

NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 13 November, 2015

DEL efforts to address youth unemployment

<p>AQO 9040/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Cathal Ó hOisín (SF - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on his Department's efforts to address youth unemployment.</p> <p>My Department has a wide range of measures in place to help address youth unemployment.</p> <p>The Youth Employment Scheme Work Experience Programme offers work experience placement opportunities to unemployed 18-24 year olds who are job ready. Participants have the opportunity to learn and apply the soft skills increasingly valued by employers.</p> <p>Young people can avail of Steps 2 Success, which is a flexible personalised service tailored to meet individual need. Those with significant barriers can enter this programme early. This personalised service is underpinned by Service Guarantees, which ensure that all participants receive the support they need to find and sustain employment.</p> <p>Following the publication of "Generating our Success: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Youth Training" in June 2015, my Department is currently establishing a new system of professional and technical training for all young people aged 16 to 24 who require training at level 2.</p> <p>My Department is also implementing a new apprenticeship system which will be open to everyone irrespective of age, but with a primary focus on young people aged 16 to 24. There will be progression from the new youth training system, with apprenticeships offered at level 3 and above. Under the current Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme, the Department fund 66 projects, many of which have a specific focus on addressing youth unemployment.</p> <p>The Department's Employment Service works closely with the Careers Service, referring young people who would benefit from careers guidance. The Careers Service offers impartial and personalised advice and guidance, provided by professionally qualified advisers. The aim is to support young people to make informed decisions about the opportunities available in education, training and apprenticeships to help them fulfil their potential, leading to rewarding and sustained employment.</p>
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St Mary's displays and commemorations

<p>AQO 9037/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Jim Allister (TUV - North Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning what representations he has made or will make to St Mary's University College to avoid a repeat of the recent display commemorating republican terrorists at the college.</p> <p>My expectation is that all higher education institutions must be shared and inclusive environments.</p> <p>Like others, St Mary's University College is responsible for its policies and procedures, including adherence to Section 75 and other equality legislation. My Department highlights in the annual grant letters to all institutions their responsibility to adhere to the relevant legislation.</p> <p>All higher education institutions engage with the wider community, and this is now an expectation under our higher education strategy. In this regard, St Mary's is responsible for deciding how its premises are used.</p>
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Funding for Kilronan Special School works

<p>AQW 50436/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Patsy McGlone (SDLP - Mid Ulster)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 50161/11-16, when the funding for the accommodation requirements at Kilronan School will become available. [Priority Written]</p> <p>I am pleased to tell you that I have secured additional funding for minor works which will include a scheme to provide additional accommodation at Kilronan School. This funding has been released to the Education Authority (EA). The EA anticipates that, subject to all necessary approvals, on-site works will commence at the school before the end of this financial year.</p>
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Starting age of school children

<p>AQW 50431/11-16</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education whether children starting school later than four years of age can be placed in a year group which is different to their own chronological year.</p> <p>Parents of children who did not start school at four years of age, and were educated outside the formal school system, can apply for a place in a grant-aided school at any time. A child applying for admission to a school would be admitted to his/her chronological age group.</p>
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		<p>Nevertheless, the flexibility does exist for children to move outside their chronological age group. Any such decision is made by a school's Board of Governors, taking into account the views of parents, the Principal and the Education Authority. This could see a child moving to a year group below his/her chronological age or to a year group above his/her chronological age.</p>
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DE guidance around school starting age

<p>AQW 50430/11-16</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail (i) the rationale behind recent departmental guidance that makes four years the compulsory school starting age; and (ii) what support is available for primary schools to put in place different arrangements for individual Year 1 children that find starting school challenging.</p> <p>The date of commencement of compulsory school age is defined in the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, as amended by the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989, changing school starting age from five to four. This was to take account of the fact that many parents enrolled their children at four years of age and was to ensure that all children had access to an equal number of years of school. A cut off date of 1 July, provided clarity for parents and schools on the beginning of compulsory school age that was common to all children rather than relying on the date of birth of the individual child.</p> <p>I understand that, for a variety of reasons, some children may have more difficulty settling into primary school than others. My Department issued guidance on 14 April 2015 on "Induction and Transition to Year 1 of Primary School" which noted that for these children, primary schools may need to put in place different arrangements for induction and transition to P1 to take account of the individual circumstances of the child.</p>
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School starting age

