

NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 21 October 2016

Update on the draft Childcare Strategy

<p>AQW 4735/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr George Robinson (DUP - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the current status of the Draft Childcare Strategy.</p> <p>The Childcare Strategy is being delivered on a phased basis. The first phase was launched in September 2013. It included 15 Key First Actions designed to address the priority childcare needs identified through research and during an initial consultation with parents, children and childcare stakeholders.</p> <p>Development of the full Childcare Strategy began in 2014 and has involved ongoing engagement with the main childcare stakeholders as well as further, extensive consultation in the second half of last year. The findings of this consultation exercise will help to shape the content of the final version of the Childcare Strategy.</p> <p>I plan to bring forward the final version of the Childcare Strategy to my Executive colleagues in the coming months, having taken account of the many consultation responses received, the Programme for Government and the opportunities that now exist to align childcare and Early Years initiatives.</p>
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Investigation Links in Achievement and Deprivation project report

<p>AQW 4544/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they intend to publish the Investigating Links in Achievement and Deprivation project report.</p> <p>The project entitled ‘Understanding differential educational achievement within and between areas of multiple deprivation in NI – a case study approach’ is being carried out by Professor Ruth Leitch, Professor Joanne Hughes, supported by Dr Ian Shuttleworth and Dr Michael Levers from the Queen’s University, Belfast.</p> <p>Professor Ruth Leitch and her team are currently finalising the report for publication. No firm date for this has been set. Details of the publication will be provided on the Executive Office website and copied to the Committee for the Executive Office when they are available.</p>
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Update on Social Investment Fund in Northern Zone

<p>AQW 4462/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Roy Beggs (UUP - East Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister , in relation to the £1.8m Social Investment Fund allocated to the Northern Zone to address fuel poverty, to detail (i) what has been spent specifically on improving homes suffering from fuel poverty; and (ii) the measures taken; broken down by (iii) by constituency; and (iv) by local council area. [Priority Written]</p> <p>Work is ongoing with the lead partner organisation to finalise the scope and delivery plan for this project. This project will complement and enhance existing fuel poverty initiatives.</p> <p>Until the final scope and delivery is agreed, including any revised business case approval, no project spend will be incurred. Officials are working to progress this as quickly as possible to ensure the project is delivered for the benefit of local communities.</p>
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Update on Fresh Start Panel Report into Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups

<p>AQO 244/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr John O'Dowd (SF - Upper Bann)</p>	<p>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Fresh Start Panel Report into the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups.</p> <p>The Executive published an action plan on tackling paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime in July 2016, setting out the measures we will take to implement the Panel's recommendations.</p> <p>Work is already underway to take the measures forward and a Cross-Departmental Programme Board has been set up to oversee progress and to allocate funding. Some funding has already been allocated for 2016/17 to statutory partners to implement particular recommendations.</p> <p>When we published the action plan, we made clear our commitment to work with local communities and to build on the good work we know goes on already. This process will inform the development of detailed, costed programmes to be put in place from 2017/18 onwards.</p>
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Impact of Brexit on children

<p>AQW 4808/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister for Communities , in relation to his Department's responsibilities, to outline how the UK exiting the European Union will impact children, with specific reference to any protections enshrined in European Union law that are not currently transposed into UK and Northern Ireland legislation.</p> <p>The UK Government will be responsible for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the UK and EU. Whilst the UK Government</p>
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		<p>will be engaging with the devolved administrations as the negotiations progress, it is too early at this stage to make an assessment of any potential impact on children arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The Prime Minister has given a commitment that the Northern Ireland Executive will be fully involved and represented in the negotiations and the issue of the ambit of EU law will be considered in this context.</p>
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Road safety signage close to schools

