



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Health

Minutes of Proceedings

10 April 2025

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present:

- Philip McGuigan MLA (Chairperson)
- Danny Donnelly MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
- Alan Chambers MLA
- Diane Dodds MLA
- Órlaithí Flynn MLA
- Alan Robinson MLA

Apologies: None

Present by Video or Teleconference:

- Linda Dillon MLA
- Nuala McAllister MLA
- Colin McGrath MLA

In Attendance: Keith McBride, Clerk
Oliver Bellew, Assistant Clerk
Angela McParland, Assistant Clerk
Jonathan Lamont, Clerical Supervisor

The meeting commenced at 2.01pm in public session.

1. Committee Inquiry: Access to Palliative Care Services - Oral Briefing by Foyle Hospice

The following representatives joined the meeting at 2.04pm:

- Donal Henderson, Chief Executive, Foyle Hospice;
- Angela McIntyre, Chairperson, Foyle Hospice;
- Annmarie Casey, Director of Nursing and Clinical Care, Foyle Hospice; and
- Dr Paul McIvor, Medical Director, Foyle Hospice.

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives and expressed thanks to the staff of Foyle Hospice for the work they do and for hosting the Committee during a very informative visit to its premises in February.

The representatives briefed the Committee on Access to Palliative Care.

Órlaithí Flynn joined the meeting at 2.12pm.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Nuala McAllister joined the meeting at 2.18pm.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

The briefing session was reported by Hansard.

2. Committee Inquiry: Access to Palliative Care Services – Oral Briefing by the Royal College of Nurses and the Regional Specialist Palliative Care Nursing Group

The following representatives joined the meeting at 2.54pm:

- Karen Bowes, Senior Nurse, RCN;
- Ruth Thompson, Associated Director, RCN;
- Bernie Torley, Advanced Nurse Practitioner Trainee and Nurse Manager, Southern Area Hospice; and
- Denise Cranston, Specialist Palliative Care Lead Nurse, South East Trust.

The representatives briefed the Committee on Access to Palliative Care Services.

Danny Donnelly MLA declared an interest as a nurse who had previously provided palliative care.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarity on what work it is undertaking to improve Do Not Attempt to Resuscitate policies for service providers and families; and, for further information on the ReSPECT policy document.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

The briefing session was reported by Hansard.

[Extract]