

## NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

### Funding of T:BUC

<p><a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53930/11-16</a></p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether money allocated to Together: Building a United Community, or any other funds, can be used to extend the United Youth pilot to June 2016.</b> <i>[Priority Written]</i></p> <p>The T:BUC United Youth Pilot Programme is due to end on 31 March 2016. This has been funded to date via the NI Executive's 2015/16 Change Fund budget.</p> <p>An external evaluation of the Pilot Programme will shortly be commissioned.</p> <p>It would not be feasible to extend the Pilot Programme at this stage due both to the advanced stage of the pilots and the existing contractual arrangements.</p> <p>The Minister for Employment and Learning is due to shortly meet with the OFMDFM Junior Ministers to discuss potential options going forward for the United Youth Programme.</p>
--	--	--

### Update on the Childcare Strategy:

<p><a href="#">AQO</a> <a href="#">9389/11-16</a></p>	<p>Mrs Karen McKeivitt (SDLP - South Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Childcare Strategy.</b></p> <p>The first phase of the Executive's Childcare Strategy was published in 2013. It included 15 Key First Actions intended to address priority childcare needs identified through research and consultation undertaken in 2012-13.</p> <p>The current School Age Childcare Grant Scheme is the most ambitious of these Actions. It is creating new, low cost, quality school age childcare places and sustaining the places we already have. To date, the Grant Scheme has held two calls for applications and has committed approximately £3 million to projects which will sustain or create an estimated 2,200 low cost, quality childcare places, mostly in disadvantaged areas.</p>
---	--	--

		<p>A third call for applications was launched on 26 November and closed on the 29 January 2016.</p> <p>Other Key First Actions have enhanced childcare services for children with a disability and improved the information available to parents on the childcare services available locally.</p> <p>Consultation on a draft version of the full Executive Childcare Strategy took place between 28 July and 13 November 2015. Departmental officials engaged with the public and with a wide range of childcare stakeholders during the consultation period, promoting awareness and understanding of the draft Strategy and encouraging feedback on the draft proposals. Officials are currently collating and analysing responses to the public consultation with a view to finalising the draft Childcare Strategy over the coming months. This will be undertaken in partnership with other Executive departments and with childcare stakeholders.</p>
--	--	---

### Cross departmental work re; Youth Unemployment

<p><a href="#">AQO</a> <a href="#">9589/11-16</a></p>	<p>Mr Robin Swann (UUP - North Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning what cross departmental work is he undertaking on the issue of youth unemployment.</b></p> <p>My major reforms of Apprenticeship and Youth Training will provide employment opportunities for young people.</p> <p>Evidence demonstrates that countries with low levels of youth unemployment make Apprenticeships and other forms of vocational training a key economic priority.</p> <p>I am committed, through the reform of the Northern Ireland Apprenticeship and Youth Training systems, to develop professional and technical skills which are fully aligned to the needs of our economy in order to secure a ‘world-class’ system capable of delivering a highly skilled workforce to support high levels of employment, particularly for young people.</p> <p>My Department also leads on the implementation of ‘Pathways to Success’, the Northern Ireland Executive’s strategy for supporting young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training. The strategy contains an Action Plan setting out key actions and is supported by a delivery infrastructure chaired by DEL that brings together key decision makers from government, the</p>
---	--	--

		<p>voluntary and community, education, health, social care and business sectors, to secure an effective and coordinated response to the diverse needs of young people.</p> <p>A number of bespoke initiatives have also been introduced to support young people, including: a Community Family Support Programme, a diverse range of projects funded by the European Social Fund and the United Youth Programme, a key headline action flowing from the Executive's Together Building and United Community Strategy.</p> <p>The Employment Service offers a range of work-focused programmes and measures. These include Steps 2 Success, the Department's main adult return to work programme, the Into Work Training Support programme, the Youth Employment Work Experience Scheme, Employer Subsidy and Enterprise Allowance Scheme. These programmes seek to improve opportunities for young people, address employability skills gaps and help them to connect with the labour market.</p>
--	--	--

