

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 23 June 2016

Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

- Present:** Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Gary Middleton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA
- Apologies:** Mr Robbie Butler MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
- In Attendance:** Ms Éilís Haughey (Clerk)
Ms Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lamont (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Antoinette Bowen (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10.32 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as detailed above.

2. Draft minutes of the meeting on 16 June 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 16 June 2016 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson proposed that the Committee meet informally after next week's meeting to discuss its work priorities for September.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to meet informally directly after the committee meeting on 30 June 2016.

10.34 am Mr Trevor Clarke joined the meeting.

- ii. The Chairperson updated the Committee on a Cancer Research event that she attended on 20 June 2016 in the Long Gallery that she had agreed to sponsor prior to her appointment as Chairperson.

4. Overview briefing by the Minister of Health

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Michelle O'Neill	Minister of Health
Mr Richard Pengelly	Permanent Secretary, Department of Health

10.43 am Mr Trevor Clarke left the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Minister of Health agreed to provide the Committee with further detail on a number of the issues discussed during the briefing.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and Mr Pengelly for attending.

5. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Chief Executives of the RQIA, the Patient and Client Council, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Trust to brief the Committee in September and to invite professional bodies and unions after that.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold its strategic planning meeting on 8 September at the Skainos Centre in Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed, that in order to inform its strategic planning, it would write to the Department of Health to request detail on the legislative and policy work it intends to bring forward in the coming months and to request further detail on the 2016/2017 departmental budget.

6. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from Ms Diane Dodds MEP, congratulating the Chairperson on her appointment and encouraging the Committee to engage with Addiction NI in its work in relation to the unhealthy consumption of alcohol.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health advising of her intention to launch a four-week targeted consultation on proposed minor changes to the General Dental Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993.

iii. The Committee considered a request from Marie Curie to sponsor an event celebrating the Daffodil Appeal to take place in the Long Gallery on 28 February 2017.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to sponsor Marie Curie's Daffodil Appeal event.

iv. The Committee considered correspondence from a family expressing concern in relation to the ongoing medical treatment of a family member in Altnagelvin Hospital.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the family to advise them of the role of the Committee and to recommend that they contact their local MLAs.

v. The Committee considered correspondence from the Cleft Lip and Palate Association seeking guidance on potential funding opportunities for a Northern Ireland Regional Coordinator.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department of Health and to invite the Association to attend a future Health Committee stakeholder event.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 30 June 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.43 am.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____