<p>AQW 5099/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Keith Buchanan (DUP - Mid Ulster)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister for Infrastructure (i) to detail how many schools have specific road safety signage installed in close proximity to their school entrances in Mid Ulster; and (ii) whether this signage will be implemented to all schools in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>My Department has a statutory duty to promote road safety and, within the context of the Road Safety Strategy, does this through a range of rolling road safety educational activities and engineering initiatives.</p> <p>My Department continues to take a range of actions to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads and focuses on the key causes of road casualties, and on groups which are over-represented in the casualty figures. Children and young people are amongst the most vulnerable groups using our roads and as such must be taught how to use our roads safely, both in the school vicinity and in the wider community.</p> <p>As over 95% of road traffic collisions where someone is killed or seriously injured are due to human error, there are a number of types of risks to children's safety at schools arising from road traffic and driver behaviour. Therefore, in addition to my Department's portfolio of educational activities, we also help improve safety by encouraging drivers to reduce</p>
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		<p>their speed and reminding them of school children in the area through engineering initiatives. One such example is the use of road safety signage in close proximity to school entrances.</p> <p>There are currently 42 schools within the Mid Ulster Council Area that have Safer Routes to School Signage adjacent to the school.</p> <p>Transport NI has a school assessment procedure which enables each request to be assessed and prioritised based on collision history, mean speed, traffic volumes and existing local infrastructure measures. These projects are placed on a programme of works for each Council area and delivery will depend on the level of capital funding made available to my Department in each financial year.</p> <p>I am committed to continuing to work towards reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads. I recognise the continuing challenges of preventing road deaths and serious injuries and will continue to ensure that my Department uses the tools at its disposal to address the issues.</p>
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Update on Area Based Planning process

<p>AQW 5449/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the Area Based Planning process.</p> <p>Revised Area Planning Guidance was published on the Department's website on 27 September 2016. The revised guidance provides a comprehensive guide to the Area Planning objectives, governance structures, roles and responsibilities, parameters, process and consultation.</p> <p>I refer the member to my answer to his earlier question (AQW</p>
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		<p>5002/16-21 refers) published on 28 October in which I confirmed that my 17 October statement to the Assembly, on the Sustainable Schools Policy and Area Planning process, signalled the beginning of an eight week consultation on the draft Area Plan. Information about the consultation is available on the EA's website. The consultation findings will inform a final Area Plan.</p> <p>The Area Plan will be supplemented in each of the 3 years covered by an Annual Action Plan which will contain details of actions and Development Proposals (DP) to give effect to proposed changes at local school level to deliver the Area Plan. The statutory DP process will facilitate further consultation before final decisions are taken.</p>
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Funding for Approved Home Childcare scheme

<p>AQW 5253/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education whether he is able to make Childcare Strategy funding available to meet the cost of VAT added to the Approved Home Childcare scheme. [Priority Written]</p> <p>The Delivering Social Change Central Fund, which incorporates the former Executive Childcare Fund, is being used to resource the Key First Actions of the Executive's Childcare Strategy, notably the Bright Start School Age Childcare Grant Scheme. I am aware of the issue that has arisen regarding a home-based childcare service operating in Northern Ireland, and the calls to consider a form of subsidy to keep this service viable. This is something that I will need to consider in more detail. My officials are working with colleagues in the Department of Health to determine what can be done to help parents who wish to use this type of service.</p>
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Number of pupil suspensions

AQW 5117/1 6-21	Mr Gerry Mullan (SDLP - East Londonder ry)	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of pupils suspended from (a) primary; and (b) post-primary schools in each of the last five years; and (ii) the strategies in place to address this issue.</p> <p>My Department collects information on suspensions annually from the Education Authority. Statistics are published on the Department's website. These figures can be accessed using the following link: https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/pupil-suspensions-and-expulsions</p> <p>The table below details the number of pupil suspensions in each of the last 5 years, broken down by Primary and Post Primary School.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="528 1061 1439 1496"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2010/ 11</th> <th>2011/ 12</th> <th>2012/ 13</th> <th>2013/ 14</th> <th>2014/ 15</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Primary</td> <td>185</td> <td>200</td> <td>191</td> <td>228</td> <td>218</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post Primary</td> <td>4055</td> <td>3594</td> <td>3296</td> <td>3380</td> <td>3355</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Figures for 2015/16 are in the process of being analysed by DE Statistics Team and will be published on the Department's website in due course.</p> <p>The Board of Governors (BoG) of every grant-aided school is under a duty to ensure that policies designed to promote good behaviour and discipline on the part of pupils attending the school are pursued at the school.</p> <p>Each school must therefore have a discipline policy which</p>		2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	Primary	185	200	191	228	218	Post Primary	4055	3594	3296	3380	3355
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		<p>details the required standards of behaviour expected of pupils and the sanctions, including suspension and expulsion, which may be imposed whenever a pupil contravenes these standards. It is a matter for the school to periodically review this policy and ensure it remains fit for purpose.</p>
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Educational underachievement in South Down

