Report on	Mid Ulster Community Pharmacy Partnership - Networking Event, 'Making links to lighten the load'
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements
Contact Officer	

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise on the Mid Ulster Community Pharmacy Partnership Networking Event, 'Making links to lighten the load'. **The event was held in the Greenvale Hotel, Cookstown on the 21st March 2018.**
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The Mid Ulster Community Pharmacy Partnership is a multi-agency group with representation from the Mid Ulster District Council, the Northern and Southern Health and Social Care Trusts, Integrated Care Partnerships, the Public Health Agency and the Community Development and Health Network (CDHN).
2.2	The Partnership recognises pharmacies have a key part to play in the delivery of public health messages and that they are well positioned to do so. They also recognise that being better connected and networked into local community, voluntary and statutory support structures will help them to do this more effectively. They can support people to implement individual changes and signpost them to other organisations and services that may be able to support them on wider issues.
2.3	Last year, In March 2017 there was a "Making Links to Lighten the Load' event to offer pharmacists, and their staff, information about what is happening in the community and to provide support and advice on how to develop links with local services. Presentations demonstrated local initiatives and give practical examples of how pharmacies can engage with them for the benefit of the pharmacist, their staff and their customers.
2.4	The event this year built on feedback from last year's event and key recommendations including the need for asset mapping at a more localised level. Therefore, this year's event focused on the wider Cookstown area as a pilot.
2.5	The aim was that participants who attended, gained a comprehensive knowledge of and improved access to local contacts that provide health and wellbeing services. A practical, user-friendly map / directory of local services was drafted to be shared with all stakeholders once finalised.

3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The event was held in the Greenvale Hotel, Cookstown on 21st March 2018.
3.2	The event was primarily for local community pharmacists and staff to increase their knowledge of what other services are available to them in local communities and to develop their skills in strengthening relationships with them.
3.3	The event was well attended by pharmacists/pharmacy staff representing 6 separate pharmacies.
3.4	12 organisations displayed and shared their work at the information stands. There were presentations from the British Heart Foundation NI and Mid Ulster Agewell followed by a facilitated round table discussion to work towards developing the practical guide of local services.
3.5	Mid Ulster District Council also had stands at the event including Energy Efficiency Service, Home Accident Prevention and Make A Change.
3.6	On the night of the event, there was an opportunity for networking and exchanging of contact details.
3.7	The event was very successful; the feedback has been extremely positive and this has proven to be a great opportunity to share information, provide support and develop connections and relationships between sectors.
3.8	The learning from the event will help shape the next steps for the partnership. The group will finalise the draft map/ service directory and share with all pharmacies in the wider Cookstown area. A key action moving forward will be to roll out the pilot across the Mid Ulster area.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial & Human Resources Implications** Financial: The event was Funded via Northern Obesity Partnership Human: Within resources
4.2	**Equality and Good Relations Implications** N/a
4.3	**Risk Management Implications** N/a
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	None