

**COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 11th September 2013
Niamh Louise Foundation Office, Dungannon**

Present: Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Ms Pam Brown MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA

Apologies: Ms Sue Ramsey MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradley MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in public session with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

The Committee noted that the Chairperson was unwell and *agreed* to write wishing her a speedy recovery.

2. Chair's Business

The Deputy Chairperson thanked the Níamh Louise Foundation for hosting the visit to its centre and for allowing the Committee to use its facilities to hold the meeting.

The Committee noted that Conall McDevitt has resigned from the Assembly and *agreed* to write to thank him for his work on Committee.

The Committee noted that the Chairperson had met with the PPR project regarding the Card Before You Leave Scheme during recess and *agreed* to invite the group to an informal meeting.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an explanation of the increase in data protection breaches.

The Committee noted that Action Mental Health are holding an event on 8 October to mark the end of their year as the Assembly's nominated charity in the Senate chamber.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 3rd July 2013.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 3rd July 2013 were *agreed*.

4. Tobacco Retailers Bill

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Gerard Collins	Health Improvement Policy Branch, DHSSPS
Mrs Jenny McAlarney	Health Improvement Policy Branch, DHSSPS
Mr Nigel McMahon	Chief Environmental Health Officer, Public Health Advice Directorate, DHSSPS

Mr Roy Beggs made a declaration of interest that his father is a local councillor.

Ms Pam Brown made a declaration of interest that she was a local councillor.

Mr Gordon Dunne made a declaration of interest that he is a local councillor.

Mr Kieran McCarthy made a declaration of interest that he is a local councillor.

A question and answer session ensued. The Deputy Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

5. Proposed Statutory Rule. The NI Social Care Council (Social Care Workers Prohibition) and Fitness of Workers Regulations (NI) 2013

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Lorraine Conlon	Head of Governance and Planning, Office of Social Services, DHSSPS
Ms Patricia Higgins	Director of Regulation and Standards, NISCC

A question and answer session ensued. The Deputy Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

The Committee *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

6. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) Regulations and the Animal Feed (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2013

The Committee *agreed* that it was content for the Food Standards Agency to prepare the statutory rule.

7. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/172. The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013.

The Committee considered SR 2013/172, The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule.

8. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/178. The Healthy Start Scheme and Day Care Food Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee considered SR 2013/178, The Healthy Start Scheme and Day Care Food Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule.

9. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/180. The Specified Products from China (Restriction on First Placing on the Market) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee considered SR 2013/180, The Specified Products from China (Restriction on First Placing on the Market) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule.

10. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/204. The Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee considered SR 2013/204, The Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule.

11. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

The Committee *agreed* to schedule an evidence session with the Public Health Agency on organ donation.

12. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding parenting projects.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding hospital appointments to visually impaired patients.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding a neuromuscular nurse specialist appointment and *agreed* to copy the response to Mr and Mrs McCollum who raised the matter with the Committee.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Main Estimate for the DHSSPS.

4.00 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the TYC Strategic Implementation Plan and *agreed* to request further information.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding test purchasing on new psychoactive substances.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding sexual abuse.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Service and Budget Agreements and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding provision of arts-based projects in special schools and *agreed* to copy the response to Replay Theatre and to the Education and Culture Arts & Leisure Committees.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the project initiation document for the regional approach to statutory residential homes.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding passes to permit entry for Committee Members to HSC facilities.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Paramedic Assistants.

The Committee noted a letter from David Barbour regarding Paramedic Assistants.

The Committee noted a letter from Richard Dundas regarding Paramedic Assistants.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the death of the firefighter Mr McCloskey and *agreed* to copy this to the Public Accounts Committee. The Committee noted a letter from the Public Accounts Committee on this same issue.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding independent sexual and domestic violence advisors for the SARC.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding emergency paediatric congenital cardiac procedures.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the eligibility of men who have sex with men to donate blood.

4.06 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne rejoined the meeting.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding community meals and *agreed* to write to the Department expressing concerns regarding the reduction in the number of people receiving meals.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding cervical and ovarian cancers and endometriosis.

The Committee noted a response from the BMA regarding cervical and ovarian cancers and endometriosis.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding treatment of breast cancer.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Card Before You Leave Scheme and *agreed* to copy this to the Belfast Mental Health Rights Group.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Adoption and Children Bill.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding accountability meetings with HSC Trusts and *agreed* to ask the Department to provide minutes of future meetings.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the availability of alternative therapies in the HSC and *agreed* to copy this to the Belfast Health Initiative.

The Committee noted a response from the Public Health Agency regarding HPV vaccination and *agreed* to write to the Public Health Agency for further information and to copy the response to Jo's Cervical Trust.

The Committee noted a response from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust regarding community meals and *agreed* to request the number of people receiving community meals in each HSC Trust.

