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:

Bob Doris (Deputy Convener)
Rhoda Grant
Colin Keir (From 7 November 2013)
Richard Lyle (From 16 May 2013)
Mark McDonald (From 27 June 2013 Until 7 November 2013)
Aileen McLeod
Duncan McNeil (Convener)
Nanette Milne
Gil Paterson
Dr Richard Simpson
Drew Smith (Until 3 September 2013)
David Torrance (Until 27 June 2013)

Committee Clerking Team:

Clerk to the Committee
Eugene Windsor

Senior Assistant Clerk
Rodger Evans

Assistant Clerk
Myer Cohen

Committee Assistant
Bryan McConachie
Health and Sport Committee

6th Report, 2014 (Session 4)

Annual Report 2013-14

The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

1. This report covers the work of the Health and Sport Committee from 11 May 2013-10 May 2014.

Reports and inquiries

Inquiry into teenage pregnancy
2. The Committee reported its findings on 19 June 2013. In September, the Committee received a response from the Minister for Public Health.

Access to newly licensed medicines
3. The Committee took evidence at its meeting on 14 May 2013 from Head of Pricing, Prescriptions and Supply, Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry Group, Department of Health, UK Government.

4. The Committee held an oral evidence session on 21 May 2013 with representatives from organisations who had previously given evidence.

5. The Committee reported its findings on 3 July 2013. The Committee received response from the Scottish Government.

6. The Committee received the Scottish Medicines Consortium's Task and Finish Group’s report to the Scottish Government on the assessment of medicines for end of life care and very rare conditions (orphan and ultra-orphan medicines) in Scotland on 31 January 2014. The Committee held a final oral evidence session on 25 February 2014 from organisations who had previously given evidence. The Committee wrote to the four NHS boards whose cancer patients are treated at the West of Scotland Cancer Centre. The Committee received responses from NHS Ayrshire and Arran; NHS Dumfries and Galloway; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and NHS Lanarkshire.

Support for community sport
7. On 4 June 2013 the Committee took evidence from Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport; the Deputy Director for Sport and Physical
Activity, and the Chief Executive of sportscotland. On 18 February 2014 took evidence from the Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, the Chief Executive of Glasgow 2014 Ltd and the Chief Executive of sportscotland.

Community transport
8. On 5 April 2013, the Convener of Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee wrote to the Committee requesting its input to their inquiry.

9. The Committee held an evidence session on 28 May 2013 with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; the Scottish Ambulance Service; the British Red Cross; Royal Voluntary Service; and Voluntary Action Scotland, in relation to changes in provision of non-emergency patient transport in Scotland.

10. The Convener wrote to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee on 5 June 2013. The Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee reported on 1 July 2013.

Child Poverty
11. The Committee visited Glasgow on 7 October 2013, and took evidence from children’s organisations and other relevant bodies on 19 November 2013.

12. On 12 December 2013, the Committee heard from the Minister for Children and Young People and the Minister for Housing and Welfare, who both sit on the Ministerial Advisory Group on Child Poverty. The Committee also took evidence from the Secretary of State for Scotland.

13. The Convener wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities regarding the Child Poverty Strategy on 23 January 2014. The Committee received clarification on the impact of working tax credit and child tax credit reforms on 11 February.

Health Inequalities
14. The Committee continued its inquiry into health inequalities with two sessions on access to services and the main theme of early years.

Health Inequalities - Access to Services
15. The Committee held an evidence session with stakeholders on 25 March 2014 and with academics and professional bodies on 1 April 2014.

Health Inequalities - Early Years
16. On 20 January the Committee issued a call for written evidence, 70 written submissions were received.

17. The Committee took evidence from the Scottish Government's Early Years Quality Improvement Unit on 6 May. Further evidence sessions will be held and a report published later in the year.
Bills and other legislative matters

Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill
18. The Committee reported on the National Confidential Forum as part of the Bill on 27 May 2013. The Committee considered sections 26 and 27 of the Bill at Stage 2 on 5 November 2013.

Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill


Food (Scotland) Bill
21. The Committee agreed its approach on 25 March 2014 and issued a call for written views on 28 March 2014. Twenty-five responses were received.

Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill
22. At its meeting on 17 December 2013 the Committee agreed to seek the appointment of an adviser. On 4 February 2014 the Committee appointed Dr Mary Neal as its adviser to assist in scrutiny of the Bill. On 13 March 2014, the Committee launched its call for written views.

Subordinate legislation and UK legislation
23. During the parliamentary year, the Committee considered 37 Scottish Statutory Instruments (SSIs) – 8 under the affirmative procedure and the remaining 29 under the negative procedure.

