

Minutes of the Scottish Health Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 9th October 2008
in Meeting Room 1, 4th Floor, Delta House, Glasgow

Present:	Brian Beacom MBE	Chairman
	Anne Brown	Council Member
	Margaret Fiskin	Council Member
	Irene Garden	Council Member
	Steve Graham	Council Member
	Pauline Hamilton	Council Member
	Lorna Hutcheson	Council Member
	Agnes Robson	Council Member
	David Weatherill	Council Member
In Attendance:	Richard Norris	Director
	Rachel Howe	Interim PA to Director and Chairman
Apologies:	Jacquie Malcolm	Council Member

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received as above. The Chairman advised the Council that he had been reappointed by the Cabinet Secretary for a further 4 years as Chairman of the Scottish Health Council and a Board Member of NHS QIS.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman outlined activity since the last Council meeting. All Scottish Health Council staff had been involved in preparations and reporting work for the Annual Review held on the 23rd of September 2008. He then summarised the various meetings and events attended since the last meeting:

- Local Advisory Council Member's Role Working Group meeting. The Chairman noted that there would be no more meetings of this group until the Independent Review of the Scottish Health Council was completed.
- NHS Chairs Meeting
- Closing the Loop - Patient Experience Meeting
- NHS Chairs Event
- Steering Group Meeting
- CSPP Health and Wellbeing Dinner
- Annual Review
- Scottish Health Awards Judging Panel

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 7th August 2008.

The title of point 7 should read 'service' not 'servcie'.

Subject to this change, the minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2008 were approved by Council as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

4.1 Service Level Agreements

The Director has discussed this matter with the Scottish Medicines Consortium who have a Service Level Agreement with QIS. SMC staff said that this had been useful initially but was very general. Council members did not believe that there needed to be a Service Level Agreement between QIS and the Scottish Health Council but there should be an understanding between the organisations of what each expected. The Chairman said that the level of service being provided by QIS had improved in recent months.

4.2 Greater Glasgow and Clyde Reports

The Director thanked Council members for their responses to the Clyde "Inpatient Disability and Balance of Older People's Care in Johnstone" hospital papers. He said the general feeling was that the papers were easy to read and no substantive changes had been made to the drafts. Comment was made that perhaps the Scottish Health Council's points could have been emphasised more. The Director replied that the aim was to focus on how Boards actively followed Scottish Health Council Guidance and what happened as a result.

5. Director's Report

5.1 The Director reported that over the past two months he had been heavily involved with both the external review and annual review of the Scottish Health Council. He was keen to get a timescale agreed with staff and the Boards regarding assessment verification for 2008/09 before Christmas. Meetings to facilitate this have been arranged for early December and timescales are unlikely to vary from last year.

5.2 The Director then gave the Council a verbal update on pertinent meetings and events he had attended since the last Council meeting:

- Senior Management Team Meeting
- Complaints and Patient Involvement Conference
- CSPP Health & Wellbeing Dinner
- Annual Review
- EQIA Meeting
- Steering Group Meeting

5.3 The Director added that he had been invited to join the Mutuality, Equality and Human Rights Board and had accepted this remit.

5.4 The Director updated the Council on feedback from the Major Service Change criteria document which had now been collected. In general, comments from members of the public and community groups had been favourable but Boards reactions were mixed. He noted that some slight adjustments could still be made but the criteria would not fundamentally change.

5.5 The Director circulated “An Overview of NHS Boards’ Patient Focus and Public Involvement activity – 2007/08” and requested comments on the paper before 17 October 2008. It was agreed that Rachel Howe would send an electronic copy of the report to Council members in order to share comments between Council members more easily.

Rachel
Howe

6. Budget

6.1 The Council discussed the layout of the budget paper, and the possibility of adding a column to show projected variance on budget estimates by the year end but it was agreed that the better/worse column addresses this.

6.2 The Council agreed that it would be useful to know about forward plans for budget spends to enable budgets to be moved about and used more effectively. The Director said he would collect reports from each budget holder and incorporate this into his next Director’s Report.

The
Director

7. Annual Review

The Chairman reported the Annual Review had gone very well and that feedback from Shona Robison, Minister for Public Health, on her meeting with the stakeholders group was positive. The Chairman then gave an overview of the presentation he had introduced at the annual review. Council members who attended the annual review commented that copies of written questions submitted were not handed out to attendees and at times it was difficult to hear certain speakers but there were no major concerns overall. The Chairman informed the Council that a letter from the Minister was expected to arrive around 6 weeks after the review completion and this would be circulated to all Council Members once received.

8. Report on NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Maternity Services

The Director explained that this report was concise as the issues were already covered by the Independent Scrutiny Panel Report and as no Major Service Change occurred only a short summary report was necessary.

The Council approved the Scottish Health Council’s report on NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Maternity Services.

9. Report on NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Consultation on Modernising and Improving Mental Health Services across Clyde

The Director ran through the report with the Council. The Council agreed the report was well written, easy to understand and contained many good recommendations.

The Council approved the Scottish Health Council's report on NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Consultation on Modernising and Improving Mental Health Services Across Clyde.

10. Patients Rights Bill Consultation

Copies of the Scottish Health Council's policy briefing on the "Scottish Government consultation on a Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland" were circulated. The Director requested that Council members look at the paper and formulate opinions before the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 27 November 2008

Signed by:

Chairman of the Scottish Health Council

Date: