Minutes of the 17th Meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group held at 3.00 pm on Thursday, 12th May 2011 in the Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, 94 Glebetown Drive, Downpatrick, Co Down BT30 6PX.

PRESENT:

Mr D Heron - Voluntary/Community (in the Chair)
Cllr A Carson - Local Government
Cllr D Curran - Local Government
Dr P Darragh - Public Health Medicine, PHA
Mr D Diffin - Social Services, HSCB
Mr J Duffy - Social Services, HSCB
Mr B Forde - Allied Health Professions, PHA
Ms L McCormick - Community Pharmacist (left at 4.05 pm)
Dr P Megarity - General Practitioner (left at 4.20 pm)
Mrs H Monteverde - Voluntary/Community

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr C Bradley - Asst Director of Finance, HSC Board
Mrs J McVeigh - HSC Board
Mr N Strong - HSC Board
Mr P Turley - South Eastern Commissioning Lead
Ms K Turner - Medicines Management Lead, HSCB
Ms T McAllister - Medicines Management Co-ordinator, HSCB

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Campbell, Mrs Brown, Cllr Ewing, Dr Fitzpatrick, Dr Logan and Mr Mullan.

39/11 Chairman’s Business

(i) Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the format of the meeting, advising that Ms
Katherine Turner and Ms Teresa McAllister would present the agenda item on Medicines Management (Minute 42/11), which had been moved up the original agenda to facilitate their attendance.

(ii) **Correspondence/ Engagements**

The Chair referred to the following correspondence and engagements:

**Patient Client Council (PCC) – Invitation to the launch of ‘Rural Voices Matter’, 7th June 2011, 10.30am to 12 noon, at College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), Loughry Campus, Cookstown**

Mr Turley advised that this forthcoming PCC workshop event, on which he will circulate details to Members, is particularly relevant to rural issues within the geography of the LCG. It was noted that Members interested in participating can contact the LCG office to arrange their attendance.

**DHSSPS Service Frameworks Newsletter. Issue 1, April 2011**

Mr Turley advised that the above publication, which had been circulated to Members for information, provides an up to date list of the current Service Frameworks and outlines their contents.

**DHSSPS Consultation – Quality 2020 – A 10 Year Quality Strategy for the HSC in NI**

Mr Turley reported that a copy of the HSCB response to the above consultation, which incorporates LCG comments, has been shared with Members.

**Palliative Care and End of Life Service Team – GP Link**

Mr Turley informed Members that Dr Logan has undertaken to be the LCG’s GP link to the Palliative Care and End of Life Service Team.
40/11 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 14th April 2011**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th April 2011 were approved and were signed by the (Acting) Chairman.

41/11 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

(i) **Page 3, Minute 31/11 (i) - South Eastern Local Commissioning Plan 2011/12**

Minute 43/11(i) below under Commissioning Lead’s Report refers

(ii) **Page 3, Minute 31/11 (ii) - Emergency Department at Downe Hospital - South Eastern HSC Trust correspondence**

Mr Turley reported that the new arrangements for the Emergency Department at the Downe Hospital commenced at the beginning of April 2011. The GP led evening/night service is currently running in tandem with the former arrangements to ensure a smooth transition to the new service. Mr Turley advised that the South Eastern and NI Ambulance Trusts have expressed contentment to date with the operation of these new arrangements at Downe. Mr Turley undertook to maintain contact with the Trusts in monitoring the situation.

Following discussion, Mr Turley agreed to confirm the basis of ambulance services protocols and noted that an update on operation of the new Emergency arrangements at the Downe from the South Eastern and NI Ambulance Trusts could be provided for Members, if they so wished, at a future date. Dr Megarity said that it would be useful for the South Eastern HSC Trust to again publicise the availability of the new service, when it has been in operation for a period of time, possibly at end of the summer.
(iii) **Page 4, Minute 31/11 (iii) PHA Health Intelligence Briefing on Alcohol**

It was noted that Mr Totten has undertaken to brief Members on this and other Health Improvement issues at the next meeting on 9th June 2011.

(iv) **Page 8, Minute 35/11 (i) – Reprovision of GP and Community Services from Pound Lane Health Centre, Downpatrick**

Minute 45/11 below under Capital Business Cases refers.

**42/11 Medicines Management Update – Prescribing Quality Indicators**

Ms Kathryn Turner, Medicines Management Lead, HSC Board and Ms Teresa McAllister, Medicines Management Co-ordinator provided a Medicines Management Update, focusing on prescribing quality indicators. Ms Turner explained that Ms McAllister, as Medicines Management Co-coordinator for the southern area of the HSC Board, is responsible for the South Eastern and Southern LCG areas and the southern half of the Western LCG area. Members were pleased to note that Ms McAllister would be available to update the LCG on Medicines Management issues in its area and Ms Turner would be available to cover regional issues.

