

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING (OPEN SESSION) HELD AT 09:00HRS ON WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE

Present:	Hon. Derek Thomas	Chairman	
	Hon. Anthony Green	Member	
	Hon. Russell Yon	"	
	Hon. Jeffrey Ellick	"	
	Mr. Edward Rayment	Director of Health	
	Mrs. Helen Lawrence	Deputy Director of Health	
	Miss. Janet Lawrence	Interim Director of Health	
	Mrs. Peta M Henry	Secretary	
Apologies:	Hon. Brian Isaac	Deputy Chairman (offshore)	
Invited:	Mrs. Nikeesha Price	School Nurse	(item 35.03)
	Ms. Kate Heneghan	Health Promotion & SM Lead	(item 35.07)

OPEN AGENDA

35.01 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present. A special welcome was extended to Miss Janet Lawrence who was undertaking the role of Interim Director of Health for a 1 month period, essentially to fill the gap between departure of the Director of Health (DoH) and arrival of the incoming Chief Medical Officer (CMO)/Interim Director of Health (IDoH). On behalf of Committee Miss Lawrence was thanked for undertaking to support the Health Directorate amidst staff transition. Thanks were also extended to Mr 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.

Apologies were extended on behalf of Cllr Brian Isaac. It was noted that there were no members of the public present for the meeting.

35.02 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

35.03 Introduction(s) to New Staff

Mrs. Nikeesha Price (School Nurse)

Mrs Price was welcomed to the meeting, introduced to Committee and vice versa. In an overview of her background, she advised that she had been employed in the capacity of School Nurse for a period of 4 years prior to her arrival in 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. Mrs Price was wished well in her role, thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 09:15hrs.

35.04 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the 'open' session of the Public Health Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 5 August 2020, were confirmed and signed.

**35.05 Matters Arising
Health & Safety**

The Chairman confirmed having spoken with the Deputy CS who had advised of plans to ensure the subject matter was brought back on track. He undertook to keep-in-view.

Action: Chairman

Primary Care Facility (Sundale)

It was noted that a meeting was being organised.

Action: Secretary

National Health Insurance Scheme

The Chairman advised that he had spoken with the FS regarding the importance of keeping progress in view.

Proposed Amendment to Mental Health & Mental Capacity Ordinance

Committee was informed that feedback from the AG's Chambers had been awaited. Cllr Green undertook to follow this up.

Action: Cllr Green

Update - Visiting Delegation from Mauritius

The Chairman advised that all would be aware of the anticipation around entering into a MoU, once able to return to a state of normality following the current pandemic.

Medical Referrals Data

It was noted that a Paper on Medical Referrals would be forthcoming.

Action: IDoH

Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

Members acknowledged receipt of a written update from the Programme Management Unit (PMU), that had been circulated via email. In discussing this, it was noted that a list of anti-ligature equipment was being compiled. Tender documents were also being finalised. Impacts on recurrent budget as a result of maintenance, moving forward, was discussed at length. It was also noted that each new service offered from the General Hospital, resulted in loss of bed-space. Committee agreed it was important to keep this in mind.

Medical Fees & Charges

It was confirmed that 'actions' agreed at the last PHC meeting had been undertaken. The DDoH advised, however, that amendments to the Public Notice had been deemed necessary on advice from the AG's Chambers. In light of this, it had not been possible to meet the original implementation date of 1 September 2020. Committee therefore agreed efforts be made to finalise the changes necessary with a view to implementation at 1 October 2020.

Action: DDoH

Tobacco Control Legislation (Supporting Regulations/Communications Strategy)

See note at 35.06 below.

Health Promotion Update (Duty on Imports)

It was noted that a round of public meetings were being held by the Tax Review Group and attended by the HP&SML.

Drivers Licence for Over 70's

It was noted that feedback from the SMO was scheduled for the PHC meeting to be held in October 2020.

Action: SMO

35.06 Tobacco Control Legislation (Registered Dealers)

The HP&SML was welcomed to the meeting. She gave an overview of discussions with various stakeholders to date, which included the Headmistress of PAS around the proposed 'no smoking' areas on Francis Plain (i.e. playing field, pavilion and shed). Committee agreed the proposal and clarified that smoking would be permitted outside of these areas. The HP&SML advised that a presentation to the Education Committee would be made shortly. She commented on 'smoke-free' signs, associated artwork and the fact that businesses would be able to obtain this artwork free-of-charge, in the event they wished to produce their own signs.

An update on the work being done around Registered Dealers, in liaison with the Acting Chief of Police (CoP), generated much discussion. The HP&SML informed Committee that the import of specified tobacco products was also being followed up with Public Health England (PHE). Offences were being considered in liaison with the Police Department as part of legislation on Fixed Penalty Notices and in light of this, it would not be necessary for fees to be included as part of the Tobacco Control Regulations. Committee was pleased to note that all was essentially on track for implementation in January 2021. The Chairman advised, however, of the need to ensure the Tobacco Control Regulations were in place in October/November 2020 to coincide with the annual Liquor License inspections; and undertook to work with both the HP&SML and Acting CoP on this.

Action: HP&SML/Chairman

35.07 Chairman's Update

The Chairman advised that there was nothing of significance to report outside of items on the agenda for the meeting.

35.08 Director's Update

Upcoming Departure

The DoH informed Committee that he was delighted to be departing St Helena with the knowledge that there was an Interim Director of Health in place. He thanked all for their support throughout his term in post and wished the Directorate the very best for the future.

35.09 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no business for discussion under this classification.

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the 'open' session of the meeting at 10:00hrs.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

7 Oct 2020