

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Report No. 5/2000

(i) CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Section 7 of the Child Care Act 1991 came into operation on the 1st December 1992 and requires each Health Board to establish a Child Care Advisory Committee to advise it on the performance of its functions under the legislation.

The Minister's directions in relation to the Child Care Advisory Committee are included in Appendix 1 to this report and reflect the Minister's concern to ensure that the various branches of the child care services, including voluntary organisations and the child care professions, are represented. The directions provided that the first appointments were for the period ending the 31st December 1995 and subsequently such appointments to the Committee should be for a period not exceeding three years. The appointment of the members will therefore be for the period to 31/3/2003.

The membership of the Child Care Advisory Committee shall include:

- (i) Three members of our Board
- (ii) Others as outlined in the following paragraphs.

In accordance with paragraph 2(b) of the Minister's directions I am nominating the following three officers of our Board:

- (a) Public Health Medicine Dr. Lelia Thornton, Specialist in Public Health Medicine
- (b) Public Health Nursing Ms. Teresa Scully, Supt. Public Health Nurse
- (c) Social Work Ms. Anne Meehan, Head Social Worker

In accordance with paragraph 3 of the directions, and following consultation with the appropriate bodies, I recommend that the following persons/representatives should also comprise the membership of the committee:

- Not more than nine persons, including representatives of voluntary bodies involved in the provision of the following services:
 - (a) Adoption and Fostering Services
 - (i) A representative of the Irish Foster Care Association
 - (ii) Ms. Jacinta Fitzgerald, A/Senior Social Worker

- (b) Residential Care Services
Mr. Liam O'Driscoll, Travellers Family Care
 - (c) Services for pre-school children
A representative of the Irish Pre School Play Group Association
 - (d) Educational Services
A representative of the Department of Education & Science
 - (e) Services for homeless children
A representative of Focus Ireland
 - (f) Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services
Dr. Paul McCarthy, Director, Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Services
 - (g) Support Services for children and their families
Ms. Renee Cody, Mercy Centre, South Browne St.
Ms. Rachael Devlin, Child Care Manager
- And the following nominees as provided for in the directions:
 - (a) Nominee of the Probation and Welfare Service
 - (b) A member of the Garda Siochana, nominated by the Garda Commissioner

Co-option of members

The Child Care Advisory Committee may co-opt not more than three other persons in accordance with paragraph 14 of the directions.

Secretary

I have appointed Ray Kavanagh to be the initial Secretary to the Committee.

(ii) NOMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The nomination of the three members of our Board, and the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee from among the three members, is a matter for our Board.

Ms. B. Clarke
Assistant Chief Executive

4th April 2000