

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 26th 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)

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business.

The Committee noted that a response has been received from the Minister regarding the Committee's review on health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities and *agreed* to defer consideration of this to its next meeting.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Sean Rogers MLA regarding the Emergency Department at the Downe Hospital and *agreed* a response.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 19th February 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 19th February 2014 were *agreed*.

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

4. Review of waiting times. Evidence session with Professor Luigi Siciliani

The Committee took evidence from:

Professor Luigi Siciliani	Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and Related Studies, University of York
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2.05 p.m. Mrs Pam Cameron joined the meeting.

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

5. Review of Transforming Your Care and Older People. Evidence session with Departmental officials.

The Committee noted correspondence from Age NI.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Sean Holland	Deputy Secretary, Social Services Policy Group, DHSSPS
Mr Dean Looney	Community Care Directorate, DHSSPS
Ms Pamela McCreedy	Director of Transforming Your Care, HSCB
Mr Kevin Keenan	Assistant Director of Social Services, Older People & Adults, HSCB

A question and answer session ensued.

3.33 p.m. Mr Sam Gardiner left the meeting.

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

6. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Work Programme.

The Committee noted that a visit to the Emergency Department at the Royal Hospital had been arranged for Wednesday 19 March.

The Committee noted that evidence sessions with the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and the Royal College of Nursing on emergency department issues had been arranged for Wednesday 26 March.

7. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

8. Proposed Statutory Rule. The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

9. Proposed Statutory Rule. Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation), Health and Social Care (Pension Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation), Health and Social Care (Pension Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

10. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to defer consideration of the Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014 to its next meeting, pending clarification from the Department on the role of insurance companies in meeting the charges.

11. Matters Arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding services for people with diabetes.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding paediatric cardiac care services.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding guidance on the termination of pregnancy.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the independent review on procurement issues in the Northern Trust.

12. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding plans to introduce legislation banning the sale of electronic cigarettes to people under the age of 18 and *agreed* to write to the Minister supporting the proposal.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Joint Ministerial Council on the European Union.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding its Inquiry into the Barroso Task Force.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry seeking to attend the Committee event on 2 April 2014 and *agreed* to ask the organisation to provide it with a written brief of any issues it wishes to bring to the Committee's attention.

The Committee noted a copy of a letter from Mitchell House Special School to the Minister regarding the provision of services from the Belfast Trust and *agreed* to refer the correspondent to local MLAs for support.

13. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.22 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____