded and legislated for. In addition, if this is not the case then the Department of Health with the Strategic Planning and Performance Group will have the opportunity to re-evaluate with a view to continuing. <p>He also referred to discussion at the morning workshop around contractual issues and Members were informed their contracts would be renewed for an initial six month period. Mr Turley undertook to keep Members informed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Turley reminded members that unfortunately, the planned tours of the Acute Services Block at the Ulster Hospital and the Lisburn Primary and Community Care Centre scheduled for December and January had been cancelled due to the Omicron wave. <p>Ms Davidson undertook to explore the opportunity of rearranging these visits and report back at the next SELCG Meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Palmer expressed her disappointment at not being able to visit the facilities and asked for an update on when the Lisburn Primary and Community Care Centre would be fully operational and how patients registered with the surgeries will be notified.</p>	<p>Action: E Davidson</p>

	<p>In response, Mr Turley said that it is the responsibility of the practices to co-ordinate and communicate with their patients. He advised Members that he sits on the Project Board of the Lisburn Primary and Community Care Centre and a meeting which had been due to take place recently had been cancelled as a result of staffing pressures. He undertook to speak to colleagues in the Trust to clarify a date and communicate back to Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referring to the Cancer Strategy Consultation discussed at the previous meeting Mr Turley noted the work ongoing within cancer services and concerns reported by the media on a regular basis in relation to access to services. A significant piece of work will follow publication of the Cancer Strategy relating to workforce as this is one of the prime constraints faced in delivering the Cancer Strategy. <p>Mr Turley informed Members that he currently Co-Chairs a Group associated with the Cancer Strategy in respect to a Palliative Care workstream which is in the process of costing the number of staff required to support a world class palliative service. He said this is a challenging piece of work and will require a significant number of staff and the cost associated will not be insignificant. Conscious of staffing pressures, Mr Turley said opportunities are being explored around volunteering and how to manage the services on a local and regional basis to counter pressures on the system.</p> <p>In addition, the current Minister is keen to make a statement on the Strategy before he leaves office and clarify issues around budget and requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drawing Members' attention to the note on the Acute Services Block at the Ulster Hospital in the previous minutes, Mr Turley reminded Members of discussion in relation to the commissioning of a number of floors in the block prior to Christmas. The Trust has been transferring services across on a phased approach and most of the floors are now occupied. <p>Referring to the commissioning of the Emergency Department, Mr Turley spoke of the significant size of the building and the high standards in relation to the estate and condition, however he noted challenges around the additional funding and staffing required to support the model and the local and regional consequences of advertising posts and drawing staff away from other fragile ED's.</p> <p>He added that discussions are ongoing with colleagues on how</p>	<p>Action: P Turley</p>
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best to take this work forward and safely commission the Emergency Department as soon as possible.

Commenting, Councillor Jenny Palmer conveyed concerns regarding services in the South Eastern Trust area, referring in particular to delays in Cataract Services. She asked if there was a way to be kept abreast of timelines and delays within the system.

In response, Mr Turley directed Cllr Palmer to the Department of Health and the Health and Social Care Board websites adding there is a sharp focus on aspects of performance and Performance Reports are tabled at the monthly Board Meetings.

In addition, he advised a piece of work is ongoing in relation to cataracts and other elective services, looking at regionalising these services and said Members would be aware of the problems surrounding waiting lists at present adding it is important to note how patients on waiting lists and the lists themselves are looked at in terms of clinical priority with validation processes undertaken at Trust level to ensure individuals are seen in a timely manner dependent on the status of their condition.

Mr Turley invited comments/question from Members and the following points were noted:-

- Cllr Swan and Cllr Andrews asked questions in relation to GP services, in particular improving communication between GP's and patients, where the GP has made a referral to hospital and the reopening of GP services post COVID. In response Mr Turley noted that it was unfortunate that no GP representatives were available but advised he is involved with a review by RQIA which is focussed on reviewing outpatient services in Trusts. One of the issues highlighted he said was around communication between hospital and patient and hospital and GP and how Practices communicate with their patients. He said there are opportunities for digital solutions in relation to communication.
- Responding to the query regarding the reopening of GP Practices, Mr Turley said it was important to note that GP Practices have never closed, and they like everyone else had been working differently over the past two years. He reminded Members of the virtual and telephone consultations and how these have had a positive response. However, the difficulty connecting to practices, often requiring a significant number of calls within a small window of opportunity to book an appointment

- Mr Turley updated Members of work ongoing at Lagan Valley Hospital as discussed at the previous meeting in relation to pressures faced in respect of medical middle grade rotas. He said Members would be aware that the Trust was required to put arrangements in place to address these issues which included reducing the opening times and putting the phone first system in place. These changes were approved by the Minister and both the Minister and Department of Health will be kept apprised of developments. On this basis, Mr Turley has been providing a monthly report to the HSCB Chief Executive and the Department of Health.

