

**COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014  
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Mickey Brady MLA  
Ms Pam Cameron MLA  
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA  
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA  
Mr David McIlveen MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

**Apologies:** Mr Roy Beggs MLA

**In Attendance:** Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced at 2.06 p.m. in open session.*

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies as above.

**2. Chairperson's Business.**

The Committee *agreed* a motion on health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department regarding funding received in the January monitoring round.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an update regarding a proposed legislative consent motion on standardised packaging of tobacco.

2.09 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Children's Heartbeat Trust regarding transferring children to England for treatment and *agreed* to write to the Department regarding this matter.

**3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were *agreed*.

**4. Review of waiting times. Evidence session with Professor Charles Normand.**

The Committee took evidence from:

Professor Charles Normand      Professor of Health Policy & Management, Trinity College Dublin

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witness for attending.

**5. Evidence session on the Mental Capacity Bill with Departmental officials.**

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Sean Holland                      Deputy Secretary, Social Services Policy Group

Ms Lisa Trueman                      Principal, Mental Capacity Legislation Unit

Ms Alison McCaffrey                Principal, Mental Capacity Legislation Unit

Mr Paul McConville                Social Services Officer, Office of Social Services

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

**6. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/2. The General Ophthalmic Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.**

The Committee considered SR 2014/2 - The General Ophthalmic Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

**7. Forward Work Programme.**

The Committee noted its Work Programme.

**8. Matters arising.**

The Committee *agreed* a response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding European issues.

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Minister to the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding the Condition Management Programme.

The Committee noted a Department of Finance & Personnel memorandum on the sixteenth Report from the Public Accounts Committee on Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service.

## **9. Correspondence.**

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding a consultation on the Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy and *agreed* to invite officials to brief it when the responses to the consultation have been analysed.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the Autism Strategy and Action Plan.

The Committee *agreed* to sponsor an event on the Public Health Agency's Smoking Cessation Service.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Public Health Agency regarding its 10,000 voices campaign.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Agriculture & Rural Development on the Annual Progress Report 2013 on the Rural White Paper Action Plan.

The Committee *agreed* that it was content that the Committee for Regional Development proceed with its Inquiry into the benefits of cycling on the economy.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the service provided by the Educational Shakespeare Company in prisons.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on the Barroso Task Force Desk Officers' Report.

The Committee noted correspondence from Margaret Ritchie MP regarding Downe Hospital Accident & Emergency unit and *agreed* a response.

The Committee noted correspondence from Down District Council regarding Downe Hospital Accident & Emergency unit and *agreed* a response.

The Committee noted correspondence from the RCN regarding Emergency Care.

The Committee noted correspondence from Barnardo's regarding child sexual exploitation in Northern Ireland.

The Committee *agreed* to accept an invitation to attend the NI Confederation for Health and Social Services 2014 Conference.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Friends of Chestnut Grove and *agreed* a response.

## **10. Any Other Business.**

The committee *agreed* to write to the Department for an update on changes to the Regional Foot & Ankle service at Musgrave Park Hospital.

**11. Date, time and place of next meeting.**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 2.00pm in Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.44 p.m.*

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

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