24. The Committee considered two Legislative Consent Memorandums over the parliamentary year – The Care Bill (UK Parliament Legislation) and the Children and Families Bill (UK Parliament legislation).

Other activities

One-off Evidence Sessions
Scottish Government Action Plan for Pharmaceutical Care
25. On 29 April 2014 the Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government Action Plan for Pharmaceutical Care, “Prescription for Excellence” from the Chief and Deputy Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and representatives from Pharmacists

Welfare Reform – Impact on GP Services
26. On 11 June 2013 the Committee took evidence from Scottish General Practitioners Committee, BMA Scotland and Glasgow Disability Alliance.
Transitions between Paediatric and Adult Services
27. On 4 March 2014 the Committee took evidence from a range of professional bodies, patient groups and condition-specific charities.

28. The Committee wrote to the territorial health boards, inviting them to provide details of what arrangements they have in place to support the transitions process. The Committee also wrote to the Cabinet Secretary looking for an update on the progress made on transitions since the publication of Better Health, Better Care: Hospital Services for Young People in Scotland in 2009.

Mortality Rates at NHS Lanarkshire
29. Following the discovery of higher than average mortality rates in acute hospitals in Lanarkshire last summer, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing set up a rapid review, conducted by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. The review was completed before Christmas and led to an improvement plan, with progress due to be reported to the cabinet secretary by the end of March. On 22 April the Committee heard from NHS Lanarkshire; the Scottish Government; NHSScotland, and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well-being.

NHS waiting lists
30. Following the publication of the Public Audit Committee’s report the Committee took evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing; the Director General of Health and Social Care, and Chief Executive of NHS Scotland; the Director of Health Workforce and Performance in the Scottish Government on 28 May 2013.

National Autism Strategy
31. The Committee held a one off evidence session to monitor progress on the National Autism Strategy on 19 March then held an oral evidence session with the Minister for Public Health on 4 June.

Scrutiny of Inspection, Regulation and Complaints Bodies
32. On 4 February 2014 the Committee held its annual evidence session with Healthcare Improvement Scotland; the Health and Safety Executive; the Care Inspectorate, and the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

European Issues

e-Health
33. The Committee agreed the priorities for its European-related work for the year. One of those priorities, and the theme that the Committee’s European Reporter recommended to be explored, was the e-Health Action Plan 2012-20.

34. The Committee took evidence on 18 March 2014 from representatives of a range of organisations to discuss the current role of EU policy initiatives and European funding programmes in the development of telehealth in Scotland and the economic and health benefits these can potentially bring.
Budget scrutiny

NHS boards budget scrutiny
35. The Committee sent its annual questionnaire to NHS boards in April 2013, took evidence from various boards on 18 June and Scottish Government officials on 25 June, and reported on 11 November 2013. The Scottish Government responded on 16 January 2014.

Scottish Government’s Draft Budget
36. On 17 September 2013, the Committee issued a call for written views on the Scottish Government’s Draft Budget and received seven submissions.

37. The Committee held two oral evidence sessions on 8 October 2013 and 29 October 2013. It reported to the Finance Committee on its scrutiny of the draft budget 2014 - 15 in November 2013. The Scottish Government’s response to the Committee’s report can be read here.

Engagement and innovation

Parliament Day, Stirling, June 2013
38. On Friday 21 June, the Committee visited the Hillview Community Centre to hear about Cultenhove Opportunities Partnership. The Committee then visited Stirling Community Hospital where members heard about Town Break Stirling. MSPs also watched pupils from Cowie Primary School perform a drama and dance presentation as part of the Max in the Middle initiative to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

39. The Committee then held a formal meeting in Stirling Council’s city chambers, taking evidence as part of the inquiry into health inequalities from NHS Forth Valley, Stirling Council, Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise and Forth Valley College.

Ask the Health Secretary
40. The first general scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing was held on 12 November 2013. Members of the public submitted questions for the Committee to consider via the Committee’s webpage, Twitter (using the tag #askhealthsec) and on the Scottish Parliament’s Facebook page.

41. One hundred and twenty-six questions were received, of which 18 were selected to be put to the Cabinet Secretary. The questions that were not reached received a written response.

Petitions
42. The Committee has considered several petitions over the course of the year: PE1384 on Speech and language therapy; PE1466 on local authority charges for non-residential services, and PE1499 on respite facilities to support younger disabled adults with life shortening conditions. PE1398, PE1399 and PE1401 were kept open during ongoing debate on access to medicines.
Meetings

43. The Committee held 36 meetings, all of which took place in the Scottish Parliament except the external meeting in Stirling. Two meetings took place entirely in private; 23 meetings involved items taken in private. The items taken in private were mostly to consider draft reports, but also included consideration of the Committee’s work programme and adviser appointments.
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