

NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 6 November, 2015

Steps 2 Success process

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| <p>QW 50169/11- 16</p> | <p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) whether Steps 2 Success takes preference over other projects which provide opportunities for young people to gain qualifications; and (ii) to give his assessment of the challenges posed for young people who are currently participating on other programmes and who are required to participate in Steps 2 Success.</p> <p>(i) Steps 2 Success (S2S) is my Department's main employment programme. Eligibility for S2S is determined by the type of benefit which a client receives, the length of time on benefit and the client's barriers to employment.</p> <p>S2S provides a personalised, tailored service to meet individual needs. This service, which may include a qualification, is underpinned by Service Guarantees to ensure all participants get the support they need. Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants, aged 18 to 24 years old, are required under the Jobseeker's Allowance (Schemes for Assisting Persons to Obtain Employment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, to participate on S2S when they have been in receipt of that benefit for nine months. JSA claimants who are referred to S2S must attend and participate on the programme in order to maintain their entitlement to benefit. S2S, therefore, takes precedence over other employability programmes which are not mandatory.</p> <p>(ii) Where a JSA claimant reaches their S2S eligibility point and is participating on another programme, my Department's Employment Service Advisers can consider deferring the S2S referral. This deferral can be up to 90 days and should allow the client time to complete the programme they have started and, where possible, move into employment. This deferral should remove any challenge to young people completing other programmes when they reach the required trigger point to participate on S2S. Clients will be referred to S2S at the end of the deferral period if they have not found employment and are still claiming JSA.</p> |
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NEET Youth Forum and NEET Advisory Group

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| <p>AQW 49441/11- 16</p> | <p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail whether his Department has had any discussions with the NEET Youth Forum regarding the possibility of representatives chairing or co-chairing the NEET Advisory Group.</p> <p>Discussions between my officials and the NEET Strategy Forum, the organisation which manages the NEET Youth Forum (NYF), about the future role of the overall organisation given the current refresh of the Pathways to Success strategy, are ongoing.</p> <p>The NYF has been directly represented on the NEET Advisory Group since December 2014.</p> <p>There have been direct discussions with the NYF Regional Project Manager about the possibility of a young person co-chairing the NEET Advisory Group. This may be a future option as members of the NYF gain in confidence.</p> <p>I will be happy to keep the possibility of a young person co-chairing the NEET Advisory Group under review.</p> |
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Pedestrian crossing at children's play park in Carrickfergus

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| <p>AQW 49839/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr David Hilditch (DUP - East Antrim)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister for Regional Development whether she has any plans to install a pedestrian crossing at the children's play park in Scotch Quarter, Carrickfergus. [Priority Written]</p> <p>My Department is aware of recent requests for a pedestrian crossing at the children's play park in Scotch Quarter, Carrickfergus. I have therefore asked officials to undertake surveys at this location to ascertain whether the pedestrian and traffic volumes are sufficient to justify the provision of a formal pedestrian crossing.</p> |
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Minister's assessment of Poverty Bulletin findings

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| <p>AQO 8967/11- 16</p> | <p>Ms Megan Fearon (SF - Newry and Armagh)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the findings of the Poverty Bulletin 2013-2014.</p> <p>The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister currently has lead responsibility within the Executive for tackling poverty. However, my Department holds many of the policy and operational levers to address poverty and disadvantage on the ground and has and will continue to play a major role in progressing the Executive's Delivering Social Change Agenda, the aim of which is to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage that characterises our most deprived individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>My Department is responsible for measuring poverty in Northern Ireland and the results of the 2013-14 Poverty Bulletin would indicate that the overall long-term trend of poverty in Northern Ireland has remained fairly stable since 2002/2003, with approximately one fifth of the population living in poverty. Northern Ireland has experienced a slight increase in relative poverty from 19% in 2012-13 to 21% both before and after Housing Costs. Clearly, there is much work still to be done by this Executive in relation to reducing poverty in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>I would reiterate the full commitment of myself and my Department to continuing to work to support the Executive in its efforts to tackle poverty and social exclusion.</p> |
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Support for families that are at risk of fuel poverty