The following points were highlighted in a presentation by Ms Turner and Ms McAllister:

- Whilst the focus of the presentation is on prescribing quality indicators at LCG and PCP level it should be kept in mind that any overspend in the prescribing budget, which was transferred in year from DHSSPS to HSCB in July 2010, would impact on other services. It was noted that the February 2011 Prescribing Data for SELCG indicated that there was a projected 11% overspend against the indicative prescribing budget for 2010/11.
- Although the South Eastern LCG area is currently presenting high prescribing costs, its overall prescribing quality indicators are relatively good.
- The prescribing quality indicators in place across the region assist in identifying variance from expected practice and enable the Medicines Management Team, with LCGs and their PCPs, to target outlying practice and engage with GPs, utilising the COMPASS reports process, to help in reducing variations at LCG and PCP level, drilling down to prescribing practice on particular individual drugs (MMA indicators). Ms Turner referred to a small number of examples of outlying practice in the SE LCG area.

Ms Turner and Ms McAllister responded to questions as follows:

- It was noted that detailed COMPASS reports are available to Members and PCP pharmacy leads on a monthly basis. It was noted that timescale for presentation of prescribing information relates to the payment cycle and scope for providing more timely prescribing information of benefit to all is being addressed by HSCB and BSO.
- Dr Megarity said that determination of the prescribing budget available to practices (which is based on weighted capitation data) and consideration of quality of prescribing should appropriately reflect the readily available data on disease prevalence rates in practices. Dr Megarity pointed out that high incidence of particular diseases in a practice affects prescribing costs. Ms Turner advised that a more robust NI Medicines Formulary is being developed with engagement of relevant stakeholders, and the prescribing budget is currently at 70% capitation rate, expected to move to 100% in the next 3 years. Ms Turner also advised that BSO information staff, in ongoing development and enhancement of prescribing information sets, would be happy to engage in discussions on data available. Dr Megarity said this would be useful.
- Scope for extension of the useful Medicines Management Review initiative in Community Pharmacy was noted.
- It was noted that a workshop for PCP Pharmaceutical Leads is to take place on 20 May 2011.
- With regard to management of demand for prescriptions Ms Turner advised that the “Don't use it? Don't order it” campaign could be repeated. Ms Turner reminded Members of higher spend per head of population in NI on drugs compared to GB.
- Ms Turner confirmed that trends and impact of introduction of free prescriptions in NI is being analysed through prescribing monitoring information.
- Ms Turner advised that the HSCB Medicines Management Team, with LCGs and PCPs, will continue to offer support and advice to practitioners in enhancing prescribing practice. Ms Turner confirmed that the list of prescription drugs, and its legislative basis, is kept under review.

The Chair thanked Ms Turner and Ms McAllister for a useful and informative update on Medicines Management, on which the LCG will receive regular quarterly reports.

43/11 **Report by South Eastern Commissioning Lead**

Mr Turley, provided the following update to members:

(i) **South Eastern Local Commissioning Plan 2011/12**

Mr Turley reported that the draft Board/PHA Commissioning Plan 2011/12, along with the draft local commissioning plans, had been tabled at a recent HSC Board meeting for consideration. These documents have been prepared on the basis of information currently available while awaiting DHSSPS commissioning direction and final PfA for 2011/12. It is expected that finalised plans will be presented to the June HSC Board.

Mr Turley advised that the DHSSPS commissioning direction and final PfA for 2011/12, with associated
financial information, would be circulated to Members when received.

(ii) **South Eastern LCG Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs)**

Mr Turley reported that an induction workshop will take place this month with the PCP GP and Pharmacy Clinical Leads.

Mr Turley advised that the Beeches Management Centre has evaluated and provided a largely positive overview on the PCP Pathfinders across the province.

Mr Turley informed Members that the North Down PCP Pathfinder Project on Nursing and Residential Homes Medicines Management Reviews has been successfully completed, identifying a level of savings that are being considered for potential roll-out across the locality. It was noted that application of savings identified by this project could contribute to management of prescribing spend.

Mr Turley reported that the Down PCP Dermatology Care Pathway Project, to improve current care pathways and referral patterns, has now developed a service specification for the Down area, which GPs are considering, with a view to it being established in the near future.

(iii) **Parkinson’s Specialist Nurses in the South Eastern locality**

Mr Turley advised that discussions had taken place last year with representatives from Parkinson’s UK about enhancing access in South Eastern area to the Neurology Service based in the Belfast HSC Trust at Belfast City Hospital, following which an action plan by the Belfast Trust is being taken forward. Mr Turley confirmed that Ms Michelle Tennyson, Assistant Director, Public Health Agency is aware of this discussion.
Mrs Monteverde pointed out that this process could usefully be informed by the current NI Review of Clinical Nursing Specialist Services, being undertaken by Mrs Mary Hinds, Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, Public Health Agency.

