

## BOARD FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (NI)

### REPORT 2002

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### *House of Bishops*

Rt Rev JE Moore, Bishop of Connor, Chairman (Resigned December 2001)

##### *Elected Members*

Mrs SL Ayling	(Mothers' Union, Down & Dromore)
Mr R Stinson	(Down Dromore & Connor Social Services Committee)
Rev Canon JPO Barry	(Down Dromore & Connor Joint Social Services Committee December 2001)
Rev RC Thompson	(Clogher Diocese)
Rev JNT Campbell	(Down Dromore & Connor Social Services Committee Resigned September 2001)
Mrs J Thompson	(Down Dromore & Connor Social Services Committee)
Dr J Evans	(Men's Society)
Dr J Turner	(Down Dromore & Connor Social Services Committee)
Rev D Ferry	(Derry Diocese)
Mr G Glenn	(Derry Diocese)
Very Rev TR Moore	(Clogher Diocese)
Captain C Harris	(Church Army)
Rev ASJ Warke (Hon Secretary)	(Armagh Diocese)
Mrs R Mullen	(Church of Ireland Youth Department)
Rev J Pickering	(Armagh Diocese)
Mrs J Whiteside	(Role of the Church Committee)
Mrs P Scott	(Mothers' Union, Connor)

##### *Co-opted Members*

Rev Canon GF Anderson	Mr JTN McGaffin (Vice Chairman)
Rev G Clunie	Mr GS Shaw (Hon Treasurer)
Lt Col CGH Filor	Mr TN Wilson
Dr JH McGaffin	

##### *Staff*

Mr I Slaine, BA (Hons) MSW CQSW CMHSC	Chief Executive
Mrs P Gilbert, BSSc (Hons) DipSW CQSW	Senior Social Work Practitioner
Mrs A Milligan, BA (Hons) DipSW CQSW PQA Post Grad. Dip Guidance & Counselling	Social Worker
Mrs M Giff, CQSW PQA	Sessional Social Worker
Mrs M Walker	Administrator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board is a provider of a range of social work services. These include The Church of Ireland Adoption Society, The Fertility Counselling Service and the provision of Financial Assistance to Families and Individuals in Need. In addition the Board is involved in social care provision through The Central Belfast Child Contact Centre and The Church of Ireland Mission to the Adult Deaf. Social Awareness Raising is carried out through training courses and involvement on Church of Ireland and Inter-Church committees. This ensures the Board has a wider social responsibility role outside the delivery of specific services.

In order to carry out the range of tasks the Board is dependent upon the employed staff and committed volunteers.

The main developments for the Board in 2001 were:

- The appointment of an additional part-time Social Worker
- Involvement in the placement of 'older' children for adoption
- Carrying out fee-paid work for statutory and voluntary adoption agencies
- Negotiating with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to extend the Fertility Counselling Service
- Input into the development of the Central Belfast Child Contact Centre
- Changes in Committee Convenorships

The Board obtains funding from a range of sources – church, statutory and voluntary in order to maintain service delivery. Additional church funding will lead to an increased emphasis on carrying out social responsibility and social awareness raising roles within the Church of Ireland.

The Mission Statement of the Board sets out its aims and objectives:

“The Church of Ireland Board for Social Responsibility (N.I.) exists to provide a practical response to the Church's ministry to community by providing a social work service, by raising awareness of social issues and by offering help to clergy and Parishes as required in dealing with their community outreach.”

This is translated in a practical means through:

- i) The provision of an adoption service
- ii) The provision of a fertility counselling service
- iii) The provision of advice, guidance and practical assistance to persons in need
- iv) Responding to matters of concern to the church in relation to social issues
- v) Providing information and training to clergy and laity on matters of social concern
- vi) Involvement in the Central Belfast Child Contact Centre and the Church of Ireland Mission to the Deaf

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

In order to provide social work and other services the Board employs professional and administrative personnel. Of equal significance to the effective running of the agency is the time, commitment and effort provided by Board members and members of the Adoption Panel – all of whom are volunteers.