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| <p>AQW 50110/11- 16</p> | <p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister for Social Development what support is available to families that are at risk of fuel poverty, but are not eligible for the Affordable Warmth Scheme.</p> <p>The Affordable Warmth Scheme is delivered in partnership between my Department, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and local councils. Local council staff make the initial contact with householders considered to be most at risk of fuel poverty to assess eligibility for the Affordable Warmth Scheme. Where the household is not eligible for assistance under the Affordable Warmth Scheme, council staff can refer them on to the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme which provides a range of schemes to assist low income households improve their energy efficiency. My Department's Boiler Replacement Scheme also provides a grant of up to £1,000 to replace old inefficient boilers. Council staff may also direct householders to the Bryson Energy Freephone advice line to obtain independent and impartial advice for domestic householders in</p> |
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| | | <p>Northern Ireland. This advice line is funded by my Department through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Advice and guidance is available on NI Direct for people who want to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.</p> <p>Council staff also advise householders of the Social Security Agency's 'Make the Call' campaign and if the householder agrees they will send their details to the Make the Call team to undertake a Benefit Entitlement Check.</p> <p>In addition my Department will issue the annual Winter Fuel Payment (£100 - £300) to qualifying households again this year. My Department also operates the Cold Weather Payment, which is issued to qualifying households when the temperature is or is forecast to be zero or below for 7 consecutive days between 1 November and 31 March. This payment could be made several times during the qualifying period, depending on the temperature.</p> |
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Process and criteria for applying for a bus pass

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| <p>AQO 9013/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr David McIlveen (DUP - North Antrim)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education to outline the process and criteria for applying for a bus pass.</p> <p>I should begin by clarifying that pupils apply for transport assistance and not specifically a bus pass. Should a pupil be eligible for transport assistance the Education Authority will determine what type of assistance is most appropriate. This may take the form of a bus pass, a seat on an Education Authority vehicle, or a monetary allowance.</p> <p>Parents may apply to their Education Authority Region for consideration. Eligibility for assistance is determined by application of the school transport policy's criteria which are: distance, and suitable school. The distances used are two miles for Primary pupils and three miles for Post-Primary pupils measured by the shortest route capable of being walked between home and school. A suitable school is one in the recognised categories of grant-aided school. Namely: Catholic Maintained, Controlled and Other Voluntary, Integrated, Irish Medium, Denominational and Non-Denominational grammar. No other definition of 'suitable school' is used.</p> |
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Number of complaints about school inspections

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| <p>AQO 9012/11- 16</p> | <p>Mrs Karen McKevitt (SDLP - South Down)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education, during the last academic year, how many schools were dissatisfied with the outcome of their Education and Training Inspectorate school inspection and raised a complaint at stage one.</p> <p>The Education and Training Inspectorate received two formal complaints during the academic year 2014-15 at stage one however neither of these were in relation to schools being dissatisfied with the outcome of their school inspection.</p> |
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Pupil progression at end of Key Stages 1 and 2

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| <p>AQO 9010/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Adrian Cochrane- Watson (UUP - South Antrim)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education for his assessment of primary pupils' progression at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2.</p> <p>From the 2012/13 school year attainment in Communication and Using Mathematics has been assessed using Levels of Progression. Our assessment arrangements are designed to measure not only the attainment of pupils but also the progress they make.</p> <p>The arrangements include an 'expected level' at each milestone (the end of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3) and we are able to observe at system level the percentage of pupils attaining the expected level and above at the end of each Key Stage.</p> <p>The percentage of pupils attaining the expected level in 2013/14 has increased across each Key Stage, and in both skills, since 2012/13. The percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving Level 4 or above in Using Maths increased from 78.5 to just over 80 percent, while the corresponding figure for Communication increased from 77 to almost 80 percent.</p> <p>Our arrangements now allow us to assess the comparative performance of free school meals entitled pupils. This underlines the gap: the equivalent figures for free school meal-entitled pupils achieving the expected level are 65 percent in Communication and 66 percent in Using Maths. That's a 15 percentage point difference for Communication and a 14 percentage point difference for Maths. While not as pronounced a gap as we see in post-primary attainment, it is still untenable and I remain determined to take further action to reduce it.</p> <p>In addition, the new arrangements include an expectation that, as well as achieving the expected level by the end of each Key Stage, pupils will</p> |
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| | | <p>progress by at least one level between each Key Stage. In future years, therefore, this will allow us to capture data on how pupils, or groups of pupils such as those with free school meal entitlement, in each cohort are progressing as they move through their education.</p> |
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DE advice to schools on internet safety

