



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Miss Meagan Fearon
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray

Apologies: Mr Leslie Cree
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Jimmy Spratt
Mr George Robinson

In Attendance: Mrs Shauna Mageean (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Ciara McKay (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began at 2.07pm in public session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Children in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered a request from Children in Northern Ireland to brief the Committee on its consultation on Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Children in Northern Ireland onto the Forward Work Programme.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

In the Garden of Europe Invitation

The Committee noted the Speaker's invitation to a reception launching an exhibition entitled 'In the Garden of Europe'.

European Economic and Social Committee

The Committee noted the arrangements for its event on Thursday 3 April 2014 with the President and Members of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Debate on Committee Report on EU Priorities

The Committee noted that its Report on the EU Priorities for 2014 for all statutory committees is scheduled for debate on Monday 7 April 2014.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 26 March 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

United Youth Programme

The Committee noted a response from the Department commenting on the feedback recorded in the summary of Stage 1 of the United Youth Programme Design Day.

Committee for the Administration of Justice

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing comment on the paper provided by the Committee on the Administration of Justice on the proposed Equality and Good Relations Commission.

Carnegie Trust Report

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing comment on the Carnegie Trust Report on Measuring Well-being in Northern Ireland.

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

Victims and Survivors Service

The Committee considered a response from the Department on the Committee's queries on the review of the Victims and Survivors Services.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for complete and detailed information regarding: the funding gaps following PEACE III; a timescale for implementation of the review recommendations; the process of self-certification; and governance issues.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education requesting a copy of the briefing papers the Committee received on Bright Start. In light of the urgent response required, the Committee noted that the Chairperson agreed to forward the briefing paper to the Clerk of the Committee for Education.

Bright Start

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing details of the promotional events to be held to encourage applications for the School Age Childcare grant scheme.

6. Age Discrimination Legislation – Goods, Facilities and Services

The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, a representative of the Commissioner for Older People and the Head of Cloisters joined the meeting at 2.19 p.m.

Mr Alex Maskey joined the meeting at 2.42 p.m.

Ms Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 2.58 p.m.

Mr Alex Attwood left the meeting at 3.23 p.m.

Mr Alex Maskey left the meeting at 3.25 p.m.

Mr Alex Attwood returned to the meeting at 3.25 p.m.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Mrs Patricia Lewsley-Mooney; Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, Mr Michael Wardlow; Head of Legal and Policy for the Commissioner for Older People, Ms Emer Boyle; and Mr Robin Allen QC briefed the Committee on the Age Discrimination Legislation – Goods, Facilities and Services. Questions and discussion followed.

The witnesses left the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

Representatives from the Children’s Law Centre joined the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

Ms Bronwyn McGahan left the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

Mr Stephen Moutray left the meeting at 4.02 p.m.

Ms Paddy Kelly, Director and Ms Natalie Whelehan, Policy Officer, briefed the Committee on the Age Discrimination Legislation – Goods, Facilities and Services. Questions and discussion followed.

Representatives from the Children’s Law Centre left the meeting at 4.16 p.m.

7. Forward Work Programme

As the Committee was not quorate, the Forward Work Programme was deferred until next week’s meeting.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 9 April 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.17 p.m.

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister