

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 19th February 2014
Senate Chamber, 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 David McIlveen MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)
Dr Janice Thompson (Assembly Research & Information Service)

The meeting commenced at 2.02 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the provision of acute mental health and addiction services at Omagh hospital and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information. The Committee also *agreed* to forward the letter to Omagh District Council.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an update on the Minister's meeting with nurses at the Emergency Care Summit held on 19 February 2014. The Committee also *agreed* to invite the Royal College of Nurses to present evidence to it on Emergency Department issues.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding services for those suffering from eating disorders.

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

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

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an update on services for those with visual impairment.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 12th February 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 12th February 2014 were *agreed*.

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

4. Evidence session on ovarian cancer awareness with Departmental and Public Health Agency officials.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Jackie Johnston Secondary Care Directorate, DHSSPS

Dr Heather Livingston Senior Medical Officer, DHSSPS

Dr Miriam McCarthy Public Health Agency

Mr Steven Wilson Public Health agency

A question and answer session ensued.

2.45 p.m. Mr David McIlveen joined the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending. The Committee *agreed* to write to the Minister expressing its view that there should be a specific public awareness campaign to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer.

5. Review of Transforming Your Care and Older People. Assembly Research and Information Service briefing.

Dr Thompson briefed the Committee on the research paper.

3.52 p.m. Mr David McIlveen left the meeting.

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

6. Accident and Emergency Services.

The Committee discussed the evidence taken on Accident & Emergency Services at its meeting on 12 February 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for a range of further information.

4.01 p.m. Mr David McIlveen re-joined the meeting.

The Committee *agreed* to take evidence from the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust on Accident & Emergency Services.

The Committee *agreed* to visit the Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The Committee *agreed* to take evidence on the proposals to create a 111 number as set out in Transforming Your Care.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about the development of an action plan to implement the recommendations of the College of Emergency Medicine report on the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and *agreed* to forward this to the College.

The Committee noted correspondence from Ms Margaret Ritchie MP and *agreed* a response.

7. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Work Programme.

8. Matters Arising.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Food Standards Agency correcting drafting errors in the Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula Regulations.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding January Monitoring.

9. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Sexual Health Promotion Strategy and Action Plan.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding Competitive European Funding.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Barroso Task Force Desk Officers' Report.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Spring Supplementary Estimates.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Sickness Absence in the Public Sector and *agreed* that it should contact the Department directly for information.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Children's Law Centre regarding the proposed Mental Capacity Bill and *agreed* a response.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Patient and Client Council.

The Committee *agreed* to sponsor an event for the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists.

The Committee noted correspondence from Randox regarding drug testing policy in prisons in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted correspondence from Community Pharmacy NI.

The Committee noted correspondence regarding a personal matter and *agreed* to refer the correspondent to constituency representatives and the Patient Client Council for support.

10. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 26th February 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.13 p.m.

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____