

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 24 November 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 Mark H Durkan MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

Apologies: None.

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

The meeting commenced at 10.32 am in public session.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chair updated the Committee on events that she had attended, including a conference of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and a Cedar Foundation event which she hosted.

10.34 am Mr Ian Milne joined the meeting.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 17 November 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 17 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 for an update on progress.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Health to reiterate its request for an update on progress in relation to the outstanding responses.

- ii. The Committee considered options for its approach to the scrutiny of departmental policy under 'Together: Building a United Community'.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its planned scrutiny approach in relation to departmental policy under 'Together: Building a United Community'.

- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology to its request for further information on issues discussed during its tour of the CCRCB facilities on 17 November 2016.

5. Briefing from Prisoner Ombudsman on recent reports

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Tom McGonigle Prisoner Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

10.48 am Mr Robbie Butler joined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

11.07 am Mr Trevor Clarke joined the meeting.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair thanked Mr McGonigle for attending.

The meeting was suspended at 12.00 pm.

The meeting resumed at 12.11 pm.

6. Briefing from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust regarding mental healthcare in prisons

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Hugh McCaughey Chief Executive, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Ms Bria Mongan	Director of Adult Services and Prison Healthcare, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
Dr Ian Bownes	Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
Ms Elaine Cole	Operational Nurse Manager, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

A question and answer session ensued.

12.39 pm Mr Trevor Clarke left the meeting.

1.15 pm Mr Mark Durkan left the meeting.

1.17 pm Ms Catherine Seeley left the meeting.

1.25 pm Mr Pat Sheehan left the meeting.

1.48 pm Ms Joanne Dobson left the meeting.

1.57 pm Mr Gerry Carroll left the meeting.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to discuss further how best to pursue this matter including consideration of other witnesses to invite and a potential site visit, at its strategic planning meeting in the new year.

7. SL1 The Draft Caseins and Caseinates Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal for a statutory rule to transpose and provide penalties for non-compliance with the requirements of EU Directive 2015/2203 which provides for the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to certain lactoproteins (caseins and caseinates) intended for human consumption.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department make the statutory rule.

8. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered an invitation from Policy Forum NI for the Chair to deliver a keynote address at a Mental Health Seminar on 17 January 2017.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that, as the Chair was unable to attend, another Member if available, should represent the Committee at this seminar.

- ii. The Committee considered an invitation from Addiction NI to attend the second annual meeting of the Drink Wise, Age Well High Level Impact Advisory Group on 1 December 2016 in Parliament Buildings, which is being sponsored by the Committee for Health.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Members should reply to Addiction NI directly.

- iii. The Committee noted the publication of the Information Analysis Directorate Health Survey (NI): First Results 2015/16.

- iv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Royal National Institute of Blind People promoting the adoption of an ‘accessible information standard’ by Healthcare providers to address the difficulties of people with sight loss receiving information about their own health and care which they are unable to read.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Health to enquire about the adoption of the ‘accessible information standard’.

- v. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office seeking the Committee’s views on its European priorities for the year ahead as part of its work on compiling the 2017 report on Assembly Committee European Priorities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to advise the Committee for the Executive Office that it had no response to make in relation to the 2017 report on Assembly Committee European Priorities.

- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding a planned, targeted consultation on changes to the Pharmaceutical Society NI (General) Regulations (NI) 1994.

- vii. The Committee noted a Department of Finance briefing paper on the work of its Supply Division provided by the Committee for Finance.

- viii. The Committee considered a copy of a complaint letter from individuals to the Western Health and Social Care Trust, regarding the treatment of a relative.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to advise the individuals to contact the Patient and Client Council for advice and support in relation to their complaint.

- ix. The Committee considered an invitation from Business in the Community, to a meeting with the Canadian High Commissioner to discuss what businesses in

Northern Ireland are doing to address mental health issues in the workplace in Parliament Buildings on 25 November 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Members should reply to Addiction NI directly.

- x. The Committee considered an invitation from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to visit a facility in which people with dementia are living in an independent residence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the invitation at its strategic planning meeting in the new year.

- xi. The Committee noted the Department of Health's Diabetes Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan which was published on 22 November 2016.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding its review of the need for stalking legislation.
- xiii. The Committee noted the Criminal Justice Inspection NI report on an unannounced visit to Maghaberry Prison to review progress against the nine inspection recommendations made in 2015.
- xiv. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Department of Health to the Assembly Business Office withdrawing the Legislative Consent Memorandum relating to the Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill which was laid on 1 November 2016; and considered the revised LCM relating to the Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill that was laid on 22 November 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Minister's rationale for proposing the LCM and agreed that a draft report on the LCM should be prepared for its consideration.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 1 December 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.13 pm

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____