

**MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND
MEETING OF THE BOARD
HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2015
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 Nigel Henderson
Ms Jan Killeen
Mr Paul Dumbleton
Dr Sivasankaran Sashidharan
Ms Lesley Smith
Mrs Safaa Baxter

In attendance

Mr Colin McKay, Chief Executive
Dr Gary Morrison, Executive Director - Medical
Mrs Alison Thomson, Executive Director – Nursing
Mr Mike Diamond – Executive Director – Social Work
Ms Kate Fearnley – Executive Director – Engagement and Participation
Ms Alison McRae, Head of Corporate Services
Mrs Stella Everingham, National Confidential Forum Panel Member (item 7.3 only)

Secretary

Mrs Alice Wallace, Finance Manager

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

3. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 5 MAY 2015

The above minutes were approved.

4. CEO UPDATE

Mental Health Bill

Mr McKay updated the Board on progress on the Mental Health Bill which reached stage 3 on 24th June, particularly the likely new responsibilities for the Commission

to monitor how Boards and local authorities support independent advocacy, and how Boards will in future encourage greater use of advance statements.

Commitment 5

Ms Fearnley shared the positive involvement of the Commission in the See Me/SRN/Vox **Rights for Life** conference (www.rightsforlife.org).

Recruitment of 2 Engagement and Participation Officers

Mr McKay noted that the Commission had received a good number of applicants for the new Engagement and Participation Officer posts for a carer and a person with lived experience. Interviews are scheduled for late July / early August.

Visits

Mrs Thomson reported that IPCU visits are well under way. The first stage of announced visits is complete. The unannounced visits are scheduled to take place in the next two months.

Ms Fearnley updated the Board on progress in the visits to people with learning disability explaining that these visits will include all in-patient facilities. Recent Edinburgh and Glasgow consultation events with service users and carers had been a great success.

Dr Morrison outlined the progress of visits to individuals in perinatal services which aims to capture the experiences of recently discharged patients and their families. The Commission will be contacting adult acute wards to establish if patients have been treated there due to limited availability of dedicated facilities in Scotland. There was a discussion around wider care in the community of such cases and what efforts were being made to examine broader service provision given the potentially large distances involved.

Staff survey / IIP update

The Commission held an away day in May 2015 which provided a helpful set of practical ideas to improve internal communications. Two groups of volunteers have been set up to take forward ideas on internal communications and broader employee engagement. The monthly team brief has now started and will be available on the intranet for staff.

Board self Assessment

The action plan from annual Board self assessment was discussed. The Board were invited to submit suggestions to Ms McRae who will develop an action plan for discussion.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL

5.1 Visit Report - Making Progress: Older Adult Functional Assessment Wards

The draft report was discussed and approved by the Board with amendments noted by Dr Warwick. There was discussion around the positive findings of the report which included virtually all patients feeling safe, regular multi disciplinary review, approachable staff, regular visits from the psychiatrist and some excellent activities. However access to advocacy could be better and there was evidence of generic care plans with little evidence of person centred planning. Some wards had few activities and poor provision of private space. There was discussion around mixed wards and their appropriateness. The Board also considered length of stay and how often this is reviewed in the light of delays in the provision of social care packages. The issues around obtaining the views of carers included in the report were discussed and how the Commission in general can engage with carers.

5.2 Enhanced Observation Report

The Board discussed and approved the report with amendments noted by Mrs Thomson. The report will feed into new guidance for Boards that Healthcare Improvement Scotland is developing. Key points include ensuring that observation procedures are based on personalised assessment and risk planning; that systems are in place to de-escalate as soon as it is safe (i.e. not waiting till the RMO is back in after the weekend); and that observation is part of therapeutic engagement – not just managing risk. Ms Smith spoke powerfully about how distressing enhanced observation can be for a service user

5.3 Annual Accounts

5.3.1 Audit Committee Assurance

The paper was approved.

5.3.2 Annual Accounts Commentary

The paper was approved.