<p><u>AQW</u> <u>5031/16-</u> <u>21</u></p>	<p>Mr Harold McKee (UUP - South Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education (i) to detail the level of educational underachievement in South Down, broken down for each year over the last ten years; and (ii) for his assessment of how this compares with the rest of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Underachievement is where an individual learner’s performance is below what might be expected. At a system level, the department does not collect data from the diagnostic tests/formative assessments or observations that consider children’s ability. This information is however used on an ongoing basis in schools where teachers are able to use their professional judgement to assess if a pupil is at risk of under achieving and to implement appropriate strategies to address that.</p> <p>At a system level, summative data is collected which relates to pupils’ achievements at the end of each key stage. On its own, this information is not a measure of underachievement but it does identify groups which are, on average, experiencing lower levels of achievement than other groups.</p> <p>At a system level, one of our key academic indicators relates to the proportion of school leavers who achieve at least five GCSEs at A*-C (including equivalents) including GCSEs in English and maths. Our target, published in Count, Read: Succeed – a strategy to improve literacy and numeracy, is that by 2020 70% of school leavers will achieve this threshold.</p>
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Over the ten year period from 2005 the proportion of school leavers resident in the South Down Assembly Area attaining at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (including equivalent qualifications) including GCSE in English and mathematics has increased by 16.8 percentage points from 54.4% in 2005/06 to 71.2% in 2014/15.

In the same period the overall proportion of school leavers achieving this academic threshold has increased by 13.4 percentage points from 52.6% in 2005/06 to 66% in 2014/15.

Qualifications of school leavers from South Down AssemblyArea(1), 2005/06 - 2014/15(2)

Academic Year	Area	Achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C(3)inc. GCSE English and maths		Total Leavers
		Number	%	
2014/15	South Down	1111	71.2	1560
	Total Leavers NI	14753	66.0	22361
2013/14	South Down	1005	66.6	1509
	Total Leavers NI	14373	63.5	22636

		2012/13	South Down	1015	66.6	1525
			Total Leavers NI	14303	62.2	23001
		2011/12	South Down	992	67.4	1471
			Total Leavers NI	13990	62.0	22568
		2010/11	South Down	979	63.2	1549
			Total Leavers NI	13791	59.5	23160
		2009/10	South Down	919	61.9	1484
			Total Leavers NI	13475	59.0	22826
		2008/09	South Down	903	62.1	1453
			Total Leavers NI	13596	58.4	23276

2007/08	South Down	957	61.0	1570
	Total Leavers NI	13575	56.3	24091
2006/07	South Down	883	54.6	1616
	Total Leavers NI	13438	54.2	24803
2005/06	South Down	937	54.4	1723
	Total Leavers NI	13416	52.6	25528

Source: School Leavers survey

Notes:

Assembly Area of pupil residence is based on the residential
postcode of each individual pupil

Excludes special and independent schools

Includes equivalent qualifications

Update on special school area plans

<p>AQW 5002/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the (i) primary; (ii) post-primary; and (iii) special school area plans scheduled to have been sent to his Department in July 2016.</p> <p>The Education Authority (EA) submitted a draft strategic Area Plan, which covers the period April 2017 to March 2020, to my Department in July 2016.</p> <p>Since then my officials have scrutinised the draft Area Plan against the Area Planning Guidance and provided feedback to the EA in advance of its recent publication.</p> <p>My 17 October statement to the Assembly, on the Sustainable Schools Policy and Area Planning process, signalled the beginning of an eight week consultation on the draft Area Plan. Information about the consultation is available on the EA's website. The consultation findings will inform a final Area Plan. The Area Plan will be supplemented in each of the 3 years covered by an Annual Action Plan which will contain details of actions and Development Proposals (DP) to give effect to proposed changes at local school level to deliver the Area Plan. The statutory DP process will facilitate further consultation before final decisions are taken.</p>
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Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's ThinkUKnow campaign

