

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 27th November 2013
Room 29, 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 Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Apologies: Mr David McIlveen MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)
Dr Janice Thompson (Assembly Research & Library Service)

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies.

Apologies as above.

2. Chair's Business.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that members had met informally with healthcare related groups and that a report of the meetings would be produced in due course.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding Accident & Emergency waiting times.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding revised guidelines on the termination of pregnancy.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding allegations of patient neglect at Cherry Tree House, Carrickfergus.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 13th November 2013.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 13th November 2013 were *agreed*.

4. The Health & Social Care (Amendment) Bill.

Clause 1 (Functions of RBSO: support services)

Question: Is the Committee content with Clause 1 as drafted, *put and agreed to*.

Clause 2 (Other functions of RBSO)

Question: Is the Committee content with Clause 2 as drafted, *put and agreed to*.

Clause 3 (Minor amendments)

Question: Is the Committee content with Clause 3 as drafted, *put and agreed to*.

Clause 4 (Meaning of “the 2009 Act”)

Question: Is the Committee content with Clause 4 as drafted, *put and agreed to*.

Clause 5 (Short title)

Question: Is the Committee content with Clause 5 as drafted, *put and agreed to*.

Schedule

Question: Is the Committee content with the schedule as drafted, *put and agreed to*.

Long Title

Question: Is the Committee content with the Long Title of the Bill as drafted, *put and agreed to*.

2.06 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.

5. Evidence session on the implementation of the European Union cross border health Directive & overseas visitor policy with Departmental officials.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Catherine Daly	Deputy Secretary, DHSSPS
Mr Stephen Galway	Primary Care Medical Services Branch, DHSSPS
Mr Michael Williamson	General Dental & Ophthalmic Services, DHSSPS
Mr Robert Kirkwood	Primary Care Medical Services Branch, DHSSPS

Mr Roy Beggs made a declaration of interest that family members were dentists.

A question and answer session ensued. The witnesses agreed to provide the Committee with further information.

3.05 p.m. Mr Sam Gardiner left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

The Committee *agreed* that it was content with the policy proposals in relation to how the Department intends to implement the EU cross border health Directive.

The Committee *agreed* that it required further information on the proposed changes to the overseas visitor policy and *agreed* to invite the Law Centre to give evidence on the issue of failed asylum seekers who are not in receipt of government support.

6. Assembly Research briefing on Waiting Times.

The Committee was briefed by Dr Thompson on waiting times for elective care.

The Committee noted that the Clerk would prepare terms of reference, methodology and a timetable for the Committee's review on waiting times for elective care for its consideration.

3.45 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney left the meeting.

3.58 p.m. Ms Pam Brown left the meeting.

7. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

8. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the termination of pregnancy.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding community meals.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the availability of cancer treatments and *agreed* to forward this to Mr Brown and Mr Withers who raised this matter with it.

9. Correspondence.

The Committee noted an urgent written statement from the Minister regarding the publication of the UK Strategy on Rare Diseases.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the indicators of performance direction for 2014/15.

The Committee noted letters from the Minister and the Chief Medical Officer regarding a consultation on the Regional Community Resuscitation Strategy.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the Green Investment Bank.

The Committee noted a report from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment on its visit to Brussels.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development to the Food Standards Agency regarding contamination of food products with horsemeat.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee Review Group regarding its review of the committee system.

The Committee noted correspondence from the British Heart Foundation regarding food portion size.

The Committee noted correspondence from the MindEd regarding its mental health services.

The Committee noted correspondence from Lighthouse regarding suicide prevention and *agreed* a response.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Ms McMackin to the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from PEAT to the Department regarding funding.

The Committee noted correspondence from pain management professionals and *agreed* to invite them to brief it on pain management in dementia care.

The Committee *agreed* to sponsor an event on the Experior Medical System.

The Committee noted a copy of a letter from Ms Clery to the Western Health & Social Care Trust.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Bell regarding the Committee stakeholder event on Learning disability.

10. Any Other Business.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding osteoporosis services.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 4th December 2013 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.18 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____