

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 13 October 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
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

Apologies: Ms Joanne Dobson MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA

In Attendance: Ms Éilís Haughey (Clerk)
Ms Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Deirdre Farry (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lamont (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Stephanie Wilson (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10.44 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 6 October 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 6 October 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that a list of outstanding responses to Committee correspondence had been forwarded to the Department of Health for an update on progress.

5. Overview Briefing by the Royal College of General Practitioners

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr John O'Kelly	Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners
Dr Grainne Doran	NI Chair Elect, deputy Chair of Policy, Royal College of General Practitioners

A question and answer session ensued.

12.19 pm Mr Gerry Carroll left the meeting.

12.23 pm Mr Pat Sheehan left the meeting.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

6. SR 2016/334 The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2016/334 The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

7. SR 2016/335 The Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2016/335 The Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

8. SR 2016/345 The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2016/345 The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule

9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered an invitation from the Panel of Experts on Redress to the launch of the report 'Historic Institutional Abuse: Cost Analysis of Proposed Compensation Scheme' on Monday 17 October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Members should reply to the Panel of Experts individually.

- ii. The Committee considered an invitation from the Minister, on behalf of the Patient and Client Council, to attend the launch of the 'People's Voice' on 24 October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Members should reply to the Patient and Client Council individually.

- iii. The Committee considered joint correspondence from the Royal College of Nursing, the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities, Ruhama and Women's Aid, expressing concerns regarding the Departmental publication 'Leaving Prostitution: a strategy for help and support'.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for its response to the concerns raised.

- iv. The Committee considered correspondence from Marie Curie regarding the report 'Hiding Who I Am: the reality of end of life care for LGBT people'.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report and publicise it via the Committee Twitter feed.

- v. The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the Zika Virus.
- vi. The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the Health Partnership Forum.
- vii. The Committee considered correspondence from an individual regarding VAT charges on childcare.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for its response to the concerns raised.

- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding a RaISe research paper: 'Non-EU UK Treaty Obligations'.
- ix. The Committee noted S.R. 2016 No. 355 (C. 27) The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (2003 Order) (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- x. The Committee considered correspondence from the All-Party Group on Learning Disability, inviting the Committee to brief the APG on the Committee's agreed work-plan for the 2016-2017 session and highlighting any work relevant to individuals with a learning disability.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to provide the All Party Group with a written briefing.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme, noting that the Minister of Health had accepted an invitation to brief the Committee on 27th October on her vision for the transformation of health and social care, following the publication of the Report of the Expert Panel on 25th October.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Expert Panel to the meeting on 27th October, noting that Professor Bengoa, the Chair of the Expert Panel, was unavailable.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 20 October 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.59 pm

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____