<p>AQW 50429/11- 16</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education (i) for his assessment of the issue that not all children are ready to start formal schooling at four years of age; (ii) to detail how parental concerns that their child is not ready to start school is addressed in the new guidance on school starting age; and (iii) whether he plans to introduce any flexibility on school starting ages in the future.</p> <p>The foundation stage of the curriculum is specifically designed to provide an age-appropriate education for pupils in Years 1 and 2. The foundation stage provides teachers with flexibility to use their professional judgement and adapt their teaching to best meet the needs of their pupils and to provide for diagnostic assessment, which will provide greater opportunities for teachers to pick up earlier on pupils with particular difficulties.</p> <p>The Education Authority published its “School Starting Age – A Guide for Parents” on 29 October 2015. This guidance covers a range of issues associated with school starting age, including advice for parents who are worried that their child is not ready to start school.</p> <p>I have said before that I am keen to introduce flexibility on school starting age in certain circumstances but this will require a change to primary legislation.</p>
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Inclusion of mental health in school curriculum

<p>AQW 50415/11- 16</p>	<p>Mr Samuel Gardiner MBE (UUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education whether he has any plans to change the curriculum to include mental health.</p> <p>In our curriculum at primary level, managing feelings and emotions is a compulsory element of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding and provides opportunities for pupils to better understand their own feelings and the feelings of others, as well as how to sustain their health, growth and wellbeing.</p> <p>At post-primary level, the Personal Health strand of Learning for Life and Work provides opportunities for pupils to understand the importance of recognising and managing factors that may influence physical and emotional/mental health throughout life.</p> <p>The statutory curriculum clearly states that pupils should be taught about the importance of learning about mental health and wellbeing.</p>
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Update on scoping study on possible models for primary school counselling

<p>AQW 50408/11- 16</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the scoping study to outline possible models for primary school counselling further to the recommendations of the Audit of Counselling and other Therapeutic interventions in Primary and Special Schools in October 2009.</p> <p>I remain committed to providing counselling support to pupils of primary school age.</p> <p>The Department is in the process of collating data and researching models that would be suitable for younger children. The 2015 School Omnibus Survey, which is due for publication by the end of the year, included a section on primary school counselling and this information will inform the departmental analysis. The aim is to have an appropriate model identified by late 2016.</p>
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Number of children in Irish-medium schools

<p>AQW 50372/11- 16</p>	<p>Mr Daithí McKay (SF - North Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of children in each Irish-medium school in each of the last three years.</p> <p>Enrolments in Irish medium schools in 2012/13 – 2014/15 are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="549 1234 1394 2013"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2012/13</th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2014/15</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bunscoil an Luir</td> <td>86</td> <td>79</td> <td>78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunscoil an Traonaigh</td> <td>37</td> <td>36</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunscoil An Tsleibhe Dhuibh</td> <td>172</td> <td>179</td> <td>184</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain</td> <td>130</td> <td>133</td> <td>142</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche</td> <td>84</td> <td>83</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunscoil Cholmcille</td> <td>123</td> <td>117</td> <td>114</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain</td> <td>61</td> <td>61</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunscoil Phobal Feirste</td> <td>287</td> <td>294</td> <td>307</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Bunscoil an Luir	86	79	78	Bunscoil an Traonaigh	37	36	38	Bunscoil An Tsleibhe Dhuibh	172	179	184	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain	130	133	142	Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	84	83	85	Bunscoil Cholmcille	123	117	114	Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	61	61	82	Bunscoil Phobal Feirste	287	294	307
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		Colaiste Feirste	541	564	581
		Gaelscoil an Chaistil	97	107	101
		Gaelscoil an Lonnain	44	49	51
		Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí	47	59	103
		Gaelscoil Aodha Rua	31	48	67
		Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir	139	140	138
		Gaelscoil Eanna	104	136	152
		Gaelscoil Eoghain	13	19	67
		Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach	75	84	79
		Gaelscoil Leim an Mhadaidh	30	36	53
		Gaelscoil Na Bhfal	190	187	185
		Gaelscoil na Daroige	55	61	69
		Gaelscoil na gCrann	116	123	131
		Gaelscoil Na mBeann	20	28	40
		Gaelscoil na Mona	92	94	93
		Gaelscoil na Spéiríní	33	36	41
		Gaelscoil NeAchtain	63	68	77
		Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	155	163	160
		Gaelscoil Uí Neill	177	191	189
		Scoil An Droichid	146	156	154

