

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 10 December 2014
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA

Apologies: Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Ms Marie Austin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.06 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson referred to a request by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children to informally meet with the Committee to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold an informal meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee in Parliament Buildings on 10 February 2015.

- ii. The Chairperson reminded Members that the Committee had agreed to meet with representatives of Scottish Communities for Health and Wellbeing to hear about the work being undertaken to embed community-led approaches to health improvement in disadvantaged communities across Scotland and to reduce health inequalities. The Chairperson proposed that the visit should include a meeting with the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee to discuss areas of mutual interest.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to visit Scotland to meet with representatives of Scottish Communities for Health and Wellbeing, and the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee.

- iii. The Chairperson referred to the introduction of the Private Members' Bill: *Children's Services Co-operation Bill*.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request its views on the Bill, and in particular, Clause 4.

- ix. The Committee referred to correspondence from the Huntingdon's Disease Association NI regarding the urgent need for coordinated care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to give further consideration to the matter when responses to issues already raised by the Committee had been received from the Department.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 3 December 2014

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 3 December 2014 were *agreed*.

4. Review of the Departmental Approach to Budget 2015/16: Briefing by Expert Witnesses

The Committee took evidence from:

Professor Ciaran O'Neill	Professor of Health Technology Assessment, The National University of Ireland, Galway
Dr Pat McGregor	Former Senior Lecturer, University of Ulster

A question and answer session ensued.

The witnesses agreed to provide further information on health inequalities.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

2.17 p.m. Mr Michael McGimpsey joined the meeting.

5. Review of the Department's Benefits Management Framework for Transforming Your Care: Briefing by the Expert Adviser

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Anne Watts Expert Adviser, The Change Emporium

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the Adviser for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Expert Adviser's report: *Review of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's Benefits Management Framework for Transforming Your Care*, to the Department for a response on the issues raised, with the intention that the response is referred to the Expert Adviser for consideration.

3.35 p.m. Mr Paul Givan joined the meeting.

The Committee agreed to bring forward Items 7 to 12 on the agenda.

6. SR 2014-277: The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: "The Committee considered SR 2014-277: The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule".

7. SR 2014-285: The Products Containing Meat etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: "The Committee considered SR 2014-285: The Products Containing Meat etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule".

8. SR 2014-286: The Food Hygiene and Official Feed and Food Controls (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: "The Committee considered SR 2014-286: The Food Hygiene and Official Feed and Food Controls (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule".

9. SR 2014-287: The Fish Labelling (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: "The Committee considered SR 2014-287: The Fish Labelling (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule".

10. SR 2014-288: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.4) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: “The Committee considered SR 2014-288: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.4) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule”.

11. SL1: The Health and Social Care Bodies (Membership) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend a number of Regulations to provide that the Chairs of the Health and Social Care Board, the Public Health Agency and Business Services Organisation are disqualified for appointment on the same basis as other members appointed to these bodies by the Department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department’s proposal to make the Rule.

12. January 2015 Monitoring Round: Briefing by Departmental Officials

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Julie Thompson	Deputy Secretary, Resources and Performance Management Group, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Mr Jackie Johnston	Director of Secondary Care, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Mr Bill Pauly	Investment Director, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

A question and answer session ensued.

Officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

3.51 p.m. Mr Paul Givan left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending.

13. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee considered a response from the Minister to the recommendations contained in its Report on the Review of Supported Living for Older People.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an oral evidence session with officials for April 2015, to provide an update on the outcome of the Department for Social Development’s Review of Supporting People and progress in relation to the Delivering Social Change project.

- ii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister in relation to his meeting with Moyle District Council regarding Dalriada Hospital.

- iii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister providing further information on Programme for Government Commitment 80.
- iv. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister providing the projected timetable for the consultation on Clinical Excellence Awards.
- v. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister advising that officials would be available to brief the Committee on the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme and Cancer Drugs Fund from mid-January 2015, and that a briefing on the issue would be scheduled into the Committee's forward work programme.

14. Correspondence

- i. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015.
- ii. The Committee *noted* the Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report: November 2014.
- iii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Department of Justice regarding the NI Community Safety College project.
- iv. The Committee *noted* the EU Matters Newsletter: December 2014.
- v. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Barnardo's NI regarding research report: *Living with adversity: A qualitative study of families with multiple and complex needs*.
- vi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the MS Society regarding the importance of respite options for people with Multiple Sclerosis and their carers.
- vii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy advising that the Project Board for physiotherapy self-referral had been stood down.
Agreed: The Committee agreed write to the Department to seek clarification on the rationale for the decision.
- viii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from CARDI regarding its Frailty and Disability research briefing.
- ix. The Committee considered correspondence from the NI Social Care Council inviting the Committee to visit its Belfast office.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the NI Social Care Council advising that the invite will be considered at a later date as part of the Committee's forward work programme.
- x. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Imtac regarding a Walking Audit of Moira.
- xi. The Committee considered correspondence from a Mr Tughan regarding Stewart Memorial House.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to respond to Mr Tughan advising that the Committee has consistently taken a position of not becoming involved in issues relating to individual hospitals or health

facilities and that he should contact the constituency MLAs for further support.

- xii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Regulation of Health and Social Care Professionals.
- xiii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Cancer Focus NI regarding the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme and Cancer Drugs Fund.
- xiv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from QUB/Belfast Trust LAMP regarding research to prevent serious infection in newborn infants.
- xv. The Committee considered correspondence from Suicide Down to Zero requesting a meeting with the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the group to the next Committee stakeholder event.

15. Any Other Business

- i. A visit to the Genito-Urinary Medicine clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast was proposed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to give further consideration to the proposed visit at its strategic planning meeting on 14 January 2015.

- ii. The recent death of Una Crudden was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Una's family to express its sympathy on her passing and acknowledge the huge amount of work she did to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

- iii. The issue of abuse in care homes was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reflect on this issue at its strategic planning meeting on 14 January 2015.

16. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 14 January 2015 at 2.00pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.30pm.

Signed: _____
Deputy Chairperson

Date: _____