

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 3rd July 2013
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Sue Ramsey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Ms Pam Brown MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Conall McDevitt MLA
Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA

Apologies: Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Bell (Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.32p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

2. Chair's Business

The Committee *agreed* to delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to submit views on Freedom of Information requests on behalf of the Committee over the recess period as required.

The Committee noted that a public petition was laid in the Assembly on Monday by Sandra Overend on Westlands Home, Cookstown.

The Committee *agreed* to forward correspondence from the Department regarding Group B Streptococcus to Group B Strep Support who have previously engaged with the Committee on this issue.

The Committee noted that members had met informally with the Belfast Health Initiative and *agreed* to write to the Department asking for details of pilot projects carried out in relation to alternative or complementary therapies.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for details of pilot projects carried out by the Health & Social Care Board, Public Health Agency, Department and Health & Social Care Trusts in the last 5 years.

The Committee noted a Departmental press release setting out how much the Department received under the June monitoring and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information.

The Committee noted a written statement by the Minister regarding allegations of malpractice in relation to procurement in the Northern Health & Social Care Trust and *agreed* to take evidence from the Department following the publication of the report into this matter.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 26th June 2013.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 26th June 2013 were *agreed*.

4. Tobacco Retailers Bill

The Committee noted a letter from the Tobacco Manufacturers Association.

5. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Card Before You Leave Scheme.

The Committee noted responses from the Minister, Health & Social Care Board and BMA to issues raised by Alere Health Ltd and *agreed* to copy these to Alere Health Ltd.

The Committee noted responses from the Belfast and Southern Health & Social Care Trusts regarding residential care homes.

The Committee noted responses from the Department for Employment and Learning, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Education, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and Department of Justice regarding suicide prevention strategies. The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department of Justice for further information.

The Committee noted a response from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People regarding infant mental health and *agreed* to forward this to the Association for Infant Mental Health who raised this matter with the Committee.

6. Correspondence

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding a draft Bill to amend Health and Social Care (Reform) Act.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the development of a strategic framework for public health and *agreed* to take evidence from Departmental officials on this matter.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding cancelled appointments and *agreed* to take evidence from officials on this matter.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding an All Island Child Protection Conference.

The Committee noted a consultation on an acute mental health in-patient unit from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee regarding an investigation into the death of a fire fighter and *agreed* to write to the Department on this matter.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Law Centre NI about accessing healthcare for migrants.

The Committee noted a letter from IHCP regarding domiciliary care provision.

The Committee noted correspondence from Imtac.

The Committee noted a letter from JTI regarding tobacco products directive proposals.

The Committee noted a briefing paper from ABPI NI on cancer medicines.

The Committee noted correspondence from Windwatch NI regarding wind turbines and health.

The Committee noted a Deloitte Centre for Health Solutions report on telecare & telehealth.

The Committee *agreed* to invite Vasculitis Ireland to an informal meeting.

The Committee noted a briefing paper from Parenting NI.

The Committee noted a copy of a letter from the Carrickfergus Community Group to the Chief Medical Officer.

The Committee noted correspondence from regarding Endometriosis.

The Committee noted correspondence from Ms Elliot regarding health cuts.

The Committee noted a copy of a letter from Maeve McLaughlin MLA to the Minister about the services available for people with a central tremor.

The Committee noted a statement from the Southern Health & Social Care Trust regarding the end of their contract with Domestic Care and *agreed* to write to the Trust for further information.

The Committee noted correspondence about an individual case and agreed to refer the correspondent to their constituency MLAs and the Patient Client Council for support.

7. Any other Business.

No other business was discussed.

2.47 p.m. meeting adjourned.

3.04 p.m. meeting resumed.

8. Evidence session on Transforming Your Care with the Minister for Health, Social Services & Public Safety.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Edwin Poots Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Mr John Compton Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Board

Mr Eugene Rooney Director of Primary Care, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued. The witnesses agreed to provide the Committee with additional information.

3.59 p.m. Ms Paula Bradley left the meeting.

4.11 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy left the meeting.

4.13 p.m. Ms Paula Bradley rejoined the meeting.

4.18 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy rejoined the meeting.

4.27 p.m. Ms Maeve McLaughlin left the meeting.

4.27 p.m. Mr Conall McDevitt left the meeting.

4.29 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy left the meeting.

4.39 p.m. Ms Pam Brown left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witness for attending.

9. Evidence session on General Dental Services with the British Dental Association NI

The Committee took evidence from:

Dr Peter Crooks Chair, BDA Northern Ireland Dental Practice Committee

Dr Claudette Christie Director, BDA Northern Ireland

Mr Roy Beggs made a Declaration of Interest that members of his family were dentists.

A question and answer session ensued.

4.40 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy rejoined the meeting.

4.42 p.m. Ms Paula Bradley left the meeting.

4.47 p.m. Ms Paula Bradley rejoined the meeting.

4.50 p.m. Mr Conall McDevitt rejoined the meeting.

4.54 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy left the meeting.

4.57 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting.

4.59 p.m. Mr Conall McDevitt left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witness for attending.

10. Evidence session on General Dental Services with Departmental officials.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Brian Dooley Head of General Dental & Ophthalmic Services Branch,
DHSSPS

Mr Simon Reid Acting Chief Dental Officer, DHSSPS

Mr Eugene Rooney Director of Primary Care, DHSSPS

Mr Michael Williamson General Dental & Ophthalmic Services, DHSSPS

Mr Roy Beggs made a Declaration of Interest that members of his family were dentists.

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

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department seeking an update on this issue at a later date.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 2.00pm in the Niamh Louise Offices, Dungannon.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.36 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____