

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 17 November 2016

Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, Queen's University Belfast

Present: Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Gary Middleton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Robbie Butler MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Ms Joanne Dobson MLA
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
Ms Catherine Seeley MLA

Apologies: Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

In Attendance: Ms Éilis Haughey (Clerk)
Ms Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Deirdre Farry (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lamont (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Stephanie Wilson (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10.33 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

10.34 am Mr Gerry Carroll joined the meeting

10.35 am Mr Trevor Clarke joined the meeting

- i. The Chair updated the Committee on events that she had attended, including the launch of a report by the College of Occupational Therapists, a Pancreatic Cancer UK event and a recent Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS) event.

- ii. The Chair advised the Committee that she would attend the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists' event on Saturday 18 November 2016.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 10 November 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 10 November 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that a list of outstanding responses to Committee correspondence had been forwarded to the Department of Health for an update on progress.

5. Briefing from the Centre for Experimental Medicine, Queen's University Belfast

The Committee heard evidence from:

Professor Jose Bengoechea Director, Centre for Experimental Medicine, QUB

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chair thanked Professor Bengoechea for attending.

6. Briefing from the Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast

The Committee heard evidence from:

Professor Liam Murray Acting Centre Director, QUB

Dr Bernadette McGuinness Consultant Geriatrician and Senior Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine, QUB

Dr Dermot O'Reilly Director of the NI Administrative Data Research Centre, QUB

Professor Michael Donnelly Head of the Health Services Research Group, Centre for Public Health, QUB

Professor Frank Kee Deputy Director of CPH and Director of the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI, QUB.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

7. Briefing from the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology

The Committee heard evidence from:

Professor David Waugh Director of the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell
Biology, QUB

Professor Mark Lawler Dean of Education, QUB

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward questions to the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology for a response.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a press release in relation to its external meeting and visit to the Centre for Cancer and Cell Biology.

8. SR 2016/384 The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation) Health and Social Care (Pension Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Clerk briefed the Committee on advice received from the Examiner of Statutory Rules that morning advising that, in the context of a commitment from the Department to correct a drafting error in SR 2016/384, by means of amendment in a later rule, she had no further issues to raise.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2016/384 The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation) Health and Social Care (Pension Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule.

9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted the Health Inequalities Regional Report 2016.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding a consultation on proposed changes to the Regulation and Improvement Authority (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.
- iii. The Committee noted the Director's Report from the Northern Ireland Executive Brussels Office for August - October 2016.
- iv. The Committee noted the Quality and Outcomes Framework bulletin from the Department for 2015-16.

- v. The Committee noted the Programme for Government Consultation document from the Northern Ireland Executive.
- vi. The Committee noted the Investing Activity Report for October 2016.
- vii. The Committee considered a response from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust regarding the Prisoner Ombudsman's Investigation Report into the Serious Self-Harm Incidents at Maghaberry Prison and the plans in place to monitor and implement the Report's recommendations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and consider it at the briefing with the Prisoner Ombudsman and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, scheduled for 24 November 2016.

- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Reports of Unannounced Inspections of Hydebank Wood Secure College and Ash House Women's Prison which highlight the need for improved mental health provision.
- ix. The Committee considered correspondence from the Children's Heartbeat Trust regarding the all-island paediatric cardiac network.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the matter at its next strategic planning meeting in January.

- x. The Committee noted correspondence from an individual regarding waiting times for health and social care.
- xi. The Committee considered an invitation from Macmillan Cancer Support to the Chair to speak at its 'Celebrating the Contribution of Macmillan Nurses' event on 6 December 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend the event.

- xii. The Committee considered an invitation from the Chief Officers 3rd Sector (CO3) to the Chair to attend the 2017 Leadership Conference and Awards dinner on 23/ 24 February in La Mon Hotel.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend the event.

- xiii. The Committee noted the Prevalence of Drug Use and Gambling in Ireland and Drug use in Northern Ireland bulletin from the Department.
- xiv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Department advising that it intends to table a revised Legislative Consent Motion in relation to the Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence, pending the tabling of the revised Legislative Consent Motion

- xv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding a response from the Executive Office on the implications for NICS departments of the decision of the UK to withdraw from the EU.
- xvi. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs regarding a report by Rural Support: 'Health and Social Effects of the Agricultural Downturn in Northern Ireland'.
- xvii. The Committee noted the Monthly Forecast Outturn data from the Department of Finance for August 2016/17.
- xviii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding VAT on the Approved Home Childcare Scheme.
- xix. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding its oral evidence session with officials from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust on the Prisoner Ombudsman's Investigation Report into the Serious Self-Harm Incidents by Sean Lynch at Maghaberry Prison.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at its briefing with the Prisoner Ombudsman and the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, scheduled for 24 November 2016.

- xx. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the Prisoner Ombudsman's Investigation Report into the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Mr Geoffrey Ellison in Magilligan Prison.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at its briefing with the Prisoner Ombudsman and the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, scheduled for 24 November 2016.

- xxi. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the Prisoner Ombudsman's Investigation Report into the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of a Prisoner While in the Custody of the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at its briefing with the Prisoner Ombudsman and the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, scheduled for 24 November 2016.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

The matter of overdue correspondence from the Department regarding heart screening for young people, was raised.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 24 November 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.40 pm

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____