Health and Sport Committee

Remit and membership

Remit:

To consider and report on health policy, the NHS in Scotland, anti poverty measures, equalities, sport and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy apart from those covered by the remit of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee.

Membership:

Duncan McNeil (Convener)
George Adam (from 4 September until 19 September)
Bob Doris (Deputy Convener)
Jim Eadie (until 19 September)
Richard Lyle (until 19 September)
Mark McDonald (from 19 September)
Aileen McLeod (from 19 September)
Fiona McLeod (until 4 September)
Nanette Milne
Gil Paterson
Dr Richard Simpson
Drew Smith
David Torrance (from 19 September)

Committee Clerking Team:

Clerk to the Committee
Eugene Windsor

Senior Assistant Clerk
Rodger Evans

Assistant Clerk
Rebecca Lamb

Committee Assistant
Bryan McConachie
Health and Sport Committee

4th Report, 2013 (Session 4)

Annual Report 2012-13

The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

1. This report covers the work of the Health and Sport Committee from 11 May 2012-10 May 2013.

Reports and inquiries

Legionnaire’s outbreak
2. Following the outbreak in south west Edinburgh, the Committee took evidence at its meeting on 26 June from the Health and Safety Executive and others.

Inquiry into support for community sport
3. The Committee issued a call for written views on 2 July 2012 and received 64 submissions.

4. It held a chamber debate during its inquiry into community sport on 20 September 2012.

5. The Committee held four evidence sessions with eight panels and 48 witnesses at meetings on 4, 11 and 25 September and 2 October. There were also visits to Community Sport Hubs in Glasgow, Cumbernauld, and Aberdeen.

6. It reported its findings on 16 January 2013. The Committee received responses from the Scottish Government; sportscotland; the Scottish Sports Association; VOCAL Scotland; a joint reply from Scottish Swimming and Save the Children, and Scottish Target Shooting to its report in March 2013.

Inquiry into teenage pregnancy
7. The Committee issued a call for written views on 7 January 2013 and received 78 submissions.

8. It took oral evidence on its inquiry at its meetings on 22 January, 19 February and 26 February and 5 March.
9. Four evidence sessions were held with eight panels and 48 witnesses. There were also visits to groups in Glasgow and Dundee. A reporter for the Committee visited Oldham.

10. The Committee is due to report its findings later in the year.

Health inequalities in Scotland

12. The Committee took oral evidence on 5 February. A conference was held in the Parliament on 18 February. The event allowed the Committee to hear a range of views that will inform the scope of this on-going inquiry.

Budget scrutiny
13. The Committee issued a questionnaire to NHS boards in early 2012, took evidence on 1 May 2013 and reported on 25 June 2013.

14. On 16 October, it issued a call for written views on the Scottish Government’s Draft Budget and received eight submissions.

15. The Committee held three oral evidence sessions on 2 October, 23 October and 30 October. It reported to the Finance Committee on its scrutiny of the draft budget 2013-14 in November 2012. The Scottish Government’s response to the Committee’s report can be read here.

Health and Safety in Scotland
16. The Committee held a one-off evidence session with the Health and Safety Executive on 11 December.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman
17. The Committee heard evidence from Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman on 15 February 2013. On 5 February it agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary, who responded on 14 February.

NHS waiting lists
18. The Committee agreed to consider the issue of waiting NHS lists, once the audit of NHS boards’ performance and the Audit Scotland report had been published.

19. It further agreed to hear evidence from the Cabinet Secretary after the Public Audit Committee’s (PAC) consideration of the Audit Scotland report. PAC considered the Audit Scotland report at its meeting on 13 March 2013.

Regulation of care of older people in acute/hospitals
20. The Committee took evidence from Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman on 15 January. The Committee to write to the Cabinet Secretary on 5 February. The Cabinet Secretary responded on 14 February.

Post-traumatic stress
21. On 12 March, the Committee held an evidence session with witnesses including representatives from the Rivers Centre and Miscarriages of Justice
Organisation. It also held two private sessions with people who had experienced the condition. The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Scottish Government and others.

