

95th Meeting of the Public Health Agency Board

Thursday 21 September 2017 at 1:30pm

Conference Rooms 3+4, 12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast

Present

Mr Andrew Dougal	- Chair
Mrs Valerie Watts	- Interim Chief Executive
Mr Edmond McClean	- Interim Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Operations
Dr Carolyn Harper	- Director of Public Health/Medical Director
Mrs Eleanor Ross	- Nurse Consultant (<i>on behalf of Mrs Mary Hinds</i>)
Councillor William Ashe	- Non-Executive Director
Mr Brian Coulter	- Non-Executive Director
Mr Leslie Drew	- Non-Executive Director
Mr Thomas Mahaffy	- Non-Executive Director
Ms Deepa Mann-Kler	- Non-Executive Director
Alderman Paul Porter	- Non-Executive Director

In Attendance

Mr Paul Cummings	- Director of Finance, HSCB
Mrs Cathy McAuley	- Secretariat

Apologies

Mrs Mary Hinds	- Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals
Mrs Fionnuala McAndrew	- Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB
Mrs Joanne McKissick	- External Relations Manager, PCC

61/17 | Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

- 61/17.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Mrs Mary Hinds, Mrs Fionnuala McAndrew and Mrs Joanne McKissick.
- 61/17.2 The Chair advised that Mrs Eleanor Ross was attending on behalf of Mrs Hinds and that members of the public were in attendance and welcomed them to today's meeting.

62/17 | Item 2 – Northern Ireland AAA Screening Programme Annual Report 2015/16 (PHA/04/09/17)

- 62/17.1 The Chair welcomed Dr Stephen Bergin and Mrs Jacqueline McDevitt to the meeting.

- 62/17.2 Mrs McDevitt advised that this was the fourth Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Report and represented the year 2015/16. She added that the Belfast HSC Trust is responsible for the management and delivery of the programme.
- 62/17.3 Mrs McDevitt tabled a paper outlining a collaborative working initiative 'AAA) Screening a four nations approach' and gave a brief verbal overview of the report which encapsulated the highlights for 2015/16 and the key challenges and future initiatives for 2016/17.
- 62/17.4 The Chair congratulated the AAA Screening team for achieving such a very positive participation rate.
- 62/17.5 Mrs Mann-Kler asked if the programme have any data on the incidence of AAAs detected within the prison population. Mrs McDevitt advised that she would liaise with programme team colleagues and report back to members.
- 62/17.6 Alderman Paul Porter asked if the programme anticipate any challenges with regard to ensuring screening invitations reached eligible men resident in care homes, particularly single men without family or relations. Mrs McDevitt advised that she would liaise with programme team colleagues and report back to members.
- 62/17.7 Members noted the AAA Screening Programme Report.
- 63/17 Item 3 - Declaration of Interests**
- 63/17.1 The Chair asked if anyone had interests to declare relevant to any items on the agenda. No interests were declared.
- 64/17 Item 4 – Minutes of previous meeting held on 17 August 2017**
- 64/17.1 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17 August 2017, were **approved** subject to the following minor amendments:
 51/17.3 - Minor typo on the first line should read “no gain without pain”
 54/17.2 - Mr Cummings to revise form of words
- 65/17 Item 5 – Matters Arising**
- 53/17.3
 65/17.1 Rural proofing training to be arranged for non-executives in advance of the implementation of the new statutory arrangements.
- 57/17.3
 65/17.2 Mrs McAndrew to share outputs from the TIG working group on social care procurement clauses.

66/17 Item 6 – Chair’s Business

- 66/17.1 A paper on the Chair’s business was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 66/17.2 The Chair informed members that he had met with Dr Liz Gaulton, Acting Director of Public Health in Coventry. She informed the Chair that there had been very considerable population changes in Coventry with many new jobs being created. Another important ingredient for success was the fact that the two leading members of Coventry City Council were firm advocates for Public Health. The Chair also advised that he had written to Dr Jessica Allen of the Institute for Health Equity at University College London asking that she report on how the other Marmot cities had fared in terms of life expectancy.
- 66/17.3 The Chair informed members that he had attended Public Health England Annual Conference. He reported that much emphasis was placed on HEALTHY Life Expectancy rather than total life expectancy.
- 66/17.4 The Chair drew attention to a publication by the Royal Society for Public health which gave advice on how to protect young people from the ill effects of social media.
- 66/17.5 Members **noted** the Chair’s Business.

67/17 Item 7 – Interim Chief Executive’s Business

- 67/17.1 The Interim Chief Executive updated the Board on some current issues.

