

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 3 February 2016
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA

Apologies: Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Gary Middleton 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 2.05 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

2.06 p.m. Ms Rosie McCorley joined the meeting.

2.06 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.

- i. The Chairperson referred to the trial of the dNav diabetes insulin guidance service in the South East Health and Social Care Trust.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an update on the dNav service including whether it will be rolled-out to other Trust areas.

- ii The Chairperson referred to the consultation on Cardiovascular Services.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for details of when the review of Cardiovascular Services will be completed and when decisions on the way forward are likely to be made.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 27 January 2016

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 27 January 2016.

4. Human Transplantation Bill

The Committee considered the draft report on the Human Transplantation Bill.

Title page, Committee Membership and Powers, 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 Section

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report.

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

Executive Summary

The Committee considered the draft Executive Summary of the report and amendments tabled to the Executive Summary by Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson, Mr Alex Easton and Ms Maeve McLaughlin.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Executive Summary as amended by Ms Maeve McLaughlin put and agreed to”.

Appendices

The Committee considered the Appendices section of the report.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the Minutes of Proceedings of today’s meeting for inclusion in the report and in the reports on the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill and the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Committee staff could make any necessary formatting changes to the report in advance of electronic publication.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to order the Report on the Human Transplantation Bill to be published.

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, and to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

5. Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill

The Committee considered the draft report on the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill.

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Executive Summary

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Appendices

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Committee staff could make any necessary formatting changes to the report in advance of electronic publication.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to order the Report on the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill to be published.

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, and to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

6. Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered the draft report on the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Title page, Committee Membership and Powers, Table of Contents

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Consideration of the Bill

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Executive Summary

The Committee considered the Executive Summary of the report.

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

Appendices

The Committee considered the Appendices section of the report.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed that committee staff could make any necessary formatting changes to the report in advance of electronic publication.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to order the Report on the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill to be published.

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, and to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

7. SL1 - The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2002. The changes will amend the definition of ‘health prescription’; move ketamine from Schedule 4 to Schedule 2 of the 2002 Regulations, and provide exemptions for continued use by specified healthcare professionals under Patient Group Directions; and, remove the exemptions applicable to prescriptions for temazepam.

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

8. SL1 - The Health Service Workers (Consequential Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to comply with a Treasury requirement for the Department to introduce a further consequential modification to the Pension Schemes Act 1993 to ensure that the new 2015 HSC Pension Scheme operates as intended in terms of its interaction with the wider framework of pensions and tax legislation.

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

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

10. Matters Arising

(i) The Committee considered a Ministerial response in relation to the Psychoactive Substances Bill. The Committee welcomed the legislation and the impact it will have in Northern Ireland.

(ii) The Committee considered a Ministerial response regarding the Health and Social Care Board's review into domiciliary care and the current position in relation to the proposed closure of care homes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to welcome the £1.6m support package for the care sector and to ask: (i) for details of the impact the funding will have; (ii) whether the Minister would consider an Honest Broker approach to identifying the funding gaps in the system; and, (iii) who will be responsible for identifying need and allocating funds under the support package.

(ii) The Committee noted a Ministerial response regarding the review of the proposed closure of statutory care homes.

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

(iii) The Committee considered a Ministerial response regarding cervical screening and cervical cancer rates.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask whether those under 25 who present with relevant symptoms and request a smear test will not be refused a test by their GP.

11. Correspondence

(i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding a proposed consultation on the remuneration of the Chairman of the Medical and Dental Training Agency Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

(ii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding its Report of the Inquiry into Building a United Community.

(iii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Departments Bill and Transfer of Functions Order.

(iv) The Committee noted the EU Matters newsletter for January 2016.

(v) The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Intensive Care Consultants on the Human Transplantation Bill.

(vi) The Committee considered a request from the Director of the Northern Ireland Mental Health Arts and Film Festival to sponsor an event in Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Festival Director to advise that the Committee is unable to sponsor because of accommodation issues.

(vii) The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from an individual to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the individual advising her to contact her constituency MLAs.

(viii) The Committee noted correspondence from an individual regarding health and social care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the individual advising her to contact her constituency MLAs.

(ix) The Committee noted correspondence from an individual regarding the financial viability of residential care homes.

12. Any Other Business

The matter of breast cancer referral figures in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Chief Executive of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to brief the Committee on breast cancer referral rates.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 10 February 2016, at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.35 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____