

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
Senate Chamber, 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

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

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

*The meeting commenced at 2.57 p.m. in closed session.*

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies as above.

## **2. Review of Waiting Times.**

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

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

The Committee considered the draft recommendations for its review of waiting times.

*3.12 p.m. The Committee moved to public session.*

## **3. Chairperson's Business.**

The Chairperson noted that Mr Sam Gardiner was leaving the Committee and thanked him for his contribution to its work.

The Committee noted a press statement from the Minister setting out his intention to re-introduce prescription charges with the aim of providing access to new drugs. It also noted correspondence from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry regarding the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme. The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for further clarification on the workings of the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department about safeguarding arrangements for older people.

The Committee noted the Department's intention to consult on a proposed Bill on secondary uses of patient information and *agreed* to invite officials to brief it on the proposals at its next meeting on 2 July 2014.

The Chairperson briefed members on a meeting she had with the National Childbirth Trust on 24 June 2014.. The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department seeking its views on matters raised.

The Committee *agreed* to invite Time2Change to its next stakeholder event.

The Committee *agreed* to hold a stakeholder event on Wednesday 8 October 2014.

## **4. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were *agreed*.

## **5. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/170. The Pharmaceutical Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

The Committee considered SR 2014/170. The Pharmaceutical Services (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 forward work programme.

## **7. Matters Arising.**

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the timetable for the introduction of the Mental Capacity Bill.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a consultation on standardised packaging for tobacco products.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Department's priorities for June monitoring.

## **8. Correspondence.**

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding a consultation on the Home Accident Prevention Strategy.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Department regarding the Green Investment Bank.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Royal College of Nursing regarding recommendations made by the Pay Review Body and *agreed* to write to the Department about this matter.

The Committee noted correspondence from the General Medical Council regarding a national training survey.

The Committee noted correspondence about services for those living with long term brain injuries and *agreed* to write to the Department about the issues raised.

The Committee noted an invitation from FASA to visit projects operated by it and *agreed* to consider the invitation in September when planning its forward work programme for the next session.

The Committee noted correspondence from Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network and *agreed* to invite the group to a stakeholder event.

The Committee *agreed* to act as a sponsor for a provisional event being organised by Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Committee noted correspondence from Age NI regarding its report 'The Denial of NHS continuing Healthcare. The Committee *agreed* to consider the reports recommendation that it carry out an inquiry into the provision of NHS Continuing Healthcare when it discusses its forward work programme following recess.

The Committee noted correspondence from Vasculitis Ireland.

### ***3.29 p.m. Meeting adjourned.***

*3.29 p.m. Mr Mickey Brady left the meeting.*

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

*3.29 p.m. Mr Sam Gardiner left the meeting.*

### ***4.02 p.m. Meeting resumed.***

**9. Evidence session on progress against Programme for Government Delivery Plans.**

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Julie Thompson Deputy Secretary, Resources & Performance Management, DHSSPS

Ms Catherine Daly Deputy Secretary, Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS.

Mr Sean Holland Deputy Secretary, DHSSPS

Dr Liz Reaney Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued.

*4.09 p.m. Mr Sam Gardiner rejoined the meeting.*

The witnesses agreed to provide the Committee with additional information. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

**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 2<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.59 p.m.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson*

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