

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 25 November 2015
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 Fearghal McKinney MLA

Apologies: Mr Daithí McKay MLA

In Attendance: Dr. Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
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 2.07p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson referred to the closure of seven private care homes and the Minister's instruction to the Health and Social Care Board to halt and review the proposed closures of statutory residential care homes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting details of the review, including the Terms of Reference, and clarification on whether it intends to address the issue of non-admissions to statutory care homes.

ii. The Chairperson referred to the issue of cervical screening.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking its views on the cervical screening age and the challenges in terms of the cervical cancer rate which statistics emerging from England show has doubled in the plus 25 age group.

iii. The Chairperson referred to the reported rise in new HIV cases in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting details of how this issue is being tackled and for an update on the position in relation to the sale of home self-testing kits for HIV.

iv. The Chairperson referred to her recent meeting with representatives of the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for its assessment of the current voluntary registration for clinical physiologists and its views on placing the registration on a statutory footing.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 18 November 2015

The Committee noted the minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 18 November 2015 which were already agreed by the Chairperson.

4. Human Transplantation Bill

The Committee noted that the briefing by local clinicians on the Human Transplantation Bill, that was scheduled for today's meeting, had been cancelled and that an alternative date was being identified.

The Committee noted the Bill timetable for the Committee Stage of the Human Transplantation Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an oral evidence session with Mr Rafael Matesanz, Director of the National Transplant Organisation in Madrid, on Thursday 10 December 2015, subject to Member availability.

5. Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered its approach to the Second Stage debate on the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, subject to its introduction to the Assembly on 30 November 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, should support the Second Stage of the Bill, and reflect the issues/ questions raised by the Committee during the briefing with the Department on 23 September 2015.

The Committee noted the Bill timetable.

The Committee considered handling arrangements for the Committee Stage of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, subject to the Bill passing Second Stage.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the call for evidence period should last 2 weeks with a closing date for written evidence of 15 December 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft media sign-posting notice and the list of key stakeholders.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the written submissions on the Committee web page.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should prepare a summary of the written evidence and forward it to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Delegated Powers Memorandum should be forwarded to the Assembly Examiner of Statutory Rules when received.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson should approve the witnesses for oral evidence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an all-day oral evidence session should be scheduled for Thursday 7 January 2015.

6. Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill

The Committee considered its approach to the Second Stage debate on the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, should support the Second Stage of the Bill, and reflect the issues/ questions raised by the Committee during the briefing with the Department on 23 September 2015.

7. Current Financial Position - Departmental briefing

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Julie Thompson	Deputy Secretary, Resources and Performance Management, DHSSPS
Mrs Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Secretary Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued.

2.37pm Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.

2.45pm Mr Michael McGimpsey joined the meeting.

3.07pm Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.

3.30pm Ms Pam Cameron left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

8. S.R. 2015/365: The Natural Mineral, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered the Natural Mineral, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and had no objection to the Rule.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

10. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

11. Correspondence

- (i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on the monitoring of savings delivery plans 2014-15.
- (ii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Report of an Unannounced Inspection of HM Prison Maghaberry.
- (iii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding NHS Student Bursaries.
- (iv) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding Elective Home Education.
- (v) The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Social Care Council regarding the Northern Ireland Social Care Council Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15.
- (vi) The Committee noted correspondence from the General Medical Council regarding the state of medical education and practice in the UK: 2015.
- (vii) The Committee noted correspondence from Family Fund regarding their annual activity report 2014/15.
- (viii) The Committee considered a request from the British Heart Foundation requesting that the Committee sponsors the launch of the 2015 'Tell a Loved One' organ donation awareness day on Tuesday 8 December.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to sponsor the launch.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 2 December 2015, at 2.00 pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.40 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____