

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Roy Beggs MLA  
Mr Mickey Brady MLA  
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA  
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

**Apologies:** Mr Gordon Dunne MLA  
Mr David McIlveen MLA

**In Attendance:** Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

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

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies as above.

**2. Chairperson's Business.**

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Minister about problems with the health service payroll system.

The Committee noted that it would be visiting the Pavilions development in Lisburn on Wednesday 4 June 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to hold the agenda item on the Committee's review of waiting times in closed session.

**3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014.**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were *agreed*.

**4. Review of Transforming Your Care and Older People. Evidence session with Age NI.**

The Committee *agreed* to write to Cedar Court thanking it for facilitating its visit on 7 May 2014.

The Committee noted a letter from the Centre for Aging Research & Development in Ireland.

The Committee noted a response from the Northern Health & Social Care Trust on its budget for supported living.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Judith Cross            Strategic Policy Advisor (Health and Social Care), Age NI

Mr Duane Farrell        Director of Policy, Age NI

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

**5. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Pharmaceutical Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

The Committee considered The Pharmaceutical Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

**6. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/108. The Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014.**

The Committee considered SR 2014/108 - The Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule.

**7. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/126. The Draft Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (Indemnity Arrangements) Regulations (NI) 2014.**

The Committee considered SR 2014/126- The Draft Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (Indemnity Arrangements) Regulations (NI) 2014 and

had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

**8. Forward Work Programme.**

The Committee noted its work programme.

**9. Matters Arising.**

The Committee noted a response from the Minister confirming that officials would brief it on the Adoption and Children Bill prior to public consultation.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding an air ambulance service and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information. The Committee also *agreed* to copy the Minister's response to the Rural Community Network.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Falls Prevention Strategy and *agreed* to copy this to CARDI.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding services for people with diabetes and *agreed* to write to the Department about a pilot project being carried out in the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust. The Committee also *agreed* to copy the Minister's response to Diabetes NI.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding hearing loss issues and *agreed* to copy this to Action on Hearing Loss.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding sick absence in the public sector.

The Committee noted a response from the Public Health Agency on public awareness of leukaemia and lymphoma and *agreed* to copy this to Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI.

The Committee noted a response from Ms Crudden regarding an ovarian cancer awareness campaign.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister of Justice to Kieran McCarthy MLA regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.

**10. Correspondence.**

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister about the 2014/15 Financial Position.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister about proposed changes to the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister about a proposed amendment to the Health and Personal Social Services Act (NI) 2001 and *agreed* to take evidence from officials on this.

The Committee noted a letter from the Department on the Commencement No.1 Order for the Tobacco Retailers Act (NI) 2014.

The Committee noted the DHSSPS Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report April 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding in-year monitoring rounds.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding a briefing it received on the detection and diagnosis of vision stress in school children.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding a briefing from Bio Business.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Royal College of Nursing regarding health visitors' awareness of premature babies and their development and *agreed* to copy this to Tiny Life.

The Committee noted correspondence from Pancreatic Cancer UK seeking a meeting with it and *agreed* to invite the charity to its next stakeholder event.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Eating Disorders Association regarding blood monitoring for eating disorder patients and *agreed* to write to the Department about this matter.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Centre for Aging Research & Development in Ireland about pain, physical activity and depressive symptoms in older people.

The Committee *agreed* to sponsor an event for Prostate Cancer UK.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment & Learning regarding the Work & Families Bill and *agreed* to write to the Department about this matter.

#### **11. Any Other Business.**

No other business was discussed.

#### **12. Date, time and place of next meeting.**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*2.53 p.m. Mr Jim Wells left the meeting.*

*2.53p.m. The meeting moved to private session.*

#### **13. Review of Waiting times**

The Committee discussed evidence taken to date as part of its Review of Waiting Times.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.33 p.m.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chairperson*

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