In December 2000 Dr Judith McGaffin was co-opted on to the Board and early in 2001 on to the General Purpose and Finance Committee. Dr McGaffin has many years' experience in health and social services and is Director of Dental Health in the Western Health & Social Services Board.

In January 2001 Mrs Anne Milligan joined the Board as a member of social work staff. Anne is involved in adoption and fertility counselling.

Following the resignation of the Revd JNT Campbell in September 2001 the Revd Canon Jonathan Barry was appointed to the Board as a representative from Down, Dromore and Connor Social Services Committee.

At the Board's AGM in October 2001 two long-serving members of the Board retired as Convenors of committees. They were the Revd Canon GF Anderson, Convenor of the Development Advisory Committee and Lt Col CGH Filor, Convenor of the Legislation and Research Advisory Committee. Both remain active Board members and indeed are serving members of the committees, which they formerly convened. The new Convenors are Mrs P Scott, Development Advisory Committee and Dr J Turner, Legislation and Research Advisory Committee.

In December 2001 the Rt Revd JE Moore Bishop of Connor retired and his Chairmanship of the Board came to an end. He was an active and committed Chairman since joining the Board in 1995.

#### **THE CHURCH OF IRELAND ADOPTION SOCIETY**

The Adoption Society remains a significant part of the social work provision of the Board. Presenting statistics does not always reflect the actual nature and intricacies of the adoption service provided. The Adoption Society is inspected and approved by The Social Services Inspectorate of The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Lone parent counselling remains a part of the work of the Society. In 2001 a total of six women with an unplanned pregnancy were provided with counselling. Of these, two women chose the adoption route and these children are currently placed with prospective adopters.

In 2001 the Society increased its emphasis on working with Trusts and other agencies to provide parents for older children. Indeed the Society in the year concerned was involved in the placement of two children of primary school age with two different families. The Society would see this as a potential area of development in future years. The co-operation of statutory agencies will be required to make this service provision a success.

In 2001 a total of one hundred and nine inquiries were received from couples wishing to adopt. Most related to couples wishing to adopt a baby or young child. Other inquiries related to inter-country adoption, family adoption and fostering with a view to adoption. Relevant advice and guidance was provided. A total of twelve completed application forms were received from prospective adopters. In June 2001 an Information Evening was held for prospective adopters and twelve couples attended.

The Post Adoption Service, largely adult adoptees wishing to access birth records, remains an important part of the work of the Adoption Society. In 2001 a total of one hundred and thirty-seven post adoption inquiries were received. Some involved the provision of time-limited advice and guidance while others involved in-depth and ongoing social work counselling.

In 2001 the Society became further involved in providing services to other agencies on a fee-paid basis and in so doing met shortfalls in funding from central government. This included providing staff as members of two adoption panels, independent counselling to birth families and carrying out adoption assessments. Again this is seen as a potential future direction for the Adoption Society.

In March 2001 Mr George Glenn was appointed as Chairman of the Society's Adoption Panel. Mr Glenn is an adoptive parent and is a member of the Western Health and Social Services Board Adoption Panel.

In 2001 the Society received a legacy of £33,378 from the estate of Samuel Bunting. The Society has 'ring-fenced' most of this money to be used in a potential joint project with a statutory Health and Social Services Trust.

### **THE FERTILITY COUNSELLING SERVICE**

This is a unique service in Northern Ireland. The Service is primarily aimed at patients attending the Regional Fertility Centre at the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital, Belfast. Patients attending other hospitals have availed of the Service. In 2001 a total of one hundred and fifty-six new referrals were received for this Service. For some patients a one-off counselling session may be adequate. For others a number of counselling sessions may be required. It should be noted that in a number of studies it has been shown that one in six couples have difficulties conceiving a child and hence require medical interventions.

Social work staff involved in the Service also provide training to other professionals – doctors, nurses and social workers as well as medical students.

The Board provides the service to the Regional Fertility Centre on a contractual basis. In November 2001 negotiations opened on the renewal of the contract, plus, the provision of additional counselling hours to meet demand and the introduction of a free NHS funded service from mid-December 2001.

