

**Meeting of the  
Southern Local Commissioning Group  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 2 pm held in Boardroom Tower  
Hill, Armagh**

**Present**

Dr Gerry Millar, (Chair) General Medical Practitioner  
Cllr Sharon McAleer, Local Government Representative  
Dr Brian Cupples, General Medical Practitioner  
Cllr Declan McAteer, Local Government Representative  
Cllr Kyle Savage, Local Government Representative  
Mrs Geraldine Teague, Allied Health Professional, PHA  
Dr Leonard Maguire, Medical Dental Representative  
Dr Ian Campbell, General Medical Practitioner  
Mr Liam Devine, Community/Voluntary Representative

**In Attendance**

Miss Sophie Lusby, Assistant Director Commissioning, SPPG  
Ms Patricia McVeigh, Senior Communications Officer, SPPG  
Mrs Hazel Gillis, Corporate Business Officer, SPPG

**Apologies**

Mrs Shirley McReynolds, Corporate Business Manager, SPPG  
Dr Raymond McVerry, General Medical Practitioner  
Ms Rose McHugh, Nurse Consultant, PHA  
Cllr Robert Colvin, Local Government Representative  
Mrs Colette Rogers, Head of Health/Social Wellbeing Improvement  
(Southern area), PHA

**16/22 Welcome and Opening Remarks – Chair**

The Chair welcomed members to the Southern Local Commissioning Group (LCG) in June and acknowledged apologies for today's meeting.

**17/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were approved by all present and signed by the Chair.

## **18/22 Matters Arising**

The Chair confirmed there were no outstanding matters from the previous meeting.

## **19/22 Chairs Business**

The Chair informed members of the recent retirements within the Southern LCG. On behalf of all the members the Chair would like to thank and note our appreciation to Mrs Shirley McReynolds, Mr Colin Bradley and Mr Kieran McShane and to congratulate Ms Rose McHugh on her retirement at the end of June.

The Chair informed members of the new Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) structures and the continuation of the LCGs until further notice.

Miss Lusby advised members of the new Permanent Secretary Mr Peter May and referred to the Public Health Agency (PHA) working through a significant internal review. It was noted that the Regional Integrated Care System Executive will be responsible for the five Area Integrated Partnership Boards and work will progress over the Summer.

## **20/22 Mobile Frailty Service**

Dr Gerry Millar brought a presentation to members on the mobile x-ray van project which would reduce the numbers of people attending Emergency Departments (ED).

With 60% of people going through chemotherapy, Dr Millar explained that there were more falls reported and consideration then progressed to frailty. Frailty included shortness of breath, dementia, depression, required carers or nursing home care and it signified a decline in functional capacity in the elderly.

Dr Millar referred to the Marie Curie mobile x-ray van which saved lives and limbs during the first World War. Dr Millar explained the pressures on the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) and this project was aimed to alleviate the pressures in ED. The project was designed to send a mobile x-ray van to the nursing homes with a Radiographer, trained nurse and practitioner. They would assess and treat minor injuries, x-ray the patient which would be linked to ED and receive an instant report.

In Galway a pilot was carried out on a mobile x-ray van, the summary of statistics illustrated the average age of the patients were 87years old, many had Dementia, 95% would have required ambulance

transfer and all would have required a minimum of one escort. Within this study there were 11% of those that required transfer and 88% avoided transfer to ED.

In conclusion, Dr Millar stated the mobile tele-radiography Fall service of Nursing homes and at-home patients were of comparable quality to hospital based examinations, with assessment and treatment in a timely manner. There were clear potential benefits such as reducing ambulance transfers to and from hospital, decreased ED footfall, and decreased hospitalisation due to unfamiliar environments causing confusion or Delirium. It was also noted that there would be benefits for the Acute Care at Home and Multi-Disciplinary Teams and GPs. It showed opportunities to increased virtual links and culture with nursing homes for follow ups.

Following a question and answer sessions Dr Millar clarified how the calls would be triaged, a single telephone number would be issued for control point of entry by a trained doctor and assessed by a paramedic and radiographer when the van arrived. Miss Lusby advised that an outline service specification would be developed to ensure this service would take the pressure of NIAS and ED and provide an improved service to the frail and elderly.

Dr Millar and Miss Lusby assured members they would provide an update at the next meeting.

## **21/22 Urgent and Emergency Care Services Consultation**

Miss Lusby reminded members of the unscheduled care pressures which initiated a review in 2018. The publication was delayed due to COVID-19. The No More Silos Action Plan was published in October 2020 and the updated review was presented to the Minister in late 2021 and approved for consultation. The full consultation was launched 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and closed 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The Review findings identified eight key themes, accessibility, co-ordination, Standardisation, Silos, barriers and poor communication, workforce and training, Capacity and flow, Inefficient system and Building on good practice.

The Review set out three strategic priorities;

1. Creating and integrated urgent and emergency care service;
2. Capacity, co-ordination and performance;
3. Intermediate care, a regionalised approach.

Miss Lusby concluded to identify the next steps following the public consultation final proposals submitted by the Minister. This will include an implementation plan and identification of long term funding requirements. Governance and Accountability structures would be

developed to provide a strategic oversight and No More Silos Network would remain in place within these structures.

Following a question and answer session members recognised the concerns with capacity in General Practice to deal with the demand, there was a need for alternative contact pathways to avoid referring patients to ED. There was a requirement to promote 'Phone First' and 'Urgent Care' process to both the public and General Practice.

## **22/22 Commissioner Update**

Miss Lusby informed members of the new appointment within commissioning, Mrs Merissa McGeary, Senior Commissioning Manager.

Miss Lusby reminded members that the Emergency Surgery Service in Daisy Hill Hospital was suspended on 28 February 2022 and patients had been referred to Craigavon Area Hospital. The interim arrangements had been working well. However, this would require public consultation lead by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) and was proposed to commence early July 2022.

**Action:** An invitation would be extended to SHSCT to bring an update to the Southern LCG workshop in September 2022.

Miss Lusby advised of the internal SHSCT structure changes, Ms Melanie McClements, Director of Acute Services planned to retire at the end of August 2022. Miss Lusby and Dr Millar will schedule weekly meetings with Dr Maria O'Kane, Chief Executive. There was ongoing recruitment within the SHSCT Directorates.

Miss Lusby advised of the Urology Public Enquiry which had commenced and a chair had been appointed, this will have a bearing on work within SPPG in the future.

The next Community Partnership Board was scheduled for next week, it met bi annually and Ms Jennie Dunlop and Mrs Colette Rogers would attend on behalf of the Southern LCG.

Miss Lusby stated that an agenda item on Estates and improvements in Primary Care will be brought to the next meeting in September 2022.

**Action:** An Invitation would be extended to the Estates Team to attend the next meeting in September 2022 and it was proposed to invite colleagues to bring an update on Dental Services.

**23/22 Closing Remarks & Any Other Business**

The Chair asked members to forward any further comments on discussion from items on the agenda to Miss Lusby.

**24/22 Date of Next meeting**

The Chair confirmed date of next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 2.00pm.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_