

Minutes of the Scottish Health Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 2nd April 2009
in Meeting Room 1, 4th Floor, Delta House, Glasgow

Present:

Brian Beacom MBE	Chairman
Anne Brown	Council Member
Margaret Fisker	Council Member
Irene Garden	Council Member
Steve Graham	Council Member
Pauline Hamilton	Council Member
Lorna Hutcheson	Council Member

In Attendance:

Richard Norris	Director
Linda Bickerton	PA to Director and Chairman

Apologies:

Jacque Malcolm	Council Member
Agnes Robson	Council Member
David Weatherill	Council Member

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received as above.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented feedback from his attendance at recent meetings and events.

2.1 Accountability of the Health Service in Scotland Event

The Chairman was a Speaker at the above event which was organised by the Socialist Alliance for Health. The meeting was also attended by Bill Butler MSP and was an interesting forum although the Trade Union representatives were fairly negative about Health Boards. The Chairman gave an update on Scottish Health Council activities and the current outlook.

2.2 NHS Chairs Meeting

Current NHS statistical results were discussed at this meeting and it would appear that most targets had been met. Any particular areas of difficulty will be highlighted and investigated more fully.

2.3 QIS Board Meeting

It was confirmed at this meeting that the proposed inclusion of the Mental Welfare Commission in the new Health Scrutiny Body has been put on “pause” for now.

2.4 Half Yearly Update Meeting with Andrew MacLeod of SG

The Chairman and Director met with Andrew MacLeod, Head of Patients & Quality, to discuss progress on the Workplan and Action Plan.

2.5 NHS 24

The Chairman met with John Turner the new Chief Executive of NHS 24 on an introductory basis and agreed that it is important for NHS 24 to be involved in patient focus and public involvement.

2.6 Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board

The Chairman met with Tom Divers the Chief Executive for a general catch up and discuss the Vale of Leven reporting process. Conclusion was that they had taken our advice on board and picked up on better ways to do things in future.

2.7 NHS Chairs Meeting

The Chairman received feedback from the team on Vale of Leven process – they were impressed with what had been achieved in six months.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 12th February 2009.

3.1 Item 4.1 Small Grants Scheme

First sentence – take out “were” from “whether there were had been..”

3.2 Item 5.1 Assessment Overview Report

Second sentence – change “as helps them understand” to “as this helps them to understand..”

After agreeing the above amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2009 were approved by Council as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

4.1 Previous 5.4 – NHS Complaints Procedure

The Chairman explained that this process was still ongoing, we await a sign off from the researchers and Scottish Government. Once we have completion the paper will be forwarded to Council Members.

Steve Graham said that feedback he was picking up from patients showed that they felt there was a gap in the complaints procedure. People do not actually want to complain officially but don't have a mechanism to sit down with someone if they wish to make comments.

The Director commented that all Boards should already have mechanisms in place to deal with feedback on a separate basis from formal complaints. The Chairman added that while we are not responsible for complaint handling we do need to ensure that there is a robust system in place.

5. Director's Report

5.1 Secondment Extension

The Director informed the Council Members that we have agreed a further extension of one year to the secondment of Sandra McDougall from SAMH. Sandra will continue to work on Option Appraisal, Major Service Change, Scrutiny Panels and co-ordinate the Workplan.

5.2 Participation Standard

We are working closely with QIS on this Standard which is due to be in place by September 2009.

5.3 Health & Homelessness Event

Positive outcome from this event is that we will be working with QIS to set up a Network for Boards to keep in touch with homelessness groups.

6. Finance

6.1 A Financial Summary for 2008/09 and a Budget for 2009/10 had been distributed. The Director explained that advertising costs had gone up as this now included recruitment costs. QIS had originally been paying for recruitment advertising but we would now pick up our own costs.

6.2 Steve Graham asked whether the budget would need redistribution on the basis of the organisation redesign. The Chairman confirmed that the budget will need to be realigned with the Action Plan once the action plan is agreed although we do have to ensure that we continue to fit within existing costs.

6.3 Irene Garden asked for a breakdown of the SLA headline costs. The Director explained that this was for a part share of the SLA QIS hold with National Services Scotland for payroll services and also covers janitorial services.

7. Workplans

Sandra McDougall joined the meeting.

The Workplan for 2008/09 had been circulated previously for information and outlined actions from this plan to be carried forward as follows:-

7.1 Aim 4. Item 10

Action Plan implementation and development – ongoing throughout 2009

7.2 Aim 4. Item 11

Work towards achieving the Investing in Volunteers Standard by March 2011 – ongoing. To work on links with Volunteer Development Scotland.

7.3 Workplan 2009 – 2010

The draft workplan for 2009 – 2010 was circulated previously Sandra McDougall explained that whilst a lot of the aims are similar to last year in respect of long term work specific actions will have changed.

The workplan is a standing item for discussion at regular Senior Management Team meetings where objectives are agreed and actions prioritised as necessary. The Director's report would be utilised to flag up any issues which need raised at Council Meetings.

When this Workplan is finalised and agreed with the Scottish Government it will be circulated further.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 11th June 2009

Signed by:



Chairman of the Scottish Health Council

Date: 2 April 2009