

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 27 May 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA

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

The meeting commenced at 3.00 p.m. in public session.

3.00pm Mrs Cameron left the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson referred to the forthcoming Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite officials to attend a meeting to brief Members on the principles of the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill.

3.01pm Ms Dobson joined the meeting.

- ii. The Chairperson referred to the recent Committee visit to the Genito-Urinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek: i) clarification of what priority has been given to GUM services in the 2015/16 Commissioning Plan; ii) an explanation for the separate commissioning arrangements for different elements of sexual health services and whether consideration has been given to the development of an integrated commissioning plan; and, iii) details of what consideration has been given to the appropriate relocation of the Clinic.

- iii. The Chairperson referred to the Ministerial Group on Public Health.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an update on the work of the Group including details of its Terms of Reference and schedule of meetings.

- iv. The Chairperson referred to the recent NI Audit Office Report on its Inquiry into the Health and Social Care Sector for the periods 2012/13 and 2013/14. Members noted that it is the statutory function of the Public Accounts Committee to consider Audit Office reports.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Public Accounts Committee to express its interest in this matter and ask that it be apprised of the outcome when appropriate.

- v. The Chairperson referred to the recent report by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on its inquiry into Emergency Health Care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a written briefing detailing its response to the report's findings.

3.03pm Mrs Cameron re-joined the meeting.

- vi. The Chairperson updated Members on the Committee's forward work programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite departmental officials to attend the meeting on 10 June 2015 to brief Members on core funding for the community and voluntary sector.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 13 May 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 13 May 2015 were agreed.

4. Review of workforce planning in the context of Transforming Your Care – Briefing from the Allied Health Professions Federation NI

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Karen Middleton	Chief Executive, Allied Health Professions Federation, England
Ms Rosalind Rogers	Education Representative, Allied Health Professions Federation, Northern Ireland
Mr Andy McFarland	Elected representative of College of Paramedics, Allied Health Professions Federation, Northern Ireland.

A question and answer session ensued.

3.42pm Mr Givan joined the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

5. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

6. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee considered a response from the Minister in relation to the implementation of the Marshall Report recommendations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People.

- ii. The Committee considered a summary of the discussions and proposed actions following the informal Committee stakeholder event on 20 May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a range of actions.

7. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered the final Adult Safeguarding Policy and a request from the Department to submit views on the Policy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to express disappointment at the lack of response to its request for information relating to the proposal to introduce adult safeguarding legislation and the expectation that the Committee would be in a position to comment on the final Policy in its absence.

- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Medicines Optimisation Quality Framework.

- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People Policy.

- iv. The Committee noted a Ministerial response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Children's Services Co-operation Bill.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Children's Services Co-operation Bill.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Department regarding the Childcare and Family Support NI App.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education on the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill regarding a stakeholder event.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from John McCallister MLA regarding an amendment to the forthcoming Health Miscellaneous Provisions Bill. The Chairperson advised members that this matter would be dealt with at Committee Stage.
- x. The Committee noted the EU Matters Newsletter, May 2015.
- xi. The Committee considered correspondence from NEXUS regarding the DHSSPS Infrastructure Grant.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Department's response to issues it had already raised in relation to the Infrastructure Support Grant.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from the British Geriatrics Society regarding the health and social care of older people.
- xiii. The Committee considered correspondence from ADD-NI Children's Charity regarding funding cuts.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Department's response to issues it had already raised in relation to the Infrastructure Support Grant.
- xiv. Members considered a request from the British Medical Association (BMA) to meet with the Committee.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the BMA to the next stakeholder event.
- xv. The Committee considered correspondence from Kinship Care regarding the recent stakeholder event.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Kinship Care outlining the details of the stakeholder event invite.
- xvi. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from an individual to the Chief Nursing Officer regarding Silverdale Care Home, Castledearg.
- xvii. The Committee considered a request from an individual to meet with the Committee.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the individual providing contact details of the constituency MLAs.

- xviii. The Committee considered correspondence from an individual regarding a patient appointment reminder service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek clarification on whether consideration has been given to such a system and what plans, if any, there are to reduce the number of 'Did Not Attends' and associated financial costs.

- xix. The Committee noted correspondence from an individual regarding the Marriage Equality Referendum.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 3 June 2015, at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.01p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____