

# **SCOTTISH HEALTH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Health Council held on Thursday 10 August, 2006**

Present: Brian Beacom, Chairman

Kate Alexander  
Anne Brown  
Irene Garden  
Sue Kinsey  
Jacquie Malcolm  
Agnes Robson

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

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman was invited to officially open the new Carer's Centre at the State Hospital in his capacity as Chairman of the Scottish Health Council. He advised that at this visit it was highlighted that all carers are not relatives of patients. A carer can be from a voluntary organisation representing a patient who may not have family members to take on this role. The process of entering the State Hospital in the past has been quite intimidating for security reasons. This new Centre, located by the reception area, has been designed well with improvements such as tea/coffee making facilities, play area for children giving a much more comfortable environment. This was a very worthwhile visit.

The Chairman and Director attended an outcomes/scoring event organised by NHS Ayrshire & Arran on Saturday 05 August, 2006. This event took place in Irvine and lasted from 09.30am – 4.30pm, and gave the public an opportunity to express their preferences regarding the location of the accident and emergency centre. The Scottish Health Council were attending as observers. Ayrshire & Arran will be holding a further event to obtain the views of clinicians. Agnes Robson asked if these scoring events will have weight on final decisions and whether they can be regarded as representative. The Director confirmed these events are advisory – the decision is made by the Board, and that

although not totally representative they should be able to provide a general indication of public views.

The Chairman commented that this kind of event does identify the need to consult at the very beginning of a consultation and it is imperative to make clear we have no role in the actual decision but to ensure the process is carried out properly. Agnes Robson enquired about existing guidance and the need to make more emphasis on developing options. Further discussion regarding guidance is ongoing with Scottish Executive Health Department. Once the existing guidance on consultations, circulated in draft form by the Scottish Executive Health Department has been confirmed, the Scottish Health Council will have a role in developing and refining the guidance.

### **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 08 June, 2006 were approved by Council as an accurate record with one amendment from Agnes Robson regarding the date of the Corporate Planning Meeting.

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

#### **Recruitment of Local Advisory Council Members to National Council**

The closing date for application to National Council membership is on 11 August, 2006. To date the following number of applications have been received:

- West Region - 7
- North Region - 8
- East Region - 8

A short list will be drawn up and interviews will be held in September, 2006.

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

The Director highlighted additional information further to the written report previously circulated (Paper No 1)

#### **Annual Review Meetings**

The Scottish Health Council has been working with Boards to provide the Minister with the opportunity to meet with patients during his Annual Review Days at NHS Boards. Feedback from the Scottish Executive is that so far these meetings have been successful.

## **Regional Planning**

The Director advised that there may be a further significant service change consultation, concerning a forensic unit in the East of Scotland, which is due to start in October, 2006. He is awaiting further information on this in due course.

## **DVD**

In response to a question regarding the DVD, the Chairman informed Council that the filming for the Scottish Health Council DVD is now complete and progress is now being made. Suggestions have been made to the voiceover and input from the Scottish Health Council has been incorporated within the DVD. Amendments have been made to describe the role more accurately of Local Advisory Council members. Members enquired if this would be distributed at the Parliamentary Reception and would members see the DVD before release? Details of the Launch are still to be decided, although this will be a separate event from the Parliamentary Reception, and the members will have the opportunity to view the DVD before release.

## **6 ROLE & REMIT OF LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS**

### **Local Advisory Councils Working Paper and Code of Conduct (Tabled at meeting)**

An amended Draft Working Paper was circulated which has been previously approved by Council last year. Minor changes have been made to this paper in response to feedback comments, and it has been updated.

Council approved this amended working paper.

The Code of Conduct for Local Advisory Council members has also been amended as a result of the decision at the last Council meeting not to proceed with the appointment of convenors.

Council approved this amended Code of Conduct.

The Chairman advised Council following from the Corporate Planning Meeting that it was apparent that further clarification is needed regarding the role and remit of Local Advisory Council members. Feedback from Regional Managers and Officers is that they very much welcome this clarification. The amended papers will be sent to Local Advisory Council members and local staff with a covering letter from the Chairman.

**ACTION:** The Chairman to write to members of Local Advisory Councils, clarifying their role and remit, enclosing the amended and updated Code of Conduct and Working Paper.

**7 REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT SERVICE CHANGE NHS LANARKSHIRE  
“A Picture of Health” Consultation**

The Chairman thanked Members for comments on the Significant Service Change Report for NHS Lanarkshire “A Picture of Health”. A letter has been received from Ken Corsar, Chairman of NHS Lanarkshire acknowledging receipt of the report’s conclusions and recommendations for future consultation. A request from Lewis Macdonald MSP, Deputy Minister for Health & Community Care has been received for further information on the options development process followed by NHS Lanarkshire and the Chairman has sent a further letter setting out our views on this process.

**8 DRAFT REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT SERVICE CHANGE  
GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE’S CONSULTATION ON THE  
PROPOSAL FOR A NEW CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**

Council acknowledged the unique circumstances around this consultation, and felt it important that recommendations should be based on evidence included in the report. It was agreed that the Director would check that the report did contain reference to the subjects discussed in the first recommendation and amend if necessary.

**ACTION:** The Director to ensure that recommendations are based on evidence included in the report. Subject to appropriate changes the report was approved by Council.

**9 DRAFT REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT SERVICE CHANGE CONSULTATION  
BY NHS GRAMPIAN**

Council discussed the draft report on Significant Service Change for NHS Grampian. It was agreed to reword the conclusion and add a further sentence to ensure that the line of reasoning used in arriving at our conclusion is properly evident.

**ACTION:** Richard Norris to reword and amend Conclusion. Council approved the report subject to agreed amendments.

**10 FINANCE**

The Chairman asked if there were any comments or questions on the budget report. Agnes Robson asked why there was no cost under research. The Director advised that research funding had been allocated from last year’s budget and that there were no plans to fund new research projects in this financial year.

**11 ANNUAL REVIEW REPORTS**

These were enclosed for information.

- Scottish Ambulance Service
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- NHS Lanarkshire
- NHS Lothian

**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 12 October, 2006

The Chairman is hoping that the new members currently being recruited would be attending the October meeting. The Chairman informed Council that meetings for 2007 will take place in different geographical locations around Scotland.

Signed: .....

Brian Beacom  
Chairman Scottish Health Council

Date: .....