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Scoil na Fuiseoige</td> <td>113</td> <td>115</td> <td>125</td> </tr> </table> <p>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. Figures for primary includes nursery, reception and year 1 - 7 classes.</p>	Scoil na Fuiseoige	113	115	125
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DE action to address educational inequalities, underachievement and impact of poverty

<p>AQW 50366/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Chris Hazzard (SF - South Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education what steps his Department has taken in each of the last five years to address (i) educational inequalities; (ii) educational underachievement; and (iii) the effects of poverty on the learning process.</p> <p>Since coming to office I have been determined to take action to break the link between social disadvantage and educational underachievement wherever it exists.</p> <p>I have the correct policies such as 'Every School a Good School' and the 'Literacy and Numeracy Strategy' in place and these are being implemented with renewed vigour.</p> <p>I have provided additional resources to schools serving those most at risk of underachieving, through the weighting of school funding, and through targeted programmes such as Extended Schools, the Full Service Programmes and Nurture Units.</p> <p>Funded programmes have been implemented to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes including the Delivering Social Change (DSC) Literacy and Numeracy Signature programme; the Special Educational Needs Literacy CPD project and the Strategic Development Fund to Area Learning Communities. A Legacy Programme will continue the success of the DSC Literacy and Numeracy Signature programme.</p> <p>I have also provided funding to support programmes aimed at improving school-community links. These include the Community Education Initiatives Programme and the Greater West Belfast Community Project. In addition, the Education Works programme launched in 2012 highlights the vital role parents can play in helping their child do well at school and improve their life chances.</p>
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Other programmes that are impacting positively on addressing educational inequalities and educational underachievement include the revised SEN and Inclusion framework; the full implementation of the Entitlement Framework; Sure Start; the Early Years fund; the Achieving Belfast and Achieving Derry-Bright Futures Programmes.

The provision of free school meals (FSM) and school uniform grants to pupils from low income families are key measures through which my Department supports learning and ensures that all pupils have an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential. The eligibility criteria for FSM were extended from 2010/11, on a phased basis, to pupils from low income families in nursery and primary schools and to post-primary schools from 2014/15. Over this period the number of children entitled to FSM has increased by over 35,000 pupils.

In 2014/15, over 97,000 pupils were entitled to FSM across the education sector. FSM entitlement normally also brings with it entitlement to a school uniform grant (with the exception of nursery school pupils). However, there are two other key issues. Firstly, a socially balanced education system enables all pupils to perform better. While some schools persist in the use of academic selection, we will be unable to eradicate this social division.

Secondly, inequality in outcomes is a societal issue and one that education authorities and schools cannot tackle on their own. The challenge of tackling inequalities, be they educational, health or economic, is one that we all face and success will depend on all stakeholders working together in order to achieve greater equity in our society.

Numbers of pupils with special educational needs in different schools

[AQW
50349/11-
16](#)

Mr
Gordon
Lyons
(DUP -
East
Antrim)

To ask the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs statements in (a) Controlled; (b) Maintained; (c) Integrated; and (d) Irish-medium schools.

The percentage of statemented pupils in 2014/15 broken down by school type is as follows:

	(a) Controlled	(b) Maintained	(c) Integrated	(d) Irish medium schools
Primary schools	2.9%	2.9%	3.3%	1.7%
Post-primary schools	4.1%	6.4%	8.1%	3.6%
Nursery schools	1.2%	1.4%	-	-
Total (excluding Special schools)	3.3%	4.0%	5.9%	2.0%
Special schools	94.5%	97.3%	-	-
Total (including Special schools)	6.5%	4.2%	5.9%	2.0%

Source: NI school census

Notes:

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.