During 2001 The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety approached the Board to extend Fertility Counselling to couples attending hospitals other than The Regional Fertility Centre. For such hospitals there is no statutory requirement to provide a counselling service. From July 2001 onwards a series of reports on extending the service were forwarded to the Department. In addition a consultation exercise took place with medical, nursing and social work staff throughout Northern Ireland on extending the service from which positive feedback was received. In late 2001 the Department confirmed the availability of funding to extend the service. It is anticipated by the Board that the extension in the service provision will commence mid-2002. The offer of increased funding from the Department is welcomed by the Board and is a recognition of developments in the Fertility Counselling Service over the last ten years and as a direct reflection on the work of Mrs Patricia Gilbert, the lead Counsellor in the service.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN NEED**

This service is provided on a Northern Ireland wide basis with an emphasis on assisting persons referred by clergy. This direct financial assistance is primarily aimed at families with children. In addition financial support is available to the elderly, the physically disabled and people with learning difficulties.

In the Financial Year 2000/2001 a total of £16,750 (based on 2000/2001 Annual Accounts) was paid out in charitable disbursements. The Board would encourage clergy throughout Northern Ireland to avail of this service to benefit parishioners in need.

The charitable disbursements of the Board are largely from funds obtained from other organisations/charitable sources – BBC Children in Need Appeal, The Dean of Belfast's Christmas Sit Out, The Protestant Orphan Society (Counties Antrim and Down) and the Lord Mayor of Belfast's Welfare Fund.

Through the generosity of a number of Parishes throughout Northern Ireland the Board is able to run a Christmas Toy Appeal. In 2001 the most successful Appeal ever occurred, in terms of the number and quality of toys received, plus, in terms of the number of families provided with assistance. Over two hundred and fifty families and seven hundred fifty children received toys in December 2001.

#### **OTHER SERVICE INVOLVEMENT**

The Board is involved in the development of The Central Belfast Child Contact Centre. The Board made a one-off contribution of £5,000 toward the cost of setting up the service. In addition the Board's Chief Executive is a member of the Steering Committee for the project. This Centre, based in St Stephen's Parish Hall, allows a non-custodial parent, access to a child/children in situations involving separation/divorce.

In 2001 the Board developed a project in conjunction with the Church of Ireland Trustees and the former Missioner to the Church of Ireland Mission to the Adult Deaf and Dumb. The main aim of the project is to maintain a service to members of the Church of Ireland who are deaf or hearing impaired and to review how the needs of such people can best be met in future years.

#### **RAISING AWARENESS ON SOCIAL ISSUES**

The Board carries out this task in a variety of ways. One way is through co-ordinating training courses. As a result of discussions with ECONI (Evangelical Contribution on Northern Ireland) a course entitled, "Pastoring People Through Times of Change" was developed. This course was to assist clergy and laity in looking at the social and political changes in Northern Ireland. The Board obtained financial support from the Community Relations Council towards the cost of providing the course in Antrim. The Board part-funded a one-day course on this subject in October 2001 for clergy and laity organised by the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, when over one hundred people attended. Funding for this course remains available to all Northern Dioceses.

The Board is at present drafting a questionnaire for clergy in order to obtain an up-to-date 'picture' of the social issues on which they require training. It is anticipated this will be produced and distributed in early 2002.

The Board provides representatives to a range of Church of Ireland and inter-church bodies dealing with social issues. These include the Church of Ireland Marriage Council, (Dr J Turner and Mr G Glenn) and the Department of Social Issues of The Irish Inter Church Meeting, (Mr JTN McGaffin, Vice Chairman). The Board's Chief Executive also serves on both these bodies.

The Board is involved in sharing information of relevance to churches and church committees. An example of this in 2001 was the distribution to all Diocesan offices, and Diocesan Boards for Social Responsibility in Northern Ireland, copies of printed materials and videos produced by the William Keown Trust on Access to Church Buildings as linked to the Disability Discrimination Act 1996.

### **TRAINING**

The Board recognises a need for ongoing training to ensure effectiveness of service delivery and to meet the professional requirements of staff.

In 2001 Mrs Gilbert obtained a qualification in counselling through Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education, Mr Slaine obtained a Certificate in Managing Health and Social Care through the Institute of Health Care Management.