### Shared Education in North Antrim

<p><a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53811/11-16</a></p>	<p>Mr Daithí McKay (SF - North Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education how his Department is promoting shared education in North Antrim.</b></p> <p>There are a number of generic actions which my Department has undertaken to promote shared education across the north of Ireland, including in North Antrim:</p> <p>Sharing Works: a policy for Shared Education was published in September 2015 setting out the rationale, vision and objectives for Shared Education; a Shared Education Bill which will provide a statutory definition of Shared Education is currently the subject of the legislative process; a self assessment Shared Education Framework has been published which provides an effective tool for practitioners to assess current levels of sharing and to action plan to further advance sharing.</p> <p>In addition, the Delivering Social Change Shared Education Signature Project, led by Education Authority is providing support and funding to eligible schools, including those in North Antrim, to advance shared education.</p> <p>You may also be aware that the Shared Education campus project for Ballycastle High School and Cross &amp; Passion College in Ballycastle is one</p>
--	--	--

		<p>of the first 3 projects I approved to proceed in planning under the Shared Education Campuses Programme. The Project Board has been established and development of the business case is progressing.</p>
--	--	---

**Action he is taking to encourage working class protestant boys to follow the further educational route to gain entry to university education.**

<p><a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53711/11-16</a></p>	<p>Mr Robin Newton (DUP - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education what action he is taking to encourage working class protestant boys to follow the further educational route to gain entry to university education.</b></p> <p>My Department's focus is on raising standards for all children no matter what community background they are from or where they live, providing young people with the opportunity to achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Schools need additional resources to help our most deprived pupils achieve their potential and my Department has redistributed school funding to target those schools with high numbers of pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. My Department has also continued to target substantial resources at disadvantaged communities, including for example, Sure Start, extended schools and full service programmes.</p> <p>Parents and others in the community have a role in raising educational awareness and aspiration in socially deprived communities. The second phase of this year's Education Works advertising campaign, which is being run during January and February, focuses on encouraging parents to actively support their children in planning for their future education and career.</p> <p>The Entitlement Framework (EF) ensures equality of access for all young people to a broad, balanced and economically relevant curriculum with clear progression pathways.</p> <p>The broad range of course options is underpinned by a high quality careers education and guidance in schools which provides learners with information on a full range of options.</p> <p>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.</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-</p>
--	---	---

		<p>faceted, societal issue and one that education authorities and schools cannot tackle on their own.</p>
--	--	---

### Oppositional defiant disorder:

<p><a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53451/11-16</a></p>	<p>Mr Ross Hussey (UUP - West Tyrone)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) whether oppositional defiant disorder is a recognised diagnosis; (ii) how many healthcare professionals specialise in the diagnosis of oppositional defiant disorder; and (iii) whether children diagnosed with oppositional defiant disorder are statemented.</b></p> <p>Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) is a recognised diagnosis in the World Health Organisation International Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders.</p> <p>ODD characteristically occurs in children and a range of healthcare professionals within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Child Development Services are trained in the identification and treatment of childhood mental and behavioural disorders, including ODD.</p> <p>Support for pupils with special educational needs is based on the individual needs of the child, including those diagnosed with ODD. Following a statutory assessment of a child's special educational needs (SEN) the Education Authority will decide whether the degree of the child's learning difficulty or disability, and the nature of the provision necessary to meet the child's SEN, require it to determine the child's special educational provision through making a statement.</p>
--	---	--

## Numbers and waiting times for children waiting for autism assessments:

<a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53432/11-</a> <a href="#">16</a>	Mr Daniel McCrossan (SDLP - West Tyrone)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) number of children waiting for autism assessments; and (ii) waiting times for autism assessments for children in the Western Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last three years.</b></p> <p>Table 1 below details the number of children waiting for an autism assessment and the length of time waiting at 31 December in the Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in each of the last three years.</p> <p><b>Table 1</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="520 846 1481 1384"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th colspan="8">Waiting Time (weeks)</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>&gt;13</td> <td>13</td> <td>18</td> <td>26</td> <td>39</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>18</td> <td>26</td> <td>39</td> <td>52</td> <td></td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>23</td> <td>33</td> <td>22</td> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>31</td> <td>29</td> <td>45</td> <td></td> <td>20</td> <td>34</td> <td>12</td> <td>0</td> <td>171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>33</td> <td>41</td> <td>58</td> <td></td> <td>32</td> <td>62</td> <td>116</td> <td>7</td> <td>349</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Source: Health and Social Care Board</b></p> <p><b>Please note that greyed out boxes indicate changes in reporting formats</b></p>	Year	Waiting Time (weeks)								Total		0	4	8	>13	13	18	26	39			-	-	-		-	-	-	-			4	8	13		18	26	39	52		2013	23	33	22	7					85	2014	31	29	45		20	34	12	0	171	2015	33	41	58		32	62	116	7	349
Year	Waiting Time (weeks)								Total																																																															
	0	4	8	>13	13	18	26	39																																																																
	-	-	-		-	-	-	-																																																																
	4	8	13		18	26	39	52																																																																
2013	23	33	22	7					85																																																															
2014	31	29	45		20	34	12	0	171																																																															
2015	33	41	58		32	62	116	7	349																																																															

