

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 29th January 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)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)
Dr Janice Thompson (Assembly Research & Library Service)

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

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business.

The Chairperson reminded members that the debate on the Committee motion on learning disability and health inequalities would take place on Monday 3 February 2014.

3. Legislative Consent Motion. Children & Families Bill – Regulation of retail packaging of tobacco products.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a legislative consent motion on standardised tobacco packaging.

The Committee *agreed* that it was content with the proposed legislative consent motion.

The Committee *agreed* a report on the proposed legislative consent motion.

2.03 p.m. Mrs Pam Cameron joined the meeting.

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

4. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 22nd January 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 22nd January 2014 were *agreed*.

5. Evidence session on the summary of responses to the public consultation on the Termination of Pregnancy Guidance.

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

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

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Eilís McDaniel	Director of Family & Children's Policy, DHSSPS
Dr Margaret Boyle	Senior Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Mr Alasdair MacInnes	Social Services Policy Group, DHSSPS
Ms Zoe Boreland	Nursing Officer, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued.

Mr Jim Wells made a declaration of interest that he is Vice Chairperson of the all-party pro-life group.

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

6. Assembly Research Briefing on waiting times.

The Committee was briefed -by Dr Thompson on a paper entitled "Waiting Times - Supplementary 'Issues' Briefing on the 18 Week RTT Policy in England and Scotland".

7. Review on Transforming Your Care and Older People – supported living options.

The Committee *agreed* the terms of reference and work plan.

8. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

9. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

10. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Meat Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered The Meat Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Food Standards Agency to prepare the statutory rule.

11. Statutory Rule. SR2014/3. The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR2014/3 - The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule.

12. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Work Programme.

13. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding access to health services for people not ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted a response from the Law Centre NI regarding access to healthcare for asylum seekers.

14. Correspondence.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding proposed changes to the Medical Act 1983.

The Committee noted a written statement from the Minister regarding procurement issues in the Northern Health & Social Care Trust and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding its Inquiry into Post-School Provision for individuals with Learning Disabilities.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding its Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities.

The Committee noted a letter from Ms Crudden regarding ovarian cancer and *agreed* to take evidence from the Department and the Public Health Agency on this matter. The Committee *agreed* to write to Ms Crudden on this matter.

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

The Committee noted an invitation from the Public Health Agency to a conference on learning disability health care and improvement and *agreed* that a member of staff would attend on behalf of the Committee.

15. Any Other Business.

The Committee *agreed* to invite the Minister to give evidence on Accident and Emergency services, the outcome of the January monitoring round, and general departmental budgetary pressures.

16. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February 2014 at 2.00pm in Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.36 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____