

Report on	Response to Consultation on DoH Autism Strategy 2023-2028
Date of Meeting	9 th March 2023
Reporting Officer	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from elected members of the draft consultation response developed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in response to the DoH's Autism Strategy 2023-28 consultation.
2.0	Background
2.1	Members were informed of this consultation at the January 2023 Full Council meeting. Members requested that a workshop be held and that a consultation response be developed on behalf of Council.
2.2.	The online workshop was held on Monday 20 th February and was attended by elected members and the following Autism Support Groups from the District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mencap • FACTS • The Base at Tobin
3.0	Main Report
3.1	This draft consultation response examines the 10 areas detailed in the consultation. This feedback is based on the feedback received from Autism Support Groups and elected members who attended the associated workshop.
3.2	The response has focused on encouraging the Department to address the issues within diagnosis waiting lists and the knock-on impacts that lengthy diagnosis waiting times are having on individuals awaiting an Autism diagnosis and their families and carers. It is evident that delayed diagnosis and support intervention impacts on all areas examined in the response.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: None

	Human: None
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: External response. Screening not required.
	Rural Needs Implications: External response. Impact Assessment not proportionate.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Council approve the draft response.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Draft Consultation Response- DoH Autism Strategy 2023-28.