44/11  Finance Report by Mr Colin Bradley, Assistant Finance Director of HSC Board

Mr Bradley advised that, as noted at previous meetings, the HSC, with forecast annual cost pressures around 6%, faces a substantial financial shortfall across the 2011/15 CSR period. In the 2011/12 year the assessed shortfall in the financial envelope within which HSCB and PHA are to bring forward a Commissioning Plan to commission services is £130m, which presents a significant challenge for HSC Board, PHA and LCGs in compiling specific spending plans for the effective deployment of funds. As previously indicated under item 43/11 (i) above on the SE Local Commissioning Plan, finalisation of the HSCB/PHA Commissioning Plan 2011/12 is dependent on awaited DHSSPS commissioning direction and final PfA for 2011/12.

Mr Bradley said that HSCB and PHA continue to engage with HSC Trusts on indicative funding streams for provision of services in 2011/12 and beyond and a firmer basis for application of funding can be expected after finalisation and approval of the HSCB/PHA Commissioning Plan for 2011/12.

45/11  Capital Business Cases

(i)  Reprovision of GP and Community Services from Pound Lane Health Centre, Downpatrick

Further to Commissioner support for the Outline Base Case (OBC) on Reprovision of GP and Community Services from Pound Lane Health Centre, support given by the LCG at its meeting on 14th April 2011,
Mr Turley reported that the DHSPSS, on completion of the assessment process, has written to the South Eastern HSC Trust to give formal approval to proceed with the project.

In discussion Mr Turley confirmed that the project for reprovision of GP and Community Services from Pound Lane Health Centre can be expected to proceed to conclusion without delay, particularly given that St John’s House, where the GPs were temporarily relocated to, is unfit for purpose.

46/11 Performance Management

(i) South Eastern LCG Monthly Information Monitoring Update. April 2010 – February 2011

Mr Turley referred to the South Eastern LCG Monthly Information Monitoring Update, which had been received the previous evening and advised that he will request that future updates be available in the week before the LCG’s monthly meeting.

Mr Turley, referring to the narrative on key areas provided in the Monthly Information Monitoring Update, highlighted the following matters:

- Outpatient waiting times, which whilst having reduced to some extent by February 2011 remain significant, particularly in the specialties of dermatology and ophthalmology which are the subject of a regional approach, along with the LCG’s Down PCP Dermatology Care Pathway Project. In response to Mr Forde, Mr Turley advised that an ICATS Ophthalmology service is in place in several HSC Trusts, under which South and East area is provided for by the Belfast HSC Trust.

- Dr Megarity, in expressing concern over the significant patient waiting times, pointed out that monitoring information on outpatient and other waiting times could be more meaningful with provision of fuller information on waits in particular clinical directorates and waiting time information supported, for comparative purposes,
by total numbers of patients entering the HSC system and seen and treated. Mrs Monteverde concurred, pointing out that information on comparative information on numbers of patients treated could demonstrate achievements in the HSC in service delivery. Mr Turley said that the LCG could receive fuller information from quarterly Monitoring updates, on a similar basis to those provided to HSC Board meetings by its Performance Management & Service Improvement Directorate, on which the LCG could receive longer trend analysis focusing on specific areas.

- Whilst diagnostic waiting times have reduced from a peak in July 2010, endoscopy waiting times have required a specific action plan on which Mr Turley will report back to Members.
- Management of Health Care Acquired Infections (HCAIs) remains the subject of focused action.
- A&E waiting times continue to be a challenge for the South Eastern HSC Trust, particularly at the Ulster Hospital, and remedial actions are followed up in regular Performance meetings with HSC Trusts.
- Mr Turley confirmed that a minimal waiting time in many specialties in April reflects success at the year end from investment in waiting list initiatives, both in house and independent sector.

Following discussion Members, whilst being pleased to note that the Monthly Monitoring Update indicates that the South Eastern HSC Trust has performed comparatively well compared to other Trusts, expressed concern for those individuals remaining on waiting lists. Mr Turley stated that the officers of the HSC Board’s Performance Management & Service Improvement Directorate may join Members at their 11 August 2011 meeting, which could provide opportunity to further discuss the LCG’s Performance Monitoring requirements and provide information on specific issues or longer term trends.

Members received and noted the South Eastern Consultant and Midwifery Led Birth figures for 2010/11.
Mr Turley advised that in monitoring activity in Maternity Services in the South Eastern HSC Trust a meeting is to take place on 16th May 2011, at which there would be discussion on level of activity to date, compared to projections, in the Trust’s 3 Midwifery Led Units (MLUs) at Lagan Valley, Downe and Ulster Hospitals, in which the Ulster Hospital unit is currently showing an increase in activity (2%) compared to last year. Mr Turley also advised that the Ulster Hospital Consultant Led Maternity Unit had seen an increase of 7% increase in activity in the last year.

47/11 **Any Other Business**

There were no items of any other business.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group will be held at 3.00pm on Thursday, 9th June 2011 in the Queen’s Leisure Complex, Sullivan Close, Holywood, Co. Down BT18 9HL.