## Family Fund funding:

<a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53342/11-</a> <a href="#">16</a>	Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how much funding (i) was provided to the Family Fund in each of the last three years; and (ii) will be provided in 2016-2017.</b></p> <p>(i) Funding provided to the Family Fund in each of the last three years is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="580 1877 1398 1966"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Awarded by DHSSPS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Awarded by DHSSPS		
Year	Awarded by DHSSPS					

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2013/2014</td> <td>£1,576,212</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/2015</td> <td>£1,572,106</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/2016</td> <td>£1,572,000</td> </tr> </table>	2013/2014	£1,576,212	2014/2015	£1,572,106	2015/2016	£1,572,000
2013/2014	£1,576,212							
2014/2015	£1,572,106							
2015/2016	£1,572,000							
		(ii) My Department's financial planning processes are currently ongoing therefore this information is not available at this time.						

**Sexual Health Education in schools:** (see [here](#) for more detailed answer)

<p><a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53205/11-16</a></p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the funding allocated to the Public Health Agency to deliver sexual health education in schools; (ii) the proportion of money allocated which remained unused; and (iii) which schools have utilised the services of the Public Health Agency to provide sexual health education, in each of the last three years.</b></p> <p>My Department does not allocate a specific amount of funding to the PHA to deliver sexual health education in schools. A regional training programme to support teachers and schools to meet their statutory responsibility for Relationship and Sexuality Education is provided by the Sexual Health Team in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. This is done in partnership with the Education Authority and local Health and Social Care Trust Health Improvement Departments. The model consists of a teacher training course followed by Whole School Training. The Public Health Agency provides an annual contribution of £17,687 to cover backfill for teachers attending the training course. A list of schools trained in each of the last three years is below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2014/15</th> <th>2015/16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2-day RSE Teacher Training Courses</td> <td>53</td> <td>36</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whole School Training</td> <td>32</td> <td>46</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2-day RSE Teacher Training Courses	53	36	27	Whole School Training	32	46	32
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16											
2-day RSE Teacher Training Courses	53	36	27											
Whole School Training	32	46	32											

		List of schools provided by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.
--	--	---

### Resources available for children with autism:

<p><a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53161/11-16</a></p>	<p>Ms Rosaleen McCorley (SF - West Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the resources available for children with autism.</b></p> <p>A range of support services operate across the Health and Social Care Trusts for people diagnosed with Autism. This information is provided in the attached Annex.</p> <p><b>NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST</b></p> <p>The Paediatric ASD Service (0-18 yrs) offers services to children or young people and their families in assessing and diagnosing ASD and also support if a diagnosis is made with the aim to provide and deliver a high quality assessment and diagnostic service for children and young people where concerns regarding ASD have been identified , give support to children or young people with a diagnosis of ASD and their families and support professionals within the Northern Trust working with children or young people with ASD. The Paediatric ASD Service is made up of a range of health and educational professionals (multi-disciplinary) including Community Pediatricians, Speech and Language Therapists, Clinical Psychologist and Intervention Therapists .</p> <p>Receiving a diagnosis of ASD can be positive for a child or young person's development in allowing others to understand the person better, appreciate their unique way of seeing the world and to signpost others to appropriate supports. There is a range of help and support available across the Northern Trust which is provided by a range of services. These may include Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Multi Agency Support for Schools, Community Paediatric Medical Service, Health Visiting Service and Social Services. Support is also provided by Education Authority for children and young people with ASD across all stages of the code of practice within schools. After a diagnosis of ASD, the Paediatric ASD Service offers Post Diagnostic Support as follows:</p> <p>A Family Support Home Visit which is currently delivered in partnership between the Paediatric ASD Service and the charity Autism NI. his home</p>
--	---	--

visit supports parents/carers following a diagnosis through practical help, advice, a listening ear or signposting to relevant services and support groups (Ages 2-15yrs);

ASD Bootcamp - this is a group based intervention programme which focuses on exploring and helping the young person understand their diagnosis whilst also looking at the positive aspects of having ASD. It also aims to develop communication skills and build on self-esteem. How to use technology and social media in an appropriate and safe manner are also addressed as part of the programme. (Ages 16-18yrs);

ASD Awareness training session 'What is ASD?' which aims to develop parents/carers knowledge and skills in managing their child/young person's development.

