NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 5th February, 2016

Update on the revised Child Poverty Strategy.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQO 9385/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl04$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mrs Sandra Overend  *(UUP - Mid Ulster)* | **To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the revised Child Poverty Strategy.**  Much work has been done to develop a revised Child Poverty Strategy. This has been informed by a review of the 2011-2014 Child Poverty Strategy, the development of a Child Poverty Outcomes Framework, the development of the Delivering Social Change Framework and the Signature Programmes, research and public consultation on Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People.  The strategy aims to tackle child poverty and deprivation so that no child here is disadvantaged by poverty.  The revised Child Poverty Strategy will allow us to better assess performance and focus on the outcomes that we intend to achieve. It will be published shortly following Executive Agreement. |
| [AQW 52842/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl10$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Steven Agnew  *(GPNI - North Down)* | **To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister, given the childcare strategy is not due to come into effect until 2017, to detail what provision their Department will make for childcare in the interim period.**  Implementation of the first phase of the Childcare Strategy is continuing. This will include, in the coming months, a further round of awards under the School Age Childcare Grant Scheme. These awards will support new and existing childcare provision.  Work is also continuing on the full, final Executive Childcare Strategy. Consultation on a draft version closed on 13 November 2015. Officials are currently finalising the Childcare Strategy with a view to launching it later in the year. |

Number of agency staff in OFMDFM and ALBs (NICCY is mentioned at the end with no agency staff)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 52953/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl08$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Steven Agnew  *(GPNI - North Down)* | **To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the number of agency staff in full time equivalents employed by: (a) their Department; (b) in each of its arm's-length bodies; and (c) the grade of each member of staff, in each week since June 2015. (i’ve not listed all ALBs, e.g. Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation, Strategic Investment Board Ltd)**  Breakdown of agency staff in OFMDFM by grade from  1 June 2015 - 15 January 2016   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date By Week**  **(Mon-Fri)** | **Number of Agency Staff (FTE)** | **Grade of Agency Staff** | | 01/06/15 - 31/07/15 | 1 | 1 DP Accountant | | 03/08/15 - 28/08/15 | 2 | 1 DP Accountant  1 SO Accountant | | 31/08/15 - 6/11/15 | 4 | 1 DP Accountant  1 SO Accountant  1 Personal Secretary  1 Administrative Officer | | 09/11/15 - 27/11/15 | 3 | 1 DP Accountant  1 Personal Secretary  1 Administrative Officer | | 30/11/15 - 08/01/16 | 3.8 | 1 DP Accountant  1 SO Accountant  1 Personal Secretary  1 Administrative Officer | | 11/01/16 – 15/01/2016 | 4.8 | 2 DP Accountants  1 SO Accountant  1 Personal Secretary  1 Administrative Officer |   **Breakdown of agency staff in OFMDFM’s Arms Length Bodies by grade from 1 June 2015 - 15 January 2016**  **Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Number of Agency Staff (FTE)** | **Grade of Agency Staff** | | 01/06/15 - 19/06/15 | 1 | 1 Executive Officer 2 | | 22/06/15 - 31/07/15 | 2 | 1 Staff Officer  1 Executive Officer 2 | | 03/08/15 - 09/10/15 | 1 | 1 Executive Officer 2 | | 12/10/15 - 25/12/15 | 2 | 1 Executive Officer 1  1 Executive Officer 2 | | 28/12/15 – 15/01/2016 | 1 | 1 Executive Officer 1 |   **Equality Commission for Northern Ireland**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Number of Agency Staff (FTE)** | **Grade of Agency Staff** | | 01/06/15 - 19/06/15 | 0.3 | 1 Administrative Officer | | 06/07/15 - 25/09/15 | 1 | 1 Administrative Officer | | 28/09/15 - 25/12/15 | 1.3 | 2 Administrative Officers | | 28/12/15 – 15/01/2016 | 1 | 1 Administrative Officer |   **Northern Ireland Community Relations Council**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Number of Agency Staff (FTE)** | **Grade of Agency Staff** | | 01/06/15 - 19/06/15 | 2.9 | 3 Administrative Officers | | 07/09/15 - 25/09/15 | 0.9 | 1 Administrative Officer | | 28/09/15 - 09/10/15 | 1 | 1 Administrative Officer | | 07/12/15 - 11/12/15 | 0.8 | 1 Administrative Officer | | 14/12/15 - 18/12/15 | 1.3 | 2 Administrative Officers | | 21/12/15 - 25/12/15 | 0.6 | 1 Administrative Officer | | 11/01/16 - 15/01/16 | 0.9 | 1 Administrative Officer |   **Victims and Survivors Service**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Number of Agency Staff (FTE)** | **Grade of Agency Staff** | | 01/06/15 - 19/06/15 | 10 | 1 Deputy Principal  1 Staff Officer  1 Executive Officer 2  7 Administrative Officers | | 22/06/15 - 26/06/15 | 9 | 1 Deputy Principal  1 Staff Officer  1 Executive Officer 2  6 Administrative Officers | | 29/06/15 - 17/07/15 | 8 | 1 Deputy Principal  1 Executive Officer 2  6 Administrative Officers | | 20/07/15 - 24/07/15 | 7 | 1 Deputy Principal  1 Executive Officer 2  5 Administrative Officers | | 27/07/15 - 14/08/15 | 4 | 1 Deputy Principal  1 Executive Officer 2  2 Administrative Officers | | 17/08/15 - 18/09/15 | 5 | 1 Deputy Principal  1 Executive Officer 2  3 Administrative Officers | | 21/09/15 - 25/09/15 | 6 | 1 Principal  1 Deputy Principal  1 Executive Officer 2  3 Administrative Officers | | 28/09/15 - 02/10/15 | 5 | 1 Principal  1 Deputy Principal  1 Executive Officer 2  2 Administrative Officers | | 05/10/15 - 06/11/15 | 6 | 1 Principal  1 Deputy Principal  1 Executive Officer 2  3 Administrative Officers | | 09/11/15 - 01/01/16 | 7 | 1 Principal  1 Deputy Principal  2 Executive Officer 2s  3 Administrative Officers | | 04/01/16 - 08/01/16 | 10 | 1 Principal  1 Deputy Principal  2 Executive Officer 2s  6 Administrative Officers | | 11/11/16 - 15/01/16 | 9 | 1 Principal  1 Deputy Principal  2 Executive Officer 2s  5 Administrative Officers |   **Commission for Victims and Survivors**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Number of Agency Staff (FTE)** | **Grade of Agency Staff** | | 01/06/15 - 23/10/15 | 1 | 1 Executive Officer 2 | | 18/01/16 – 15/01/2016 | 1 | 1 Deputy Principal |   The following ALBs did not have any agency workers during the timeframe specified:  Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People  Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland  Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland  Planning Appeals Commission and Water Appeals Commission |

