

5. National Health and Care Service Bill 2016 – First Reading approved

Mr Coleman to move:

That the National Health and Care Service Bill 2016 be read a first time.

The President: We go on to Item 5, the National Health and Care Service Bill 2016 for First Reading.

I call on the Hon. Member, Mr Coleman.

Mr Coleman: Thank you, Madam President.

I am pleased to move the First Reading of the National Health and Care Service Bill for the Department of Health and Social Care.

The Bill is a framework for the delivery of the Department's obligations in respect of healthcare, and will allow the Department to deliver its five-year Strategy for Health and Social Care.

The Bill has six key deliverables, which are: an integrated Health and Care Service; provision for a Health and Care Service charter which will set out the Department's general commitments around standards, values and behaviours in respect of the National Health and Care Service (NHCS); provision to create NHCS schemes to provide more detail about how services will be provided; a revised approach to charges and contributions which specifically requires the Department to have regard to the funds available; a strengthened position with regard to commissioning and contracts; and a strengthened role for the Department's committees and complaints process.

New provisions in the Bill include: the ability for the Department to charge for the occupation of any of its facilities – this will facilitate the movement of individuals who become 'stranded' in the acute Hospital to accommodation which is more appropriate for their health and care needs; extending the potential for Department facilities to be used for other purposes when they are not needed for NHCS care; and a requirement for the Department to arrange for regular and independent monitoring and review of the NHCS schemes.

The remainder of the Bill simply re-enacts and updates existing provisions.

Madam President, I beg to move that the National Health and Care Service Bill be read for the first time.

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: Gura mie eu, Eaghtyrane.

I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The President: The motion is that the Bill be read a first time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.