

Report on	Autism Training- Virtual Experience Bus
Date of Meeting	9 th March 2023
Reporting Officer	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on plans for the Council to host the Autism Virtual Experience Bus on Wednesday 26 th April 2023 at Cookstown Leisure Centre. This visit forms part of the bus's week long tour of Council facilitates in the NH&SCT area.
2.0	Background
2.1	MUDC passed a motion in 2021 to ensure that Council explored the best ways to support people in District who have autism as well as their families and carers.
2.2	Since then, MUDC has provided staff with various types of training opportunities and implemented various initiatives which will be complimented by this opportunity to take part in a virtual experience activity.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	MUDC works in partnership with other organisations in order to deliver improved services for users who have neurodiverse conditions, this includes membership of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's (NH&SCT) ASD Forum.
3.2	As such NH&SCT has provided MUDC with the opportunity to host the Autism bus on 26 th April 2023 at Cookstown Leisure Centre. The Autism bus aims to provide a Virtual Autism Reality Experience. While every individual who has Autism is impacted upon in different ways the aim of the bus is to provide awareness and acceptance of these challenges.
3.3	The overall aim of this training is to increase practical knowledge and skill level of staff in understanding the Autism Spectrum as well as other types of neurodivergent conditions.
3.4	The Council will be allocated a minimum of 12 places for training of appropriate members of staff.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: This training is being provided to the Council Free of Charge.
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: This action is line with the delivery of the Council's Equality and Disability Action Plans.
	Rural Needs Implications: RNIA deemed as disproportionate in this instance.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that members note the delivery of this action in relation to the implementation of its direction to support people in the District who have autism and their families and carers.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A