Number of staff from OFMDFM and its ALBs who availed of the Voluntary Exit scheme

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 52952/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl09$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Steven Agnew  *(GPNI - North Down)* | **To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister, to detail the number of staff that availed of the voluntary exit scheme in each tranche (a) in their Department; (b) in each of its arm's-length bodies; (c) the grades of staff that availed of the scheme; and (d) whether they were part time or full time staff.**  Breakdown of staff in OFMDFM who availed of the Voluntary Exit Scheme   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Tranche | Number of Staff | | | Grade | |  | **Part-Time** | **Full-Time** | **Total** |  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 Administrative Officers  1 Personal Secretary  1 Staff Officer  1 Principal Information Officer | | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 Administrative Officers | | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 Personal Secretary | | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 Grade 5 | | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | | Total | 3 | 6 | 9 |  |   **Breakdown of staff in OFMDFM’s arms length bodies (ALBs) who availed of the Voluntary Exit Scheme**   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **ALB** | **Tranche** | **Number of Staff** | | | **Grade** | |  |  | **Part-Time** | **Full-Time** | **Total** |  | | Equality Commission for Northern Ireland | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 Administrative Officers  1 Executive Officer 1  4 Staff Officers | | Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 Deputy Principal  1 Staff Officer | | Total |  | 2 | 8 | 10 |  | |