Figures include pupils at stage 5 on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Pupils in primary schools include those in nursery, reception and year 1-7 classes.

		<p>Maintained schools refers to both Catholic Maintained and Other Maintained schools Integrated schools refers to both Controlled Integrated and Grant Maintained Integrated schools. Controlled Integrated schools have <u>not</u> been included in the total for Controlled schools.</p> <p>As Irish medium schools are not a school management type like the other categories, statemented pupils in Irish medium schools have also been included in the Controlled and Maintained figures.</p>
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Methods of measuring educational attainment

<p>AQO 9005/11-16</p>	<p>Mrs Dolores Kelly (SDLP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education, given the limited response from schools in reporting Levels of Progression, whether his Department is considering other methods of measuring educational attainment.</p> <p>The statements that make up the Levels of Progression flow from our revised curriculum and focus not just on knowledge but on skills and their application. They are closely and deliberately aligned to our curriculum. They were developed with input from teachers and other educational professionals and the current system of assessment was passed into legislation by the Assembly following scrutiny by the Education Committee.</p> <p>Despite the challenges relating to the implementation of the current arrangements, I have not heard a compelling case for a different approach. In fact, the main teaching unions and I are in agreement that teacher judgement of pupils' progress and achievement in the areas of our curriculum remains the best way forward. Equally, when it reviewed our arrangements in 2013, the OECD called on us not to change them but to consolidate and build consensus around them</p> <p>So Key-Stage outcomes will continue to be an important aspect of performance measurement at system level. However, they cannot be the only means we use of measuring the performance of either our system or the schools within it. That is why work is underway to look at the potential to develop a wider range of performance and contextual information (a 'dashboard' of measures) which could be used to enhance understanding of the performance of our education system.</p>
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Update on the new Controlled Sector body

<p>AQW 50328/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the new Controlled sector body.</p> <p>Work is progressing to establish the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) as agreed by the Executive in September 2014. A contract for funding is being prepared and will shortly be issued to enable the CSSC to be formally established.</p> <p>In the interim period, my Department continues to provide funding to support the Working Group to oversee the establishment of the CSSC. This funding will continue until the Council is established.</p>
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European Day on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

<p>AQW 50301/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Stewart Dickson (APNI - East Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education whether his Department intends to formally mark the European Day on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.</p> <p>My Department has made the European Day on the 'Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse' the subject of the November 'Message of the Month' to mark the launch. The 'Message of the Month' forms part of the i-Matter programme, which aims to address issues relating to emotional health and wellbeing.</p> <p>My Department continues to engage with schools to share information and advice on the issue of child sexual exploitation. I recently published my Departments progress report on the CSE Action Plan, following the Marshall Report. In August 15 I issued new guidance for schools on Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) and Drugs Education, this guidance references the recent inquiries into child sexual exploitation and provides an opportunity for schools to play a preventative role by improving awareness amongst staff of the vulnerability factors and current indicators of child sexual exploitation.</p>
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Timeframe for passage of the Shared Education Bill

AQW 50300/11-16	Mr Stewart Dickson (APNI - East Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the expected timeframe for the passage of the Shared Education Bill.</p> <p>The Shared Education Bill was introduced to the Assembly on 2 November 2015 and second stage is scheduled for 10 November. The Committee stage would commence immediately thereafter and providing there is not an extension to this stage, I would anticipate the Consideration stages taking place during February with the Final stage in early March.</p>
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Number of pupils who have received an Autism Spectrum Disorder statement