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| <p>AQO 9008/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Trevor Clarke (DUP - South Antrim)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education what advice his Department gives to schools in relation to promoting internet safety.</p> <p>My Department has reminded schools of their responsibility to have in place an eSafety policy and has provided guidance and advice on eSafety matters. As with all aspects of the curriculum, the specifics of what is taught in the classroom are matters for each teacher/school to consider.</p> <p>A number of Departmental Circulars have issued to schools to provide advice on eSafety. DE Circular 2013/25 entitled “eSafety Guidance” issued in December 2013 which provided advice on what should be included in their eSafety policies, including advice on any non-C2k provision. Previous advice was issued in Circular 2011/22 “Internet Safety” and Circular 2007/01 “Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools”.</p> <p>C2k provides schools with access to eSafety information and teaching resources via a dedicated eSafety Zone and includes a 360 degree online safety tool, links to UK Safer Internet Resources offering advice on keeping children safe online, and to an Anti Bullying Network website which provides suggestions for a code of conduct that schools can introduce to pupils.</p> <p>There are also resources for teachers and pupils available on Fronter, C2k’s Virtual Learning Environment. This includes eSafety courses; web links to best practice; audit tools; and advice on sexting/cyberbullying/policy creation. There are two Fronter ready to go rooms for eSafety– one to support staff and the other for pupil use as well as extensive resources to support teachers in their delivery of Internet safety to pupils in a dedicated area within C2k’s content management system, EQUELLA.</p> |
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ECNI Draft Statement on Key Inequalities in Education

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| <p>AQO 9006/11- 16</p> | <p>Ms Claire Hanna (<i>SDLP - South Belfast</i>)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education for his assessment of the Equality Commission's Draft Statement on Key Inequalities in Education.</p> <p>This is a Draft Statement and I asked the Equality Commission to meet with me on 19 October to discuss its findings. We have agreed that my officials will have further discussions with the Commission on its draft findings before publication of a final statement in 2016.</p> <p>I am committed to addressing educational underachievement and disadvantage. Here are some examples of what we have achieved and are progressing:</p> <p>In the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and Trends in International Mathematics and Science (TIMMS) published in December 2012 we were the highest ranking English speaking region in the world in both reading and numeracy, 5th out of 45 countries surveyed in reading and 6th out of 50 countries surveyed in mathematics.</p> <p>funding both the Inclusion and Diversity Service and the Traveller Education Support Service to provide support for pupils who are Newcomers or from a Traveller background; and</p> <p>drafting three bills which will improve equality of opportunity and promote good relations - Special Educational Needs and Disability, Addressing Bullying in Schools and Shared Education.</p> <p>There is more we can do and we are on a journey rather than at a destination. I look forward to hearing from the Equality Commission and other stakeholders about further steps we can take to secure improvement.</p> |
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Issuing of bus passes to students

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| <p>AQW 50312/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Trevor Clarke (<i>DUP - South Antrim</i>)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education to outline the process used by his Department to notify Translink of the need to issue bus passes to students.</p> <p>The Education Authority (EA), rather than the Department of Education, is responsible for the process relating to notification and issue of Translink sessional tickets ("bus passes"). Following acceptance of their child into a school, parents may apply to the EA for assistance with transport for their child. The EA determines the most appropriate means of assistance including whether or not the pupil will travel on a Translink service. If so, their details</p> |
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| | | <p>will be forwarded to Translink for the creation of a sessional ticket. The ticket is sent to the EA which then passes it to the pupil's school for issue to the pupil in the first week of term. For pupils eligible for transport assistance from previous years, the EA passes their names to Translink in June with no need for parents to reapply each year.</p> |
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Educational attainment rates for young protestant boys

