



**St Helena  
Government**

**• School Nurse and Interim  
Director of Health  
introduced to the Committee**

**• Updates on Primary Care  
Facility at Sundale, National Health  
Insurance Scheme, Mental Health &  
Mental Capacity Ordinance, Psychiatric  
Intensive Care Unit and Tobacco Control**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING**

***WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020***

The monthly meeting of the Public Health Committee took place on Wednesday, 16 September 2020.

A special welcome was extended to Janet Lawrence who is undertaking the role of Interim Director of Health (DoH) for a one-month period, essentially to fill the gap between the departure of the DoH and arrival of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO)/Interim Director of Health (IDoH). On behalf of the Committee, Janet was thanked for undertaking to support the Health Directorate amidst staff transition. Thanks were also extended to Edward Rayment, substantive DoH, for his unwavering commitment and support throughout his tenure. The Chairman commented that he had 'shown good leadership and the right attitude for the job'. Well wishes were extended to Mr Rayment for a safe journey home and the very best for the future.

The newly recruited School Nurse, Nikesha Price, was welcomed to the meeting. In an overview of her background, she advised that she had been employed in the capacity of School Nurse for a period of four years prior to her arrival on St Helena and had been a Paediatric Nurse just prior to this. She gave an overview of the Terms of Reference for her current role and commented on her aim to build rapport with children, families and teachers on St Helena in an effort to gauge requirements of the service, moving forward. The importance of building resilience amongst students was discussed at length. Nikesha was wished well in her role and thanked for her attendance.

Updates relating to Health & Safety, design and cost-related work for the Primary Care Facility at Sundale, introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme, amendment to the Mental Health & Mental Capacity Ordinance, and construction of a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), were given under matters arising. In an update on Medical Fees & Charges, it was noted that amendments to the relevant Public Notice, had been deemed necessary on advice from the Attorney General's Chambers and, in light of this, it had not been possible to meet the original implementation date of 1 September 2020. The Committee therefore agreed efforts be made to finalise the changes necessary with a view to implementation on 1 October 2020.

An update on the work being undertaken around Tobacco Control (Registered Dealers), in liaison with the Acting Chief of Police (CoP), generated much discussion. The Health Promotion Lead informed Committee that the import of specified tobacco products was being followed up with Public Health England (PHE). Offences were being considered in liaison with the Police Directorate as part of legislation on Fixed Penalty Notices and, in light of this, would not be incorporated within the Tobacco Control Regulations. The Committee was pleased to note that all was essentially on track for implementation in January 2021.

**SHG  
September 2020**

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