

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 16 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
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA

Apologies: Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA

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 10.31 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as detailed above.

2. Draft minutes of the meeting on 9 June 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 9 June 2016 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson advised that Mr Barry McElduff MLA was leaving the Health Committee and wished him well in his new role as a member of the Committee on Procedures.

- ii. The Chairperson advised that she was unable to attend an Action Mental Health conference on 22 June 2016 on behalf of the Committee and asked that a Member represent the Committee at the conference.

Mr Robbie Butler MLA agreed to represent the Committee at the conference.

- iii. The Chairperson advised that she had accepted a number of invitations on behalf of the Committee and would update Members on her attendance at these events at future meetings.

4. Overview of the responsibilities of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr Michael McBride	Chief Medical Officer
Ms Charlotte McArdle	Chief Nursing Officer

A question and answer session ensued.

11.46 am Mr Butler left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

The meeting was suspended at 12.15 pm.

The meeting resumed at 12.26 pm.

5. Overview briefing by the Health and Social Care Trusts

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr Michael McBride	Interim Chief Executive, Belfast HSC Trust
Mr Hugh McCaughey	Chief Executive, South Eastern HSC Trust
Mr Francis Rice	Interim Chief Executive, Southern HSC Trust
Dr Tony Stevens	Chief Executive, Northern HSC Trust
Mrs Elaine Way	Chief Executive, Western HSC Trust

A question and answer session ensued.

1.25 pm The Chairperson left the meeting and the Deputy Chairperson took the Chair.

1.57 pm Ms Seeley left the meeting.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

7. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

8. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered a request from the College of Podiatry for support from the Committee for the establishment of a Podiatric Surgery regional service in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider this as part of its strategic planning.

- ii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from an individual to the Department of Health regarding the administration of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service pension scheme.
- iii. The Committee noted the MindWise Service User Participation and Engagemet Live discussion document 2016.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office advising of the publication of the Annual Report on Public Bodies and Public Appointments for 2014 – 2015.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from Abbvie Ltd providing information on the levels of hepatitis C infection in Northern Ireland.
- vi. The Committee noted the Palliative Care Survey Report commissioned by the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care.
- vii. The Committee noted the Director of Public Health Annual Report for 2015.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Speaker advising that a public petition regarding 'Saving Bellgray Nursing Home' was laid in the Assembly on 13 June by Michaela Boyle MLA.

9. Any Other Business

Ms Bradshaw suggested that as so many issues had been raised during the briefing with the Chief Executives of the Health and Social Care Trusts that it would be useful for the Committee to have further sessions with the Trusts scheduled.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 23 June 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.07 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____