**MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD**

**ON TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2017**

**IN CONFERENCE ROOM, THISTLE HOUSE, EDINBURGH**

**AT 10.30AM**

**Present:**

The Very Rev’d Dr Graham Forbes CBE

Mr Norman Dunning

Mrs Elaine Noad

Mr Paul Dumbleton

Mr Nigel Henderson

Dr Sivasankaran Sashidharan

Ms Lesley Smith

Mrs Safaa Baxter

**In Attendance:**

Mr Colin McKay, Chief Executive

Ms Alison McRae, Head of Corporate Services

Dr Gary Morrison, Executive Director (Medical)

Mr Mike Diamond, Executive Director (Social Work)

**Secretary:** Mrs Alice Wallace, Finance Manager

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ms Kate Fearnley – Executive Director (Engagement and Participation) and Mrs Alison Thomson Executive Director (Nursing)

1. **Announcements**

None

1. **Minutes of Board meeting held on 13 December 2016**

Approved.

1. **CEO Update**

**Scottish Government mental health strategy –** the publication of the strategy has been delayed but we expect it shortly

**Impact of second opinion fees on our budget**: Mr McKay has raised the issue of the second opinion fees with the sponsor department and will follow this up with a formal request for a cap on these fees. Budget expectation for 2017/18 is £3.6m.

**Dementia Strategy** – the Scottish Government’s third dementia strategy is due out in February.

**Learning disability and Autism scoping study** – the study we jointly produced alongside SCLD was published in January and we are awaiting the announcement of a Chair to head up the review.

**Perinatal Managed Clinical Network:** following our recommendations from the [themed visit report](http://www.mwcscot.org.uk/media/320718/perinatal_report_final.pdf) and the [Ms OP investigation](http://www.mwcscot.org.uk/media/340869/Ms%20OP%20investigation%20report.pdf), the Minister for Mental Health launched the perinatal clinical network on 20 January. Dr Morrison participated in the launch and advised that this is the first managed clinical network for a mental health condition in Scotland

**Young people** **transferred to Priory and Huntercombe hospitals in Scotland –** the issue of English patients being treated far away from home has received wide publicity. We have concerns about English patients in these hospitals for the same reasons although there are indications of change in approach by NHS England

**Visits reports**: the report on visits to individuals in adult acute wards will be presented to March Board. Local visits reports are published monthly.

**Board Member interviews** are being held week commencing 30th January.

**Sustainability project**: Ms McRae is doing a lot of work on this which will feed into the Commission’s strategy. This includes a feasibility study on reducing accommodation space and team structures and skill mix.

The **Biennial Staff survey** is currently being undertaken.

**Staff vacancies** are being advertised.

 **5. Items for discussion and/or approval**

 *5.1 Draft Strategic Plan*

Mr McKay presented and updated on the progress of the draft strategic plan which was considered by the Board.

The Board agreed the draft subject to amendments and additions noted. The final draft of the strategic plan will be presented to the March Board meeting.

 *5.2 Business Plan progress report*

Ms McRae presented the report. The Board were content with progress to date.

 *5.3 Financial Budget Update*

The Board were content.

 *5.4 Pay Remit*

The Board approved the pay remit to be forwarded to Scottish Government for final approval.

 *5.5 Board Self-Assessment*

The Board considered the contents of the consolidated version of the self-assessment. There was discussion around actions required in the light of the three incoming Board Members being appointed with effect from 1st April 2017.

The three main strategic risks were agreed as follows;

1 Financial sustainability – that we do not have the resources to do work we need to do

2 National Confidential Forum

3 Maintaining independence and independent voice in the context of reform of public sector bodies

***6.* Items for Information**

 *6.1 Executive Director (Medical) Annual Report*

Dr Morrison presented his report. The Board welcomed the opportunity to see the amount of work that goes on within the organisation.

 *6.2 Executive Director (Nursing) Annual Report*

Mr McKay presented on behalf of Mrs Thomson and highlighted the Ms OP report and the series of meetings with CPNs where we have taken the opportunity to promote advance statements. Part of the reason for meeting with CPNs was the identified lack of a recovery focus in some practice identified through our [themed visit report](http://www.mwcscot.org.uk/media/243429/ccto_visit_report.pdf) on community compulsory treatment orders and monitoring of [suspension of detention](http://www.mwcscot.org.uk/media/233726/suspension_of_detention_report_final_1.pdf) procedures.

 *6.3 Executive Director (Engagement & Participation) annual Report*

Mr McKay presented the annual report on behalf of Ms Fearnley.

 *6.4 Executive Director (Social Work) Annual Report*

Mr Diamond presented his report. Targets will be met on guardianships, visit reports and unannounced visits. Mr Diamond highlighted resourcing problems within the Mental Health Officer community in local authorities which is impacting on health and social care integration.

 *6.5 Information Governance and IT Report*

The Board noted the report. Ms McRae highlighted the volume of work undertaken in this area. Mr McKay expressed his gratitude for breadth and volume of work done.

 *6.6 A Scottish Government Consultation on the Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill*

The Board considered the scope of the report. Mr McKay will draft a response in conjunction with Mrs Noad for submission by the closing date.

**7. Any Other Business**

None

**8. Date of next meeting** – **Tuesday 14 March 2017**