5.3.3 Annual Accounts for the Year

The accounts were approved by the Board.

The Board recorded their thanks to Ms McRae, Mrs Wallace and Mr Bowes for their work undertaken

5.3.4 KPMG Annual Internal Audit

The report was approved.

5.3.5 Scott-Moncrieff Annual Report

The report was approved.

5.3.6 PSRA Report

The report was approved with minor changes noted by Mrs Wallace.

5.4 Business Plan End Year Report

The report was approved. Ms McRae stated that objectives not met in 2014/15 are carried forward to 2015/16.

Mrs Noad noted the huge amount of work that has gone into the report and thanked staff.

5.5 Best Value Framework

The report was approved.

5.6 Overview of Local Visits and Recommendations

The Board discussed the report and noted that the themes were broadly similar to recent years but that there was an improvement in S47 use. Professor Sashidharan felt it was important to highlight the extent to which Commission recommendations have brought positive change.

The Board approved the report which will now be published on the Commission web site.

5.7 Overview of Investigations

Mr McKay stated that this report for the Board was to highlight the work undertaken which has not progressed to a full investigation. The amount of investigation work undertaken is considerable whereas only a few reports are published. The operational management group will be reviewing investigations and associated casework during the year. The Board discussed some specific cases within the document and agreed this was a useful insight to the amount of ongoing investigation work.

5.8 Overview of Service User and Carer Visits 2014/15

The Board noted the content of the report

5.9 Complaints Policy

The Complaints Policy was approved.

6. Items for Information

6.1 MWC Work Relating to Services for Children and Young People

The Board noted the content of the report. Mr McKay highlighted the more strategic approach encouraged by the Commission's new corporate parenting responsibilities.

6.2 MWC Response to Scottish Parliament Justice Committee on Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Bill)

The Board noted the content of the report

6.3 Shadow Board Member

The Commission has agreed to participate in an initiative to give women an opportunity of Board experience. Mrs Noad agreed to be a mentor.

Mr McKay advised that one of his ex-colleagues from Scottish Government has requested to attend a Board meeting for personal development and he has invited her to the next meeting.

7. NCF (National Confidential Forum)

7.1 NCF Budget 2015-16

The Board approved the budget. Ms McRae stated that the budget would be revised at the half year.

7.2 Forum Meeting Minutes 29 April 2015

The Board noted the content of the minutes.

Stella Everingham, NCF Member, joined the meeting.

7.3 NCF Annual Report

Ms Everingham introduced the annual report of the NCF to 31st March 2015. This is the first annual report of the NCF. The first hearing was in February 2015 and the most important job has been getting the right processes in place.

The Board were interested to get a feel for where the Forum is at this time, whether the hearings have met individuals' expectations, and whether participants are getting any closure from the experience.

To date there had been 48 enquiries and 30 applications with 29 hearings in place. 20 had been held to date. Mrs Everingham felt that participants are clear about The Forum process and how it might affect them. There had been various responses to the experience with NCF staff having to be careful with those individuals struggling and others having made the decision to 'come and be upset'. Mrs Everingham stated

they were genuinely seeing the child in front of them and the Forum was responding to this by making the environment as welcoming and comforting as possible.

Mrs Everingham was asked if the actual number of enquiries matched the expectations of the Scottish Government. The actual number is lower than expected but it is anticipated that the numbers will build and the communications strategy was a priority for this.

The Board were pleased to note the high quality of work and support given by the NCF support staff.

The Board discussed the issues around when testimonies divulge criminal acts not previously reported. The position of the NCF on this matter is talked about before, during and after the hearings. The Police are contacted where there is an immediate risk to a child or where it is in the public interest. The Police have been extraordinarily good and sensitive to the needs of those involved.

The Board noted the power of the use of actual (anonymous) quotes.

The Board approved the report and thanked Mrs Everingham who then left the meeting.

7.4 Register of Interests – NCF

The above register was approved by the Board.

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 8 September 2015