

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

FIRST DAY BRIEF

INDEX

FDB
1997

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

FUNCTIONS

1. The functions of the Department of Health and Social Services correspond broadly to those of the Departments of Health and Social Security in Whitehall. The Department administers four main "businesses":
 - Health and Personal Social Services, which include hospitals, family practitioner services, community health and personal social services;
 - Social and Charities legislation, which covers responsibility for charities, betting and gaming, liquor licensing and the registration of clubs;
 - Social Security, which covers the full range of benefits and other forms of financial support provided to those entitled to such assistance; and
 - Child Support, which operates the system for child support maintenance in Northern Ireland.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

2. The Department's mission is to improve the health and social well-being of the people of Northern Ireland.
3. In order to pursue this long-term mission, the Department has developed a corporate planning programme. This has two tiers. The five year DHSS Corporate Strategic Plan, which covers the period 1997/98-2001/02, establishes

the Department's strategic direction, while the one year DHSS Corporate Business Plan sets out the priorities for the year ahead.

4. The five year plan establishes six corporate aims which provide the overall direction within which the constituent parts of the Department, together and individually, may plan work and manage resources. These corporate aims, which are set out below, demonstrate a strategic commitment to improvement and change for the better right across the Department's remit.

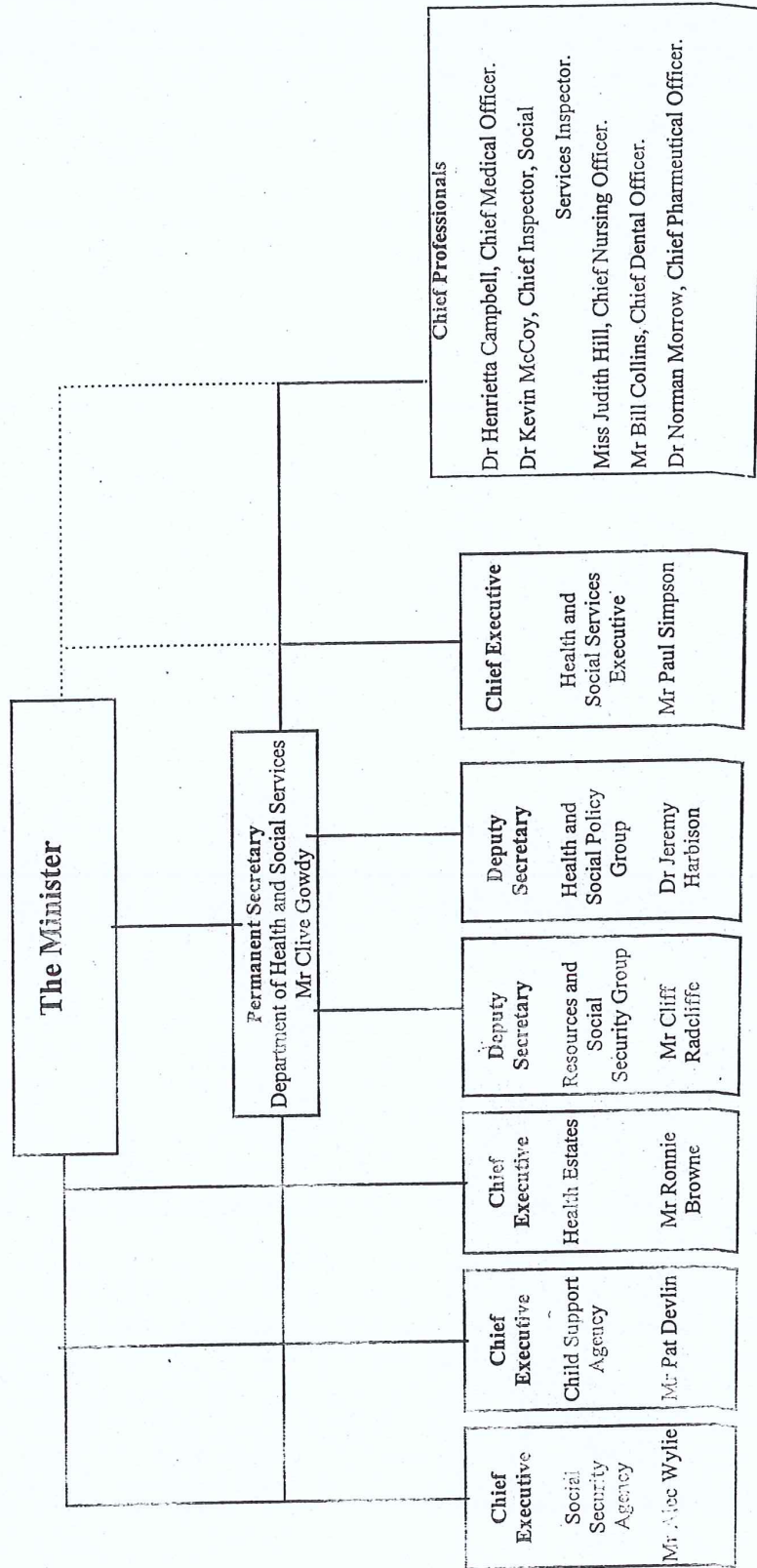
- To promote health and social well-being.
- To target health and social need.
- To secure and improve the provision of health and social services.
- To secure and improve the provision of the social security system.
- To secure and improve the provision of the system of child support for children whose parents live apart.
- Continuously to improve the quality and value for money achieved from the Department's use of its administrative resources.

5. These aims are further supported by nineteen corporate strategic objectives which identify key results that the Department will be seeking to deliver over a five year rolling period.

ORGANISATION

6. The administration of the Department is organised under the Permanent Secretary, Mr Clive Gowdy, into several groups and agencies. The following are commonly referred to as the Core Department: Resources and Social Security Group; Health and Social Policy Group; Health and Social Services Executive and the five professional groups. The Department's Next Steps Agencies are: Social Security Agency; Child Support Agency; Health and Social Services Estates Agency (known as Health Estates). The organisational structure of the Department is set out in the chart below and the ensuing description:

DHSS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



1997

7. **Resources and Social Security Group (RSSG) - Mr Cliff Radcliffe**

RSSG negotiates and manages the allocation and control of the Department's resources, provides personnel services for the Core Department and Health Estates, and corporate, financial and IT services across the Department. RSSG is also responsible for social security policy and legislation.

Health and Social Policy Group (HSPG) - Dr Jeremy Harbison

HSPG sets the overall strategy for health and personal social policies, including issues with a cross-departmental flavour. The Group also administers the range of social and charities legislation and discharges functions covering relations with the voluntary sector and community development across Northern Ireland Departments, as well as promoting the wider attainment of health and social gain.

Health and Social Services Executive (HSSE) - Mr Paul Simpson

HSSE is responsible for the development of policy on, and for securing the efficient and effective delivery of, health and personal social services.

Professional Groups

There are five professional groups within the Department: Medical and Allied Services (Dr Henrietta Campbell), the Social Services Inspectorate (Dr Kevin McCoy); the Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Group (Miss Judith Hill); Dental Services (Mr Bill Collins); and Pharmaceutical Advice and Services (Dr Norman Morrow). Each is led by a Chief Officer. They provide advice to and discharge functions for the Department but also provide services to the wider Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Northern Ireland Office.

8. The Department has three Next Steps Agencies. Each Agency is headed by a Chief Executive, who, as an Agency Accounting Officer, is responsible for the