Update on the United Youth pilot scheme

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 52925/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl19$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Peter Weir  *(DUP - North Down)* | **To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning when the assessment of the United Youth pilot schemes will be completed and published.**  Preparations for an external evaluation of the Together Building a United Community (TBUC) United Youth Pilot Phase are underway and it is anticipated that the evaluation findings will be published before the summer. |
| [AQW 52914/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl21$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Peter Weir  (DUP - North Down) | **To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning whether Peace 4 funding will be available to support the United Youth project.**  The Northern Ireland Executive has committed to utilise EU PEACE IV funding (Children and Young People - Priority 2.1) to deliver a cross-border Youth Initiative programme. The PEACE IV Programme (2014 – 2020) was formally adopted by the European Commission towards the end of last year.  A total potential allocation of up to €42.5m ERDF will be available over two phases for the cross-border Youth Initiative programme that will comprise elements of the Together Building a United Community (TBUC) United Youth vision, focusing primarily on good relations, personal development and citizenship. |

What actions are DEL taking to address the low percentage of young people from North Belfast enrolling in university education.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 52861/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl03$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Ms Paula Bradley  *(DUP - North Belfast)* | **To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning what actions his Department is taking to address the low percentage of young people from North Belfast enrolling in university education.**  In 2014 there were approximately 3,880 young persons between the ages of 18 and 20 years old in the North Belfast parliamentary constituency. Of that number 1,040 were enrolled in university courses. In addition, there are a further 140 students aged18 to 20 enrolled in higher education courses in Further Education colleges. At 30.5%, the higher education participation rate for young people from North Belfast is quite comparable to other parts of the city, but is below some other parts of Northern Ireland.  In 2012, I launched Access to Success, my Department’s strategy for widening participation in higher education to all who have the capacity to succeed and to benefit from it. Significant progress has been made on a range of measures in the strategy aimed at increasing the recruitment, retention and progression of disadvantaged groups into and through higher education.  These include the launch of Reach Higher**,** an awareness and aspiration-raising campaign to better communicate the benefits of higher education to under-represented sections of the community; the introduction of the R.E.A.C.H. programme which aims to expand the range of additional educational attainment-raising programmes at school, college, and community; and the introduction of annual **Widening Access and** Participation Plans**,** in which universities are required to detail their investments to increase participation from under-represented groups**.**  Ulster University  In its most recent Widening Access and Participation Plan, Ulster University has identified North Belfast as a priority area for outreach and educational intervention.  The University places great importance not only on developments in this area but in all its inner city catchments across Northern Ireland where educational under-achievement inhibits social mobility.  In 2014-15, Ulster University supported a total of 28,430 pupil interactions in 156 schools, and 1,600 community members in educational developments. Of these, 2,188 pupil interactions in 19 schools and 130 community learners were based in North Belfast. Ulster University’s flagship outreach programmes in North Belfast are Step Up, Science Shop and Ulster Sports Outreach.  Step-Up Belfast engaged 181 participants from seven post-primary schools (North and West Belfast) in a two-year programme of science with real experiences in University and workplace laboratory settings. **Science** Shop is a longstanding community project involving action research with the voluntary sector in which final year students and their academic supervisors research and develop business solutions with community partners. Community Partners involved from North Belfast include:  Challenge for Youth, Sailortown Regeneration, The Ashton Centre, Pips Charity, the New Lodge Arts and Culture Centre, The Rainbow Project and North Belfast Senior Citizen’s Forum. Ulster Sports Outreachdelivered 8,069 sport and physical activity sessions creating participation opportunities for children and young people in disadvantaged areas, 610 of which were in North Belfast.  Ulster University's Greater Belfast Development project will see a significantly expanded campus established in North Belfast from 2018. The University is keen that the redevelopment will act as the catalyst to invigorate and regenerate the area in the vicinity of the new campus. The University is working closely with local community representatives to put in place activities and programmes that will help to ensure that the refreshed campus actively promotes and supports educational outreach in North Belfast. It is intended that these measures will result in the delivery of sustained long term benefits for the local community through the shaping of positive attitudes to education, ultimately leading to improved educational indicators, including participation in higher education.  Queen’s University Belfast  581 individuals from the North Belfast constituency applied to Queen’s University for 2015-16 undergraduate entry; 419 (72%) of these were made offers and 164 were admitted. This admission rate is consistent with the other Belfast constituencies.  Queen’s University actively engages with all feeder schools in North Belfast. In response to the **Access to Success** Strategy, Queen's University has range of programmes in its Widening Access and Participation Plan to address the low percentage of young people from areas of high deprivation participating in university education.  The programmes aim to encourage and support the 'most able least likely' to enrol in university education and this is achieved by working with schools (primary and post-primary) and community groups in areas of high deprivation. North Belfast is one of these areas.  Queen's Junior Academy (Years 9-12) seeks to give targeted pupils (nominated by schools) and their parents/carers insight into university life and the various opportunities available. The Senior Academy (Years 13-14) works with targeted students nominated by schools to build academic and personal confidence, widen career choices and participate in a tailored programme of activities to support individual learning needs.  The Widening Participation Unit has, over the last year, formalised its relationships with post primary schools by awarding a Queen's Plaque to Schools who are working closely with Queen's Academy Programme to increase the percentage of young people enrolling in university education. Schools in North Belfast which have been awarded a Queen's Plaque by Professor Patrick Johnson include the Girls' Model, Boys' Model, Glengormley High School, Hazelwood Integrated College, Little Flower and St Patrick's College.  In addition, Queen's works with social workers in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to ensure that, when appropriate, young people with experience of care or in care are nominated for our programmes.  Queen's also has an active involvement in a number of primary schools in North Belfast as there is evidence that interventions at a younger age have the potential to have an impact. The Professor Fluffy Programme is aimed at primary schools. This programme introduces Year 7 school pupils to Queen's University; teaches them about university life in a fun, engaging and interactive way; and ensures that they are aware of the exciting opportunities available through higher education.  Currently, a successful Professor Fluffy Programme is delivered to the following primary schools in North Belfast; Cliftonville Primary, Currie Primary, Edenbrooke Primary, Hazelwood Primary, Holy Family Primary, St Vincent de Paul Primary, Wheatfield Primary, Our Lady's PS, and St Patrick's Primary School. |