AQW 50272/11-16	Mr Daithí McKay (SF - North Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils that have received an Autism Spectrum Disorder statement, broken down by constituency in each of the last three years.</p> <p>The Education Authority has advised that the information is not available by constituency.</p> <p>The number of pupils who have received a statement of special educational needs and whose primary special educational need is Autism in each of the last three academic years, broken down by region, is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="555 1198 1394 1742"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2012/13</th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2014/15</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Belfast</td> <td>111</td> <td>138</td> <td>73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Eastern</td> <td>27</td> <td>40</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Eastern</td> <td>111</td> <td>101</td> <td>135</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern</td> <td>58</td> <td>55</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western</td> <td>36</td> <td>64</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>343</td> <td>398</td> <td>372</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Belfast	111	138	73	North Eastern	27	40	54	South Eastern	111	101	135	Southern	58	55	45	Western	36	64	65	Total	343	398	372
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Waiting times for Special Educational Needs or autism assessments

<p>AQW 50266/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Daithí McKay (SF - North Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of children that have been waiting over twelve months for Special Educational Needs or autism assessments.</p> <p>The Education Authority has advised that it does not collect information on categorisation of special educational need (SEN) until the statement of special educational needs is complete.</p> <p>With regard to all categories of SEN there were twenty children who were waiting for more than 12 months for their statutory assessment of SEN to be completed as at 30 October 2015.</p>
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DE policy for Looked After Children

<p>AQW 49928/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education when he will publish his Department's policy for Looked After Children.</p> <p>My officials are liaising with the Health Department to consider how we can work together effectively for the benefit of children in care. I am also keen that we continue to listen to the voice of young people in care so that we get it right in relation to improving their educational experience and outcomes. This experience should be no less than that of any other young person.</p> <p>I am aware of the upcoming OECD case study report in relation to improving the educational outcomes for Looked After Children, and I will want to take the findings into account, along with continued collaborative work with the Health Department.</p> <p>My officials will continue to develop our policy into 2016 for implementation in the 2016/17 school year. I am determined to get it right in terms of supporting and nurturing children in care in an educational setting.</p>
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Waiting times to see a paediatric cardiologist

<p>AQW 50304/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Robin Swann [R] (UUP - North Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps is he taking to reduce the waiting time for children to see a paediatric cardiologist in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. <i>[Priority Written]</i></p> <p>All referrals to the Paediatric Cardiology service in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust are triaged by consultants to ensure that urgent cases are prioritised. Any child with whom there is a high level of clinical concern will get an urgent appointment.</p> <p>The Trust has plans in place to recruit an additional Paediatric Cardiologist and a Clinical Physiologist to assist in reducing waiting times for new and review appointments.</p>
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Implementation of recommendations from Bamford review

<p>AQW 48385/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP - South Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Bamford review.</p> <p>The most recent Bamford Action Plan annual monitoring report (November 2014) was published on my Department's website in March 2015. This report highlights good progress on the Bamford Action Plan 2012-15, with 83% of the 76 actions on target for completion, and the remaining 17% progressing, with some delay against the target date.</p> <p>An evaluation of the Bamford Action 2012-15 is currently being carried out and is expected to be completed by Spring 2016.</p>
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Meningitis B vaccination programme

<p>AQW 48383/11-16</p>	<p>Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson (UUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the meningitis B vaccination programme has been limited to children under 12 months; and whether he would consider a discretionary approach in order to temporarily allow parents of older children to avail of the vaccine.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland as in the rest of the UK, vaccination policy is informed by the work of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), an independent expert advisory committee that advises the four UK Health Ministers. In formulating its advice and recommendations the Committee's aim is to ensure that the greatest benefit to public health is obtained from the</p>
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		<p>most appropriate vaccination and immunisation strategies.</p> <p>JCVI has recommended that the Men B vaccine is offered to all infants aged two months of age. This will then be followed by a second dose when they are 4 months old and a booster dose at 12 months.</p> <p>JCVI also recommended a limited catch-up programme for those infants aged 3 or 4 months as the programme begins to protect them in time for when they are most at risk of Men B infection.</p> <p>JCVI did not recommend a catch-up programme for children aged 5 months or above.</p> <p>The Men B vaccine was added to the routine childhood vaccination schedule from 1 September. As meningococcal disease peaks around 5 months of age before declining, the priority of the programme is to provide protection to the most vulnerable group prior to the peak in incidence of disease at 5 months of age.</p> <p>I will continue to be guided by the independent expert advice provided by JCVI when considering the vaccination policy for Northern Ireland.</p>
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Waiting lists for autism assessments

