

**Meeting of the PCCS Working Group held on Friday
11 January 2013 at 12.30 pm in the 5th Floor Meeting Room
HSC Board Headquarters, Linenhall Street Belfast**

Present:	Dean Sullivan (Chair)	HSC Board
	Teresa Magirr	HSC Board
	Philip Moore	HSC Board
	Dr Nigel Campbell	Primary Care/SELCG
	Dr Miriam McCarthy	Public Health Agency
	Pat Cullen	Public Health Agency
	Dr Tony Stevens	Belfast Trust
	Dr Frank Casey	Belfast Trust
	Dr Brian Armstrong	Belfast Trust
	Rosie Byrne	Belfast Trust
	Sarah Quinlan	Children's Heartbeat Trust
	Julie Greenaway	Children's Heartbeat Trust
	Irwyn McKibbin	Heartbeat NI
	Clare Caulfield	Heartbeat NI
	Maeve Hully	Patient Client Council
Alison McNulty	Parenting NI	
Observers:	Dr Heather Livingstone	DHSSPS
	Orla McElroy	Parent
	Joanne Clifford	Parent
	Rachel Curry	Parent
	Sam Marshall	Parent
	Geoffrey Milligan	Parent

Item:

Action

1. Apologies

Dr David McManus, NIAS
Dr Damien Armstrong, Western Trust

2. Notes of Previous Meeting

Comments on the minutes from the previous meeting
were received from Dr Frank Casey and Sarah

Quinlan. In response to these comments, amendments were agreed to section 3, and two additional sections 8.2 (Services for adults with CHD) and 8.3 (Transport issues) were added to the minutes.

A revised version of the minutes will be issued to the Working Group.

3. Matters Arising

Dean Sullivan noted the matters arising were covered by the other items on the agenda.

4. Preliminary analysis of consultation responses

Dean Sullivan presented information available from the initial analysis of the consultation responses. This set out the amendments proposed to the service specification, options and criteria/weightings, as well as lists of the comments received under the questions on each of these areas.

Further to the discussion at the last meeting regarding an independent input to the analysis of the consultation responses, Dean Sullivan advised that Alison McNulty from Parenting NI, the organisation that facilitated the focus group events with parents, had met with the team of Board/PHA staff on two occasions to review the process being adopted to analyse the consultation responses.

Alison McNulty provided detailed feedback on the process and advised the Working Group that in her view, the process was robust. Alison advised that she had reviewed elements of the analysis and had undertaken spot checks of the information being recorded. It was noted that a similar approach is to be used to analyse the transcripts for the public meetings and the reports from the focus group events. This process will also be reviewed by Parenting NI.

Dean Sullivan asked for comments from the Working Group on the feedback provided by Alison McNulty.

Brian Armstrong stated that the feedback provided was very detailed and that he was very assured about the process.

Sarah Quinlan stated on behalf of the charity that she was assured but that Children's Heartbeat Trust would still have preferred the review and analysis of response to be undertaken entirely by an independent organisation.

Clare Caulfield suggested that each of the charities could take a sample of the responses and cross reference these against the detailed analysis if they required further assurance.

Dr Nigel Campbell pointed out that utilising an independent organisation would have required a lot of support and input from the Working Group to allow the organisation to get up to speed on the on the background to the process.

Dr Tony Stevens stated that this element of the process (data capture) appeared robust and that the next stage i.e. the interpretation/use of the data was crucial.

Dr Frank Casey indicated that his concerns expressed at the previous meeting were around the perception that the themes that were presented were to be used to agree the way forward. It was his view that the themes presented on the basis of the initial high-level assessment of the responses did not present a balanced view and it was important that the interpretation of the information from the analysis is presented in a balanced way.

Dr Casey also suggested that the responses from Health Care Professionals / Organisations should be subject to separate consideration. The Working Group agreed that this would be appropriate and that issues arising from HSC responses should be documented separately in the post consultation document.

Dean Sullivan noted that despite large numbers of respondents indicating that the service specification, options and criteria were not appropriate there were not significant revisions suggested, particularly to the service specification.

Sarah Quinlan commented that the questions asked respondents to comment but did not specifically ask people to suggest changes. Other Working Group members were of the view that it was clear from the questionnaire that respondents were to suggest changes when they had such changes to suggest.

A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to the Working Group. If there are any specific areas that Working Group members feel are missing these should be e-mailed to Paul Cunningham.

A further presentation giving an indication of the number of responses against each of the comments will be provided at the next meeting.

5. Next Steps

Dean Sullivan advised that the post consultation document would be finalised over the next 2 – 3 weeks for presentation of the meeting of the HSC Board in February.

The document which sets out the proposed framework for making a decision on the future model for paediatric cardiac surgery and interventional cardiology will then be forwarded for Ministerial approval.

Subject to approval, the framework will then be used to develop a formal recommendation on the preferred option thereafter.

6. Any other business

6.1 Care for Adults with CHD

Dr Casey stated that robust services for adults with CHD should be in place within the same timeframe to those for children.

6.2 Options for future provision of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery and Interventional Cardiology

Julie Greenaway asked Dr McCarthy to comment on whether she would be in agreement with an option which retained surgery in Belfast.

Dr McCarthy responded that the role of the Working Group was to agree a framework against which future services would be commissioned and in doing so the Working Group would work collectively and agree, through a robust process, a preferred approach. In taking this forward Dr McCarthy advised that the Group's work should not be influenced by any personal views, rather the responsibility was to consider the best approach for service for children with heart disease.

Dean Sullivan advised that this question was inappropriate for any Working Group member to either ask or answer.

6.3 Timescales for completion of the process.

Dr Casey referred to correspondence from the Permanent Secretary of the DHSSPS which indicated that a final recommendation was to be made to the Minister by 15 February 2013.

Dean Sullivan advised that the HSC Board was in the process of responding to the Department in relation to the likely timescale for the process to be concluded.

7. **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to take place on Friday, 18 January 2013 at 12.30 pm. The venue for the meeting will be the 5th Floor Meeting Room, HSC Board Headquarters.