

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 1 December 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
Ms Joanne Dobson MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

Apologies: Mr Mark H. Durkan

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

The meeting commenced at 10.35 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chair informed the Committee that she had participated in the judging panel for the final of the recent Belfast HSC Trust student healthcare debating competition held in Parliament Buildings.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 24 November 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 24 November 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee noted that a list of outstanding responses to Committee correspondence had been forwarded to the Department of Health, with a letter expressing concern about the delay in responding to the Committee and highlighting a number of matters raised at the previous meeting.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding an amendment to SR 2016/384 The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation) Health And Social Care (Pension Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

The Committee agreed to bring forward agenda items 8 and 9.

5. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding a RaISE paper on International Human Rights Standards.
- ii. The Committee considered a request from Strategem NI for a copy of the questions submitted by the Committee to the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University, Belfast; and the responses provided.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to Strategem NI.

- iii. The Committee considered an invitation from Action Mental Health and the Together for You Partnership, to attend a breakfast event on 19 January 2017, on the theme of mental health.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Members should reply via the Committee Office by 8 December.

- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding its forthcoming inquiry into educational underachievement.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the consultation on 'Modernising Pathology Services'.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising of a number of consultation events on the criteria for the reconfiguration of health and social care services.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

7. Departmental Briefing on the Programme for Government

The Committee heard evidence from:

Anne Kilgallen Deputy Chief Medical Officer Department of Health

Charlotte McArdle Chief Nursing Officer Department of Health

Eilís McDaniel, Director of Family and Children Policy
Department of Health

Chris Matthews Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People
Department of Health

A question and answer session ensued.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Department agreed to provide the Committee with further information on issues raised.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

11.57 am Mr Trevor Clarke joined the meeting.

11.38 am Ms Joanne Dobson left the meeting.

8. Briefing by the Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers

The Committee heard evidence from:

Colin Reid Deputy Chair NIASW

Andy McClenaghan Campaigns Officer NIASW

John Alexander Committee Member NIASW

12.01 pm Mr Pat Sheehan left the meeting.

12.15 pm Ms Joanne Dobson rejoined the meeting

A question and answer session ensued.

The meeting was suspended at 12.25 pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.05 pm in public session.

The following Members were in attendance: Ms Bradley, Mr Middleton, Mr Butler, Mr Milne, Ms Seeley.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The NIASW agreed to provide the Committee with further information on issues raised.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward issues raised on the Programme for Government to the Committee for the Executive Office.

The Committee agreed to defer agenda item 7 until next week's meeting.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 8 December 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.22 pm

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____