Should parents/carers require any further support the Paediatric ASD Service offers the following intervention service:

Initial Advice Clinic - this is a telephone appointment. Parents/carers will be asked to describe the current difficulties their child/young person is experiencing in relation to their ASD and their concerns at this time. Initial ASD-specific advice will be provided to help parents/carers to manage the difficulties discussed. The therapist will identify an intervention package for the young person following this appointment (if required). Intervention packages may include one or more of the following:

Parent and Carers Education Programme - there are a range of training courses available through the Parent and Carers Education Programme. The Programme includes seminars on: =Promoting Communication Skills in Children and Young People, Visual Strategies, Understanding Behavior, Managing Anger, Anxiety Management Strategies for Parents, Encouraging Social Behaviour, Teen Life, Working Together with Education and Supporting Siblings.

Parent/Carers Consultation Meeting - a meeting can be arranged with parents/carers with one or more of the professionals from the Paediatric ASD team where information regarding all aspects of their child or young person's development and how they are functioning can be discussed – with the focus being on the diagnosis of ASD. Parents/carers will also have the opportunity to talk regarding any concerns they may have in relation to their child or young person. Advice and/or strategies will be provided at the parent consultation to help manage these concerns. Following a parent

consultation meeting a report with the advice and strategies discussed will be provided.

Spectrum Star Assessment - is undertaken with the young person with ASD (suitable for 12yrs + ) and looks at different areas of the young person's life including areas of physical health, communication, social skills and self-esteem, with the focus of how the ASD is impacting in each area. The young person will rate how they feel they are doing in each area on a simple scale. Following the assessment, an action plan will be drawn up jointly between the young person, parents and professionals to help in areas that the young person identified as more difficult.

ASD Bootcamp - this group based intervention programme is suitable for young people aged 12-18 yrs. Games and activities are carried out within a group environment and there will be time for the young people to socialise with each other. Group sessions focus on the following topics through the activities:

Asperger's Syndrome – exploring and understanding the diagnosis and looking at the positive aspects of having Asperger's;

Communication – discussing what is communication, how the young person communicates and strategies to improve communication;

Self-esteem – what self-esteem means, self-identity, how to improve self-esteem and problem-solving when self-esteem is reduced;

Social Media – how to use technology and social media in an appropriate and safe manner.

About me - this is a one-time limited intervention package delivered in conjunction with National Autistic Society, suitable for those aged 12 yrs +.

Activities and worksheets will be carried out with the young person with the focus on ASD, exploring and understanding the diagnosis, looking further at how ASD affects the young person and exploring further the positive aspects of having ASD.

Joint Planning Meeting -the Paediatric ASD Service will provide joint planning meetings with health professionals to support others working with children or young people with ASD. At these meeting the professionals involved with a child or young person with ASD will discuss the current intervention they are providing and jointly agree therapy goals, taking ASD considerations into account. The professional involved with your child will carry out the intervention using strategies and advice provided from the

Paediatric ASD Service and work on the jointly agreed therapy goals.

Northern Adult Autism Advice Service (16yrs+) - is made up of a small multiagency team providing a service to adults with autism and those who support them. The key aims are to help individuals with autism access a range of appropriate main-stream services, for example, employment and further education, to offer individuals with autism one to one support for specific problems, to offer post-diagnostic support and to provide a safe place where individuals with autism can share their experiences. The service is for individuals aged 16yrs+ who have a diagnosis of autism, who reside in the Northern Trust Area. The service operates an open/self referral system and offers advice and support.

**SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST**

Children with a diagnosis of autism and their families may access the wide range of universal health and social care services provided by the Trust, pre- and post-diagnosis. In addition, they may also access targeted Community Child Health Services and specialist ASD Services, provided by the Children's Autism Service. The Trust's Community Child Health Services operate an early intervention model, whereby children are referred to appropriate intervention/support services based on presenting needs; these services are available to children with a diagnosis of autism. These services include:

- Targeted Health Visiting;
- Speech and Language Therapy;
- Occupational Therapy;
- Physiotherapy;
- Developmental Intervention Service;
- Family Support Services (through local Family Support Hubs) ;
- Behaviour and Emotional Support Service;
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services;
- ASCET – multi-disciplinary, school based service.

