

## COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 9 June 2016**

**Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

- Present:** 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 Daithí McKay MLA  
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA
- Apologies:** Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Gary Middleton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
- In Attendance:** Ms Éilis 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 10.35am in public session.*

*The Clerk informed members that neither the Chairperson nor Deputy Chairperson would be present at today's meeting and invited nominations for a temporary Chairperson.*

*It was proposed by Catherine Seeley and seconded by Mark Durkan that Daithí McKay be elected temporary Chairperson. No further nominations were proposed; therefore Daithí McKay assumed the role of Chairperson for the duration of the meeting.*

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted, as detailed above.

#### **2. Draft minutes of the meeting on 2 June 2016**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 2 June 2016 were agreed.

### 3. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson advised Members that a briefing from Professor Bengoa on the report of the Expert Panel on Health and Social Care Reform had been provisionally scheduled for 15 September 2016.
- ii. The Chairperson reminded Members of the upcoming Referendum on UK membership of the European Union and advised Members that, as that sections 125 and 126 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 apply to proceedings of Committees, the Committee should not schedule items of business that are explicitly concerned with the question of whether or not the United Kingdom should remain a member of the EU, during the four week period prior to the referendum.

### 4. Departmental Briefing and June Monitoring

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Julie Thompson	Under Secretary, Resources and Performance Management, Department of Health
Mrs Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Secretary, Healthcare Policy Group, Department of Health
Mr Sean Holland	Deputy Secretary, Social Services Policy Group, Department of Health and Chief Social Worker

The departmental officials advised that they were unable to provide briefing on June Monitoring at that meeting but would be able to provide an overview of their respective areas of responsibility within the Department of Health.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

The departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with further written information on their areas of responsibility and work streams and information on the gender imbalance in primary care.

*11.47 am Mr Robbie Butler left the meeting.*

### 5. Forward work programme.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

### 6. SR 2016/104 - The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (NI) 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2016/104 The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

*11.57 am Mr Robbie Butler joined the meeting.*

**7. SR 2016/170 - The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016.**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2016/170 The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland Regulations (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

**8. SL1: The Food Information (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016**

The Committee considered a proposal for a Statutory Rule to provide for the enforcement of an EU Regulation on the requirements for the provision of information to consumers on the absence, or reduced presence, of gluten in food.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department make the Statutory Rule.

**9. SL1: Food Safety (Information and Compositional Requirements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

The Committee considered a proposal for a Statutory Rule to allow for the enforcement of an EU Regulation on Foods for Specific Groups which applies to all member states from 20 July 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department make the Statutory Rule.

**10. Committee Protocols**

Members considered revised protocols and working arrangements.

*Agreed:* Members agreed that they were content with the revised protocols and working arrangements.

**11. Matters Arising**

Members noted a list of All-Party Groups on health issues, which had been constituted during the previous mandate.

**12. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee considered a request from the Royal College of General Practitioners to meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair to discuss issues facing GPs.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair would arrange a meeting, subject to availability.

- ii. The Committee considered an invitation to the Chair to speak at the Action Mental Health/Together for You Final Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference on 22 June 2016 in La Mon Hotel, Belfast.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend if available.

- iii. The Committee considered a request from Huntington's Disease NI to meet with the Chair to discuss those living with Huntington's disease in NI, and to attend the Annual Conference on 30 September 2016 in La Mon Hotel, Belfast.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite Huntington's Disease NI to a stakeholder event, and that the Chair or a Member would attend the conference if available.

- iv. The Committee considered a request from the Chief Executive of Home Start NI for the Chair to meet with the Chief Executive of Home Start UK.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair or a Member would attend if available.

- v. The Committee considered a request from the NI Association of Social Workers to meet with the Chair to discuss views and concerns in relation to current review of Health and Social Care.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the NI Association of Social Workers to a stakeholder event.

- vi. The Committee considered an invitation to the Chair from the NI Confederation for Health and Social Services to attend the annual conference and exhibition on 28/29 June 2016, in La Mon Hotel, Belfast.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend if available.

- vii. The Committee considered an invitation to the Chair from Policy Forum NI to attend a NI Keynote Seminar on Health and Social Care in NI on 18 October 2016 in Belfast.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend if available.

- viii. The Committee considered a request from the Law Centre NI for the SL1 relating to the Independent Guardian to be prioritised in the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask when the SL1 would be provided to the Committee.

- ix. The Committee considered an invitation to the Chair and Deputy Chair from Business in the Community to attend the 'Drink, Work and Me' Toolkit Launch on 15 June 2016 in Parliament Buildings.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair or a Member would attend if available.

- x. The Committee considered a request from Cancer Focus NI for the Committee to join with Cancer Focus NI in supporting their new vision for cancer, cancer prevention and cancer services in NI.

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

- xi. The Committee considered an invitation to the Chair from Boots to its 50 years in NI celebration event on 17 June 2016, Europa Hotel, and Belfast.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair or a Member would attend if available.

- xii. The Committee considered an invitation to the Chair from NIACRO to attend the NIACRO Justice Series Seminar ‘Positive Youth Justice’ on 21 June 2016 in Parliament Buildings.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend if available.

- xiii. The Committee considered an invitation to the Chair from the Commission on Acute Adult Psychiatric Care to attend the launch of the final report of the Commission’s work in NI on 17 June 2016, Clifton House.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend if available

- xiv. The Committee considered a request from the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority to meet with the Chairperson informally.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair would arrange a meeting, subject to availability

- xv. The Committee noted correspondence from Diabetes UK NI relating to the ‘Diabetes Week’ event on 13 June 2016 in the Parliament Buildings.

- xvi. The Committee noted a letter of congratulations from the British Medical Association NI to the Chair, on her appointment to the Committee for Health.

- xvii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health regarding a proposed urgent oral statement on waiting times.

### **13. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 16 June 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.58pm.*

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

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