

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 2 March 2016
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

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

Apologies: Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA

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

The meeting commenced at 2.03 p.m. in public session.

2.05 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.

2.06 p.m. Ms Pam Cameron joined the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2.09 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.

2. Chairperson's Business

(i) The Chairperson referred to the Ministerial Commissioning Plan Direction.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a copy of the Commissioning Plan Direction in advance of next week's meeting.

(ii) The Chairperson referred to the perinatal strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an update on how the strategy on perinatal health will be progressed.

(iii) The Chairperson referred to the 1% pay increase for nurses.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an update on the pay increase for nurses.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 10 February 2016

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 10 February 2016.

4. Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill – Further Consideration Stage

The Committee agreed to add the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill Further Consideration Stage to the agenda, and to deal with it at this point.

The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister providing the text of amendments he intended to table for Further Consideration Stage of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the proposed amendments.

5. Protect Life Strategy - Departmental briefing

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Gerard Collins, Health Improvement Policy Branch, DHSSPS

Ms Mary Black, Assistant Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency

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

2.18 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson rejoined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

3.08 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.

3.23 p.m. Ms Pam Cameron left the meeting.

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

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Department agreed to provide the Committee with further information on a range of issues.

6. S.R. 2016/5: The Tobacco Retailer (Fixed Penalty) (Amount) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: “The Committee considered Statutory Rule 2016/5: The Tobacco Retailer (Fixed Penalty) (Amount) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.”

7. SL1- Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to apply an inflationary uplift to the tariff of charges set by the Recovery of Health Services Charges Order 2006 for the recovery of the costs incurred by hospitals in treating casualties of road traffic accidents.

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

8. SL1- The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to provide for the investigation and determination by the Regional Health and Social Care Board as to whether chemists, dentists, ophthalmic medical practitioners and opticians, providing Health Service treatment, have failed to comply with their terms of service.

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

9. Legacy Report 2011/2016

The Committee considered the draft Legacy Report for the 2011-2016 mandate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to amend the Legacy Report to add ‘suicide prevention and mental health’ and the ‘culture of care for older people’ to the list of issues the incoming Committee may wish to examine.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Legacy Report for 2011-2016 as amended.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

11. Matters Arising

(i) The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding waiting times and domiciliary /residential care.

(ii) The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the £1.6m support package for the care sector.

(iii) The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the review of the Individual Funding Request process.

(iv) The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the All-Party Group on Fertility and fertility treatment.

12. Correspondence

(i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding Executive agreement to amendments to the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

(ii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a consultation on proposed changes to the General Dental Services Regulations.

(iii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the summary of consultation responses for the Medicines Optimisation Quality Framework.

(iv) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding changes to The Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

(v) The Committee noted an oral statement by the Minister on the NSMC meeting held in Health and Food Safety Sectoral format.

(vi) The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for Regional Development regarding schemes to alleviate flooding and stormwater.

(v) The Committee noted correspondence from Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA regarding the Human Transplantation Bill.

(vi) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding changes to The Medicines (Products for Human Use) (Fees) Regulations.

(vii) The Committee noted a correction slip for the Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

(viii) The Committee noted correspondence from The Speaker regarding a Public Petition: 'Better Care for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder'.

(ix) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding EU Funding Programmes PEACE IV and INTERREG V.

(x) The Committee noted correspondence from the Criminal Justice Inspection regarding its report on Maghaberry Prison.

(xi) The Committee noted correspondence from the Criminal Justice Inspection regarding its report on the Management of Life and Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners

(ix) The Committee noted the Consumer Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2016 and Draft Forward Work Programme.

(x) The Committee noted Interim Evaluation Reports from NI Kinship Care.

(xi) The Committee noted correspondence from the manager of Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues seeking a meeting with the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the manager suggesting that he re-submits his request for a meeting when the new Health Committee is established following the elections.

(xii) The Committee noted correspondence from Patients First providing a copy of the RQIA Report on the Unannounced Care Inspection of Kingsway.

(xiii) The Committee noted correspondence from an individual regarding a request for an independent review of his case.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the individual advising him that the Committee does not get involved in individual cases and provide him with details of his constituency MLAs.

13. Any Other Business

None.

14. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 9 March 2016, at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.06 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____