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| <p>AQO 9011/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Gregory Campbell (DUP - East Londonderry)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education in the absence of a signature project, what measures does he intend to introduce to help raise educational attainment rates for young Protestant boys.</p> <p>I am determined to address the inequality in our education system and I have in place policies to raise standards and tackle educational underachievement wherever it exists.</p> <p>Tackling inequalities in education is an issue that cannot be solved quickly and while we have made some progress in recent years, this is a multi-faceted, societal issue and one that education authorities and schools cannot tackle on their own.</p> <p>The evidence suggests that social background is the strongest factor impacting on attainment here, and whilst the performance of our most deprived pupils has continued to improve over the last few years, and at a faster rate than their more affluent peers, the gap between them is still too wide.</p> <p>It is clear that schools need additional resources to help these pupils achieve their potential and I have redistributed school funding to target those schools with high numbers of pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> <p>I also continue to target substantial resources at disadvantaged communities, including Sure Start, extended schools, full service programmes, Achieving Belfast and Achieving Derry Bright Futures programmes, and projects to address educational underachievement in the Greater West Belfast area.</p> <p>I am working hard to break the link between disadvantage and educational outcomes; however, there is an important role to be played by parents, community leaders and those with influence in the community in raising educational awareness and aspiration in socially deprived communities.</p> |
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| | | <p>While some schools persist in the use of academic selection, we will be unable to eradicate social division and those political proponents of social and academic selection must start accepting responsibility for all its outcomes, especially the outcomes for working class children. I am however encouraged when I see communities where formal education has not traditionally been prized now recognising that education is the path to success in the future.</p> |
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How DE is addressing bullying on school buses

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| <p>AQO 9007/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Basil McCrea (NI21 - Lagan Valley)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education to outline how his Department is working with schools, Translink and parents to address bullying on school buses.</p> <p>Bullying is unacceptable no matter where it happens. It can extend far beyond the school gates; and bullying on school buses, when levels of direct supervision are lower, can be a significant problem.</p> <p>Responsibility to respond to individual incidents lies with the school; acting in accordance with its discipline, good behaviour and anti-bullying policies. The day-to-day operation of those policies is exclusively a matter for the school and not one in which the Department would seek to intervene.</p> <p>To ensure a consistent approach is followed by all schools; I will be clarifying, as part of my 'Addressing Bullying in Schools Bill' that schools responsibilities extend beyond those incidents which occur on school premises, during normal school hours; and they must take action when bullying occurs while pupils are travelling to or from the school, during term-time. Schools will be required to record such incidents, and the steps they have taken to address them. Translink is actively involved in efforts to tackle bullying on buses. It works with schools to raise awareness, has provided guidance to drivers on responding to incidents and liaises with schools and Education Authority (EA) Transport Officers when any problems arise.</p> <p>The EA have also developed a "Safe School Transport" leaflet for parents which includes advice on how bullying at these times should be addressed. When incidents do occur, parents should initially contact the school to report the matter and raise their concerns. Where bullying is persistent, most Translink and EA operated buses can be fitted with CCTV cameras to monitor the situation and provide evidence, allowing the school to take appropriate action.</p> |
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Eligibility to the Extended Schools Programme

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| <p>AQW 50223/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 50023/11-16, to detail (i) the specific criteria for eligibility to the Extended Schools Programme; and (ii) how the criteria have been selected.</p> <p>The specific eligibility criteria for schools to qualify for the Extended Schools (ES) programme have recently been provided in my response to AQW 50023/11-16.</p> <p>The additional resources provided through the ES programme are targeted at those schools operating in the most socially deprived areas. The eligibility criteria have therefore been developed to identify schools with greatest need using recognised measures of deprivation.</p> <p>Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME) has a long established link to social deprivation and also to lower levels of educational achievement. Alongside FSME, the Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2010) is based on distinct domains of deprivation that can be recognised and measured separately. Schools are therefore identified for ES funding purposes, using both the measures of deprivation outlined above, through assessing the profile of the school as submitted in the annual School Census return.</p> |
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Number of pupils attending Integrated primary schools

