

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT

Fourth Statement of Aidan Dawson

Date: 19 October 2023

I, Aidan Dawson, make the following statement for the purpose of the Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) Inquiry.

This statement is made on behalf of the Public Health Agency (PHA) supplemental to my statements of 16 March 2023, 26 May 2023 and 16 June 2023. This is my fourth statement to the Inquiry. It is made for the purpose of providing further clarity sought by the Inquiry following the evidence which I gave on 28 June 2023

- 1. Response to issue raised by Dr Maxwell regarding contracts approved by PHA; Please provide an explanation as to what provision was included in the contracts approved by the PHA to include the care of physical health and wellbeing of patients at MAH and the promotion of good health behaviours.*

During my evidence, I was asked to elaborate on Health Promotion (HP) programmes, specifically, whether the PHA has led on any HP programmes for people with learning disabilities and whether these programmes applied in hospital or community settings. I explained to the panel that the HP programmes discussed in my statement were primarily community focussed. The panel was keen to know whether there had been a roll out in hospital settings and whether the PHA had given any advice to the regional Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) as regards such programmes forming part of hospital contracts.

The PHA would not have provided direct advice to the HSCB regarding such programmes forming part of hospital contracts. It is my understanding that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust delivered a roll out of the Cook It HP

programme in Muckamore Abbey Hospital circa 2015/16 in fulfilment of their responsibilities towards meeting the health and wellbeing needs of clients. It may be of assistance to the Inquiry to seek further information from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust directly on the details of the range of HP programmes that were delivered in Muckamore Abbey Hospital, or other hospital settings by the Trust as the PHA would not have this information.

2. Leadership Alliance: confirm whether and if so to what extent the issue of learning disability and the needs of persons with learning disabilities has been a topic at meetings of the Leadership Alliance whether as an agenda item or otherwise in relation to agenda items being discussed.

The HSCQI Leadership Alliance directs and oversees the HSCQI workplan. There is no specific mention of learning disability within the meeting notes of the HSCQI Leadership Alliance since its inception in November 2018.

In the 2022/23 workplan, the HSCQI Scale and Spread Timely Access to Safe Care Programme, included a project within the Belfast Trust Intellectual Disability service. The aim of this project was to improve patient and carer satisfaction with access to psychiatry appointments, this work is still at the local testing stage and is being supported within the Belfast Trust.

3. The groups at paragraph 2.3 of statement dated 26th May 2023: confirm dates of operation.

- Regional Learning Disability Healthcare and Improvement (LDHCI) Steering Group.

Commenced January 2014 and ran until 2020.

- Directed Enhanced Services and Health Facilitation Regional Group for People with Learning Disabilities

Commenced 2008 with final meeting held in October 2013

- Regional Health Care Facilitators Forum
- Regional Health & Wellbeing Improvement Forum
- Regional General Hospitals Forum Learning Disability

As confirmed in my statement of 26 May 2023, these sub forums ran from 2014 until 2020

Statement of Truth

The contents of this witness statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aidan Dawson', written in a cursive style.

Aidan Dawson

Date: 19 October 2023