

**MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND
MEETING OF THE BOARD
ON TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2015
IN CONFERENCE ROOM, THISTLE HOUSE, EDINBURGH
AT 10.30AM**

Present

The Very Rev'd 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
Mr George Kappler, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director - Social Work
Dr Gary Morrison, Executive Director - Medical
Mrs Alison Thomson, Executive Director - Nursing
Ms Alison McRae, Head of Corporate Services

Secretary

Mr Charlie Burns, Administration Manager.

1 Welcome and Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Announcements

There were no announcements.

3 Minutes of Board meeting held on 9 December 2014

The above minutes were approved.

4 CEO update

Mr McKay confirmed the following recruitments:

- Ms Kate Fearnley as Executive Director – Engagement and Participation; she will take up her appointment with effect from 16 February
- Mr Mike Diamond to the role of Executive Director – Social Work, with effect from 1 April

- Dr Stephen Anderson as Commission Consultant Psychiatrist, as replacement for Dr Mary Stewart, with effect from 16 February. Dr Anderson specialises in eating disorders, but previously was a learning disability consultant. He will work 0.5 WTE.

Other recruitments in the pipeline are HR Manager, to replace Mrs Finn, and Operations and Improvements Manager, to replace Mr Burns.

He had attended a meeting at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital to discuss re-provisioning and, with the Chair, was due to meet with Mr Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health, on 28 January.

Mr McKay highlighted his work on commitment 5 of the MH Strategy, concerning the promotion of understanding of rights in mental health care, and, with Mrs Thomson, in the Sharing Intelligence Group, which Health Improvement Scotland was taking the lead on. He explained that the impetus for a sharing intelligence protocol had emanated from the problems in Mid-Staffordshire, where evidence gathered by different agencies had not been shared between them. It is proposed that the Sharing Intelligence group meet quarterly and while this is undoubtedly a positive initiative, there are some issues over the sharing of 'softer' information. The Commission also needed to remain aware of the consequences of others' use of information provided by the Commission.

The Commission had recently met with Stonewall Scotland in the context of our equalities framework and, subsequently, Stonewall had provided advice on the content of some of our publications. There were also plans to collaborate with Stonewall on the production of a good practice guide covering discrimination issues.

Finally, Mr McKay said that the latest staff survey is currently underway and that the Commission is also in the process of seeking IIP revalidation.

5 Items for discussion and/or approval

5.1 Report of the visits review

The Board acknowledged the logic behind planned changes to the visit programme, but asked that more detail is provided on some of the proposals, including the plans to reduce the overall number of visits from 1900 to 1500, which, generally, the Board was content to support. Some confusion remained about the meaning of 'focussed' visits and the Board asked that thought is given to identifying a new term for this type of visits. The Board welcomed the plan to introduce weighting of recommendations, to reflect their different levels of significance.

5.2 & 5.3 Outline of Business Plan 2015/16 and Strategic Plan 2015-20

The Board approved the proposed alternative wording for the outline of the Commission purpose; in future this will read "We protect and promote the human rights of people with mental health problems, learning disabilities, dementia and related conditions."

The Board discussed the benefits of having a Strategic Plan which covers 5 years but is 'rolled over' annually, against one that covers a fixed number of years and is replaced at the end of the fixed term period. Ms McRae explained that Scottish Government had insisted upon having a Strategic Plan which rolls over annually.

Mr McKay explained that it was the intention to expand the influencing and empowering section of the Business Plan from 2015/16 onwards and to bring the order of this section forward, to reflect its importance across the work of the Commission. Mrs Thomson advised the Board that the Care Inspectorate is understood to be considering making visits to people with a learning disability in care homes with over 10 beds, so the Commission might need to re-think its intention to carry out a themed visit to this group of people. The Board suggested that there might be scope for the Commission and the Care Inspectorate to collaborate on visits to this group. The Board proposed that there should be a greater focus on visits to children and young people and agreed that advocacy work should be included in the Business Plan.

The Board approved the proposed way forward as set out in the papers presented.

5.4 Budget update

Ms McRae said that the Scottish Government will underwrite the costs associated with crystallisation of the Lothian Pension Fund when the final contributor to the fund retires at end March 2015. The Board expressed a desire to have wi-fi access in Thistle House.

The Board noted the contents of the December 2014 financial review paper.

5.5 Annual policy list

The Board noted the contents of the annual policy list.

5.6 Travel and assistance for Board members

Ms McRae advised the Board that tax advice had been sought and had confirmed that the reimbursement of travel costs for Board members travelling to Thistle House was taxable.

6. Items for information

6.1 Chief Social Work Officer annual report

The Board commented upon the range of activities the Chief Social Work Officer had been engaged in the year January 2014 to January 2015.

6.2 Investigation guidelines

Mr Kappler confirmed that a flowchart is being developed for incorporation into the guidelines.

The Board noted the contents of the investigation guidelines.

6.3 Consultation on a proposal for an offence of wilful neglect or ill-treatment in health and social care settings

The Board noted the Commission's response to the consultation on the above proposal.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Date of next meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17 March 2015.