

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

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 3 June 2015**  
**Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Paul Givan MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA  
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA  
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA

**Apologies:** Mrs Pam Cameron MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

**In Attendance:** Ms Marie Austin (Senior Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Oliver Bellew (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced at 2.09 p.m. in public session.*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

### **2. Chairperson's Business**

- i. The Chairperson referred to the Health and Social Care Board 2015/16 draft plan which had been leaked to the media.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek its views on the reported content of the document and for clarification on whether the document was the draft Commissioning Plan for 15/16.

### **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 27 May 2015**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 27 May 2015 were agreed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to members of the Independent Living Fund Users Group to acknowledge and congratulate them on the work that the Group did to ensure that the current level of ILF support remains in place for users in Northern Ireland.

#### **4. Programme for Government targets – Departmental update**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Sean Holland	Chief Social Services Officer, DHSSPS
Dr Anne Kilgallen	Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Ms Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Secretary, Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS.

*2.20pm Mr McGimpsey joined the meeting*

*2.35pm Mr Givan joined the meeting*

A question and answer session ensued.

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

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

#### **5. June Monitoring Round – Departmental briefing**

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Julie Thompson	Deputy Secretary, Resource and Performance Management Group, DHSSPS
Ms Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Secretary, Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS
Mr Sean Holland	Chief Social Services Officer, DHSSPS.

A question and answer session ensued.

*4.14pm Mr Givan left the meeting*

The departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

**6. SL1 – Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule which would increase the value of optical vouchers for certain patients from 8 June 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule.

**7. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

**8. Matters Arising**

- i. Members considered a response from the Minister in relation to the Committee's request to have British Medical Association included on the Unscheduled Care Task Group.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the British Medical Association.

- ii. The Committee considered a response from the Minister in relation to potential future 'shift left' intentions and the Transforming Your Care Implementation Board.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for: i) a detailed explanation why any further shift left is dependent on funding being made available through Monitoring Rounds; ii) the reason why funding to meet the aims of Transforming Your Care was not provided for in the mainstream budget; iii) details of the membership of the TYC Board and Central Programme Team and information on the connection between the two bodies; and iv) its assessment of whether it is appropriate for the Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board to chair the TYC Board given accountability issues.

- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister in relation to blood donation.

- iv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister in relation to the rewording of a proposed amendment to the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content with the rewording of the proposed amendment.

**9. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister regarding the Implementation Plan for the recommendations contained in the Marshall Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a written update on progress in the autumn.

- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the consultation on Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland.
- iii. The Committee noted a press statement issued by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine regarding the NI Human Rights Commission report on Emergency Care.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Division of Clinical Psychology regarding clinical psychology training.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from ME Support NI regarding the recent Committee Stakeholder Event.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from an individual requesting to meet the Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the individual inviting them to the next Committee stakeholder event.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request details of what consideration has been given to the proposed ban on psychoactive substances in the Westminster Psychoactive Substances Bill.
- vii. The Committee noted a copy of a letter to the Minister regarding fatal foetal abnormality.

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

None.

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

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 10 June 2015, at 2.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.21p.m.*

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

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