In addition, staff, both professional and administrative and Board members are offered relevant courses. Examples of courses attended by Board members include:

- Responding to the Aftermath of Suicide
- From Defensibility to Accessibility (The William Keown Trust)
- Marriage Today – A Christian Exploration

### **FUNDING**

The Board provides a variety of services and is involved in a range of activities related to areas of social concern. Funding is from a multiplicity of sources. These include:

- Dioceses/Parishes
- The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund
- The Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
- The Regional Fertility Centre
- Social Services Trusts for fee-paid work
- Trust Funds
- Voluntary Donations – Service Users

The Board acknowledges the high level of financial support received from Parishes and Dioceses in Northern Ireland. The increase in funding from The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund in 2000 was particularly welcomed by The Board. At central government level the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety remains a significant core funder and the ongoing support of the Department is much appreciated.

The Board requires security of funding in order to allow for maintenance of existing services and to allow for service developments. Funding from church sources is deemed important as a means of showing our core statutory funders that the church has an active role to play in social work/concern. Increased church funding is also a way of ensuring that the Board's wider social responsibility role – through training and social awareness raising – is developed, as these cannot be funded through government grants.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2001  
(BEING AN EXTRACT FROM THE LATEST AUDITED ACCOUNTS)**

<b>Revenue Statement</b>	<b>2001</b>		<b>2000</b>	
	£	%	£	%
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Donations &amp; Subscriptions</b>				
Dioceses:				
Armagh	1,240		2,610	
Clogher	780		1,145	
Connor	5,108		5,115	
Derry and Raphoe	1,608		1,965	
Down and Dromore	3,456		4,317	
Kilmore	-		355	
	<hr/> 12,192		<hr/> 15,507	
Church of Ireland Priorities Fund	15,000		10,000	
Dean of Belfast's Christmas Sit Out (for Fertility Counselling Work)	3,000		2,000	
Churches Welfare Association (for IT equipment & Poster campaign)			1,500	
Lloyd's TSB Charitable Trust (for publicity campaign)	1,500		1,000	
Enkalon Foundation	800		-	
Anonymous	1,050		826	
Other	-		500	
	<hr/> 33,542	25.4%	<hr/> 31,333	27.9%
<b>For Services Provided</b>				
Royal Maternity Hospital – Fertility Counselling	21,159		20,893	
Adoption Service Delivery	6,414		-	
Relate Courses for Clergy and other Income from Courses	5,457		4,363	
	<hr/> 33,030	25.4%	<hr/> 25,256	22.5%
<b>From Investments and Funds on Deposit</b>				
	<hr/> 9,430	7.1%	<hr/> 7,766	6.9%
<b>Grants From</b>				
Department of Health, Social Services And Public Safety:				
Core	33,150		32,340	
Specific	6,421		1,228	
	<hr/> 39,571	29.9%	<hr/> 33,568	29.9%

**INCOME CONTINUED**

	<b>2001</b>		<b>2000</b>	
	£	%	£	%
<b>For Charitable Disbursement</b>				
BBC Children in Need	6,500		6,050	
Dean of Belfast's Christmas Sit Out (for persons in need)	5,000		3,000	
Lord Mayor of Belfast's Welfare Fund	2,250		2,270	
Protestant Orphan Society for The Counties of Antrim and Down	3,000		3,000	
	<u>16,750</u>	12.6%	<u>14,320</u>	12.8%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>£132,323</u></b>	<b>100%</b>	<b><u>£112,243</u></b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>2001</b>		<b>2000</b>	
	£	%	£	%
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
General				
Staff Costs	67,377	50.9%	57,685	51.4%
Other Operating Charges	26,699	20.2%	35,470	31.6%
	<u>94,076</u>	71.1%	<u>93,155</u>	83.0%
Charitable Disbursements	20,627	15.6%	10,810	9.6%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>£114,703</u></b>	<b>86.7%</b>	<b><u>£103,965</u></b>	<b>92.6%</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>£17,620</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>£8,278</b>	<b>7.4%</b>

Copies of the statutory accounts along with supporting schedules are available on request at the Board's office.