

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 9th April 2014
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs 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: Mr Mickey Brady MLA

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 Chairperson informed members that the Deputy Chairperson and she had met with the panel of experts carrying out the review of children's heart surgery on 7 April 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to sponsor an event to launch the Age NI report 'The Denial of NHS Continuing Healthcare' on 28 May 2014.

The Committee noted a written statement by the Minister on 28 March 2014 on the Northern Health & Social Care Trust.

The Committee noted the Minister's oral statement on "Promoting Quality and Good Governance across the HSC" made on 8 April 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding the implementation of Transforming Your Care.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 26th March 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 26th March 2014 were *agreed*.

4. Review of waiting times. Evidence session with Mr Pedro Gomes

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Pedro Gomes National Coordinator of the Central Unit of SIGIC
(Integrated Management System of the Waiting List
for Surgery), Portuguese Government

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

5. Review of Transforming Your Care & Older People. Evidence session with the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted responses from the Minister and the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust on supported living and *agreed* to write to the Department and to the Housing Executive for further information.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Claire Keatinge Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland

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

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

6. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

7. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

8. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Work Programme.

The Committee *agreed* to not to meet on Wednesday 21 May 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to visit the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University, in order to receive a presentation on the proposed European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights.

9. Report on Stakeholder event 2 April 2014

The Committee discussed a report on its stakeholder event on 2 April 2014 and *agreed* to write to the Department and the Public Health Agency about the matters raised.

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

The Committee *agreed* to write to the South Tyrone Hospital Community Forum regarding engagement with stakeholders.

The Committee noted an invitation to visit the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University from Cancer Research.

10. Matters Arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about a review of serious adverse incidents.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about the regional foot and ankle service at Musgrave Park Hospital.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about access to services for those with a visual impairment.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about Endometriosis and *agreed* to forward this to Unite who raised this matter with it.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about the MRI Scanner for the Children's Hospital.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister about transitional funding for Transforming Your Care.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing it with a briefing paper on Connected Health and *agreed* to invite officials to give evidence on this matter.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for Justice about the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Justice to the Minister regarding the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding sickness absence in the public sector.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding flexible working.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for Regional Development regarding its inquiry into benefits of cycling to the economy.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Committee for Culture Arts & Leisure regarding the Community Resuscitation Strategy.

The Committee noted a response from the Patient and Client Council regarding its report 'The painful truth'.

11. Correspondence.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the publication of a strategy on Pharmacy in the Community.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a review of health & social care imaging services.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding charges for residential care.

The Committee noted the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for March 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development regarding its inquiry into the benefits of cycling to the economy.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development to the Department regarding its inquiry into the benefits of cycling to the economy.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the use of inhalers in schools.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the Legal Aid and Coroners' Courts Bill.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Ulster Farmers' Union regarding hospital provision of accident & emergency services.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Randox regarding drug testing within the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

The Committee noted a briefing paper on the OPENspace research centre from the University of Edinburgh, College of Art.

The Committee noted correspondence from Menarini seeking a meeting and *agreed* to ask the company to provide a written brief.

The Committee noted correspondence from R. A. Hunter regarding medical staff pay.

The Committee noted correspondence from Ms McAuley.

12. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 30th April 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.16 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____