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| <p>AQW 50142/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Alex Easton (DUP - North Down)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils attending Integrated primary schools.</p> <p>In 2014/15 there were 9,962 pupils attending integrated primary schools. This includes 3,821 pupils attending Controlled Integrated primary schools and 6,141 pupils attending Grant Maintained Integrated primary schools. Source: NI school census</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Figures relate to the 2014/15 academic year. While the 2015/16 school census took place on the 9th October this year, provisional figures will not be available until December 2015 and will not be finalised figures until February 2016.</p> <p>Figures for primary includes nursery, reception and year 1 - 7 classes.</p> |
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Number of pupils attending Controlled primary schools

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| <p>AQW 50141/11-16</p> | <p>Mr Alex Easton (DUP - North Down)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils attending Controlled primary schools.</p> <p>In 2014/15 there were 84,220 pupils attending Controlled primary schools, of which 3,821 attend Controlled Integrated primary schools. Source: NI school census Notes:</p> <p>Figures relate to the 2014/15 academic year. While the 2015/16 school census took place on the 9th October this year, provisional figures will not be available until December 2015 and will not be finalised figures until February 2016.</p> <p>Figures for primary includes nursery, reception and year 1 - 7 classes.</p> |
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Number of pupils attending Catholic Maintained primary schools

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| <p>AQW 50103/11-16</p> | <p>Mr Alex Easton (DUP - North Down)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils attending Catholic Maintained primary schools.</p> <p>In 2014/15 there were 79,786 pupils attending Catholic Maintained primary schools.</p> <p>Source: NI school census Notes:</p> <p>Figures relate to the 2014/15 academic year. While the 2015/16 school census took place on the 9th October this year, provisional figures will not be available until December 2015 and will not be finalised figures until February 2016.</p> <p>Figures for primary includes nursery, reception and year 1 - 7 classes.</p> |
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Publication of review of the Youth Council for Northern Ireland

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| <p>AQW 49978/11-16</p> | <p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Education when the review of the Youth Council for Northern Ireland will be published.</p> <p>The consultation on proposals for the future of the Youth Council (YCNI) closed on 3 July 2015. Responses are currently being considered and I will announce my decision in due course.</p> |
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DHSSPS action to reduce stigma around mental ill-health issues

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| <p>AQW 50134/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP - South Belfast)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail what action his Department has taken to reduce the stigma around mental ill-health issues.</p> <p>Previous Public Health Agency (PHA) annual public information campaigns have aimed to de-stigmatise mental illness and raise awareness of the early warning signs and symptoms. The PHA and Northern Ireland Association of Mental Health are also working in partnership to deliver a future wide ranging three year mental health anti-stigma campaign titled <i>Change Your Mind</i>.</p> <p>Further action to reduce stigma associated with mental illness, and encourage help-seeking behaviour includes: local seminars and educational workshops; mental health awareness training; the hosting of websites providing advice and information; and work with the media to encourage more positive reporting on the issue.</p> |
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Update on DHSSPS suicide prevention strategy

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| <p>AQW 50111/11- 16</p> | <p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on his Department's suicide prevention strategy, including details of existing targets to address and reduce suicide.</p> <p>A wide range of services and programmes are delivered under the "Protect Life" strategy. These include the Lifeline crisis response service, suicide prevention training, community-based counselling support, education campaigns, self harm prevention programmes, and bereavement support. A new strategy is being developed and will be issued for public consultation in 2016.</p> <p>The long-term goal of "Protect Life" is to reduce the prevalence of suicide in Northern Ireland; the aim, within the lifetime of the current strategy, is to reduce the differential in the suicide rate between deprived and non-deprived areas within Northern Ireland. To date, this inequality gap has remained constant, although the final outcome will not be known until 2016 as suicide rates are measured on a three year rolling average.</p> |
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DPSSPS suicide prevention strategy for next five years