<p>AQW 48274/11-16</p>	<p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (<i>SDLP - South Belfast</i>)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the discussions his Department is having with the Department of Education regarding waiting lists for autism assessments for children.</p> <p>The two Departments regularly discuss a wide range of issues surrounding children with special educational needs, including autism. The Department of Education are members of the Autism Strategy Inter-departmental Senior Officials Group. Education is also represented on the Regional Implementation Team, tasked with the delivery of the autism strategy and action plan. Both groups provide an opportunity for discussions regarding all aspects of services, including waiting lists.</p> <p>Within each HSC Trust area there is a cross-agency Autism Forum, with representation including Education, Voluntary Sector and service users. This provides an opportunity for discussion, at a local level, regarding initiatives which will impact on services.</p>
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Extending HPV vaccination programme to boys

<p>AQW 48252/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Phil Flanagan (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the additional cost of extending the HPV vaccination programme to boys; and the estimated annual savings as a result of the reduction of cases of HPV-related cancer.</p> <p>Vaccination policy in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK is guided by the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI is an independent expert committee that advises the four UK Health Ministers on matters relating to the provision of vaccination and immunisation services. JCVI considers all the available medical and scientific evidence before recommending which groups should be offered vaccination. JCVI also considers the cost-effectiveness of vaccination programmes, both existing programmes and programmes that are being proposed.</p> <p>JCVI is currently considering whether HPV vaccination should be offered to adolescent boys as well as girls. JCVI assesses the cost-effectiveness of proposed programmes before making recommendations. I will consider JCVI's advice on this matter when I receive it.</p> <p>Estimating the cost of extending the programme to boys is relatively straightforward. If boys were offered a 2-dose schedule, as is offered to girls, the total cost of an adolescent programme for all boys and girls would be approximately £1.6m, which is twice the cost of the existing programme.</p> <p>Estimating the possible savings to the health service is less straightforward for several reasons. Any savings would not be seen until 10 to 30 years after the introduction of a programme. Also, because in the existing programme for adolescent girls the uptake is approximately 90% and vaccine efficacy is high, the existing programme already provides a degree of protection for heterosexual males by interrupting transmission of the virus. Pending JCVI's recommendations my Department has not attempted to estimate the potential savings to the health service.</p>
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Extending HPV vaccination programme to boys

<p>QW 48250/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Phil Flanagan (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has been given to introducing a universal HPV vaccination strategy for both adolescent boys and girls.</p> <p>Vaccination policy in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK is guided by the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI is an independent expert committee that advises the four UK Health Ministers on matters relating to the provision of vaccination and immunisation services. JCVI considers all the available medical and scientific evidence before recommending which groups should be offered vaccination. JCVI also considers the cost-effectiveness of vaccination programmes, both existing programmes and programmes that are being proposed.</p> <p>Vaccination against HPV was introduced in 2008 for girls aged 12/13 with the aim of preventing cervical cancer. At that time JCVI did not recommend vaccinating boys as it was not cost-effective with regard to preventing cervical cancer.</p> <p>JCVI is currently considering whether HPV vaccination should be offered to adolescent boys.</p> <p>I will consider JCVI's recommendations when I receive them. In the meantime it should be noted that the existing programme for adolescent girls already affords a degree of protection to heterosexual males by interrupting transmission of the virus.</p>
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Extending HPV vaccination programme to boys

<p>AQW 48249/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Phil Flanagan (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has been given to introducing a programme for the vaccination of men that have sex with men (MSM) that are aged 16 – 40 years, being implemented in GUM or HIV clinics using the quadrivalent HPV vaccine</p> <p>Vaccination policy in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK is guided by the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI is an independent expert committee that advises the four UK Health Ministers on matters relating to the provision of vaccination and immunisation services. JCVI considers all the available medical and scientific evidence before recommending which groups should be offered vaccination. JCVI also considers the cost-</p>
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		<p>effectiveness of vaccination programmes, both existing programmes and programmes that are being proposed.</p> <p>JCVI is currently considering whether HPV vaccination should be offered to MSM. I will consider JCVI's advice on this when I receive it.</p>
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Use of Risperidone for children with Down Syndrome and autism