In addition, the Children's Autism Service offer services in assessing and diagnosing ASD and specific intervention services for those who receive a diagnosis of ASD. The Autism Assessment Service consists of a multi-disciplinary team which includes Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Clinical Psychologists, Educational Psychologist , Community Paediatricians and Primary Mental Health Worker. These

professionals also provide ASD Intervention Services for those children who receive a diagnosis and their families. These specific services include training for parents of children who receive a diagnosis of ASD who are invited to attend training in relation to ASD and support services available, workshops for parents to address specific behavioural, sensory, communication issues and to equip parents with strategies which will support their children. Topics include Visual Communication Strategies, Sensory Strategies, Anger and Anxiety Management, Sensory Strategies, Social Skills, Eating, Toileting, Sleep, Early Practical Visual Strategies. There are also a number of workshops delivered in partnership with colleagues from Education Authority NI

Groupwork for children – social skills and social communication;  
 ASD Speech and Language Therapy;  
 Clinical Psychology;  
 Occupational Therapy Programmes;  
 Family Support Intervention;  
 Sleep Programme.

The Children’s Autism Team also deliver training to other professionals in core services to capacity build knowledge and skills in relation to autistic spectrum disorder. A Consultation Service is available to provide support and advice to other professionals working with a child with a diagnosis of ASD.

**BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST (BHSCT)**

Following a diagnosis of autism, all children, young people and families are referred to the Autism Intervention Service. Within Intervention, there is both a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach to care, with the Trust team comprised of Autism Intervention Workers, Clinical Psychologists, Speech & Language Therapists, Social Work and Occupational Therapists. The Trust work closely with third sector partners with regards to delivery of intervention and supports for children, family and young people, and are integrated into the Trust’s service delivery model. The Trust currently has contracts with Barnados, Belfast Central Mission and the Cedar Foundation, and children and families also have access to their range of generic services provided.

The Trust maximise resources by using a group model of intervention where appropriate. There are a number of ‘core’ workshops which are

available at initial diagnosis, allowing parents and other family members to have an opportunity to gain more information regarding autism and to link with other families experiencing similar anxieties. These workshops are very positively evaluated. In response to clear need, a menu of 'Level 2' workshops have been developed which provide more problem-specific intervention advice and follow up. These include workshops on sleep, toileting, feeding, anger-management, anxiety management, managing school related problems, puberty, discussing the diagnosis with your child etc. Individual therapy is also available as required.

The Trust keep close contact with local communities and try to keep families informed of any initiatives in their area which are autism specific or autism friendly and it is also currently working on a service directory to facilitate family information. Children with autism continue to have available all paediatric services and where appropriate they also have available support via the children's disability team. Children and their families also attend CAMHS services where a mental health need has been identified and there is close liaison between CAMHS and the Autism intervention Service.

#### **SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST**

In the Southern Trust there is a multidisciplinary team which provides post-diagnostic support to children and young people with Autism and their families. This support consists of an early intervention programme delivered by Autism Intervention Therapists and Occupational Therapists and longer term support delivered by Clinical Psychology, Social Work, Health improvement Nurse and Occupational Therapy. These interventions aim to improve the skills of children and young people with ASD and help them understand and manage their autism as individuals and families. In addition to Autism Specific interventions, all parents are offered a Carers Assessment.

The Trust also have an ASD-CAMHS Connect service for 13-18 year olds which supports these adolescents to understand their diagnosis and the impact this has on their life and to help them to engage more fully in their local community. The Trust also provide a range of Autism Awareness training for employers, other Trust services and community and voluntary services who support children and young people with ASD. Children and young people can also avail of support outside the Autism Service and

many attend Core AHP services, CAMHS, Community Paediatrics as well as a full range of other services.

CAMHS assess and diagnose all young people between 12 -18 years. All referrals are seen within a nine week period. The Multi-disciplinary Step 3/4 teams carry out a robust assessment process and deal with some quite complex dual diagnosis presentations. Post diagnosis, CAMHS provide a range of interventions and work in partnership with both statutory and third sector providers to ensure best service for Young People and their families. Resources are also available to children with ASD from Allied Health Professionals (AHP) services and are provided across a number of settings that include community clinics/hospital outpatients/child's home environment/school. The AHP services include: Nutrition & Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Orthoptics and Podiatry.

Speech & Language Therapy provide a regular service into the majority of the ASD Units across the Trust with an advisory Occupational Therapy service provided for children on an individual basis and based on assessed need. The specialist ASD service can in addition to profession specific advice provide intervention delivered by a Therapy assistant which aims to provide short-term targeted interventions as directed by therapist into the Autism Specific Classes within the SELB. This is a provision for children in key stage 1 who have a confirmed diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The five special schools in the Trust area also have access to Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy and Orthoptics services.