Management Framework

- 67/17.2 The Interim Chief Executive advised that there are a number of transformation work streams and that work continues in a range of areas with PHA staff continuing to contribute on a number of these and she highlighted a few of these areas:
- The workforce strategy has been drafted and is due to be completed in October
 - The Community Development Framework is also due for completion in October
 - Work is proceeding on the development of multidisciplinary working in primary care and is due to start its rollout towards the end of this year
 - The extensive engagement on the future of breast assessment services is now underway
 - The task and finish group on elective care centre is due to report in the autumn

HSC Restructuring

- 67/17.3 The Interim Chief Executive advised that in relation to HSC restructuring and in particular the future transfer of the HSCB's functions, a paper on the proposed operating model of the future PHA would now be considered by TIG on 4th October as the 20th September meeting of TIG had been cancelled.

Stroke Pre-consultation

- 67/17.4 The Interim Chief Executive advised that the HSC (led by the HSCB and the PHA) had held a series of meetings, engagements and workshops, with stroke survivors, carers and staff, politicians and the media over the last 13 weeks to listen and discuss how best to enhance stroke care. She added that this had included six public meetings which attracted very large numbers in Enniskillen (over 600) and also in Newry. As well as the public meetings there have been many individual meetings with local councils, charitable groups, politicians, staff in all the stroke services and workshops with over 150 stroke survivors.
- 67/17.5 The Interim Chief Executive said she was personally very grateful to the Reshaping Stroke Services Task Group, including clinicians and service users and the Chest Heart and Stroke Association for their significant efforts in leading the engagement process. In particular, Emer Hopkins, the stroke network lead, Dr Brid Farrell from PHA and the communications staff played an instrumental role in ensuring that a wide range of people have had their voices heard on this important issue.
- 67/17.6 The Interim Chief Executive reported that the pre-consultation closed last Friday and the invaluable feedback from all of the engagement events and the online and paper responses received would be evaluated and used to inform recommendations of the Regional Reshaping Stroke Services Group working to design the new model of services in Northern Ireland and into the future and that it is expected the proposals would then go out for formal public consultation in 2018. She added that following formal consultation in 2018 the group's final recommendations would be submitted to the DoH and future Minister for Health for final decisions.
- 67/17.7 Members **noted** the updates from the Interim Chief Executive.

68/17 Item 8 – Finance Update PHA Financial Performance Report (PHA/01/09/17)

- 68/17.1 Mr Cummings presented the Finance Report for the period up to 31 July 2017, but said that there are no areas of underspend to be concerned about at this stage.
- 68/17.2 Members thanked Mr Cummings for the reformatted presentation of the budgets.

- 68/17.3 Discussion was held regarding the underspend from the Administration budgets and the 30 vacant posts that are creating slippage as approximately half of the administration budget relate to the Public Health Directorate.
- 68/17.4 Dr Harper advised that this was being kept under review and the biggest constraint in the recruitment of these posts was the low number of applicants to complete specialised training required. However she hoped to regain capacity next year.
- 68/17.5 The Interim Chief Executive reassured the Board that every effort was being made to recruit the vacant posts.
- 68/17.6 The Chair advised members of the timelines for the recruitment of the three Non-Executive Directors. He added that he understood the vacant posts will be advertised in mid-October, the shortlisting would take place in December and the interviews will be held in February 2018.
- 68/17.7 Mrs Mann-Kler questioned why there was such a long delay in the recruitment. The Chair reported that he had raised this matter at the Chairs' Forum and this would be one subject at a meeting between Chairs and the Head of the Civil Service.
- 68/17.8 The Board **noted** the Finance Report.
- 69/17 Item 9 – Draft PHA Investment Plan 2017/18 (PHA/02/09/17)**
- 69/17.1 Mr McClean presented the draft Investment Plan for noting and said that the plan sets out the PHA approach for managing the budget in 2017/18. He said that the PHA had been allocated a recurrent revenue budget of £85,455m for 2017/18 and he was anticipating that the PHA would break even, and that in year pressures would be monitored through the finance report.
- 69/17.2 Members asked if recurrent funding would be available for investment in 2017/18. Mr McClean said in addition to the funding allocated to address demographic pressures, the PHA was able to release £0.65m to address pressures and to support wider priorities.
- 69/17.3 Members **approved** the investment plan.
- 70/17 Item 10 – Draft Commissioning Plan 2017/18 (PHA/03/09/17)**
- 70/17.1 The Chair advised that he had circulated statements received from Mr Mahaffy and Mrs McKissick in advance.
- 70/17.2 Mr Cummings presented the Commissioning Plan for approval.
- 70/17.3 Mr Cummings advised the final draft of the Plan which has been

developed in response to the Commissioning Plan Direction issued by the Department of Health. He said that the purpose of the Plan is to provide an overview of key priorities and investment decisions, and what the public can reasonably expect in terms of access to services, based on ministerial themes and developed within the current financial context. He added that the Plan had been developed with significant input from senior PHA staff and had been considered by the senior management teams of both PHA and HSCB and agreed by the Board of HSCB.