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| <p>AQW 50001/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Ross Hussey (UUP - West Tyrone)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail his Department's suicide prevention strategy for the next five years, that specifically deals with (i) young people; (ii) the LGBT community; and (iii) people with mental health issues.</p> <p>A new draft strategy will be issued for consultation in early 2016. It will be in two parts: the first covering frontline intervention and postvention, and the second covering early intervention to promote emotional resilience and positive mental health as protective factors to reduce suicide risk. The early intervention section will include tailored support for young people, those with mental health issues and raised risk groups. The frontline intervention section will include specific actions to reduce the incidence of suicide amongst those in the care of mental health services.</p> |
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Update on introduction of pulse oximetry testing for new borns

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| <p>AQW 49988/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Robin Swann (UUP - North Antrim)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the introduction of pulse oximetry testing for all new borns.</p> <p>My Department is advised by the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) about all aspects of screening. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, the NSC assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria covering the condition, the test, the treatment options and the effectiveness and acceptability of the screening programme.</p> <p>The NSC has reviewed the evidence for adding pulse oximetry to the screening pathway to detect congenital heart disease in newborns. At their meeting in March 2014 they recommended piloting the use of pulse oximetry to evaluate the impact of implementation on NHS services and to establish feasibility for future national rollout as an addition to the existing suite of screening tests undertaken as part of the newborn programme.</p> <p>The pilot has commenced and is expected to report next year. The NSC will consider the findings from the pilot and will make a policy recommendation for the UK. I will consider this advice when it is available.</p> |
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Number of autism coordinators contracted to each Health Trust

| <p>AQW 48630/ 11-16</p> | <p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (<i>SDLP</i> - <i>South Belfast</i>)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of autism coordinators contracted to each Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last five years.</p> <p>The figures requested are shown in terms of headcount (HC) and whole-time equivalent (WTE) in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 663 1437 1469"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th colspan="2">Belfast</th> <th colspan="2">Northern</th> <th colspan="2">South Eastern</th> <th colspan="2">Southern</th> <th colspan="2">Western</th> </tr> <tr> <th>HC</th> <th>WTE</th> <th>HC</th> <th>WTE</th> <th>HC</th> <th>WTE</th> <th>HC</th> <th>WTE</th> <th>HC</th> <th>WTE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: HSC Trusts</p> <p>These figures refer to the 1st September in each year. The post in the South Eastern Trust was filled from the 17th October 2011 onwards.</p> | Year | Belfast | | Northern | | South Eastern | | Southern | | Western | | HC | WTE | 2011 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | 2012 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | 2013 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | 2014 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | 2015 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 |
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| Year | Belfast | | | Northern | | South Eastern | | Southern | | Western | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2011 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2012 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2013 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2014 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

DHSSPS support for children with autism in South Belfast

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| <p>AQW 48501/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP - South Belfast)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what support his Department is providing for children with autism in South Belfast.</p> <p>Within the Belfast Trust autism services are delivered across the Trust area irrespective of geographical area. Following a diagnosis of autism, all children, young people and families are referred to the Autism Intervention Service which provides a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach to care. The Trust also works closely with its third sector partners with regard to delivery of intervention and support and these are integrated into the Trust service delivery model.</p> <p>A number of workshops are available at initial diagnosis, providing parents and other family members with an opportunity to gain more information regarding autism and to link with other families experiencing similar anxieties. The Trust has also developed 'Level 2' workshops, which provide more problem-specific intervention, advice and follow up. Individual discussion with the child about their diagnosis and individual therapy are also available as required.</p> |
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Access to the all island paediatric cardiac care

