

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 2nd July 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 Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA

Apologies: Mr Sam Gardiner 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 2.05 p.m. in closed session.

1. Apologies.

Apologies as above.

2. Review of Waiting Times.

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

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

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

3. Review of Transforming Your Care & Older People

The Committee *agreed* to consider the draft recommendations for its review of Transforming Your Care & Older People in closed session.

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

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

The Committee noted a response from the Minister.

The Committee considered the draft recommendations for its review of Transforming Your Care & Older People.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the HSC Trusts to seek further information regarding their promotion of supported living.

2.59 p.m. Mr Jim Wells left the meeting.

3.06 p.m. The meeting moved to public session.

4. Chairperson's Business.

The Committee noted a statement from the Minister on unscheduled care at emergency departments and that the RQIA had published its review of unscheduled care. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the review of Serious Adverse Incidents relating to emergency departments over the last 5 years. The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department about these matters.

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 *agreed* to invite the Samaritans to the next stakeholder event.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding June monitoring and budget 2014/2015.

5. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 25th June 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 25th June 2014 were *agreed*.

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

6. Evidence session on proposed Bill to amend the Health & Personal Social Services Act (NI) 2001.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Christine Smyth	Director, Office of Social Services, DHSSPS
Ms Lorraine Conlon	Office of Social Services, Governance & Planning, DHSSPS
Ms Patricia Higgins	Director of Regulation & Standards, Northern Ireland Social Care Council

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending. The witnesses agreed to forward further information to the Committee.

7. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Health & Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered the Health & Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc) (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 that it would discuss its work programme at a planning meeting at 2pm on Wednesday 10 September 2014, followed by a short formal committee meeting.

9. 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 payroll issues affecting health service staff.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing the draft recommendations from the College of Emergency Medicine on emergency care and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the GP Out of Hours Framework.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Age NI report "Denial of Continuing Healthcare" and *agreed* to copy the response to Age NI.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Public Accounts Committee on the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service.

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

The Committee noted a correction to statutory rule: SR 2014/158, the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.2) and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody)(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the health implications of wind turbines.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding engagement with the Green Investment Bank.

10. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the UK Strategy for Rare Diseases.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Minister regarding its inquiry into inclusion in the arts.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding European Liaison Officers.

The Committee *agreed* to invite representatives of those living and working with epilepsy to a stakeholder event.

The Committee noted correspondence from Pancreatic Cancer Action.

The Committee noted correspondence from the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy regarding the training of dental hygienists and *agreed* to write to the Department about this matter.

The Committee *agreed* to sponsor an event to launch a report on addiction services.

The Committee noted correspondence from Ms O'Hagan regarding complementary medicine and cancer care and *agreed* to forward this to the Department seeking its views.

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

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee on its report on the Safety of Services provided by Health & Social Care Trusts.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on draft guidance on termination of pregnancy and *agreed* to write to the Department seeking an update.

The Committee noted correspondence from the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care seeking a meeting and *agreed* to invite the group to a stakeholder event.

The Committee noted correspondence from Miss Coulter to the Minister.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding a proposed statutory rule - The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014). The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department requesting that it defers from making the rule pending further Committee scrutiny.

11. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 10th September 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.57 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____