

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 19 November 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 Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: None

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

None.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson advised Members that consideration would be given to the outcomes of the Effective Questioning training session at a later date.

- ii. The Chairperson advised Members that correspondence had issued to the Department requesting information required by the Expert Adviser on Transforming Your Care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the request for information.

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

- iii. The Chairperson advised Members that, in light of the timescales announced recently by the Executive in relation to consultation on the draft Budget, the Committee's report on the review of Budget 2015/2016 would need to be brought forward to dovetail with the budget timetable, meaning that the Committee's findings should be produced by 3 December 2014.

The Chairperson advised Members that an Assembly Researcher would attend next week's meeting to brief Members on scrutiny issues relating to the draft Budget 2015/2016 and that this would be followed by consideration of the evidence received to date on the Committee's Review of the Department's approach to Budget 2015/2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the briefing from the Assembly Researcher and the consideration of evidence on the Committee's Review of the Department's approach to Budget 2015/2016 should be held in closed session.

The Chairperson advised Members that correspondence had issued to the Department requesting that specific issues be addressed in the departmental budget briefing paper for the meeting on 26 November 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the request for information.

- iv. The Chairperson advised Members that an Assembly Christmas e-card was available for electronic distribution.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the e-card to issue to stakeholders and for the Chairperson to agree the distribution list.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 5 November 2014

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 5 November 2014 were *agreed*.

4. Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland

The Committee took evidence from:

Professor Kathleen Marshall	Inquiry Chairperson
Mr Glenn Houston	Chief Executive, Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
Ms Sheila Taylor	Inquiry Board Member.

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

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending.

5. Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Jim Wells	Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Mr Sean Holland	Chief Social Services Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Ms Fionnuala McAndrew	Director of Social Care and Children, Health and Social Care Board
Mr Hugh Connor	Chairperson, Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.

4.29 p.m. Mr Michael McGimpsey left the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

5.30 p.m. Mrs Pam Cameron left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and officials for attending.

6.02 p.m. Mr George Robinson left the meeting.

6.02 p.m. The meeting was suspended.

6.08 p.m. The meeting resumed.

6. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Briefing by Assembly Researcher

The Committee agreed to reschedule this item for the meeting on 26 November 2014.

7. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Proposals for Handling the Committee Stage

The Committee agreed to reschedule this item for the meeting on 26 November 2014.

8. Regional Task Force on Emergency Care: Progress Update

Agreed: Given the late receipt of the departmental briefing paper, the Committee agreed to reschedule the briefing on the Regional Task Force on Emergency Care for the meeting on 3 December 2014, and write to the Minister in relation to the matter.

9. SR 2014 No. 261: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2014)

The Committee considered SR 2014 No. 261: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2014).

Agreed: The Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety has considered SR 2014 No. 261: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule.

10. SR 2014 No. 262: The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee SR 2014 No. 262: The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: The Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety has considered SR 2014 No. 262: The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule.

11. SR 2014 No. 267: The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider SR 2014 No. 267: The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 at the meeting on 26 November 2014.

12. SL1: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.4) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered a proposal by the Department to make a Statutory Rule to allow for the provision of aluminium foil by persons employed or engaged in the lawful provision of drug treatment services.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule.

13. Forward Work Programme

The Committee *agreed* the Forward Work Programme for the period November to December 2014.

The Committee noted that the Department was not in a position to brief the Committee on the PPRS and cancer drugs fund issues until January 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an explanation of its position, and its proposed date for briefing the Committee on these matters.

14. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding the Review of Waiting Times Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite officials to a meeting in the New Year to discuss the Department's progress and timeframe for implementing the recommendations contained in Committee's Review of Waiting Times Report, and request that the briefing paper for the session sets out, in detail, the progress/timescales under each recommendation.

- ii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding Monitoring Rounds.
- iii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Máiría Cahill case.
- iv. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations.
- v. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister providing an update on the outcomes framework for Transforming Your Care.
- vi. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding Cherry Tree House, Carrickfergus.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to Mr Hanna who raised the issue.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a copy of the interim progress reports submitted by each responsible organisation when available.

- vii. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by the All Party Group on Epilepsy.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to the All Party Group on Epilepsy.
- viii. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by Optometry NI.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to Optometry NI.
- ix. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by the Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network.
- x. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by Time2Change.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to Time2Change.
- xi. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by PROParamedics.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to the PROParamedics.
- xii. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by the Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers.
- xiii. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by Drink Think.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to Drink Think.
- xiv. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by Changing Faces.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to Changing Faces.
- xv. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by the British Medical Association.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to the British Medical Association.
- xvi. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by Guide Dogs NI.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Guide Dogs NI.
- xvii. The Committee *considered* a response from the Minister regarding issues raised by Beechmount Mums Against Drugs.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to Beechmount Mums Against Drugs.

15. Correspondence

- i. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy.

- ii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Service Framework for Children and Young People.
- iii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Analysis of Sickness Absence in NI Departments.
- iv. The Committee *noted* a copy of a response from the Minister to Mr Chris Hazzard MLA regarding Mental Health staffing issues.
- v. The Committee *noted* joint correspondence from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Justice regarding the consultation on a draft Adult Safeguarding Policy.
- vi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding a proposed Legislative Consent Motion on Public Service Pension Schemes.
- vii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Financial Transactions Capital budget.
- viii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee regarding the Payroll of HRPTS.
- ix. The Committee *considered* correspondence from the Committee for Education proposing a joint stakeholder event on the availability of health services which provide access to the education curriculum for children with Special Educational Need.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to participate in the proposed joint stakeholder event.
- x. The Committee *considered* correspondence from Moyle District Council regarding Dalriada Hospital, Ballycastle.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to respond to Moyle District Council advising that, while the temporary closure of Dalriada Hospital is a serious matter of public concern, the Committee has consistently taken a position of not becoming involved in issues relating to individual hospitals or health facilities.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking an update on the Minister's position in relation to this issue.
- xi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Stratagem regarding the CFNI submission to Evaluation of the Individual Funding Request process.
- xii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Patient and Client Council seeking an extension to its progress report on the implementation of the Access to GP Services project.
Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to grant an extension to mid-January 2015.
- xiii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Time2Change requesting Committee sponsorship for an event.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to sponsor the event.
- xiv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Omnibus Partnership requesting a meeting with the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite representatives of the Omnibus Partnership to its next stakeholder event.

- xv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Mrs Graham regarding Dalriada Hospital.
- xvi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Mrs Watt regarding the consultation on the duty of candour guidance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward Mrs Watt's correspondence to the Department for direct response.

- xvii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Miss Coulter on a number of issues.
- xviii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Mr McGenity regarding Meigh Surgery.

16. Any Other Business

- i. Ms Rosie McCorley raised an issue in relation to comments made by Mr Gordon Dunne to the media following the Committee meeting on 22 October 2014.
- ii. The recent report published by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety confirming an increase in school age children in Northern Ireland diagnosed as having Autism Spectrum Disorder was highlighted.
- iii. The 30 November 2014 deadline for responses to the consultation on the Independent Living Fund was highlighted.

17. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6.30 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____