<p>AQW 4893/16- 21</p>	<p>Ms Joanne Bunting (DUP - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to outline what engagement his Department has had with the Education Authority and/or schools regarding the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's ThinkUKnow campaign to help teachers and parents to protect children from online abuse.</p> <p>The Department has issued a number of circulars and advice letters to schools regarding on-line safety and the Departmental website, link below, contains information for schools, pupils and parents on keeping children safe. A further circular on online safety will issue to schools in the near future.</p> <p>CEOP and the ThinkuKnow campaign are signposted on the DE website and a CEOP App is prominent on C2k and available to all children.</p> <p>Advice on internet safety issued to schools in June 2015 to help Head Teachers draft letters to parents and to signpost information on the C2K exchange which contains detailed advice and guidance on eSafety. C2k has also held a number of eSafety conferences for schools, most recently in May 2016. The PSNI Sexting and the Law leaflet was issued to all schools in September 2015 and the PSNI are supporting the SBNI in taking forward an e-Safety strategy, which should be out for consultation in the near future.</p> <p>https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/keeping-children-safe-online</p>
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Update on publication of draft Children's Strategy

<p>AQW 4876/16- 21</p>	<p>Ms Nichola Mallon (SDLP - North Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education , given that the Children's Services Co-operation Act prescribes that the first strategy must be laid before the Assembly within one year of the Act receiving Royal Assent, to outline when the draft Children's Strategy will be published for consultation.</p> <p>The new Children and Young People's Strategy, like the Programme for Government (PfG), is being developed using the outcomes based approach. It is therefore important that it aligns appropriately with the PfG. However, the timeframe for the publication of the draftPFG, combined with the wide ranging pre-engagement of the Children and Young People' Strategy, means that consultation on the Strategy is not planned to commence until November 2016.</p> <p>It is therefore not possible for the final Strategy to be laid before the Assembly within one year of the Act receiving Royal Assent. It is however anticipated that the Strategy will be laid before the Assembly as early as possible in the New Year. Whilst any delay is regrettable, it is important that the necessary time is given to ensuring that the Strategy is right for children and young people.</p>
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Models to address homophobic bullying

<p>AQW 4860/16- 21</p>	<p>Ms Clare Bailey (GPNI - South Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education how many post-primary schools have developed gay/straight alliances or similar models to address homophobic and transphobic bullying.</p> <p>The approach taken by each school to tackle bullying is a matter for its Principal and Board of Governors and the Department does not collect specific data on this issue. The Department is aware that Shimna Integrated College established a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) in2011; however this is the only school the</p>
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		<p>Department is aware of where a GSA has been set up. The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016, once commenced, will require all schools record incidents and complaints of bullying along with their motivating factors. This information will allow Boards of Governors to monitor the problem and take whatever actions they deem necessary when an issue, such as recurring homophobic or transphobic bullying, is identified.</p>
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Update on review of Home to School Transport policy

AQW 4782/16- 21	Mrs Sandra Overend (UUP - Mid Ulster)	<p>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the review of the Home to School Transport policy.</p> <p>No decision has been taken at this time regarding a revision to the Home to School Transport policy. Any decision to review or amend the current policy in light of the recommendations from the Review team would be subject to full public consultation.</p>
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School funding granted for nurture units

AQW 4503/16- 21	Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail all school funding granted for nurture units.</p> <p>The Department currently funds a total of 32 nurture units at an annual cost of £70k per school. In addition to these annual operating costs, schools that set up a new nurture unit under the Delivering Social Change (DSC) Signature Project also received one-off start up costs of between £10k to £20k to refurbish and equip their nurture room. From the commencement of the DSC project, the total annual funding has been:</p>
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YEAR	TOTAL FUNDING TO SCHOOLS *
2012/13	£60,000
2013/14	£1,162,000
2014/15	£1,821,000
2015/16	£2,100,000
2016/17	£2,210,000

*This includes funding provided by other Departments, but administered by the Department of Education

Cooperation between Education Authority and HSCTs for children with special educational needs

AQW 4438/16- 21	Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)	<p>To ask the Minister of Education for his assessment of the cooperation between the Education Authority and the Health and Social Care Trusts for families and children with special educational needs.</p> <p>I recognise that successful outcomes for children with special educational needs (SEN), particularly those with more significant educational and health-related needs, depend on successful collaboration across education and health and social care sectors. Statutory frameworks are in place to support collaborative working between the Education and Health sectors in terms of supporting children and young people with SEN. The support of health professionals is important at both the statutory assessment stage and the provision stage. The Education Authority (EA) and Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs) are already working collaboratively to deliver provision for pupils and their families. I</p>
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do, however, recognise the need to build upon and improve co-operation between health and education.

