

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 8 December 2016
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Gary Middleton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Mr Robbie Butler MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Ms Joanne Dobson MLA
Mr Mark H. Durkan
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA

Apologies: Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

In Attendance: Ms Éilis Haughey (Clerk)
Ms Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Deirdre Farry (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lamont (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Antoinette Bowen (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10.32 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chair informed the Committee that she had participated in a celebration of Macmillan nurses on 6 December and had attended a Social Care Council event regarding research into the Economic Value of Adult Social Care on 7 December. The Chair also updated the Committee on an ongoing mental health initiative for staff of Royal Mail and commended Royal Mail for its work on mental health awareness.

The Chairperson proposed that electronic Christmas cards be issued to all stakeholders that the Committee has engaged with during the year and via social media.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the electronic issue of Christmas cards as proposed.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 1 December 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 1 December 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee noted that a list of outstanding responses to Committee correspondence had been forwarded to the Department of Health.
- ii. The Chairperson reminded Members to confirm their availability to attend a breakfast discussion event at the Stormont Hotel on 19 January 2017 hosted by Action Mental Health and the 'Together for You' Partnership.

5. Departmental Briefing - Marshall Report and Review of Safeguarding Board NI

The Committee discussed its dissatisfaction regarding the late receipt of departmental papers, and the lack of up-to-date information they contained, relating to the planned briefing on the Marshall Report and Review of Safeguarding Board NI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer the briefing until the new year and invite SBNI and NICCY to brief the Committee prior to the rescheduled briefing from departmental officials.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to advise the Department of Health of its dissatisfaction and to request a more thorough paper presenting the most updated departmental position to be provided in a timely manner prior to the rescheduled briefing to enable the Committee to carry out appropriate scrutiny.

The departmental officials were advised of the Committee's decision to defer the planned briefing.

6. Legislative Consent Motion – Health Services Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill

The Committee considered a draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the provisions in the Health Services Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill to be extended to Northern Ireland and the Legislative Consent Motion to be brought forward by the Minister of Health.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health providing a response to its request for further information relating to the LCM following the briefing by officials on 6 October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the report subject to an amendment to reflect receipt of the Minister's correspondence providing the information requested by the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the report on the Committee webpage and to issue the report to all MLAs.

10.43 am Mr Robbie Butler joined the meeting.

7. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted the Department of Health Investment Activity Report published on 28 November 2016.

10.45 am Mr Trevor Clarke joined the meeting.

- ii. The Committee considered correspondence from a GP in the Portadown area expressing concern about the primary care situation there and a related item of correspondence from a separate individual regarding primary care provision in Fermanagh.

Agreed: The Committee agreed, subject to resolution of the problem in the intervening period, to meet during the week commencing 19 December 2016, to be briefed by officials on the issues raised regarding general practice.

- iii. The Committee noted a request from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People to meet with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to discuss the Committee's planned Inquiry into Mental Health and that the Chairperson would arrange this meeting in the new year.
- iv. The Committee noted the consultation response document on the Department of Health's revised disposal schedule for the Department and its Arm's Length Bodies, 'Good Management, Good Records'.
- v. The Committee noted the Hansard of the Committee for Justice evidence session with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust relating to the Prisoner Ombudsman Investigation Report into Serious Self Harm Incidents by Sean Lynch in Maghaberry Prison.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health regarding the launch of the Strategy for Paediatric Healthcare Services Provided in Hospitals and in the Community (2016 – 2026) and the Strategy for Children's Palliative and End-of-Life Care (2016 – 2026).
- vii. The Committee considered a request from Adept for the Chairperson to speak at a UK Clinical Leadership Fellows summit event on 10 March 2017 and inviting Members to attend the event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would represent the Committee at the event and that other Members would respond directly regarding their availability to attend.

- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health providing an update on the Department's work relating to the reform of adult care and support, including the establishment of an Expert Advisory Panel.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the Expert Advisory Panel, ahead of the consultation launch in March 2017.

- ix. The Committee considered a request from Action on Hearing Loss for the Committee to sponsor an event in March 2017, to launch research into the barriers to third level education, training and employment for those who are deaf or hard of hearing across Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to sponsor this event.

- x. The Committee noted a report by the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People on Government Child Sexual Exploitation Progress Reports.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

9. Any Other Business

Ms Paula Bradshaw raised the Department of Health decision not to follow a revised model in the commissioning of life extending cancer drugs.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the Department of Health on its decision to be scheduled in the new year.

10. RaISE – Role of Allied Health Professions and Community Pharmacy in Primary Care

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr Janice Thompson Research Officer, RaISE

Dr Jennifer Betts Research Officer, RaISE

A question and answer session ensued.

11.31 am Mr Trevor Clarke left the meeting.

The Chair thanked the researcher officers for attending.

The meeting moved into closed session at 11.32 am.

The Committee discussed its planned inquiry relating to the alleviation of pressures in primary care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would hold an informal round table discussion with a number of representative bodies after its meeting on 12 January 2016 to inform its terms of reference.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

Subject to the decision at 7ii above, the next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 12 January 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.10 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____