

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 11th June 2014
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA

Apologies: 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 2.01 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies.

Apologies as above.

2. Chairperson's Business.

The Committee noted that it would be visiting the Queens University, Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology on Wednesday 18th June 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding draft recommendations and an action plan produced by the College of Emergency Medicine.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA regarding proposed amendments by the Attorney General to the Legal Aid and Coroner's Court Bill. The Committee *agreed* that the Clerk would seek advice on this matter.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for details of its engagement with the Green Investment Bank.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department seeking an update on recommendations made in the McCollum report on access to specialist neuromuscular services.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 4th June 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 4th June 2014 were *agreed*.

4. Review of of Transforming Your Care & Older People. Evidence session with Officials from the Department for Health, Social Services & Public Safety and the Department for Social Development.

The Committee noted a response from the Western Health & Social Care Trust regarding spending on supported living.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Sean Holland	Deputy Secretary, Department for Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Mr Michael Sweeney	Acting Director Mental Health, Disability and Older People, Department for Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Ms Fionnuala McAndrew	Acting Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Board
Mr Stephen Martin	Deputy Director Housing Policy Delivery, Department for Social Development
Mr Brian O'Kane	Acting Assistant Director, Strategic Partnerships, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

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

2.32 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy joined the meeting.

3.59 p.m. Mr Jim Wells left the meeting.

4.25 p.m. Mr Mickey Brady left the meeting.

4.31 p.m. Mrs Pam Cameron left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

5. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/154. The Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR 2014/154 - The Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

6. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its work programme.

7. Matters Arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about services for patients with eating disorders and *agreed* to copy this to the Eating Disorder Association who raised this matter with it.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about the Work and Families Bill.

The Committee noted a correction to the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulation (NI) 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from West Tyrone Against Wind Turbines on health concerns and *agreed* to write to the group suggesting they should raise their concerns with the Public Health Agency. The Committee also *agreed* to write to Department about the health impact of wind turbines on people with autism.

8. Correspondence.

The Committee noted diabetes review reports from the Department.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission annual budget.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee to the Department on the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Changing Faces NI to the Minister on the closure of clinics.

The Committee noted correspondence from Newry and Mourne Visually Impaired Society regarding companion travel passes and *agreed* to write to the Department on this matter.

The Committee noted correspondence regarding an individual case and *agreed* to refer the correspondent to constituency representatives for support.

The Committee noted a letter from Mr Taylor about the need for a Helicopter Emergency Ambulance Service and *agreed* a response.

9. Any Other Business.

The Committee noted correspondence from Northern Ireland Rare Disease Partnership.

The Committee discussed support services for children under 12 with eating disorders and *agreed* to write to the Eating Disorder Association seeking its views on this matter.

10. Evidence session on the GP out of hours framework.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Stephen Galway Primary Care Directorate, DHSSPS

Dr Sloan Harper Director of Integrated Care, HSC Board

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

11. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 2.00pm in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.22 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____