

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 18th 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 David McIlveen MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA

Apologies: None

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.

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business.

The Committee *agreed* to discuss the draft recommendations of its review of waiting times in closed session.

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

The Committee noted that it would be holding a planning meeting prior to its formal meeting on Wednesday 25th June 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department seeking an update on the Public Health Agency's general awareness campaign on cancer.

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

2.03 p.m. Mr Mickey Brady joined the meeting.

The Committee discussed correspondence regarding the Attorney General's role in scrutinising serious adverse incidents or deaths occurring within a health and social care context and *agreed* to consider this when planning its work programme for the next session.

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

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding the Early Intervention Transitional Fund.

The Committee *agreed* to write to Queens University Belfast, Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology thanking it for hosting a visit to the centre.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding pharmaceutical rebate funding.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 11th June 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 11th June 2014 were *agreed*.

4. Evidence session on the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Inquiry into Emergency Healthcare.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mrs Virginia McVea Director, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

Dr David Russell Deputy Director, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

A question and answer session ensued.

2.39 p.m. Mr Jim Wells joined the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

3.04 p.m. The Committee moved to closed session.

5. Review of Waiting Times.

The Committee discussed the evidence taken during the review and potential recommendations.

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

4.15 p.m. The Committee moved to public session.

6. Evidence session on Connected Health with Departmental officials.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Catherine Daly	Deputy Secretary, Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS.
Mr Chris Stewart	Director, Healthcare Transformation, DHSSPS.
Mr Sean Donaghy	Director of eHealth & External Collaboration, Health and Social Care Board.

A question and answer session ensued.

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

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

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

7. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/158. The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No2) and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR 2014/158. The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No2) and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule.

8. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/159. The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR 2014/159. The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule.

9. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/ 168. The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR 2014/ 168. The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

10. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/ 169. The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR 2014/ 169. The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

11. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its work programme.

12. Matters Arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding a review of Health & Social Care governance processes.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the emergency aeromedical support service group.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Children's Cardiac Surgery.

13. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a consultation on proposals to amend the quorum for the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the New Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding draft regulations on cross border care home placements.

4.52 p.m. Mr Jim Wells rejoined the meeting.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Health and Social Care Board regarding statutory residential homes and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development to the Department on its Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Patient Client Council seeking a meeting and *agreed* to invite the organisation to an informal stakeholder event.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland regarding physical activity, ageing and health.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Friends of Lisgarel regarding residential homes in the Northern Health & Social Care Trust.

The Committee noted correspondence from Beechmount Mums Against Drugs seeking a meeting and *agreed* to invite the group to an informal stakeholder event.

The Committee noted correspondence from WJ Law regarding supported living and *agreed* to write to the Department about the issues raised.

The Committee noted correspondence from Let's Talk Crohns & Colitis NI seeking a meeting and *agreed* to invite the group to an informal stakeholder event.

The Committee noted correspondence from Business in the Community seeking a meeting and *agreed* to invite the group to an informal stakeholder event.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Doherty about health and safety proposals to reduce accidents and *agreed* to write to the Department about this matter.

14. Any Other Business.

The Committee discussed an exchange at its meeting on 4 June 2014 between the Chairperson and Mr Dunne regarding the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Inquiry into Emergency Healthcare.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 25th June 2014 at 3.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.02 p.m.

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____