

## COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 20 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  
Ms Joanne Dobson MLA  
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

**Apologies:** None

**In Attendance:** Ms Éilis 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 10.34 am in public session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson updated the Committee on events that she had attended including the presentation of an award to Knockevin Special School, Downpatrick for its RSE and personal development programme, the launch of the Silver Line helpline in Northern Ireland, and the launch of a report by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, 'Physiotherapy Works – The Patient Perspective'.

### **3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 13 October 2016**

Ms Paula Bradshaw asked for clarification regarding the absence of reference to a request for October Monitoring Round information raised under Any Other Business and consideration of the draft minutes was deferred until the next week's meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request an update from the Department of Health in relation to the October Monitoring Round.

### **4. Matters Arising**

- i. 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.
- ii. The Committee noted a copy of the Deloitte report 'Spend to Save: the economic case for improving access to general practice' commissioned by the Royal College of General Practitioners which was referred to during last week's briefing.

### **5. Overview briefing by the British Medical Association**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr Tom Black      Chair, BMA NI GP Committee  
Dr Alan Stout      Deputy Chair, BMA NI GP Committee

A question and answer session ensued.

*12.01 pm Mr Pat Sheehan left the meeting.*

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

*12.28 pm Ms Joanne Dobson left the meeting.*

### **6. SL1 The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation) Health and Social Care (Pension Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

The Committee considered a proposal for a statutory rule to provide access to the HSC Pension Scheme for employees of GP Federations.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department make the statutory rule.

### **7. SL1 The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) (Independent Guardian) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

The Committee considered a proposal for a statutory rule to provide for the arrangements to enable independent guardians to be appointed to assist, represent and support children to whom section 21

of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act 2015 applies.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department make the statutory rule.

## 8. Correspondence

i. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Department of Health to an individual regarding the provision of a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service.

ii. The Committee noted a response from the Department of Health to its request for information on the publication of the report of the Working Group on Fatal Fetal Abnormality.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek clarification regarding when the Committee would be provided with the report.

iii. The Committee noted the ‘Delivering Social Change’ stakeholder update for September 2016 provided by the Committee for the Executive, which included an update on the Dementia Signature Programme.

iv. The Committee noted information on the Outcomes-based Accountability approach to policy development and delivery of public services provided by the Committee for the Executive Office, including a link to minutes of evidence arising from evidence sessions on 11 and 12 October.

v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Clerk to the Committee on Procedures on the development of an e-petitions facility.

vi. The Committee considered the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request that the Public Finance and Scrutiny Unit from RaISe brief the Committee on the Department’s Annual Report and Accounts.

vii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Department of Health to an individual on the issue of fathers separated from their child(ren) after separation and divorce.

viii. The Committee considered an invitation to the NI Human Rights Commission Annual Statement Launch on 8 December in Parliament Buildings.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Members should reply to the NI Human Rights Commission individually.

ix. The Committee considered correspondence from an individual regarding the requirement for legislation in relation to domestic violence and coercive control.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that as the Justice Committee was considering this matter, it would liaise with that Committee in respect of any health issues arising out of their work.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

- i. The Committee discussed the scheduling of a briefing from Professor Bengoa on the report of the Expert Panel on the Reform of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that a date for the briefing from Professor Bengoa or an alternative member of the Expert Panel should be confirmed by the beginning of November 2016.

- ii. The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

## **10. Any Other Business**

An ongoing problem with the regulation of the temperature in the Senate was discussed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that committee staff should raise the issue with Building Services.

## **11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 20 October 2016, at 9.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.37 pm*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_