

# **SCOTTISH HEALTH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Health Council held on Thursday 08 June, 2006**

Present: Brian Beacom, Chairman

Kate Alexander  
Anne Brown  
Irene Garden  
Sue Kinsey  
Agnes Robson

In Attendance: Richard Norris, Director  
Catherine Tait, PA to Director and Chairman

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Jackie Malcolm.

### **2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman and Director have now met with NHS Ayrshire & Arran who have been engaging in a major consultation exercise. The Chairman and Director also met with the Chairman and Chief Executive and senior managers from NHS Lanarkshire to discuss the progress made on their consultation and what further consultation should take place.

The Chairman and Director have now visited NHS Orkney and NHS Western Isles which has now completed all geographical visits to NHS Boards. On all of these visits we discussed the role of the Scottish Health Council and our desire to work in partnership with Boards.

### **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April, 2006 were approved by Council as an accurate record.

#### **4 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Director advised the Council that the Scottish Executive have agreed to extend the Draft Corporate Plan submission date and also that the years covered by the plan would be 2007/12.

The Corporate Planning Meeting is being scheduled as a two day event to discuss annual assessments; the draft corporate plan; the structure and role of Local Advisory Councils; significant service change; and other matters. The Beardmore Conference Centre will be the venue for this event.

##### **Accommodation Policy**

Following on from a question from Irene Garden at the last meeting about the percentage of disabled staff and if there is any support for staff with mental health issues, the Director advised that no staff have disclosed having a disability but they are not obliged to disclose this information. NHS Quality Improvement Scotland have a draft equality policy (which will include Scottish Health Council) which they are presently consulting on. Occupational health support is available through an external source e.g. a counselling line.

#### **5 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A written report was circulated (Paper No 1).

#### **6 SIGNIFICANT SERVICE CHANGE, NHS BORDERS**

The Chairman introduced Christine Johnstone, Regional Manager East who presented a paper regarding significant service change in the Borders.

The Chairman stated that this paper represented a significant amount of work, which had been undertaken in a very short space of time, and staff and Local Advisory Council members should be congratulated on this achievement. Christine stated that this had been a positive experience for staff and Local Advisory Council members working together.

There was considerable discussion in respect of this report, and members suggested that a flow chart diagram with dates would be useful to help readers of the report understand the process, and it was agreed this would be incorporated within the report.

The Council approved this document noting that some aspects of the consultation could have been tackled in a more effective way. However, it is accepted that this has been very much a learning curve and an opportunity to improve future practice.

The Chairman thanked Christine for her presentation and she left the meeting at 11.30am.

## **7 RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO NATIONAL COUNCIL**

The Director presented a paper and underlined the central point that it is necessary to have one member from each of the three Regions on the National Council. It was agreed that interested Local Advisory Council members should be invited to nominate themselves for selection to the National Council and that there will be an interview process following the same procedures as those used for the National Council members. The interview panel will consist of the Chairman, the Director and one external person. The issue of asking for references was discussed, in view of the fact that applicants will already have provided references in applying to be members of Local Advisory Councils. However this is a very different role with remuneration and therefore references could play an important role. It was agreed that references would be requested and the Interview Panel would decide on whether these would be pursued.

## **8 LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS**

There was a brief discussion regarding the original project team proposal to appoint convenors to Local Advisory Councils. However after discussion it was agreed that we would not proceed with the appointment of convenors as in the light of experience over the first year this role was no longer seen as appropriate for the work and function of Local Advisory Councils. Local staff were in place to give any necessary support to Local Advisory Council members, and local meetings should always have staff in attendance to provide this support. It was agreed that further discussion with Regional Managers and Regional Officers would take place at the Corporate Planning Meeting.

## **9 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY**

The Director advised that annual assessment reports will be submitted to Council for information and discussion. Agnes Robson was keen that these reports are used appropriately to provide constructive criticism and feedback to Boards.

Kate Alexander asked why reports referred to “different ethnic minority backgrounds”. The Chairman advised that there are many different ethnic groups and that each group is keen to be recognised for their own culture.

**10 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT SHETLAND**

Council noted.

**11 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

Council noted.

**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 10 August, 2006

Signed: .....

Brian Beacom  
Chairman Scottish Health Council

Date: .....