Timeline for tender of alternative education provision for 2016/17

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53688/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl02$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Steven Agnew  *(GPNI - North Down)* | **To ask the Minister of Education to detail the timeline for the tender of alternative education provision for the 2016-17 academic year; and whether the tender will be Northern Ireland wide or broken down by region.**  Under Articles 86(1) and 86(2) of the Education (NI) Order 1998 responsibility for Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) resides with the EA. While the Department provides an annual earmarked funding to the EA to support the delivery of EOTAS, it is an operational issue for the Authority to determine which mixture of EOTAS structures and services it requires to meet its legal duty.  The Education Authority (EA) is therefore responsible for the tendering process for any external EOTAS provision it wishes to use. I suggest that you contact the Interim Chief Executive of the EA, Gavin Boyd, and ask him to respond to you directly on the question of the timeline for the tendering process. |

Timeframe for anti-bullying legislation being passed by the Assembly

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53422/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl06$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Gregory Campbell  *(DUP - East Londonderry)* | **To ask the Minister of Education to detail a timeframe for his Department's anti-bullying legislation being passed by the Assembly.**  The Addressing Bullying in Schools Bill was introduced in the Assembly on 30 November 2015 and will:  Provide a common definition of bullying;  Require all schools to centrally record incidents of bullying, their motivation and their outcome; and  Require Boards of Governors to play an active role in the preparation and implementation of anti-bullying policies and measures within their school.  It remains my full intention to have the Bill complete its legislative passage before the end of the current Assembly Mandate. To that end, it is intended the consideration stage will take place on 22 February; further consideration stage on 07 March; and the final stage on 15 March 2016.  Following completion of the legislative journey it is not envisaged that the commencement of the Bill will take place until the necessary IT systems, supportive guidance and training are in place.  I would hope that all the provisions of the Bill will be enacted by the start of 2017-18 academic year. |

