

**Meeting of the PCCS Working Group held on Friday
8 March 2013 at 1.00 pm in the 5th Floor Meeting Room,
HSC Board Headquarters, Linenhall Street, Belfast**

Present:	Dean Sullivan (Chair)	HSC Board
	Teresa Magirr	HSC Board
	Lee McArdle	HSC Board
	Dr Nigel Campbell	SELCG / Primary Care
	Dr Miriam McCarthy	Public Health Agency
	Dr Frank Casey	Belfast Trust
	Dr Brian Armstrong	Belfast Trust
	Maeve Hully	Patient and Client Council
	Sarah Quinlan	Children's Heartbeat Trust
	Julie Greenaway	Children's Heartbeat Trust
	Irwyn McKibbin	Heartbeat NI
	Clare Caulfield	Heartbeat NI

Observers:	Jackie Johnston	DHSSPS
	Nadine McGaffin	Patient Rep
	Karena McErlean	Parent
	Joanne Clifford	Parent
	Gerald Clifford	Parent
	Orla McElroy	Parent

Item:

1. Apologies

Action

Philip Moore, HSC Board
Pat Cullen, Public Health Agency
Denise Boulter, Public Health Agency
Dr Damien Armstrong, Western Trust
Dr David McManus, NIAS
Dr Paddy Woods, DHSSPS
Dr Heather Livingstone, DHSSPS

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Friday 1 March 2013

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record subject to the addition of the following comment on page 4:

'Sarah Quinlan asked whether papers would be circulated in advance of meetings where possible. Dean Sullivan advised that this would continue to be the case and noted more generally that the development of all papers by the Working Group would continue to be an interactive process with all members being given the opportunity to comment on document drafts as they are developed.'

3. Matters Arising

The draft scoring template discussed at the last meeting was circulated to Working Group members following the meeting.

Julie Greenaway referred to discussion regarding the correspondence issued in September 2012 by the HSC Board to centres providing paediatric cardiac surgery in GB and ROI. It was agreed that these letters and the responses from centres outside NI would be reissued to Working Group members today.

Julie Greenaway asked for an update with regard to Ministerial approval of the post consultation document. Jackie Johnston advised that the document is with the Minister for consideration.

Dean Sullivan advised that once formal correspondence has been received from the Department on the post consultation document, this will be shared with Working Group members.

Discussions at the meeting proceeded. Dean Sullivan made clear that these were without prejudice to the Departmental / Ministerial position.

4. PCCS Preliminary Analysis of Options

Dean Sullivan provided a recap of the information presented at the previous meeting with regard to:

- Criteria, weightings and options included in the post consultation document
- Proposed key assumptions to be used in assessing options
- Proposed scoring matrix

Dean Sullivan went on to present an initial assessment of each of the proposed options against each of the criteria using the proposed scoring methodology. It was noted that this was for initial discussion without prejudice to the Minister's views on the post consultation document. Jackie Johnston confirmed that the Department was content that a preliminary analysis of this sort would be progressed by the Working Group, noting again that it would be on a without prejudice basis.

In terms of the 'reasonable timescales' to be used for scoring, it was noted that the 12 months is considered indicative and provides scope to consider the applicability of options which may require development to fully meet the agreed service specification.

It was noted that evidence / rationale is required to support each conclusion and associated score.

Dean Sullivan discussed with Working Group members the Board's preliminary analysis. There followed extensive discussion of individual options and their assessment against the criteria.

The views expressed by Working Group members will be used to refine the initial analysis with a further iteration to be prepared for the next meeting of the Working Group.

Sarah Quinlan asked that the Children's Heartbeat Trust would have the opportunity to reflect on the information presented at the meeting with a view to providing their view on the scores and the evidence/rationale for these at the next meeting. Dean Sullivan agreed that this would be case for all members.

Agreed actions

With regard to particular options, there was discussion on the potential ability to secure a rota of surgeons from other centre(s) to provide 24/7 cover in Belfast and the potential ability to reach agreement on children being referred from other jurisdictions to increase the numbers receiving surgery in Belfast.

Dr Casey noted that there is a need to have a formal position on the willingness of potential partner centres to work with Belfast. In his view there would be a need to increase the activity and associated staffing in Belfast to undertake a minimum of at least 250 procedures to work towards a sustainable service. Given the proposed reconfiguration in GB, it is agreed that the Board would not approach commissioners in England on this matter.

It was however agreed that the HSC Board would make contact with colleagues in ROI to secure a formal view on whether there would be a willingness to refer children to Belfast. Such contact would also explore whether there would be the opportunity to have a more formalised rota of consultant staff to cover the two sites on a 24/7 basis. It was noted however that during the recent visit to the centre in Dublin that providers in Dublin did not consider it appropriate to refer children to Belfast because of the potential impact on sustainability of the Dublin unit.

HSC Board

The Working Group noted Belfast Trust's initial view that it would not be possible to accommodate an additional 200 procedures in Belfast within 12 months but agreed that the Board should seek a formal view

HSC Board
Belfast Trust

from the Belfast Trust on this matter.

More information in terms of the relative costs of each of the options will be presented at a future meeting. HSC Board

Next Steps

In terms of next steps, Dean Sullivan noted that Working Group members would have the opportunity to reflect on the discussions at the meeting today. The HSC Board will follow up on the actions agreed with regard to additional supporting information or evidence required in support of the relevant scores suggested.

On the basis that it is expected that a response will be received from the Minister in the next week, it would be the intention to review the initial scoring at the next meeting.

5. Any other business

5.1 Correspondence from Dr Brian Craig to Dr Miriam McCarthy

The above correspondence from Dr Craig, Paediatric Cardiologist was circulated to the Working Group for information. It was noted that this letter reflected the circumstances of an individual case.

The issues raised in the letter, namely, the need for a small number of children needing to be stabilised in advance of being transferred for surgery have been discussed at a number of working group meetings.

Dr McCarthy noted that the correspondence had also been sent to the Director of Public Health and that a formal response would be issued.

Irwyn McKibbin queried why this particular child was subsequently transferred to Dublin for a procedure that previously would have been provided in Belfast.

Dr Casey advised that following the retirement of Mr Gladstone, the Belfast Trust had reassessed the procedures appropriate for provision in Belfast and that this procedure was one that the Trust viewed would more appropriately be provided in another centre. He added that Belfast Trust has a key role in stabilising these patients and ensuring the transfer to the appropriate unit within a number of days.

Dr Casey added that the surgical procedure referred to in this correspondence was likely to continue to be undertaken at a specialist centre.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on Friday, 15 March 2013 at 12.30 pm in the 5th floor meeting room, HSC Board Headquarters.