

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (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  
Mr David McIlveen MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

**Apologies:** None

**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 2.03 p.m. in closed session.*

**1. Tobacco Retailers Bill**

The Committee were briefed on legal advice regarding the Bill.

*2.35 p.m. the meeting moved to Public Session.*

*2.35 p.m Mr Kieran McCarthy left the meeting.*

## 2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

## 3. Chair's Business

The Chairperson welcomed Mr David McIlveen to the Committee.

The Committee noted that it would be moving to fully electronic meetings from 25 September 2013 and that the Committee office would contact members regarding this matter.

The Committee noted that a concurrent meeting with the Committee for Justice had taken place on 16 September 2013 regarding an investigation into the sexual exploitation of children and young people from care homes. The Committee *agreed* to record in the minutes that it was content that the concurrent meeting had been arranged.

The Committee noted that the minutes of the concurrent meeting with the Committee for Justice would be circulated to all members.

*2.38 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthey rejoined the meeting.*

The Committee *agreed* to take evidence from Dr Helen Beckett on the sexual exploitation of children and young people from care homes.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an update on the implementation of the recommendations in the Barnardo's report "Not a world away: the sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland."

The Committee noted that a public petition was received by the Speaker on 10 September on the issue of Pinewood Residential Care Home.

The Committee noted that members were invited to attend an event being organised by the NI Assembly with the Community Development Health Network in Ballymena on Thursday 3 October.

## 4. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were *agreed*.

## 5. Tobacco Retailers Bill

The Committee took evidence from:

Dr Elizabeth Mitchell	Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Mrs Jenny McAlarney	Health Improvement Policy Branch, DHSSPS
Mr Nigel McMahon	Chief Environmental Health Officer, Public Health Advice Directorate, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued. The Committee discussed the clauses of the Bill. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

**6. Evidence session on the Fit & Well Public Health Strategy.**

The Committee took evidence from:

Dr Elizabeth Mitchell	Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Dr Eddie Rooney	Chief Executive, Public Health Agency

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

*Mr Mickey Brady made a declaration of interest that he is a non-executive member of the Confederation of Community Groups.*

*Mr Roy Beggs made a declaration of interest that he is a committee member of the Drugs and Alcohol Advisory Group of Horizon Sure Start, Carrickfergus and Larne.*

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending. The witnesses agreed to provide further information.

**7. Legislative Consent Motion. UK Care Bill 2013**

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Fiona Lennon	Elderly & Community Care Unit, DHSSPS
Mr Dean Looney	Adult Care & Support Team, DHSSPS

*3.48 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting.*

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

The Committee *agreed* that it was content with the proposals for the Legislative Consent Motion.

**8. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Food Safety, Food Hygiene and Official Controls (Sprouting Seeds and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

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

**9. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Pharmacy (1976 Order) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013.**

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

**10. End of Session Report 2012/2013.**

The Committee *agreed* its End of Session Report for 2012/2013.

*3.57 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne rejoined the meeting.*

**11. Forward Work Programme.**

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

**12. Matters arising.**

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Health & Social Care pilot projects and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the June Monitoring bid in relation to the transitional costs of Transforming Your Care.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing the project initiation document for work being led by the Health & Social Care Board on improving services for older people.

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Minister to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment on Connected Health.

### **13. Correspondence**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister providing a copy of the Performance & Efficiency Delivery Unit (PEDU) report 'Review of NI Health & Social Care sector'.

The Committee noted the Department for Health, Social Services & Public Safety Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report August 2013.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust providing an update on the recall of patients treated in the emergency department at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The Committee noted a media statement from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust regarding a healthcare worker diagnosed with Hepatitis C.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Public Service Pensions Bill.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding the report of the Advisory Group on Alleviating Hardship.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Post Project Evaluations.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding a review of education and health services.

The Committee *agreed* to sponsor an event for Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI.

The Committee *agreed* to decline an invitation to meet with the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry Cancer Group.

The Committee noted correspondence from Families Voices Forum.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Ms Knowles.

The Committee noted correspondence from Ms Elliot regarding services at Belfast City Hospital.

The Committee noted correspondence from Ms Clery regarding a personal case and *agreed* to refer her to constituency representatives for support.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr McCloy regarding the performance of the accident & emergency unit at Antrim Area Hospital.

**14. Any other Business.**

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an update on services for cervical and ovarian cancers and endometriosis.

**15. Date, time and place of next meeting.**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 2.00pm in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.06 p.m.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_