



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday, 20 February 2020
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Mr Colm Gildernew MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Mr Alan Chambers MLA
Ms Jemma Dolan MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Ms Órlaithí Flynn MLA

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Ms Éilis Haughey (Clerk)
Ms Deirdre Farry (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lamont (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Brendan Miskelly (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10.32 am in closed session.

The Committee discussed the meeting Agenda.

The meeting moved into public session at 10.34 am.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson advised Members that he and the Deputy Chairperson had met with Haemophilia NI and Friends and Families of Haemophilia, regarding the recent allocation of funding to provide financial support to those affected by contaminated blood products.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department of Health for information about the process and timeline for the allocation of financial support to those affected.

- ii. The Chairperson advised Members that he had represented the Committee at the Gambling with Lives event which was sponsored by Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider gambling addiction as part of its scrutiny of mental health policy and the implementation of Protect Life 2.

- iii. The Chairperson advised Members that he had attended a Parenting NI event on the launch of the results of the Big Parenting Survey 2019.

3. **Draft Minutes**

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Briefing from Royal College of General Practitioners NI and British Medical Association NI**

The following representatives from RCGP NI and BMA NI joined the meeting at 10.37 am:

Dr Laurence Dorman, Chair, RCGP NI

Dr Tom Black, Chair, BMA NI

Dr Dorman and Dr Black briefed the Committee on current issues in the health service.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked Dr Dorman and Dr Black for their attendance.

The meeting was suspended at 11.48 am.

The meeting resumed at 11.58 am.

Present: Mr Colm Gildernew MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Mr Alan Chambers MLA
Ms Jemma Dolan MLA
Ms Órlaithí Flynn MLA

6. **Departmental Briefing – Transformation of Health Service**

The following officials joined the meeting at 11.58 am:

Ms Sharon Gallagher, Deputy Secretary for Transformation and Planning,
Department of Health

Ms Ciara Dolan, Director of Transformation, Department of Health

Mr Gearóid Cassidy, Transformation Programme Manager, Department of Health

The officials briefed the Committee on the Department of Health's work relating to the transformation of health and social care.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson declared an interest as formerly being employed as a Social Worker and currently taking a career break, and having a relative who works as a registered nurse.

The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on a number of issues raised by Members during the question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

The briefing session was reported by Hansard.

7. **SR 2020/16 The Food Safety (Information and Compositional Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

The Committee considered SR 2020/16 The Food Safety (Information and Compositional Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 which would provide for the enforcement of specific requirements for food for special medical purposes for infants, and for infant formula and follow on formula.

Agreed: That the Committee for Health has considered SR 2020/16 The Food Safety (Information and Compositional Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 and had no objection to the Rule.

8. **SL1 The Healthy Start Scheme and Day Care Food Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

The Committee considered a proposal by the Department of Health to make a Statutory Rule to make provision for the digitisation of the Healthy Start Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department of Health for information on planned awareness-raising initiatives in relation to this scheme.

9. SL1 The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee noted a proposal by the Department of Health to make a Statutory Rule which would revoke SR 2019/42 The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.

The Committee noted related correspondence from the Minister of Health confirming that the Statutory Rule had been laid with the Business Office.

The Committee noted that the Chairperson had advised the Business Committee that the annulment motion agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2020 in relation to SR 2019/42 The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, did not require to be scheduled in light of the Statutory Rule being laid to revoke the Regulations.

10. SR 2020/19 The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020/19 The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 which would revoke SR 2019/42 The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.

Agreed: That the Committee for Health has considered SR 2020/19 The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, had no objection to the Rule.

11. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted the the Examiner of Statutory Rules' Second Report of Session 2019-2020.
- ii. The Committee considered a request from Community Pharmacy NI to brief the Committee on the current crisis in community pharmacy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Community Pharmacy NI as part of its consideration of primary care and multi-disciplinary teams.

- iii. The Committee considered correspondence from BirthWise regarding its recent Maternity Survey Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department of Health for a response to the issues raised.

- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from Ulster University regarding a change of date in relation to its launch of the 'Health, Equality and the Economy' Report.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from Cancer Fund for Children inviting the Committee to hold a meeting at its Therapeutic Centre in Newcastle.

- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from Marie Curie inviting the Committee to hold a meeting at the Belfast Hospice.
- vii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department of Education regarding a briefing it received on the Mental Health and Well-being Framework.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding support for BookTrust NI.

12. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

13. Any Other Business

The Committee discussed a number of issues raised by people affected by the Neurology recall.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Minister for Health to meet with some of the affected patients.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to give further consideration, at its strategic planning meeting, to the planning and scheduling of additional work and briefings in relation to this matter.

14. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday, 27 February 2020, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.58 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____