New Pathways Fund

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53418/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl08$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Peter Weir  *(DUP - North Down)* | **To ask the Minister of Education how he will ensure equality of access to information in the new Pathways Fund; and that areas of social disadvantage which previously have not had a project funded are not put at a disadvantage.**  The Pathway fund (the Fund) will be introduced to replace the Early Years Fund, with awards made from 1 April 2016. The Fund will be administered by Early Years – the Organisation for Young Children (EYO) which is currently developing application procedures with the Department.  The Fund will be open to providers or facilitators of registered Early Years (0-4) education and learning provision such as;  Registered Sessional Daycare settings (including Out of Schools, Summer Schemes, Playgroups, Crèches);  Registered Full Daycare settings (Day Nurseries);  Registered Childminders.  and not just the current 153 recipient groups of the Early Years Fund.  The Fund will;  focus on provision in areas of disadvantage; and  be aligned to the Department’s key priorities including the principles of its Early Years Framework “Learning to Learn”.  A key aim of the Fund is to ensure that those with no other source of funding have priority access to Pathway Funding.  EYO advises that the organisation has corresponded with all potential applicants (for which contact details are available) advising of the Fund and is liaising directly with the Early Years sector during January and February to provide further information regarding the Fund. Information will also be available on the EYO website.  EYO also administers the Early Years Fund on behalf of the Department and has advised that recent meetings were held with the 153 groups currently funded under the Early Years Fund related to impact of the Fund closure. |

Educational Underachievement in East Belfast.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53278/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl10$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Chris Lyttle  *(APNI - East Belfast)* | **To ask the Minister of Education for this assessment of educational underachievement in East Belfast**.  The policies and programmes I have in place are realising improvements for our young people at Key Stage, GCSE and A-level. However, significant challenges remain in East Belfast and elsewhere. I will continue to focus on improvement and equity.  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 Achieving Belfast and Extended Schools. The Delivering Social Change Literacy and Numeracy Signature Programme delivered tailored interventions to 18,000 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and I am determined that the legacy of the project is not lost. Eleven schools (7 primary and 4 post-primary) in East Belfast received additional teaching support through the Programme.  The revised SEN and Inclusion framework aims to remove or reduce the barriers to learning faced by children with SEN and will work alongside my other policies aimed at addressing barriers to learning. It represents a more equitable framework in which all children with SEN should be able to get the support they need, in a timely manner.  However, addressing these inequalities is a multi-faceted, societal issue and one the education authorities and schools cannot tackle on their own. It requires the support of parents, businesses, communities, community leaders and community representatives. Families have a key role, and that is the message behind my ‘Education Works’ campaign that highlights the vital role parents can play in helping their child do well at school and improve their life chances.  Over the two years 2013/14 and 2014/15, I provided total funding of £138,948 to the East Belfast Partnership through the Community Education Initiatives Programme, to support the development of more coherent and joined-up community-based and school-based activity. Therefore, I welcome the work being taken forward by the Eastside Learning Partnership to encourage schools and communities to work together to improve the educational outcomes for all children and young people living in the area. |

Looked after Children and pupil premiums

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53268/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl13$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Jonathan Craig  *(DUP - Lagan Valley)* | **To ask the Minister of Education whether looked after children receiving respite care attract a pupil premium for the school they attend.**  Since April 2014 an additional factor to the Common Funding Formula has been available to support schools with pupils who are designated as looked after children. Schools receive just over a £1000 for each full-time pupil designated, on the date of the school census, as being a looked after child. This would include any children entering care for the purpose of short break provision or respite. The Health and Social Care Trust notify the relevant school when a child is deemed to have become or ceases to become a looked after child. Since October 2015 this notification indicates if children are entering care for the purpose of short break provisions only. |

Number of boys that have not achieved five GSCEs, broken down by protestant and catholic boys, in each of the last three years.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53171/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl04$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mrs Dolores Kelly  *(SDLP - Upper Bann)* | **To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of boys that have not achieved five GSCEs in grades A\*-C, including English and Maths, broken down by protestant and catholic boys, in each of the last three years.**  The answer is contained in the following table.  **Number of male school leavers who have not achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE maths, by religion of pupil, 2011/12 to 2013/14**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **2011/12** | **2012/13** | **2013/14** | | Protestant boys | 2,105 | 1,995 | 1,894 | | Catholic boys | 2,421 | 2,430 | 2,392 |   Source: School Leavers Survey  Note:  Data include equivalent qualifications. |

