

# COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 1 July 2015**  
**Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA  
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

**Apologies:** Mr Paul Givan MLA

**In Attendance:** Ms Marie Austin (Senior Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Oliver Bellew (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Sharon McGurk (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced at 2.05 p.m. in public session.*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

### **2. Chairperson's Business**

- i. The Chairperson informed Members that she had attended an event in relation to stroke prevention.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update on its proposals for stroke prevention and details of any other stroke prevention work in which it is engaged.

- ii. The Chairperson reminded Members that the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill had passed its Second Stage on 29 June 2015 and is now in Committee Stage.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to arrange a further information session with Mr Daniel Greenberg to discuss the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill with a focus on the issues of public interest; social well-being; and safeguards.

- iii. The Committee noted that the Department intends to introduce two further Bills before the end of the mandate.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request the: i) proposed dates for the introduction of both Bills; ii) length of the Bills in terms of clauses and schedules; and, iii) details of the stakeholders who responded to the public consultation on both Bills.

- iv. The Committee considered arrangements for dealing with Freedom of Information requests during the summer recess period.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to submit, during the recess period, views on the releasing or withholding of the information in any non-routine/contentious Freedom of Information requests received.

### **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 24 June 2015**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 24 June 2015 were agreed.

### **4. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Financial Position for 2015-16 - Ministerial Briefing**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr S Hamilton	Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Mr Peter Toogood	Director of Finance, DHSSPS
Dr Michael McBride	Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Mrs Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Secretary Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued.

*2.13pm Mr McKinney joined the meeting*

*2.26pm Mrs Dobson joined the meeting*

*4.19pm Mrs Dobson left the meeting*

The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with: i) confirmation of the policy in relation to the provision of incontinence products for people with learning disabilities; ii) further information on the Department's approach to dealing with

an ageing population; iii) clarification of how the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme operates; and, iv) information on the number of training places for GPS and the associated costs.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and his officials for attending.

*4.27pm Mr Robinson left the meeting*

## **5. Sir Liam Donaldson Expert Examination of Health and Social Care Governance Arrangements – Departmental Briefing**

Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS, and Mrs Deborah McNeilly Deputy Secretary Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS were joined at the table by Ms Charlotte McArdle, Chief Nursing Officer, DHSSPS.

The Chairperson advised officials that the briefing on the Department's response to the Sir Liam Donaldson Expert Examination of Health and Social Care Governance Arrangements would not proceed as there was insufficient information provided to Committee Members.

The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request clarification on: i) whether the Department has or intends to publish a summary of responses to the public consultation on its website; ii) whether the Trusts have submitted a response to the report and its recommendations; and, iii) when the Department will brief the Committee on its response to the recommendations and its position/plans for implementation and the associated costs.

## **6. Matters Arising**

- i. The Committee considered the evidence received to date in relation to its Review of Workforce Planning in the context of Transforming Your Care.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on a range of areas.

- ii. The Committee noted the Delegated Powers Memorandum for the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill, a copy of which had been forwarded to the Examiner of Statutory Rules.
- iii. The Committee considered a response from the Minister in relation to the provision of incontinence products for persons with learning disabilities. Members noted that the Minister had agreed to provide further clarification in relation to the matter.
- iv. The Committee considered a response from the Minister to the Committee's request for further information following the recent briefing on the Department's Programme for Government commitments.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request clarification of the timescale for the provision of a report detailing progress on the delivery of the 99 Transforming Your Care recommendations.

- v. The Committee noted a response from the Minister in relation to savings identified from a range of departmental programme and administration budgets.

- vi. The Committee noted a response from the Minister in relation to the content of a leaked Health and Social Care Board document.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister in relation to the benefits of a smokeless fuel policy in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the correspondence to CPL Industries who had raised the issue.

## **7. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Down Community Health Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the organisation to its next stakeholder event and consider its invitation to visit the hospital at a later date.

- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from an individual in relation to a response she received from the Committee.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Chairperson of the Committee for Social Development regarding the Review of the Supporting People Policy and Legislative Framework.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that both Chairpersons should meet to discuss relevant issues.

- iv. The Committee noted a copy of the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for June 2015.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Law Centre regarding the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council regarding the launch of the new joint GMC/NMC guidance on the professional duty of candour.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from The Professional Standards Authority regarding its Annual Report and Accounts for 2014/2015.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Nursing and Midwifery Council regarding its Professional Standards Authority Annual Performance Report 2014-2015.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Food Standards Agency regarding the Departmental Resource Accounts 2014-15.
- x. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the consultation on amending regulations to provide access to the HSC Pension Scheme for GP Federation employees.
- xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the consultation on regulations under the Tobacco Retailers Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

## **8. Any Other Business**

None.

**9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 9 September 2015, at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.33 p.m.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_