I welcome the very specific co-operation duties which the SEND Act 2016 will place upon both the EA and health and social services authorities. They specifically relate to the identification and assessment of children who have, or who may have, special educational needs. The SEND Act also covers provision of services to children who have special educational needs.

Department officials have been engaging with officials from the Department of Health (DoH) and the EA to determine when the SEND Act duties regarding co-operation should commence. The new Children's Services Cooperation Act (NI) 2015 also creates the imperative for children's authorities to co-operate with other children's authorities and with other children's service providers.

My Department and the DoH have initiated a SEN Education & Health Interface Project Board to consider improvements for children and young people with SEN; with involvement of the EA, the HSCTs and the Public Health Agency (PHA). The aim of the project board and its associated project teams will be to improve the interfaces and co-operation between the EA and HSCTs within the SEN framework and will result in improving the delivery of services to children and young people who have special educational needs.

The member will also be aware that the PHA conducted a review of Allied Health Professional support for children and young people with statements of special educational needs and both the Department and the EA were represented on its Project Board.

Update on decision to reduce special educational needs nursery hours

<p>AQW 4360/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education, further to his predecessor's requirement of the Education Authority revisiting the decision of June 2015 to reduce special educational needs (SEN) nursery hours, and engage with parents on this matter, whether (i) the Parents for Equal Education Coalition have been notified by letter about the opportunity to participate in the SEN Nursery Review Pre-Consultative Parental Group; and (ii) for a detailed structure and forward work programme for this group.</p> <p>The Education Authority (EA) has advised that an engagement strategy for the Strategic Review of Pre-school Provision in Special Schools, which will include the structure and forward work programme for the Pre-Consultative Parental Group, has been developed and is currently awaiting ratification by the EA Board.</p> <p>The EA anticipates that, as part of its engagement strategy, the Parents for Equal Education Coalition will be contacted about the opportunity to participate in the Pre-Consultative Parental Group.</p>
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Impact of Brexit on PEACE and Investing in Children funding

<p>AQW 4856/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Finance how the UK exiting the EU and the potential EU funding lost will impact on children, with specific relation to PEACE and Investing in Children funding.</p> <p>The PEACE IV Programme (2014-20) is designed to have a significant impact on children. This was based on clearly identified need. The programme specifically allocates €67 million to a Children and Young People theme, and a further €35 million towards Shared Education. I am committed to full delivery of PEACE IV, along with all other EU Programmes.</p> <p>At this stage it is not possible to assess the impact beyond the conclusion of the 2014-20 programmes.</p>
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Update on implementation of Autism Act

<p>AQO 500/16- 21</p>	<p>Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for an update on the implementation of the Autism Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.</p> <p>Under the Autism Act (NI) 2011, the Department of Health has a statutory obligation to prepare, review and monitor the implementation of a cross departmental strategy to improve services and supports for people with autism and their families. The current cross-departmental Autism Strategy was published in 2014, together with an Action Plan for 2013-16, extended last year to 2017.</p> <p>Good progress has been made on the implementation of the cross-departmental strategy and the action plan as reflected in the report laid before the Assembly in November 2015. Some of the notable achievements include:</p> <p>autism training for front line staff, education professionals, youth workers and parents of children with autism has been provided;</p>
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		<p>‘One-Stop’ shops developed in the Northern and Belfast Trust areas for adults to obtain employment, careers and benefit advice;</p> <p>adjustments made to the theory and practical driving test;</p> <p>a free Access Travel Wallet to encourage people with autism to travel independently and with confidence;</p> <p>the Assured Skills Project helping participants with autism secure employment;</p> <p>tailored support offered to Further Education Colleges and Universities;</p> <p>improved support for those detained by police; and</p> <p>the introduction of regular programmes by the Arts Council, Museums sector and the Inland Fisheries Group.</p> <p>While I think it is important that these successes are highlighted, I am also clear that there is more we in the Executive can and need to do to improve outcomes for people with autism and their carers. I intend therefore to write to my Executive colleagues later this year with details of my plan for further work which, in the first instance, will include a review of the current action plan. The aim of that review will be to identify where the gaps are in current service provision and produce an agreed set of effective interventions to address those gaps, informed by the views of people with autism and other key stakeholders.</p>
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Paediatric waiting area at Craigavon Area Hospital

