

# COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 15 October 2014**  
**Room 29, 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)  
Mr Colin Pidgeon (Assembly Researcher) for Item 7 only

*The meeting commenced at 2.02 p.m. in public session.*

### **1. Apologies**

None.

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

- i. The Committee noted that Ms Sue Ramsey had resigned as an MLA and *agreed* to write to her to thank her for her work on the Committee and wish her good health.
- ii. The Chairperson welcomed Ms McCorley, Mr McGimpsey and Mr Robinson to their first Committee meeting and advised that the

extracts from the Register of Interests for Ms McCorley, Mr McGimpsey and Mr Robinson had been circulated for information.

- iii. The Chairperson referred to the oral statement made by the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 14 October 2014 regarding recent Monitoring Rounds and the future of Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to express disappointment that a single oral statement was made to cover two very significant issues.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to clarify:  
i) whether the Department of Finance and Personnel had set any conditions on how the Department must spend the £20 million from the June Monitoring Round and the £60 million from the October Monitoring Round or whether the Minister had authority to spend it according to his priorities; and ii) when the Department would be in a position to provide the Committee information on how the £80 million would be spent including which current services would be reduced or ceased and which new services would not be progressed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that a departmental oral briefing on the Monitoring Round issues should be arranged for early November.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that a departmental oral briefing on the future of Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services should be arranged for next week's meeting.

### **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 1 October 2014**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 1 October 2014 were *agreed*.

### **4. Adult Safeguarding Policy**

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Eilís McDaniel                      Director of Family and Children Policy,  
DHSSPS

Ms Linda Johnson                      Social Services Officer, DHSSPS

*2.37p.m. Ms Paula Bradley joined the meeting.*

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

## **5. Adult Safeguarding Policy**

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Claire Keatinge	Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland
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Professor John Williams	Head of Department, Department of Law and Criminology, Aberystwyth University
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*3.00p.m. Ms Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.*

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

*4.08p.m. Mr Michael McGimpsey left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a written briefing on the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Adult Safeguarding Policy and to consider scheduling an oral briefing at a later date.

## **6. Proposed Amendments to the Safeguarding Board of Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Eilís McDaniel	Director of Family and Children Policy, DHSSPS
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Ms Donna Ruddy	Head of Child Protection Branch, DHSSPS
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Mr Hugh Connor	Chair, The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland
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A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

*4.46p.m. Mr George Robinson left the meeting.*

*4.48p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider further the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Thematic Review of Child Sexual Exploitation Cases at next week's meeting.

**7. Review of the Departmental Approach to Budget 2015/2016 – RaISe Briefing**

An Assembly Researcher attended the meeting to brief the Committee on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Budget position and the level of resources allocated to Health over the last five years.

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the Assembly Researcher for attending.

**8. SL1 – The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to add Khat to the list of drugs which have no medical or legitimate use outside research purposes.

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

**9. SL1 – The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to designate Khat as a drug to which section 7(4) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 applies and to be placed in Schedule 1 of The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) Order (NI) 2001.

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

**10. SL1 – The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to revise the procedures for disciplinary hearings for a chemist, dentist, ophthalmic medical practitioner or optician failing to comply with their terms of service.

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

**11. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for the period October to December 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content with the Forward Work Programme for the period October to December 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the arrangements for the Effective Questioning session on 12 November 2014.

## **12. Matters Arising**

- i. The Committee considered a summary of the discussions and proposed actions following the informal Committee stakeholder event on 8 October 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed a range of actions.

- ii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme.
- iii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the College of Emergency Medicine's report on Acute and Emergency Care.
- iv. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Termination of Pregnancy Guidelines.
- v. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the Programme for Government Delivery Plans.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a further update now that the outcome of the October Monitoring Round is known.

- vi. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a better indication of when in 2015 the Bill will be introduced.

- vii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the membership of Independent Expert Advisory Group to the Early Intervention Transformation Programme.
- viii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Expert Examination of HSC Governance Arrangements.
- ix. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the Age NI report on The Denial of NHS Continuing Healthcare in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to AgeNI for information.

- x. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the HSCB staffing complement.

## **13. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister regarding the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a written briefing summarising the outcome of the consultation.

- ii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Department regarding the Strategy for Health and Social Care Research and Development.
- iii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Department regarding the Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report, September 2014.
- iv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee regarding the payroll of HRPTS.
- v. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding a briefing from Invest NI on the Life and Health Sciences Sector.
- vi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the review of the operation of the Barnett Formula.
- vii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the College of Emergency Medicine regarding recommendations for unscheduled and emergency care in Northern Ireland.
- viii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the General Medical Council regarding the state of medical education and practice in the UK.
- ix. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the British Heart Foundation regarding Creating a Nation of Lifesavers.
- x. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry regarding the Northern Ireland response to the Scottish Government's announcement on new medicines funding.
- xi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Professor Dame Judith Hill regarding her intention to step down as Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Hospice.
- xii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Imtac regarding the impact of the Accessible Transport Strategy.
- xiii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland regarding its report on The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.
- xiv. The Committee considered an invitation from Rosemary Dilworth to visit Apple Mews in Armagh.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider the invitation again in 2015.

- xv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Pharmaceutical Society NI requesting a meeting with the Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the organisation to the next informal stakeholder event.

- xvi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from a Mr McMullan regarding a Telegraph article on wind farms.
- xvii. The Committee considered correspondence from a Ms Lee regarding dental implants.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Ms Lee advising that she contact her local MLAs in relation to the matter.

- xviii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from a Mr O'Hare regarding Ebola.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for response to Mr O'Hare.

**14. Any other business**

None.

**15. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 22 October 2014 at 2.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.22p.m.*

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

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