

## **COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Thursday 29 September 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  
Mrs Jo-Anne 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 10.35 am in public session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Draft minutes of the meeting on 22 September 2016**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 22 September 2016 were agreed.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chair advised Members that she attended the Positive Futures "Statements to the House" event on 26 September 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to enquire what her assessment is of the impact of the Care Act 2014 and to ask what consideration she has given or is giving to new legislation.

### **4. Overview briefing by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Trust and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Roisin O'Hara, Interim Chief Executive, NI Ambulance Service  
Mr Brian McNeill, Director of Operations, NI Ambulance Service  
Mr Dale Ashford, Interim Chief Fire Officer, NI Fire and Rescue Service  
Mr Gary Thompson, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, NI Fire and Rescue Service

A question and answer session ensued.

*11.36 am Mr Pat Sheehan left the meeting.  
12.50 pm Ms Paula Bradshaw left the meeting  
12.53 pm Mr Gerry Carroll left the meeting  
13.01pm Mr Trevor Clarke left the meeting  
13.10 pm Mr Ian Milne left the meeting  
13.15 pm Mr Robbie Butler left the meeting*

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

*Agreed:* The Chief Executive of the NI Ambulance Service Trust agreed to provide the Committee with further information.

### **5. SR 2016/249 The Food Information (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2016/249 The Food Information (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

**6. SR 2016/251 The Food Safety (Information and Compositional Requirements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2016/251 The Food Safety (Information and Compositional Requirements) Regulations (NI) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

**7. SR 2016/313 The Food Hygiene Rating Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2016/313 The Food Hygiene Rating Regulations (NI) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

**8. SR 2016/314 The Food Hygiene Rating (Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2016/314 The Food Hygiene Rating (Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

**9. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted a response from the RQIA regarding the Review of Renal Services.

**10. Correspondence**

i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding Delivering Social Change updates.

ii. The Committee considered correspondence from an individual regarding the health of fathers who are separated from their children.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to Department of Health to respond to the individual directly.

iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding a briefing paper ‘After the EU Referendum: establishing the best outcomes for Northern Ireland’.

iv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the draft Programme for Government.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward its response to the Committee for the Executive Office when ready.

v. The Committee noted issue 4/2016 of ‘EU Matters’.

- vi. The Committee considered an invitation from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists to its annual conference dinner on 18 November 2016.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Members should reply to the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists individually.
- vii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the Prisoner Ombudsman's Investigation Report into Serious Self-Harm Incidents by Sean Lynch in Maghaberry Prison between 2 and 5 June 2014.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to enquire about its response to the recommendations in the report.
- viii. The Committee noted SR 2016/328 The Food Hygiene Rating (2016 Act) (Commencement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- ix. The Committee noted the Investing Activity Report for September 2016.
- x. The Committee considered correspondence from an individual regarding the air ambulance service.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department to respond to the individual directly.
- xi. The Committee considered correspondence from the Department regarding a proposed Legislative Consent Motion on the Health Services Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the Department to brief the Committee on the motion.
- xii. The Committee considered an invitation from Tackling Awareness in Mental Health Issues (TAMHI) to attend an event on 7 October 2016.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Members should reply to TAMHI individually if able to attend.
- xiii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the scrutiny of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in schools and the related need for enhanced co-operation between the Departments of Health and Education and their Arm's Length Bodies.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content that the Committee for Education undertake the scrutiny of these issues, in line with Standing Order 64A.

*1.26 pm Mr Robbie Butler re-joined the meeting.*

## **11. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold an external meeting at the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University Belfast on 17 November 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed it was content with the strategic plan as drafted.

## **12. Any Other Business**

i. The matter of children's dental surgery was raised.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek information on the nature and extent of waiting lists as well as trends over the past 5-10 years.

ii. Mrs Dobson thanked Members for supporting the Millions Missing campaign held on 27 September, on behalf of the charity Hope 4 ME and Fibro Northern Ireland.

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

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 6 October 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 13.30 pm*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chairperson*

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