Percentage of pupils (i) entitled to free school meals; and (ii) not entitled to free school meals that left school with less than five GCSEs in each of the last four years, broken down by post-primary school.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 52630/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl16$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Steven Agnew  *(GPNI - North Down)* | **To ask the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of pupils (i) entitled to free school meals; and (ii) not entitled to free school meals that left school with less than five GCSEs at grades A\*-C in each of the last four years, broken down by post-primary school.**  The School Leavers Survey collects the qualifications and destinations of all pupils leaving the grant-aided mainstream school system. Although this information is sourced from schools, it refers to the attainment across the education system as a whole. It is not appropriate to attribute the data to individual schools given that the achievements of pupils who transfer between schools are attributed to the final school. This has particular implications for data covering Junior High Schools and schools without a post-16 provision, given that pupils transfer schools at Year 10 or Year 12. Therefore school leavers’ data cannot be interpreted as a reflection of individual school performance.  The following table sets out the proportion of pupils leaving the school system with fewer than five GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or equivalent).  **Percentage of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or equivalent), by free school meal entitlement, 2010/11 to 2013/14**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **2010/11** | **2011/12** | **2012/13** | **2013/14** | | Non-FSME | 22.0 | 18.6 | 16.9 | 16.6 | | FSME | 51.2 | 46.6 | 41.5 | 43.4 |   Source: School Leavers Survey  Notes:  Excludes special and independent schools.  Data include equivalent qualifications. |

Provisions are available for school leavers in North Down, that are over nineteen years of age with learning and behavioural difficulties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 51924/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl09$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Peter Weir  *(DUP - North Down)* | **To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what provisions are available for school leavers in North Down, that are over nineteen years of age with learning and behavioural difficulties.**  The South Eastern HSC Trust work with young people with a learning disability and their families from the age of 14, to develop a person**-**centred plan of activities for when they leave school. This could be in one of the three statutory Day Centres in the North Down and Ards area (Ravara Training and Resource Centre; Glencraig and Fold), which provide a range of facilities and activities, based on small age**-**appropriate groups.  Other Day Opportunities are provided (through Trust contracts), by the voluntary sector who provide further buildings**-**based day care and community**-**based day opportunities, such as supervised activities, and training and employment openings. A new cafe run by Stepping Stones has also recently opened on the Ards Hospital site.  All Health and Social Care Trusts have been asked by the Health and Social Care Board, to review Day Care/Day Opportunities in line with the Strategic Commissioning Plan. The SEHSCT holds regular workshops and meetings with the Learning Disability Day Care Opportunities Reference Group, which comprises statutory and independent day care and day opportunities providers, such as the Department for Regional Development; South Eastern Regional College and Translink. |

Update on Improving Outcomes for Children with a Disability initiative.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 51351/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl13$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Ms Claire Sugden  *(IND - East Londonderry)* | **To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of organisations funded; (ii) the types of activity undertaken; and (iii) whether he will increase the number of child care places available for children with a learning disability, under the Improving Outcomes for Children with a Disability initiative.**  In 2015/16, £54,000 was secured from OFMDFM to allow seven childcare providers to make available additional childcare places during the summer holiday period, specifically targeted at children with a disability. The funding covered staffing costs and facilitated a range of activities, including: physical play, communication and behavioural inputs, day trips, baby yoga, massage and sensory play, speech and drama, football, cookery, orienteering, skipping, arts and crafts, horse riding, team building games and archery.  My Department is currently considering its budget for the 2016/17 financial year. |

Children moving from paediatric to adult services

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 50423/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl20$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Oliver McMullan  *(SF - East Antrim)* | To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) at what age children move from paediatric to adult services; and when this change in service occurs and a social worker is involved, (ii) whether the social worker moves to adult services with the child.   [- Hide Answer](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl20$HideLinkButton',''))    Paediatric healthcare services are usually provided to children until they reach 14 years of age. On occasions paediatric healthcare services may continue to be provided beyond a child’s 14th birthday depending on the child’s needs and professional judgment.  A range of social work services may be provided to children who are assessed as in need or at risk until they attain 18 years by Trusts’ Children Services, with the exception of Looked after Children who may continue to receive aftercare services up to the age of 21.  Transfer to Adult Social Care Services for a young person at age 18 is dependent on the assessed needs of the individual and, where relevant, their consent.  Each Trust has its own operational arrangements in place for transitions and transfers of cases from Children’s Services to Adult Services.  Social workers working with children up to the age of 18 do not move to adult services with the young person. |