The Committee noted a response from the Department of Finance and Personnel regarding Suicide Prevention Strategies.

The Committee noted a response from the Department for Regional Development regarding suicide prevention strategies.

The Committee noted a response from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding suicide prevention strategies.

The Committee noted a response from the Department for Social Development regarding suicide prevention strategies.

The Committee noted a response from the Department of Justice regarding suicide prevention strategies.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Public Health Agency regarding procurement arrangements for service providers in the field of suicide prevention.

The Committee noted a response from the Western Health and Social Care Trust regarding Altnagelvin Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit.

The Committee noted a response from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the PEDU report on the Department for Health, Social Services & Public Safety.

The Committee noted a response from the Committee for Justice regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence to the Department from Mr Mackay.

The Committee noted a response from Nexus.

The Committee noted a response from Replay Theatre.

13. Correspondence

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding a second legislative consent motion for the UK Care Bill 2013 and *agreed* to take evidence from officials at its next meeting.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding Health & Social Care Pension Scheme Regulations.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the NHS blood and transplant organ donation and transplantation strategy.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding pharmacy in the community.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding cross border healthcare and *agreed* to take evidence on this matter from officials.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the action plan arising from the dental hospital inquiry.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the pharmaceutical pricing scheme.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the food labelling scheme.

The Committee noted letters from the Minister and officials regarding the consultation on the future of adult care and support.

The Committee noted a letter from the Department regarding the Investment Strategy for NI Investing Activity Report June 2013.

The Committee noted a letter from the Department regarding the Investment Strategy for NI Investing Activity Report July 2013.

The Committee noted a letter from the Department regarding the scheduling of tramadol and the exemption of prescriptions for temazepam and *agreed* to request a copy of NI responses to the consultation.

The Committee noted a letter from the Department regarding changes to sight test fees, domiciliary visiting fees and the continuing education and training allowance.

The Committee noted a correspondence from the Health and Social Care Board to Unison regarding paediatric retrieval ambulance services.

The Committee noted a letter from Unison regarding paediatric retrieval ambulance services.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for Education regarding safer routes to school.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for the Environment regarding rural road safety.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for Education suggesting a joint inquiry into services for visually impaired school pupils and *agreed* to consider the suggestion further.

The Committee noted a letter from the All Party Group on Visual Impairment regarding services for visually impaired school pupils.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding financial forecasting analysis.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding departmental savings delivery plans.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for Education regarding occupational therapy.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for the Environment regarding wind energy.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for the Environment regarding wind farming.

The Committee noted a letter from the Children's Heartbeat Trust.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms Clifford regarding paediatric cardiac surgery.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for information regarding the number of patients being referred to other centres for paediatric cardiac surgery.

The Committee noted a letter from Mr John McCallister MLA regarding a personal case and *agreed* to respond to Mr McCallister stating that it does not become involved in personal cases.

The Committee noted a letter from Conall McDevitt regarding the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms Duncan regarding a personal case and *agreed* to refer Ms Duncan to constituency representatives for support.

The Committee noted a report from the Royal College of General Practitioners - 'A Vision for GP Practice in the future NHS'.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Peat to the Minister.

The Committee noted a letter from NIPSA regarding domiciliary homecare.

The Committee noted a letter from the Royal College of Nursing NI regarding nurse facilitated discharge.

The Committee noted a letter from the Meningitis Research Foundation regarding the Meningitis B vaccine.

The Committee noted a letter from Tiny Life seeking a meeting and *agreed* to invite the group to an informal meeting.

The Committee noted a letter from the NIACRO seeking a meeting with the Committee regarding an individual case and *agreed* to refer NIACRO to the service user's constituency representatives for support.

The Committee noted a research report from Positive Life.

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Men's Advisory Project.

The Committee noted a letter from the Big Lottery Fund regarding its funding programmes.

The Committee noted a letter from the Imtac regarding pavement cafes.

The Committee noted letters from Mr Withers & Mr Brown regarding access to cancer treatments and *agreed* to write to the Department regarding this matter.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms Harvey regarding a personal case and *agreed* to refer Ms Harvey to constituency representatives for support.

The Committee noted a letter from Mr Cuddy regarding a personal case and *agreed* to refer Mr Cuddy to constituency representatives for support.

The Committee noted a letter from Mr McElwee regarding euthanasia.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms Quinn regarding the Repevax whooping cough vaccine and *agreed* to forward this to the Department for comment.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms Horan regarding dementia services.

The Committee noted a letter from the Save the Mid campaign regarding GP Out-of-Hours services.

The Committee noted a news update from the Save the Mid campaign.

The Committee noted a QUB Impact newsletter.

14. Any other Business.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust regarding staff parking arrangements.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 18th September 2013 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.35 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____