

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 2 June 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 Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA

Apologies: None.

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

The meeting commenced at 10.15 am in closed session.

1. Committee Protocols

The Committee discussed the working arrangements and protocols it wished to adopt during this mandate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its approach to managing correspondence and meeting requests.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward information requests and whistleblowing correspondence to the appropriate bodies.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its approach to information requests to the Department of Health.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold its first themed stakeholder event in the autumn and periodically thereafter.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that departmental press releases be forwarded to Members by email.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its approach to preparation and questioning.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that its weekly meeting would start at 10.30 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed it was content with the protocol on conduct and courtesy at Committee meetings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a Twitter account should be used to promote the work of the Committee and to provide information on meetings and visits.

The meeting was suspended at 11.46 am.

The meeting resumed at 12.00 pm in public session.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Chairperson's Business

- i. Members noted the membership of the Committee for Health.
- ii. The Chairperson advised Members of the weekly meeting arrangements, provision of committee papers and staff contact details.

Agreed: The Committee agreed it was content with the weekly meeting arrangements.

- iii. The Chairperson advised Members that she would be attending a number of pre-existing diary commitments in her capacity as an MLA and not as the Chairperson of the Health Committee.

4. Declaration of Interests

The Chairperson reminded members of their requirement to register their interests under Standing Order 69(5).

Mr Robbie Butler declared an interest as a former employee of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

5. Procedures – Guidance Documents

Members noted guidance papers on:

- Powers and Operations of Statutory Committees
- Role of Committee Chairpersons
- Role and Functions of the Committee Office
- Providing an Effective Research Service to Committees
- Timescales for Interaction between Assembly Committees and Departments

6. First Day Brief

The Committee noted a briefing paper provided by the Department of Health on its structures and responsibilities and that of its Agencies and NDPBs: “Introduction to Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland”.

7. Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety Legacy Report 2011 – 2016

The Committee noted the Legacy Report prepared by the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety 2011-16.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee discussed its forward work programme and noted that departmental officials would brief the Committee on the June Monitoring Round at next week’s meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the research service to provide an informal briefing on budgetary processes ahead of the briefing on the June Monitoring Round.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Minister to brief the Committee on her priorities for the Department including commitments from the Programme for Government.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite senior departmental officials to brief the Committee on the main business areas within the Department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Professor Bengoa to brief the Committee on the work of the Expert Panel.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold a Strategic Planning Day in September 2016.

9. Subordinate Legislation - delegation of technical scrutiny to the Examiner of Statutory Rules

The Committee considered the Guidance on Handling Subordinate Legislation.

Agreed: That the Committee for Health, under Standing Order 43, resolves to delegate to the Examiner of Statutory Rules the technical scrutiny of

statutory rules referred to the Committee under the above-mentioned Standing Order.

The Committee further resolves that in carrying out this function the Examiner shall be authorised to report her technical findings on each statutory rule to the Assembly, and to the relevant Department, as well as to the Committee itself and to publish her report.

10. SR 2016/104 The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer its consideration of SR 2016/104 The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 until the next meeting.

11. SR 2016/170 The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer its consideration of SR 2016/170 The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 until the next meeting.

12. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted the Department of Health consultation on the Future of Pharmacy Regulation.
- ii. The Committee noted the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust consultation and EQIA on the development of Ophthalmic Clinical Centres in North, South and South East Trust areas.
- iii. The Committee considered correspondence from Mr Declan McAleer MLA regarding a treatment for cystic fibrosis.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request further information from the National Institute of Clinical and Health Excellence on this matter and to raise it with the Minister when she attends the Committee.

- iv. The Committee noted the eHealth and Care Strategy for Northern Ireland.

13. Any Other Business

None.

14. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 9 June 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.29 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____