Update on the work of Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53324/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl11$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Chris Lyttle  *(APNI - East Belfast)* | **To ask the Minister of Justice for an update on the work of Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre.**  Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre continues to develop to ensure it remains a safe, secure and child-centred environment for young people in custody.  All children and young people are risk assessed and have care plans designed to challenge and treat behavioural problems, encourage learning and development and nurture better decision making to enable them to re-integrate more safely back into the community.  To ensure needs are met thoroughly and systematically, work is ongoing in partnership with the Department of Education to review the core curriculum and to provide a corporate governance framework that will enable Woodlands to operate more effectively as a provider of Education Other Than At School (EOTAS).  This will help to ensure that children and young people have access to mainstream educational programmes and accredited training for future employment.  With the attainment of EOTAS status and with support from the Education Authority, it is intended that by May 2016, Woodlands will have established an integrated learning and development centre that will draw together high quality teaching and vocational skills in conjunction with social care and behavioural change interventions, mental health interventions to meet identified and complex needs.  Furthermore, Woodlands is currently collaborating with the South Eastern Heath and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) to scope the requirements for effective healthcare provision for young people. A senior healthcare manager from the SEHSCT is being seconded to Woodlands to oversee this exercise and ensure that healthcare provision meets young people’s needs and integrates with the learning and development culture of Woodlands.  The SEHSCT already operates a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) that is based within Woodlands. This service provides an in-reach service for young people comprising a Consultant Psychiatrist Clinic and a Mental Health Nurse led clinic.  The remit of the CAMHS in-reach service is to provide a comprehensive multidisciplinary and age appropriate mental health assessment and treatment service to young people admitted to Woodlands. Continuity of care is ensured through coordination with CAMHS outreach services and close collaboration with the Youth Justice Services in the community.  It is worth noting that since the removal of all under 18 year olds from Hydebank Wood in November 2012 the profile of young people in Woodlands has changed. This has led to a significant increase in the number of young people entering the Centre who are post school leaving age.  Therefore, in conjunction with providing education for those of statutory school age in relation to essential skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT, Woodlands is developing the skills for life for 17 year olds and supporting and encouraging them to prepare for the world of work with careers advice, vocational instruction and work experience opportunities.  Finally, Woodlands regularly reviews the regime in place for young people in order to motivate and recognise positive change and to challenge negative behaviours.  Opportunities are also being created within the Centre to promote independence and empower decision making particularly in those young people who are older and preparing for the world of work.  An enhanced regime will recognise those young people who are ready for increased independence and are able to be challenged to make positive decisions about their current and future circumstances.  Extracurricular activities will continue in accommodation areas during evening periods and by residential staff. Accommodation areas will be equipped with learning resources to enable (and encourage) students to take greater responsibility for their learning plan and to work at a pace suitable to them. |

Benefits arising from the work of the project advisory group on youth justice

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [AQW 53213/11-16](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl13$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Gregory Campbell  *(DUP - East Londonderry)* | **To ask the Minister of Justice how he will evaluate the benefits arising from the work of the project advisory group on youth justice.**   The Youth Justice Project Advisory Group (PAG) continues to make good progress and there is continuing evidence of genuine cooperation between the two jurisdictions.  The Work Programme for the Youth Justice PAG for this year contains a number of activities which will improve the experiences of young people in the justice system, namely:  an examination of the potential for further cooperation between the PSNI and An Garda Síochána in relation to young offenders on diversion;  developing staff exchanges and information sharing between the youth detention facilities in both jurisdictions;  developing Information Sharing protocols between the two jurisdictions; and  a sharing of best practice between the jurisdictions on children’s experience in the justice system.  As Minister, I will continue to evaluate the benefits arising from the work of the Youth Justice PAG in conjunction with my Irish counterpart, Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Justice and Equality, at our twice-yearly Ministerial meetings held under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Agreement on cooperation on criminal justice matters. |