- 70/17.4 Mr Cummings said that the Plan reflects the Commissioning Plan Directions and financial plan priorities as determined by the Department of Health. He noted the current financial situation and indicated his view that the Plan was reflective of this in addressing needs and pressures to the extent possible.
- 70/17.5 Members raised their concerns that the budget available to the health and social care for 2017/18 was inadequate to meet the increasing population needs and the pressures on services.
- 70/17.6 Members also raised their concerns that the introduction of HSC Trust Savings Plans, currently being consulted upon, would undo the positives the draft Commissioning Plan and increasingly challenge the capacity of service deliverers to continue to provide safe services and emphasised the need for greater focus on addressing the widening health inequalities in Northern Ireland.
- 70/17.7 The Interim Chief Executive advised members that the Health and Social Care Trust Savings Plans currently out for consultation would be considered by the HSCB and noted that savings plans and Trust Delivery Plans did not come to the PHA.
- 70/17.8 Mr Mahaffy raised his concerns regarding the scale of the proposed service cuts, the commissioning process and failure to assess need and tackle health inequalities.
- 70/17.9 The Chair also noted the statement received from Ms Joanne McKissick of the Patient Client Council which both welcomed and commended the Commissioning Plan. The Plan was co-produced with input from service users and carers.
- 70/17.10 Following substantial discussion members agreed that a covering letter highlighting the concerns of the Agency should be sent to the Permanent Secretary.
- 70/17.11 The Chair outlined that members had the option to vote for, against or to abstain.
- 70/17.12 The draft Commissioning Plan was agreed with seven votes in favour, one against and two abstentions.

- 71/17 Item 11 – Re-tender of Youth Engagement Services (previously known as One Stop Shop Service) (PHA/05/09/17)**
- 71/17.1 Dr Harper presented the Project Initiation Document for noting. She added that the PID set out the process to be followed for re-tendering of the Youth Engagement Service.
- 71/17.2 The Chair advised that he had visited the One Stop Shop in Londonderry and after speaking with a large number of clients they all stated emphatically that they benefit from the scheme because of the attitude of the staff to the clients. The Clients felt that they were treated with respect and concern and found it a very positive experience.
- 71/17.3 Members **noted** the Project Initiation Document.
- 72/17 Item 12 – Campaigns Update**
- 72/17.1 The Chair welcomed Mr Stephen Wilson to the meeting.
- 72/17.2 Mr Stephen Wilson gave a brief overview of the latest phase of the Dementia PIC ‘Still Me’.
- 72/17.3 Members congratulated the Communications team on the effectiveness and the quality of the first phase. Mr Wilson noted that due to the current pause in the campaign programme, the PHA communications programme would now focus on alternative channels for messaging. Members agreed that the current pause was unhelpful in helping the Agency to deliver on its key objectives and welcomed the work that is ongoing to optimise on other communication options in so far as these might offer viable alternatives.
- 73/17 Item 13 – Any Other Business**
- Open letter to staff
- 73/17.1 Alderman Porter asked if a letter of thanks to staff for their ongoing work from the Chair and Interim Chief Executive could be issued.
- Mesh Implants Media Coverage
- 73/17.2 Mr Coulter referred to recent local media reports concerning women and men who have complained of complications from the use of surgical meshes. He noted that PHA had been cited several times in news reports as the body which would be responding and asked what role the Agency has in this matter.
- 73/17.3 In response to this question Dr Harper said that the PHA had provided a medical spokesperson in response to the media enquiries on this issue, but that the corporate body with commissioning responsibility is HSCB rather than PHA. She explained that an information leaflet and consent form were being developed to assist Trusts in responding to any

individual patients.

Vaping

- 73/17.4 In response to a question, Dr Harper stated that it is not possible at this stage to assess whether or not vaping had long-term consequences for health. She explained that, as with smoking, it is likely to take many years of research before the long-term effects of vaping are understood fully.
- 73/17.5 One study published in the Journal of Cancer found that vaping causes changes in the cells in lung airways, similar to those that occur with smoking cigarettes. The changes were independent of the presence or absence of nicotine, and therefore would seem to relate to the chemicals created when vaping liquids are heated in an e-cigarette. If vaping is continued, the concern is that those changes would lead in the long-term, to cancer or other serious lung diseases.
- 73/17.6 As a result, PHA takes a precautionary approach, and advise only short-short term use of e-cigarettes within HSC-funded Stop Smoking Services, and after other regulated and quality-assured nicotine replacement therapies have been tried.

74/17 Item 14 – Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 19 October 2017 at 1:30pm

Conference Rooms 3+4, 12/22 Linenhall Street, Belfast.

Signed by Chair:



Date: 19 October 2017