**National Autism Strategy**
22. The Committee held a one off evidence session to monitor progress on the National Autism Strategy on 19 March. It will hold an oral evidence session with the Minister for Public Health later in the year.

**Bills and other legislative matters**

**Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Bill**
23. The Committee took oral evidence at meetings in May and published its report on 6 July. The Committee conducted an informal fact-finding visit with representatives of Glasgow City Council Social Work Services. The Committee also met with carers and service users.


**Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill**
25. On 14 May 2012, Nicola Sturgeon MSP wrote to the Committee indicating that she was minded to set the minimum price per unit of alcohol at 50 pence. Stage 3 took place on 24 May 2012. The Bill was passed by 86 votes to one, with 32 abstentions.

**Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill**
26. The Bill was introduced on 6 February 2013.

27. The Committee was appointed as secondary committee to consider those provisions in Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill relating to the National Confidential Forum.

28. It issued a call for written evidence which closed on 9 April.

29. The Committee took oral evidence at meetings on 26 March and 16, 23 and 30 April. It reported to the Justice Committee on 22 May.

**Scottish Statutory Instruments**
30. The Committee scrutinised 25 instruments, of which four were considered under the affirmative procedure and reports were published. The remainder were considered under the negative procedure.

**Equalities**
31. As part of its inquiry into teenage pregnancy, as well as taking evidence from representative groups, the Committee engaged directly with young parents, holding informal meetings in Glasgow and Dundee. The Committee also met young mothers privately prior to a formal evidence session.
32. It sought to ascertain information on equalities in the health context via a question to NHS boards regarding budget allocations for 2013-14.

33. As part of the support into community sport inquiry, the Committee produced an executive summary, which was distributed to all those who had taken part in the inquiry, and was commended by the Parliament’s Equality Advisory Group.

34. It continued to use Twitter to reach interested parties beyond the “usual suspects”, publicising the launch of the report into support for community sport, and also the inquiry into teenage pregnancy.

35. The Committee’s clerking team are represented on the Equality Advisory Group, a body established in 2011 to ensure that the Parliament takes account of the needs of the wider community, and delivers a successful corporate strategy for equality.

**Other activities**

**Petitions**

36. The Committee considered three petitions on orphan diseases and individual patient treatment requests (IPTRs).

37. It took evidence petitioners on orphan diseases and Individual Patient Treatment Requests (IPTRs) in March 2012 and agreed to examine the approval process for newly licensed medicines and the system of IPTR.

38. In June 2012, the Committee wrote to all NHS boards requesting data related to IPTRs. Twenty-nine written submissions were received.

39. On 14 November, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing announced a new medicines review.

40. The Committee held two evidence sessions on access to new medicines. On 4 December it focused on access to cancer drug treatments with oncology clinicians, representatives of the cancer network groups and charitable organisations representing cancer patients. The second, on 29 January, focused on other conditions.

41. The Committee agreed that once the Scottish Government commissioned review was published it would hold an oral evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary and the authors of the report.

42. The Government published its report, *New Medicines Reviews 2013*, on 3 May. The evidence session was held on 7 May. On 14 May the Committee will hear from an official from the UK Department of Health on the development of the policy of Value Based Pricing (VBP). A final evidence session, with the petitioners and witnesses from the earlier sessions will take place on 21 May.

43. The Committee considered a petition calling on the Scottish Government to make sure every school can provide adequate sports facilities. It wrote to the Government, COSLA and others.
44. It considered a petition on the provision of quality speech and language therapy services. The Committee has agreed to write to local authorities to seek further information.

45. On 22 January, the Committee considered a petition calling for a review of the smoking prohibition and control provisions of the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005.

**European Policy**

46. Aileen McLeod MSP was appointed European Report on 23 October 2012 and on 29 January 2013 the priorities for European work for 2013 were decided as: e-Health Action Plan 2012-20 and EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing.

**Meetings**

47. The Committee met 35 times during the period. Two meetings were held entirely in private, and 15 meetings included items in private. The main reasons for taking business in private were consideration of draft reports and work programme matters.
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