

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

<b>Present:</b>	Dean Sullivan (Chair)	HSC Board
	Teresa Magirr	HSC Board
	Philip Moore	HSC Board
	Dr Nigel Campbell	SELCG / Primary Care
	Dr Miriam McCarthy	Public Health Agency
	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

<b>Observers:</b>	John Mone	HSC Board
	Jackie Johnston	DHSSPS
	Dr Heather Livingstone	DHSSPS
	Karena McErlean	Parent
	Joanne Clifford	Parent
	Gerald Clifford	Parent
	Samantha Marshall	Parent

**Item:**

**Action**

1. **Apologies**

Pat Cullen, Public Health Agency  
Denise Boulter, Public Health Agency  
Dr Damien Armstrong, Western Trust  
Dr David McManus, NIAS  
Dr Paddy Woods, DHSSPS  
Maeve Hully, Patient Client Council

2. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 1 March 2013 amended to include requested changes were

agreed.

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 8 March 2013 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Post consultation document**

Dean Sullivan advised Working Group members that a response to the post consultation document has been received from the DHSSPS.

The correspondence outlines that the Minister has approved the post consultation document and asked that the Working Group now considers the eight options with a view to recommending a preferred way forward for the future commissioning of paediatric cardiac surgery and interventional cardiology for the population of NI.

The recommendation is to be considered and approved by the HSC Board before submission to the Department for the Minister's consideration by mid-April 2013.

#### **3.2 Correspondence to Dublin and Belfast Trust**

Dean Sullivan advised that further to discussion at the last meeting, the HSC Board would be writing to both the HSE in the Republic of Ireland and Belfast Trust

This correspondence will seek a formal view on whether there would be a willingness to refer children to Belfast. The correspondence will 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.

A formal view will be sought from Belfast Trust on whether it would be possible to accommodate a minimum of 250 procedures in Belfast within 12 months (as a step towards the delivery of 400

procedures in due course).

#### 4. PCCS Scoring Framework.

Dean Sullivan stated that following approval of the post consultation document by the Minister, the specification, options and criteria / weightings would form the basis of the scoring framework for the identification of a preferred option for the future provision of paediatric cardiac surgery and interventional cardiology for the population of NI.

Dean Sullivan noted that the assumptions to be used in assessing each of the options have been discussed by the Working Group at the previous two meetings. While members were content to consider and score each of the options there was recognition that aspects of option 4 should be clarified, as individual members interpretation of this option may affect the scoring. Following discussion and agreement by the Working Group it was agreed that option 4 would be considered under two scenarios:

- Scenario 1: 110 cases undertaken in Belfast with support from the Dublin clinical team;
- Scenario 2: An increase in the number of cases undertaken in Belfast through a shared arrangement with ROI and clinical input provided by the Belfast and Dublin teams, with a view to having two sustainable units. Under this option complex cases from NI would be undertaken in Dublin.

It was noted that the scoring associated with the relevant options can not be finalised until formal responses (as outlined in 3.2 above) are received from the HSE and Belfast Trust.

Dean Sullivan went on the present updated scoring and rationale against each of the criterion. He noted that the scores and comments against each score reflected discussions at the previous meeting.

It is the intention that the Working Group further consider these scores with a view to the final scores that are to be agreed by the Working Group being included in a paper on the preferred option for submission to the Minister. As per the DHSSPS correspondence, it was noted that that this was required by mid-April.

Sarah Quinlan expressed concerns regarding the future arrangements for emergency cases. She added that the Children's Heartbeat Trust are of the view that any option which does not have a Belfast element to the service does not meet the requirement to provide a safe service for children. The charity would therefore not be in agreement to a preferred option where there was no element of service provision in Belfast.

Sarah Quinlan referred to the potential impact on paediatric cardiology services with those options which remove surgery from Belfast. She added that there has been a negative impact on some other centres where surgery has been removed.

Dean Sullivan noted that this had been discussed previously and highlighted that the HSC Board and PHA would ensure that paediatric cardiology would continue to be developed in Belfast whatever the preferred option.

He added that in any scenario, the HSC Board would be working to ensure that paediatric cardiology services should be improved including the further development of both prenatal diagnosis and early diagnosis after birth and retention of skills to allow urgent interventions to take place as clinically appropriate.

It was acknowledged that the formal relationships with other providers as detailed in the service specification would be important.

## Next Steps

In terms of next steps, it was agreed that an initial draft of the preferred option paper would be available for discussion at the next meeting on 22 March 2013.

The draft document will be structured as follows:

- Introduction / Background
- Commissioning Framework
  - Service specification, options, criteria / weightings
- Methodology for identifying a preferred option
- Scoring of options against criteria
- Identification of a preferred option
- Equality considerations

The first draft will include the current scores (to be updated as required to reflect the formal views from ROI and Belfast Trust). It was noted that these scores are subject to agreement by Working Group members.

### 5. Any other business

There was no other business raised.

### 6. Dates of future meetings

Over the coming weeks, meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Friday, 22 March 2013
- Friday, 29 March 2013
- Friday, 5 April 2013

All meetings will commence at 12.30 pm and will be held in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor meeting room, HSC Board Headquarters.