

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 6th November 2013
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

- Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Pam Brown MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
- Apologies:** Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
- In Attendance:** Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)
Dr Lesley-Ann Black (Assembly Research & Library Service)

The meeting commenced at 1.06 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies.

Apologies as above.

2. Chair's Business.

The Committee noted that members had attended a presentation from the Educational Shakespeare Company alongside members of the Justice Committee on 5 November 2013 and *agreed* to write to the Health & Social Care Board regarding this programme.

The Committee noted that its next meeting would be held in the Minor Hall of the University of Ulster's Magee Campus and would be preceded by an

informal meeting with academics based there who have recently published research on suicide statistics.

The Committee noted responses from the Minister regarding the child sexual exploitation independent inquiry. The Committee *agreed* to invite the Chair of the inquiry, Professor Marshall, to brief it on the inquiry, along with departmental officials.

The Committee also *agreed* to write to invite departmental officials to brief it on the draft terms of reference for the review to be undertaken by the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland on child sexual exploitation.

3. Draft minutes of the meetings on Tuesday 22nd October 2013 & Wednesday 23rd October 2013.

The minutes of the Committee meetings on Tuesday 22nd October 2013 & Wednesday 23rd October 2013 were *agreed*.

4. Assembly Research briefing on Learning Disability.

1.13 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne joined the meeting.

1.18 p.m. Ms Pam Brown joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed on the key issues on learning disability and health inequalities by Dr Black.

Ms Maeve McLaughlin made a declaration of interest that she is a director of the learning disability charity Destined.

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

The Committee noted that seven submissions had been received on the Bill and that no issues of concern have been raised.

The Committee noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules was content with the delegated powers contained within the Bill.

6. Evidence session with the BMA on the implementation of the EU cross border health directive.

The Committee took evidence from:

Dr. Tom Black Chair, BMA (NI) GP Committee

Dr. Alan Stout Deputy Chair, BMA (NI) GP Committee

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

7. Proposed Statutory Rule. Deregulation (Improvement of Enforcement Procedures)(Food Safety)(Revocation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

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

8. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation Scheme and Additional Voluntary Contributions), Health and Social Care (Pension Scheme)(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

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

9. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Contaminants in Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

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

10. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

11. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding blind cord safety and *agreed* to forward this to Ms Coulter who raised this matter with the Committee.

12. Correspondence.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Justice to the Department regarding the lack of criminal prosecutions relating to child protection social workers.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister providing a summary of the discussion that took place at the Joint Ministerial Council (Europe) meeting on 4 March 2013.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding European Priorities.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Marie Curie Centre seeking a meeting with it and asking it to sponsor an event on palliative care. The Committee *agreed* to sponsor the event and also *agreed* to invite the organisation to an informal meeting.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Corkey regarding concerns about the Department's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act and *agreed* to refer him to the Information Commissioner.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr and Mrs McMackin regarding a personal case.

13. Any other Business.

The Committee discussed pain management services.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 13th November 2013 at 2.00pm in the Minor Hall, Magee Campus, University of Ulster.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.19 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____