

# COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 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 David McIlveen MLA  
Mr Fearghal McKinney 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 2.07 p.m. in open session.*

### **1. Apologies.**

No apologies were received.

### **2. Chair's Business.**

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding its next steps following the court judgement on the Department's policy of a lifetime ban on men who have sex with men donating blood.

The Committee noted that the Department had not yet provided it with the draft terms of reference for the inquiry into child sexual exploitation and *agreed* to write to the Department again regarding this matter.

The Committee *agreed* to arrange an additional meeting next week to take evidence from officials on the summary of responses to the public consultation on the guidelines on termination of pregnancy in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted a written statement from the Minister regarding a report produced by the Public Health Agency on public attitudes to organ donation.

The Committee *agreed* it was content with changes to an event it is sponsoring for Action Cancer.

**3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were *agreed*.

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

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Peter Toogood                      Director of Finance, DHSSPS

Mr Craig Allen                         Legislation Unit, DHSSPS

Ms Maura O'Brien                    Legislation Unit, DHSSPS

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

**5. Evidence session on Transforming Your Care - Learning Disability Services.**

The Committee took evidence from:

Dr Maura Briscoe                      Director of Mental Health, Disability & Older People,  
DHSSPS

Mr Aidan Murray                      Assistant Director of Mental Health, Disability &  
Older People, DHSSPS

*2.44 p.m. Mr Jim Wells joined the meeting.*

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

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

**6. Evidence session on the Protect Life Strategy with suicide prevention groups.**

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Irene Sherry                        North & West Belfast Protect Life Implementation Group

Mr Kevin Bailey                        North & West Belfast Protect Life Implementation Group

Ms Linda Armitage                    South and East Belfast Community of Interest

Mr Ronan McKenna                    South and East Belfast Community of Interest

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

**7. Evidence session on the Protect Life Strategy with the Public Health Agency**

The Committee took evidence from:

Dr Eddie Rooney	Chief Executive, Public Health Agency
Mrs Mary Black	Assistant Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency
Mr Peter Wilson	Head of Procurement, Public Health Agency

*Mr Roy Beggs made a declaration of interest that he is a director of Carrickfergus Community Drug and Alcohol Advisory Group.*

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

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

*4.38 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney left the meeting.*

**8. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation), Health and Social Care (Pension Scheme) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.**

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

**9. Forward Work Programme.**

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

The Committee *agreed* to take evidence from officials on the draft Commissioning Plan Direction for 2014/2015 at its next meeting and also agreed to request further information from the Department.

The Committee *agreed* to postpone evidence sessions scheduled for 23 October 2013 with the PHA on organ donation and with departmental officials on cancelled appointments to a later date.

The Committee *agreed* to hold its meeting on 13 November 2013 in Derry/Londonderry.

The Committee *agreed* to hold a stakeholder event on 20 November 2013 in Carrickfergus.

**10. Matters arising.**

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding pilot projects in Health & Social Care.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the October monitoring round bids and *agreed* to write to the Department regarding this matter.

## **11. Correspondence.**

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the 2014/15 capital budget exercise.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding the Barroso Task Force Desk Officer Progress Reports.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice to the Minister for Health, Social Services & Public Safety regarding the Human Trafficking Bill and *agreed* to ask the Minister to copy the Committee into his response to the Committee for Justice.

The Committee noted correspondence from John McCallister MLA regarding the removal of services from the Mid Ulster Hospital and *agreed* a response to Mr McCallister.

The Committee noted a letter from the RQIA regarding specialist sexual health services.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms McElroy regarding Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms McCombe regarding Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services.

The Committee noted a letter from Mr Power regarding the introduction of the Personal Independence Payments and *agreed* to refer him to the Department for Social Development who have responsibility for this matter.

The Committee noted a letter from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry Cancer Therapy Group seeking a meeting with it and *agreed* to decline to meet the organisation.

## **12. Any other Business.**

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an update on the Independent Living Fund.

The Committee *agreed* to ask the Clerk to ascertain its role following the publication of the Public Accounts Committee's report on the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

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

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 at 2.00pm in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.46 p.m.*

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

*Chairperson*

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