Cllr Palmer commended the Phone First Service at Lagan Valley Hospital and noted positive feedback from her own personal experience and that of constituents. The information provided by way of 43,000 leaflets distributed to residential homes in the Lisburn area and notice boards to inform the public of the phone first service was also praised.

Ms McFarlane said it is encouraging to hear such positive feedback and asked if based on the success of the phone first service at Lagan Valley, are there plans to roll this service out to the Emergency Department at the Ulster Hospital?

In response, Mr Turley advised that there are plans under the No More Silos Project and the development of Urgent Care Centres. In terms of No More Silos (NMS) in the South Eastern area he said the focus had been very much on the Downe Hospital and now the Lagan Valley Hospital in the context of the recent changes. The next Phase of NMS in the South East will see the development of an Urgent Care Model

He also said Members would be aware of a publication due on the Review of Urgent and Emergency Care in Northern Ireland which will highlight the Urgent Care Centre Model and will sit alongside the ED Model.

Furthermore, Mr Turley reported on a monthly rolling questionnaire the Trust have in place regarding the Phone First Service where the questionnaire results continue to report a 95% overall satisfaction rating of the phone first triage process.

Concluding discussion, Mr Turley reminded Members that this is an interim arrangement and the Trust will be launching a consultation in the coming weeks, the outcome of which will inform the position and a decision of what the Model will look

	<p>like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reference to a question asked by Councillor Eastwood at the previous meeting regarding Adult Autism Services, Mr Turley advised that he had responded in regard to the particular issue. 	
06/22	<p>Report by Commissioning Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation by South Eastern Trust into their work around Population Planning at the morning workshop was noted. The presentation Mr Turley said was very positive. He informed Members he had been in contact with the Interim Director of Planning at the Trust and discussed opportunities for workshops in the coming months and undertook to keep Members apprised. • Referring to the end of year budget, Mr Turley warned the overall picture in terms of resources and budget looking ahead to the 2022/23 year is quite bleak. However, he added the HSCB Chief Executive is very keen to gather all the resources available to the HSCB as a commissioning organisation into the system and out to Trusts. Commissioning staff have been exceptionally busy over the past months in getting contracts, IPTs and available funding associated with these out to the SE Trust and available for services. • The budgetary situation for 2022/23 is still unclear and is not helped by the Executive situation. • Minister is very focussed on waiting lists and how these are dealt with. When new Minister takes up post he/she will review key priorities. 	

<p>07/22</p>	<p><u>Questions / Discussion with the public on local health issues</u></p> <p>A member of the public, Ms Vivian Blakely joined briefly at the beginning of the meeting and advised the Group that although it was her intention to stay for the entirety of the meeting unfortunately due to circumstances involving the contract with her care provider and the local Trust being cancelled without any notice she would have to leave to make arrangements for her own care for the following day and the foreseeable future. Ms Blakely said the Trust need to look at their contracts more closely as there is no provision.</p> <p>Cllr Smart advised Ms Blakely that the Group would do what it could outside of this platform.</p> <p>Mr Turley undertook to contact colleagues in the SE Trust to get an understanding of the current situation with the care provider and make contact with Ms Blakely to see what support could be offered.</p> <p>Councillor Andrews praised Ms Blakely for joining the meeting to explain her situation and how she is affected personally and said he would appreciate any help or support the LCG could provide.</p>	
<p>08/22</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion took place regarding the possibility of a hybrid approach to meetings, when face to face meetings return as it may benefit members of the public who would still like to engage but are unable to travel. It was agreed to explore opportunities available. • Members were advised that an Expression of Interest form will be issued and will give all appointed Members the opportunity to apply for the Interim Chair position. Mr Turley urged Members to give consideration to role. • Cllr Smart said he would like to formally record his appreciation on behalf of Ards and North Down Council to Mr Turley and Dr Howe, saying Members may recall the Council were notified by the Home Office at very short notice there would be somewhere in the region of fifty asylum seekers seeking refugee status coming into the Borough with no means of health care, language support or GP engagement and the valuable input and engagement from Mr Turley and Dr Howe to ensure Practices were engaged was very much appreciated. Mr Turley said it would be useful to hear from Dr Howe and get some insight into the issues he was able to deal with at a future meeting. • Concluding the meeting, Councillor Smart thanked Members for the opportunity to Chair the meeting. 	

09/22	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> The next meeting will take place on Thursday 7 th April 2022.	

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____