

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 12 January 2017
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

- Present:** Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Mr Robbie Butler MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
- Apologies:** Mr Gary Middleton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA
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 10.30 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's Business.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 19 December 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 19 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 Committee noted announcements from the Minister in respect of developments in general practice and correspondence from four individuals regarding the crisis; and agreed to keep the matter under review.

5. Briefing by Royal College of Nursing

10.32am Mr Gerry Carroll joined the meeting.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Janice Smyth, Director	Royal College of Nursing
Ms Fiona Devlin Board Chairperson	Royal College of Nursing
Ms Eileen Dunlop Board Member	Royal College of Nursing
Dr John Knappe, Head of Communications, Policy and Marketing	Royal College of Nursing

A question and answer session ensued.

11.05 am Mr Gerry Carroll left the meeting.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

6. SR 2016/415: The Caseins and Caseinates Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2016/415 The Caseins and Caseinates Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

7. SR 2016/410 The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) (Independent Guardian) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2016/410 The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) (Independent Guardian) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

8. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered correspondence from the Department of Health providing information on the Leaving Prostitution Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the relevant stakeholders.

- ii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Justice to the Minister for Health regarding the publication of the report of the Fatal Fetal Abnormality Working Group.

- iii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry regarding access to cancer medicines.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to raise this issue with departmental officials at the briefing on this matter in February.

- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health advising of its consideration of heart screening for young people.

- v. The Committee considered correspondence from the Department of Health regarding the potential appointment, role and remit of a Mental Health Champion.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to return to this matter when considering its mental health inquiry.

- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health providing information on the closure of Employers for Childcare Solutions.

- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office forwarding a copy of the Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Update.

- viii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency regarding special educational needs co-operation.

- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding the Nursing and Midwifery (Amendment) Order 2016 consultation report.

- x. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding waiting times for children's hospital-based dental care across each of the Health and Social Care Trusts.

- xi. The Committee noted the Patient and Client Council's Annual Complaints Report for 2015/16.

- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding a consultation on proposals to allow schools to hold adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use.

- xiii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding its consultation on regulations to restrict smoking in cars carrying children.
- xiv. The Committee noted correspondence from NI Association of Social Workers regarding the Minister's vision for health and social care.
- xv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Department of Health regarding financial planning and Budget.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to return to this correspondence following the departmental briefing on the Budget in January 2017.

- xvi. The Committee noted the report from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the draft Programme for Government 2016-21.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that in engaging in budget scrutiny and scrutiny of monitoring rounds it would consider alignment with Programme for Government priorities.

- xvii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department of Education regarding the OECD Governance Report on Looked After Children.

- xviii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department of Health regarding a consultation on proposals to allow schools to hold adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use, but excluding youth settings.

- xix. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department of Health regarding VAT on the Approved Home Childcare Scheme.

- xx. The Committee noted the Patient and Client Council's Report on the Mental Health Home Treatment Service/Home Treatment Crisis Response.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the issues raised in the report when considering its mental health inquiry.

- xxi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding the laying of its Good Management Good Records disposal schedule before the Assembly.

- xxii. The Committee considered a response from the Department of Health regarding its assessment of the impact of the Care Act 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response, pending the scheduled briefing from the Expert Panel on Adult Social Care on 23 February 2017.

- xxiii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding the updated schedule of consultation meetings on the criteria for reconfiguring health and social care services.
- xxiv. The Committee noted a response from the Department of Health regarding publication of the report of the Working Group on Fatal Fetal Abnormality.
- xxv. The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Gerry Carroll MLA regarding use of CBD oil in the treatment of Dravet Syndrome.
- xxvi. The Committee noted a response from the Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers regarding recruitment moratoria in social work services.
- xxvii. The Committee considered a request from Cancer Research UK for Members to participate in an event to mark World Cancer Day on 2 February 2017.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to participate in the event.
- xxviii. The Committee considered a request from the Community Development and Health Network to the Chairperson to open a conference on co-production on 22 February 2017.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would open the conference.
- xxix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding its response to the Programme for Government.
- xxx. The Committee noted the 2016 Annual Report from Children in Northern Ireland.
- xxxi. The Committee noted a response from the Department of Health regarding the impact of rural proofing on Programme for Government commitments.
- xxxii. The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Department of Health to the Committee for the Executive Office regarding historical clerical abuse and historical abuse in mother and baby homes in Northern Ireland.
- xxxiii. The Committee considered the Department of Health's retention and disposal schedule, 'Good Management Good Records'.
- Agreed:* That the Committee for Health has considered the retention and disposal of records schedule for the Department of Health and has no objections to the schedule.

- xxxiv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Health regarding an update on eating disorders services.
- xxxv. The Committee noted a response from the Department for Health regarding its contribution to realising the objectives of ‘Together: Building a United Community’.
- xxxvi. The Committee considered correspondence from the Royal College of Psychiatrists regarding funding for mental health services and eating disorders., and requesting that the Committee consider Clifton House as a venue for an external meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department on the issue of funding for mental health and to add Clifton House to the list of potential venues for external Committee meetings.

- xxxvii. The Committee considered a request from AbbVie Ltd. to sponsor a roundtable discussion on Hepatitis C on 23 March 2017.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to sponsor the event.

- xxxviii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Department of Health to the Committee for Education regarding further details on the legislative timetable for changes to the Approved Home Childcarer Scheme to gain VAT exemption.

- xxxix. The Committee noted correspondence from Asthma UK regarding an event on asthma research in Northern Ireland on 19 January 2017.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 19 January 2017, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting 12.08 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____