<p>AQW 4898/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr William Irwin (DUP - Newry and Armagh)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health why the Emergency Department waiting area, rather than the designated paediatric waiting area, is used for paediatric cases at Craigavon Area Hospital. [Priority Written]</p> <p>The significant increase in the number of patients attending the emergency department in Craigavon Area Hospital in recent years has reduced capacity within the emergency department</p>
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		<p>and it became necessary for the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to step down the dedicated paediatric waiting area in 2014.</p> <p>Every precaution is taken to ensure the comfort, security and safety of everyone waiting in the emergency department. Children attending the emergency department are prioritised at triage and some are redirected to be seen in the Paediatric Ambulatory Unit based in the Children's Ward.</p>
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Update on the implementation of Why Children Die policy

<p>AQW 4333/16- 21</p>	<p>Ms Paula Bradshaw (APNI - South Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for an update on implementation of the Child Deaths Overview Panel, as proposed in the Why Children Die policy launch of March 2015.</p> <p>Article 3(5) of the Safeguarding Board (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 requires the SBNI to establish processes to review child deaths in north of Ireland. This function was not commenced by my Department, as the Jay Report published in August 2016 suggested that the function could be located within the Public Health Agency (PHA). My officials are currently in discussions with the PHA to determine how best to take forward the review of child deaths in the north. Account will need to be taken of new Mortality and Morbidity arrangements, which were put in place in February 2016. Under those arrangements, all child deaths in the north are reviewed at multi-disciplinary Mortality and Morbidity meetings and reported to the Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency, detailing any lessons learned and actions agreed.</p>
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Update on recruitment for paediatric autism services

			<p>To ask the Minister of Health for an update on the Northern Health and Social Care Trust recruitment process for paediatric autism spectrum disorder services.</p> <p>In April this year my Department announced an additional investment of £2million for regional children’s autism services. The current position in respect of recruitment for new posts created as a result is set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="568 837 1433 1906"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Grade</u></th> <th><u>WTE</u></th> <th><u>Position</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speech and Language Therapist Band 6</td> <td>2</td> <td>1 post offered, awaiting pre employment checks. 1 post advertised on 27 September 2016, closing date 12 October 2016.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specialist Occupational Therapist Band 7</td> <td>1</td> <td>Start date of appointment 1 December 2016.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 4 Psychology Assistants</td> <td>2</td> <td>Start date of appointment 17 October 2016. 1 post</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>WTE</u>	<u>Position</u>				Speech and Language Therapist Band 6	2	1 post offered, awaiting pre employment checks. 1 post advertised on 27 September 2016, closing date 12 October 2016.	Specialist Occupational Therapist Band 7	1	Start date of appointment 1 December 2016.	Band 4 Psychology Assistants	2	Start date of appointment 17 October 2016. 1 post
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	AQW 4234/16-21	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)																

				offered,awaiting pre employment checks.
			Band 8a Clinical Psychologist	1 Advertised, no applicants.
			Band 4 ICT Project	1 To be appointed.
			Band 8b Head of Service	1 To commence 1 January 2017.
			Band 8a Project Manager	1 To commence 7 October 2016.
			Band 5 ASD Therapist	4 Job descriptions written and sent for desktop matching under Agenda for Change.
			Total	13

Impact of Brexit on children

<p>AQW 4881/16- 21</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Justice , in relation to her departmental remit, to outline how the UK exiting the European Union will impact on children, with specific reference to any protections enshrined in EU law not currently transposed into UK and Northern Ireland legislation.</p> <p>There are a number of EU justice related measures in regard to children. They deal with issues such as human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, abduction and allow judgments relating to matters such as child maintenance, contact and residence to be enforced across the EU. Some of these measures take the form of EU Directives and have been transposed whilst others are EU Regulations which are directly applicable and are supported by Northern Ireland legislation. My Department will, however, take whatever steps it can to ensure there is no reduction in the justice protections afforded to children and continues to work with other Departments and counterparts in other jurisdictions to explore these and other justice related implications.</p>
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