

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 21 October 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA

Apologies: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

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

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

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- (i) The Chairperson referred to the matter of junior doctor contracts to be implemented in England.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting any impact analyses, financial or otherwise, that it has carried out in relation to the new junior doctor contracts.

(ii) The Chairperson referred to the Public Health Agency's 12-week consultation on the future of the Lifeline crisis response service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek an urgent update after the consultation period has ended, including an analysis of the consultation responses.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 14 October 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 14 October 2015 were agreed.

4. Changing the Culture of Care Provision in Northern Ireland: Briefing from the Department and the RQIA on the Commissioner for Older People's report

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Chris Matthews	Director Mental Health, Disability and Older People, DHSSPS
Mr Fergal Bradley	Head of Quality, Regulation, and Improvement, DHSSPS
Mr Kevin Keenan	Assistant Director, Older People and Adults, HSCB.
Mr Glenn Houston	Chief Executive, Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

2.07pm Ms McCorley joined the meeting.

2.33pm Mr McGimpsey joined the meeting.

3.21pm Mr McGimpsey left the meeting.

3.23pm Mr Easton left the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request information on a range of issues.

5. SL1- Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule which will consolidate all regulations on natural mineral water, spring water and bottled water into a single Statutory Rule. It will also introduce a more proportionate enforcement regime, remove a national provision which calls for the re-calcification up to 60 mg/l for any bottled water or spring water which has been

softened or desalinated, and apply new monitoring requirements for radioactive substances.

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

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

The Chairperson referred to a letter from the Permanent Secretary regarding invitations to Chief Executives of the Health and Social Care Trusts to attend the next Committee meeting to give evidence on their key priorities and savings plans.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Permanent Secretary advising him that it is entirely a matter for the Committee as to which organisations it wishes to take evidence from and, given that budget scrutiny is the Committee's second highest priority for this session, it has chosen to take evidence from the five Trusts on their key priorities for 2015/2016 and the impact of their savings plans for 2015/2016.

7. Matters Arising

- (i) The Committee noted a letter from the Minister, setting out the wording of proposed departmental amendments to the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill.
- (ii) The Committee considered a response from the Department regarding the implementation plan in relation to the Autism Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: (i) request further information on the implementation of the action plan; and (ii) express its disappointment regarding the model of participation, in particular, the limited opportunity for participation of the community and voluntary sector on The Autism Strategy Regional Multi-Agency Implementation Team (ASRMAIT).

8. Correspondence

- (i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee regarding the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill.
- (ii) The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the Unscheduled Care Initiative.
- (iii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Towards a Wellbeing Framework report.
- (iv) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Committee's report on the Inquiry into Building a United Community.
- (v) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Contested Space Interface Programme.

- (vi) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Bill.
- (vii) The Committee considered correspondence from a junior doctor regarding junior doctor contracts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the junior doctor to the next stakeholder event.

9. Any Other Business

- (i) The matter of Myalgic Encephalopathy (ME) and Fibromyalgia was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting details of the current provision for sufferers of ME and Fibromyalgia and their families.

- (ii) The matter of fertility treatment was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update on any plans it has to increase the number of cycles to two full IVF cycles.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 4 November 2015, at 2.00 pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.47 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____