<p>AQW 47925/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Jim Allister (TUV - North Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any concerns have been expressed to local health authorities about the use of the anti-psychotic drug Risperidone being prescribed to children with Down Syndrome and autism.</p> <p>The Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) has recently received a formal complaint about the prescribing of the antipsychotic drug risperidone to a child with Down Syndrome and autism. The complaint is being considered in line with the HSC Complaints Procedure (<i>Complaints in HSC: Standards and Guidelines for Resolution and Learning</i>) and a formal response will be issued by the SHSCT. Where a complainant remains dissatisfied following completion of the local resolution process, they have a right to refer their complaint to the NI Commissioner for Complaints (the Ombudsman).</p>
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Cooperation in relation to SEND Bill

<p>AQW 47900/11-15</p>	<p>Ms Maeve McLaughlin (SF - Foyle)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is any formal duty by which he must cooperate with the Minister for Education in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Bill.</p> <p>Both the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 currently require health and social care bodies to respond to requests for help in the exercise of the Education Authority's duties. In responding to any request a HSC Trust would have regard to whether such help is necessary for the assessment; whether it has sufficient resources; and whether it is compatible with its own statutory duties or functions.</p>
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Use of Maudsley approach for treating anorexia

<p>AQW 47784/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNl - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the Maudsley approach to treating anorexia; whether it is being used to treat local patients; and if not, to explain why this approach is not being used.</p> <p>The Maudsley Model is a family therapy based intervention, mainly recommended for treating people with an eating disorder under the age of 18, with duration of illness of less than 3 years.</p> <p>The Maudsley Model is one of a range of interventions provided in Northern Ireland, and is used to treat patients where it is deemed the most appropriate model for intervention, following clinical assessment which will take account of co-morbid physical and / or mental health conditions, and family and social circumstances.</p>
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Roll out of new Meningitis B vaccine for babies

<p>AQW 47531/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline any plans his Department has to roll out the new Meningitis B vaccine for babies.</p> <p>Meningitis B is a dangerous, and in some cases deadly, illness. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), an independent panel of experts that advise the 4 UK Health Ministers on issues related to vaccination have recommended the introduction of a Men B vaccine into the routine childhood vaccination schedule.</p> <p>The Men B vaccination programme was introduced in Northern Ireland in September, in line with the rest of the UK.</p>
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Roll out of meningitis vaccine

<p>AQW 47321/11- 15</p>	<p>Mrs Jo- Anne Dobson (UUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether (i) he is aware of recent developments in the ACWY meningitis vaccine, and if so (ii) how and when he intends to make this vaccine available to teenagers; and (iii) what will be the minimum age for which the vaccine will be made available.</p> <p>I am aware of the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in relation to a rise in Men W cases in the UK. A Men ACWY vaccination programme was introduced in Northern Ireland on 3 August this year, with the initial priority being given to those who are 18 years old, who will be offered a Men ACWY vaccine by their GP. This will be followed by a school-based programme during the academic year 2015/16 and a further GP-based programme beginning in April 2016. In line with JCVI advice the Men ACWY vaccine will be offered to all 14- to 18-year-olds.</p>
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Funding for ADD-NI

<p>AQW 46985/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Anna Lo MBE (APNI - South Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact on children and adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder following the withdrawal of funding to ADD-NI.</p> <p>Funding has not been withdrawn from ADD-NI in the current financial year</p>
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Support for early intervention for parents of deaf children

<p>AQW 46272/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what strategy his Department is pursuing to provide support for early intervention for parents of deaf children.</p> <p>The assessment framework agreed across the key agencies in children's services is the 'Understanding the needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI). The key strategies which reflect the legislative content for children's services are the Families Matter Strategy (2009) and the Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy (2012-15). Both reference the interface with the UNOCINI Framework and the NI Family Support Model as contained within the Families Matter Strategy.</p>
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