

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

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 26 November 2014**  
**Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)  
Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Mickey Brady MLA  
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA  
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA  
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

**Apologies:** Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA

**In Attendance:** Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)  
Ms Marie Austin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)  
Mr Colin Pidgeon (Item 2 only)  
Mr Tim Moore (Item 7 only)

*The meeting commenced at 2.02 p.m. in closed session.*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

### **2. Budget Process: RaISe briefing**

The Committee received a briefing from an Assembly Researcher on the Budget Process.

*2.05 p.m. Ms Rosie McCorley joined the meeting.*

*2.09 p.m. Ms Paula Bradley joined the meeting.*

*2.10 p.m. Mr George Robinson joined the meeting.*

*2.13 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.*

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the Assembly Researcher for attending.

### **3. Review of Departmental Approach to Budget 2015/16: Consideration of Evidence to Date**

The Committee considered the evidence received to date on its Review of Departmental Approach to Budget 2015/16.

*2.55 p.m. Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.*

*3.15 p.m. The meeting moved to public session.*

### **4. Chairperson's Business**

- i. The Chairperson advised Members that she had received correspondence from Adoption UKNI regarding the delay in the launch of the public consultation on adoption legislation.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek an explanation for the delay and details of the revised timetable.

- ii. The Chairperson referred to the consultation announced by the Minister for Health on the future of Dalriada Hospital.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request sight of the Terms of Reference or outline of the consultation and an update on the position in relation to staff.

- iii. The Chairperson referred to the recommendations contained in the Kathleen Marshall Report on Child Sexual Exploitation.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request information on the next steps in relation to the recommendations contained in the Marshall Report.

### **5. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 19 November 2014**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 19 November 2014 were *agreed*.

## **6. Draft Budget 2015/16**

The Committee noted a response from the Department of Finance and Personnel to the Committee's request for information on the establishment of an oversight mechanism to monitor health spend and the OECD review.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Richard Pengelly	Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Ms Julie Thompson	Deputy Secretary, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

A question and answer session ensued.

*3.40 p.m. Mr Mickey Brady left the meeting.*

*3.42 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne joined the meeting.*

*4.05 p.m. Ms Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.*

The departmental officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider its draft recommendations on the Department's approach to Budget 2015/16 in closed session at the meeting on 3 December 2014.

## **7. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Briefing by Assembly Researcher**

The Committee received a briefing from an Assembly Researcher on the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

A question and answer session ensued.

*5.20 p.m. Ms Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.*

The Chairperson thanked the Assembly Researcher for attending.

## **8. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Briefing by the Food Standards Agency**

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Michael Jackson	Head of Local Authority Policy and Delivery, Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland
Ms Kathryn Baker	Head of Consumer Protection, Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

A question and answer session ensued.

6.11 p.m. Mr George Robinson left the meeting.

6.23 p.m. Ms Maeve McLaughlin left the meeting.

6.23 p.m. Ms Paula Bradley took the Chair.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked the officials for attending.

6.46 p.m. The meeting was suspended.

6.47 p.m. The meeting resumed.

## **9. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Proposals for Handling the Committee Stage**

The Committee considered a motion to extend the Committee Stage of the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

*Question put and agreed:*

“That, in accordance with Standing Order 33(4), the period referred to in Standing Order 33(2) be extended to 8 May 2015, in relation to the Committee Stage of the Food Hygiene Rating Bill (NIA 41/11-16).”

The Committee *agreed* to visit the catering facilities in Parliament Buildings on 3 December 2014 to inform its consideration of the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

## **10. SR 2014 No. 267: The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered SR 2014 No. 267: The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, and the Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, NIA 280/11-16, which drew the Committee’s attention to the regulations on the ground that they contain a number of drafting defects. The Examiner also raised an issue in relation to the appeals procedure.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek a firm undertaking that it would take forward the issues highlighted by the Assembly Examiner of Statutory Rules.

*Agreed:* The Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety has considered SR 2014 No. 267: The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule, subject to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety taking the necessary action to address the issues highlighted by the Assembly Examiner of Statutory Rules.

## **11. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee *agreed* the Forward Work Programme for December 2014.

## **12. Matters Arising**

- i. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the cancellation of planned surgical procedures.
- ii. The Committee *noted* that a response from the Department regarding the scheduling of a briefing from officials on the PPRS and cancer drugs fund issues was outstanding.

### **13. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the intended launch of a targeted consultation on the draft Firefighters (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.
- ii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee regarding the NIAO report on Safer Births.
- iii. The Committee noted the EU Matters Newsletter: November 2014.
- iv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Nursing and Midwifery Council regarding its Annual Report and Accounts for 2013-2014.
- v. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the General Medical Council regarding National Training Survey Reports.
- vi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the General Medical Council regarding the Confidentiality Guidance Review.

### **14. Any Other Business**

The provision of services to people suffering from Huntington's disease was raised.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek details of the services provided to people suffering from Huntington's disease and the support available for their families.

### **15. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 3 December 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6.56 p.m.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chairperson*

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