NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 3 April, 2020

Update on funding support for Covid 19

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| [AQW 3847/17-22](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl16$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Mr Jim Allister *(TUV - North Antrim)* | **To ask the Minister of Finance, in light of the current crisis, what steps he has taken to identify non-priority resource spend across Departments so as to maximise spending on health and the economy.**  The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has assured me that funding will not be a constraint in providing comparable levels of COVID-19 support irrespective of where people and businesses are based.  There is ongoing close co-operation between all four administrations at Ministerial and official level.  To date we have received £904 million from Treasury to allocate to local measures to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19.  The Executive will take measures to reallocate funding to priority areas as required. |

Update on number of mental health social workers

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| [AQW 3088/17-22](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentPlaceHolder$SearchResultsGridView$ctl07$RefNoLinkButton','')) | Ms Paula Bradshaw *(APNI - South Belfast)* | **To ask the Minister of Health what proposals he is bringing forward to increase the number of mental health social workers; and under what timescale.**  There are a number of initiatives ongoing which will inform future workforce planning.  My department is working on an overall workforce planning strategy for health and social care and social work officials from my department are involved in this.  In addition, my Department is working on a separate social work workforce review which is scoping social work demand in all areas including mental health.  Social work officials are also working on a regional Approved Social Work (ASW) workforce plan which will make a recommendation on ASW numbers.  My Department is also rolling out the new model of multi-disciplinary teams in primary care which includes significant investment in social work staff. While these social workers have a generalist remit, much of their work will involve prevention and early intervention in relation to mental health problem |