In relation to the 51 children currently receiving targeted support from a health visitor, approximately 66% of the children being pre confirmed diagnosis and 33% of children who have been diagnosed. The focus of the health visiting intervention is support for parents to manage behaviours relating to autism. Health visitors across service are providing targeted support to 120 children who are pre and post autism diagnosis at the current time.

Children with autism can access a wide range of social care supports and services through Autism Services or Children's Disability Teams. The level and type of support is dependent on the individual needs of the child and his/her carers. An assessment of need (UNOCINI – Understanding the

Needs of Children in N. Ireland, incorporating a Carer's Assessment) is carried out by a social worker from the teams, and a care plan is then developed and agreed with the child and family. This usually includes onward referrals and access to a range of support services to meet these needs. The Trust has been developing a continuum of such services, ranging from 'softer end' community based activities/opportunities for children with disabilities including autism, through to more specialist residential services. The Southern Trust also has contracts/service level agreements with various organisations/agencies to help deliver on this range of short breaks.

**WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUSTS (WHSC)**

ASD Diagnostic Services for children aged 3- 18 years are provided across the Western Trust in keeping with Regional Autism Spectrum Disorder Network (RASDN) 'Six Steps of Autism Care' guidelines. Children who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder and who meet clinical criteria for assessment are held on a waiting list. Children aged 2-3 years who are known to Community Paediatrics and who meet clinical criteria for assessment are considered on a case by case basis as described in 'Six Steps of Autism Care'. The Western Trust Children's ASD Service multidisciplinary assessment team includes Clinical Psychology, Community Paediatrics, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Autism Practitioner, Specialist Health Visitors with sessional input from Community Nursing Learning Disability. Following diagnostic assessment and confirmation of a diagnosis of Autism post-diagnostic interventions are tailored to meet the assessed needs of each individual child and family. These may include

- information and advice;
- parent training;
- individual or group intervention with members of multidisciplinary team as listed above;
- UNOCINI/Carer's Assessment;
- referral to Education Authority Western Region specialist supports including Autism Spectrum Advisory Service and Youth Club Buddy scheme;
- family Support/Social supports including onward referral to a family support contracts with an external provider, community and voluntary sector and/or appropriate community supports.

## Selling tobacco products to under aged people:

<p><a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53847/11-</a> <a href="#">16</a></p>	<p>Mr John McCallister (IND - South Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Justice how many (i) prosecutions; and (ii) convictions were secured under Article 3 (1) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 for the offence of selling tobacco products to under aged people in each of the last ten years.</b></p> <p>Prosecutions for offences relating to the selling of tobacco products to under age persons, under Article 3 (1) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, are generally brought at magistrates' courts. The table provided gives the number of persons prosecuted and convicted of offences relating to the selling of tobacco products to under age persons for the calendar years 2007 to 2014, the latest year for which data are available. The earliest year for which figures are available is 2007. Prosecutions and Convictions for offences relating to the selling of tobacco products to under aged persons, 2007 - 2014</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="582 1245 1396 1966"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Prosecutions</th> <th>Convictions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>37</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>24</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>42</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>19</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>11</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Prosecutions	Convictions	2007	0	0	2008	37	16	2009	24	11	2010	42	26	2011	19	22	2012	6	8	2013	11	9
Year	Prosecutions	Convictions																								
2007	0	0																								
2008	37	16																								
2009	24	11																								
2010	42	26																								
2011	19	22																								
2012	6	8																								
2013	11	9																								

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Note:</b>  <b>Figures relate to initial court disposals only. Results of cases brought to appeal are not included.</b>  <b>Figures relate to prosecutions and conviction for any one of the offences in question, whether or not they were the primary offence at conviction.</b>  <b>Figures for prosecutions relate to when cases were received into court. In some instances, cases prosecuted in one year may not have been resolved until the following year, so the figure provided for convictions is not always a subset of the number of prosecutions for that year.</b></p>	2014	2	3
2014	2	3			

### Is civil marriage a good, facility or service?

<a href="#">AQW</a> <a href="#">53228/11-16</a>	Mr Chris Lyttle <i>(APNI - East Belfast)</i>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether civil marriage is a good, facility or service.</b></p> <p>Marriage, both civil and religious, is a legally recognised union between a man and a woman.</p>
--	---	---