

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 29 April 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradley 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 Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: None

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

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in public session.

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Chairperson's Business**

- i The Chairperson advised Members that the Minister had declined the Committee's invitation to attend today's meeting to discuss the evidence which he referred to at the South Down hustings event on 23 April 2015, on links between LGBT relationships and incidences of child abuse or neglect.

Agreed: Given the Minister's resignation with effect from 11 May 2015, the Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek: i) clarification of who is in charge of the Department for the period up to 11 May; and, ii) assurances that key

work streams, including legislation and spending decisions, will be progressed in the intervening period until a new Minister is appointed by the Assembly.

- ii The Chairperson referred to the recent European Court of Justice ruling that the permanent deferral from blood donation for men who have had sexual relations with another man may be justified, having regard to the situation prevailing in the Member State concerned.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification of the possible impact of this ruling on policy in Northern Ireland.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 22 April 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 22 April 2015 were agreed.

4. Food Hygiene Rating Bill – Report

The Committee considered the draft report on the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

Title Page, Committee Membership and Powers, and Table of Contents

The Committee considered the Title Page, Committee Membership and Powers, and Table of Contents.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Title Page, Committee Membership and Powers, and Table of Contents as drafted put and agreed to”.

Introduction

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Introduction, paragraphs 1 to 10, as drafted put and agreed to”.

Consideration of the Bill

The Committee considered the Consideration of the Bill section of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Consideration of the Bill section of the report, paragraphs 11 to 93, as drafted put and agreed to”.

Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill

The Committee considered the Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill section of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill section of the report, paragraphs 94 to 117, as drafted put and agreed to”.

Appendices

The Committee considered the Appendices section of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the contents of Appendices 1 to 5 to be included in the report put and agreed to”.

Executive Summary

The Committee considered the draft Executive Summary of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Executive Summary as drafted put and agreed to”.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the extract of the Minutes of Proceedings of today’s meeting for inclusion in Appendix 1 of the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to order the Report on the Food Hygiene Rating Bill (NIA 41/11-16) to be printed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an electronic copy of the Bill report should be sent to all organisations and individuals who provided evidence to the Committee on the Bill.

5. Review of workforce planning in the context of Transforming Your Care – Briefing from NIPSA, ICTU, UNISON and UNITE

The Chairperson outlined the schedule of evidence sessions in relation to the Committee’s Review of workforce planning in the context of Transforming Your Care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the range of stakeholders invited to give oral evidence to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission further research from RaISe to assist with the Review.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Jonathan Swallow	Consultant, UNISON
Ms Anne Speed	Chair of the ICTU Health Committee, ICTU
Ms Claire Ronald	Vice Chair of the ICTU Health Committee, ICTU
Mr Kevin McCabe	Assistant Secretary, NIPSA

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

A question and answer session ensued.

2.32 p.m. Mr George Robinson joined the meeting.

2.50 p.m. Ms Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.

3.15 p.m. Mr Paul Givan joined the meeting.

Ms Maeve McLaughlin declared an interest as a Union member.

Ms Paula Bradley declared an interest as a Union member.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

6. Review of supported living for older people in the context of Transforming Your Care – Departmental Briefing

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Chris Matthews	Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People, DHSSPS
Mr Kevin Keenan	Assistant Director of Social Services, Older People and Adults, HSCB
Mr Sean Scullion	Acting Head of Elderly and Community Care Unit, DHSSPS

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

A question and answer session ensued.

4.07 p.m. Mr Paul Givan left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

8. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing a definition and further information on statutory and discretionary spend.
- ii. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the 2015/16 Budget.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: i) seek clarification on whether it has any proposals for 2015/2016 and beyond, to shift services from hospital to community settings, or whether it has done all

it intends to do; ii) if no further shift is proposed, to outline the rationale for this decision and the wider impact on the implementation of Transforming Your Care; and, iii) outline the future status of the Transforming Your Care Board.

- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Chairperson of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Community Resuscitation Strategy.

9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a copy of the Department's draft Indicators of Performance Direction 2015/16.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the proposed consultation on statutory regulations under the UK-wide Healthcare and Associated Professions (Knowledge of English) Order 2015.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence to the Minister from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Public Services Ombudsperson 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 Education regarding the briefing it received from the Ulster University Vision Science Research Group.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the report on Sickness Absence in the NI Public Sector.
- viii. The Committee noted the EU Matters newsletter April 2015.
- ix. The Committee considered correspondence from UNISON Community Branch requesting to meet with the Committee.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the group to the stakeholder event on 20 May 2015.
- x. The Committee considered correspondence from the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum requesting to meet with the Committee.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the group to the stakeholder event on 20 May 2015.
- xi. The Committee considered correspondence from the Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health (NIAMH) requesting to attend the next stakeholder event.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the group to the stakeholder event on 20 May 2015.
- xii. The Committee noted a report on the SDLP conference: 'Care for the Future – Looking after our older people'.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 13 May 2015, at 2.00 p.m. in the Elliott Dynes Building, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.34 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____