

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 19 January 2017
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
Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA

Apologies: Mr Ian Milne MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan 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 Antoinette Bowen (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10.33 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Deputy Chairperson updated the Committee on a seminar that he and two other Committee Members had attended on Mental Health hosted by Policy Forum for Northern Ireland on 17 January 2017.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that its commissioned research paper on mental health policy should be published on the Assembly website.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 12 January 2017

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 12 January 2017 were agreed.

The Committee agreed it was content for the Chairperson to approve the minutes of the Committee meeting on 19 January 2017.

4. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee noted a list of outstanding departmental responses to Committee correspondence.
- ii. The Committee acknowledged the ongoing issues regarding Bannview General Practice, the serious pressure on general practice across Northern Ireland and the impact that the current political situation may have in relation to the reform of health care provision more widely.

5. SR 2017/10 The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2017/10 The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and had no objection to the Rule.

6. Departmental Briefing on the Autism Strategy

10.44 am Mr Mark Durkan joined the meeting.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Chris Matthews	Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People, Department of Health
Mr Rodney Morton	Service Improvement Lead, Mental Health and CAMHs Services, Health and Social Care Board

10.48 am Mr Trevor Clarke joined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

11.55 am Ms Paula Bradshaw left the meeting.

11.56 am Mr Gerry Carroll left the meeting.

12.18 pm Mr Gary Middleton left the meeting.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

The Committee agreed to re-order the Agenda and consider Agenda item 7.

7. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted an EU Matters Update prepared by the Assembly EU Affairs Manager.

- ii. The Committee noted an invitation from the Delta 7 group to observe a HEMS skills training day on 23 January 2017.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Members would respond directly and advise the Committee office.

- iii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department of Health regarding the availability of child safeguarding information for amateur music and drama productions.
- iv. The Committee noted the launch of a consultation on the Department of Health's Equality Scheme and a copy of the consultation documents.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the NI General Medical Council enclosing the independent report of '*Sir Keith Pearson's Review of Revalidation – Taking Revalidation Forward*'.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the representation of women and minorities on the boards of public bodies.
- vii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office to the Minister of Health seeking further information relating to the progress of the exercises relating to victims of historical clerical child abuse and historical abuse in Mother and Baby homes/ Magdalene laundries.
- viii. The Committee noted the launch of the Department of Health's consultation on the draft Adoption and Children Bill and a copy of the consultation documents.
- ix. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence to the Department of Health Permanent Secretary regarding the RQIA.

The Chair advised the Committee that any correspondence received before dissolution would be circulated to Members for information after which, correspondents will be advised to write to the new Committee once established.

12.22 pm Mr Gary Middleton joined the meeting.

8. Departmental Briefing on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Peter Barbour	Workforce Policy Directorate, Department of Health
Mr Kieran McAteer	Workforce Policy Directorate, Department of Health

12.27 pm Mr Trevor Clarke left the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

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 Chairperson advised the Committee that no further Committee meetings had been scheduled for the remainder of the mandate.

The Chair recorded her thanks to all Members for their co-operation and collective approach since the establishment of the Committee, wishing Members well in the forthcoming elections. Members acknowledged the constructive cross-party engagement maintained in Committee and thanked the Chair for her contribution.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting 12.46 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____