

**COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 7 October 2015**  
**Senate Chamber and Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA  
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  
Mr George Robinson MLA

**Apologies:** 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 10.20am in the Senate Chamber in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. The current position on key issues within the Health Service**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued.

*10.27am Mr McKinney joined the meeting.*

*10.44am Mr Easton left the meeting.*

Mr Pengelly agreed to provide the Committee with further information/clarification on a range of issues.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Pengelly for attending.

*12.06pm Mr Robinson left the meeting.*

*The meeting was suspended at 12.06pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 2.01pm in Room 29 in public session.*

*The following Members were in attendance: Ms McLaughlin, Mr Easton, Mr Buchanan, Mr McCarthy, Ms McCorley, and Mr McGimpsey.*

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson referred to the Mental Health Provision research report commissioned by Action Mental Health which was launched on Monday, 5 October.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for its views on the report and an indication of how it will take the matter forward.

*2.02pm Mr McKinney joined the meeting.*

### **4. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 30 September 2015**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 30 September 2015 were agreed.

*2.03 pm Ms Cameron joined the meeting.*

*2.11pm Ms Dobson joined the meeting.*

### **5. Changing the Culture of Care Provision in Northern Ireland: Briefing from the Commissioner for Older People**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Claire Keatinge

Commissioner for Older People, Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland

Ms Emer Boyle

Head of Legal and Policy Advice, Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

*2.28pm Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

**6. Current Financial Position: Departmental Briefing**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Julie Thompson	Deputy Secretary, Resources and Performance Management, DHSSPS
Mrs Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Healthcare Secretary, DHSSPS
Mr Bill Pauley	Investment Director, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued.

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 Department regarding the 2014/2015 Health and Social Care pay award.
- ii. The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding a specialist Children's Heart Centre in Belfast, the Commissioning Plan for 2015/16 and the Donaldson Report.

**9. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding a public consultation for the review of the Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust regarding a public consultation on the Future Provision of Northfield House statutory residential care home.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing a copy of a report by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.
- iv. The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for September 2015.

**10. Any Other Business**

None.

**11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 14 October 2015, at 2.00 pm in Altnagelvin Hospital.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.26 pm.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_