

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 13 May 2015

Seminar Room 6, Education Centre, Elliott Dynes
Building, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA

Apologies: Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

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

The meeting commenced at 2.16 p.m. in public session.

The Chairperson thanked the Belfast Trust for hosting the visit to the Genito Urinary Medicine clinic and facilitating the Committee meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson advised Members that Paula Bradley resigned as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee with effect from 12 May 2015. The Chairperson further advised that Alex Easton MLA had been nominated as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee with effect from the same date and referred Members to his Declaration of Interests.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Paula Bradley to thank her for her work on the Committee.

- ii. Members noted that an informal meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible between the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson and the new Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Mr Simon Hamilton MLA.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the new Minister to attend a Committee meeting at the earliest opportunity to brief Members on a range of issues including: the financial position for 2015/2016; pay increases for health staff and the related industrial action; the overall reform of the health and social care system; and, the review of the approach to commissioning.

- iii. The Chairperson raised the issue of funding for the Infrastructure Support Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for: i) an update on the review of funding for the Infrastructure Support Programme; and, ii) its assessment of the impact the removal of the funding would have on the delivery of services provided by relevant organisations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 29 April 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 29 April 2015 were agreed.

4. Review of workforce planning in the context of Transforming Your Care – Briefing from the NI Social Care Council and NI Association of Social Workers

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Colum Conway	Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Ms Patricia Higgins	Director of Regulation & Standards, Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Ms Marcella Leonard	Chair, Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers
Ms Carolyn Ewart	Country Manager, Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

5. SR 2015/227 The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: “The Committee considered SR 2015/227: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule”.

6. SR 2015/228 The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: “The Committee considered SR 2015/228: The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule”.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

8. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding his resignation.
- ii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing information in relation to Transforming Your Care and the implementation team within the Health and Social Care Board.
- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding actions being taken to tackle the use of New Psychoactive Substances.
- iv. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the Alzheimer’s Society Right to Know campaign.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Alzheimer’s Society.
- v. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Northern Ireland Care Day.
- vi. The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing the Terms of Reference and an outline timetable for the Review of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.

9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Public Services Ombudspersons Bill.
- ii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for Education regarding children’s vision problems and poor educational attainment.

- iii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence to the Minister from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Children's Services Co-operation Bill.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding SR 2015/208: The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Patient Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.
- v. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the monitoring of Savings Delivery Plans 2014-15.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to address the departmental savings achieved in 2014/2015, and the proposed savings measures for 2015/2016, in the June Monitoring Round briefing scheduled for 3 June 2015.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the Review of the Sure Start programme.
- vii. The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland, Investing Activity Report: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety - April 2015.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from CBI Northern Ireland regarding waiting times for elective care.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland regarding its research report: *Keeping Active for Better Ageing*.
- x. The Committee noted correspondence from West Tyrone Against Wind Turbines regarding wind turbines and wind farms.
- xi. The Committee considered a copy of correspondence from an individual in relation to whistle blowing.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Public Accounts Committee for onward transmission to the Audit Office.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 27 May 2015, at 2.00 p.m. in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.47 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____