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| <p>AQW 48366/11- 16</p> | <p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the all island approach to paediatric cardiac care will mean that Republic of Ireland citizens can access local services.</p> <p>The immediate priority of the all-island Congenital Heart Disease Network is the transfer of paediatric surgery to Dublin, which requires sufficient capacity to be developed there to accommodate Northern Ireland patients. When the network is fully established patient pathways will be determined by the clinicians who represent both jurisdictions on the Network, and will place the needs of the child at the forefront in all considerations. The possibility of Republic of Ireland children accessing specialist cardiology services in Northern Ireland will therefore be open to them.</p> |
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Investment for local paediatric cardiac care as part of the all island restructuring

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| <p>AQW 48318/11-16</p> | <p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNl - North Down)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what investment is planned for local paediatric cardiac care as part of the all island restructuring of services.</p> <p>I have made £1.2m available this year to facilitate the establishment of the service model recommended by the International Working Group, including the implementation of the Belfast Trust's proposals for enhancing cardiac care locally. A Northern Ireland subgroup of the all-island Congenital Heart Disease Network Board is overseeing the implementation of these proposals locally, and is developing bids for the investment required. Developments being considered include an initiative to improve antenatal detection of congenital cardiac conditions, provision of equipment for patient transfers between Belfast and Dublin, and improvement of telemedicine links between Belfast and Dublin. The Belfast Trust has appointed an additional adult congenital cardiac surgeon, and plans to recruit an additional paediatric cardiologist, clinical physiologist and cardiac liaison nurse. The Trust is also developing options to accommodate a Specialist Children's Heart Centre as part of the all-island network.</p> |
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Publication of consultation into Children's Palliative and End of Life Strategy

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| <p>AQW 48269/11-16</p> | <p>Mr Robin Swann (UUP - North Antrim)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the findings of the consultation into Children's Palliative and End of Life Strategy, which closed in March 2014, will be published.</p> <p>I hope to be in a position to publish the final <i>Children's Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy</i> along with the findings of my Department's consultation later this year.</p> |
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Treatment of people with anorexia and referrals for treatment in England

| <p>AQW 47786/11- 15</p> | <p>Mr Steven Agnew (<i>GPNI - North Down</i>)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of local people with anorexia that have been referred for specialist treatment in England in each of the last three years; and (ii) the criteria that must be met in order to be considered for such treatment.</p> <p>The number of people referred to facilities outside of Northern Ireland for specialist treatment for an eating disorder in the last 3 years is detailed below. This figure includes all eating disorders, not just anorexia:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="563 775 1394 1122"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No of people referred outside of NI for eating disorder treatment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Decisions on referral to specialist services outside of Northern Ireland are made on the basis of individual clinical need, in line with the criteria and procedures set out in my Department's 'Transfer of Mentally Disorder Patients' guidance (August 2011).</p> <p>On 7 October, I announced that my Department will be examining the possibility of establishing a specialist eating disorders unit in Northern Ireland, and this work has commenced.</p> | Year | No of people referred outside of NI for eating disorder treatment | 2012/13 | 8 | 2013/14 | 11 | 2014/15 | 15 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---|---------|----|---------|----|
| Year | No of people referred outside of NI for eating disorder treatment | | | | | | | | | |
| 2012/13 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2013/14 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2014/15 | 15 | | | | | | | | | |

Evaluations of ADD-NI programmes

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| <p>AQW 46806/11- 15</p> | <p>Mr Steven Agnew (<i>GPNI - North Down</i>)</p> | <p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail what evaluations were conducted into ADD-NI programmes which informed his decision to cease funding; and their outcome.</p> <p>ADD- NI continues to receive core grant funding from my Department. I intend to consult publicly on proposals for a new Innovation Grant Scheme, which will be open to all voluntary and community sector organisations. The Scheme will be established on a co-design basis. A Scheme Design Team has been established and pre-consultation engagement workshops are currently being held across Northern Ireland. The Scheme will seek to help us deliver key health and social care aims and will have innovation at its heart. It will replace my Department's existing Core Grant Scheme, which will come to an end in March 2018. To minimise the impact on organisations core grant funding will be withdrawn over a three year period. Subject to satisfactory applications being received, all organisations will receive their full allocations in this financial year. However, reductions will be applied in each of the following two years through to the closure of the scheme.</p> |
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