



Correspondence Report For Information	28 August 2018
Council Meeting	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services
Cost: (If applicable)	Nil

1.	Derry City and Strabane District Council – Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association – Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in Northern Ireland (11 July 2018)
	<p>At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 28 June 2018, the following Motion was unanimously passed:</p> <p>That: this Council acknowledges the joint Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association campaign highlighting deep concern about the impact of the current definition of terminal illness used for eligibility for benefits including Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Council notes that PIP has special rules for applicants with terminal illnesses, which allows people to access payments quicker and without a face-to-face assessment. However, this avenue is only open to those who have been given a prognosis of six months or less. This restriction is unfairly excluding many people with terminal illnesses, including those with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), chronic heart failure and COPD, as they fail to access PIP under the special rules, meaning they have to wait much longer for their payments and undergo face-to-face assessments.</p> <p>Council affirms that this is unfair and denies people the best quality of life during the time they have left and calls on the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to follow the lead of Scottish Government and implement the call from Marie Curie</p>

	<p>and the MND Association for a fairer definition of terminal illness that is based on clinical judgement and patient need, not a time-restricted estimation of life expectancy.</p> <p>This Council will write to all of the other Councils in NI asking them to support this campaign.</p> <p>Derry City and Strabane District Council calls upon Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to support this campaign.</p>
2.	<p>Derry City and Strabane District Council – Use of Medical Cannabis (11 July 2018)</p> <p>At a Meeting of Derry city and Strabane District Council held on 28 June 2018, the following Motion was unanimously passed:</p> <p>That: Derry City & Strabane District Council supports the use of Medical Cannabis when its use is assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient and then prescribed by the recipient patient’s General Practitioner for such use.</p> <p>This Council, being particularly concerned in regard to the life threatening condition endured by Billy Caldwell and all others within the district in a similar position, therefore urges the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on such Medical Cannabis and the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same. That this campaign is taken forward by all eleven Councils.</p> <p>Derry City and Strabane District Council calls upon Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to support this campaign.</p>
3.	<p>Department of Health – Annual Progress Report (10 August 2018)</p> <p>The Department of Health’s Annual Progress Report 2017-18 is now available online at:</p> <p>https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/public-authority-annual-progress-report-2017-18.pdf</p>
4.	<p>Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People and Local Government Policy Division (NICCY) Department for Communities; Community Planning Conference Report – Co-Operation in Community Planning: Working with Children and Young People (13 August 2018)</p> <p>Over five years ago, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People engaged with (then DoE and now DfC) Local Government Policy Division (LGPD) on Community Planning as initially the legislation and subsequently, the Statutory Guidance on Community Planning was rolled out.</p>

This engagement resulted in a specific obligation within the guidance, to engage with children and young people in the Community Planning process.

Following this NICCY, with the support of the Local Government Policy Division, hosted a roundtable discussion bringing together those who can support and influence children's and young people's participation in Community Planning.

Currently, with the Community Planning Guidance, the Children's Services Co-operation Act (CSCA), the 2016 UN Committee's recommendations to the UK government and its devolved administrations, the draft Programme for Government (PfG) ('Outcomes Delivery Plan' 2018-19) and pending Children's and Young People's Strategy alongside delivery of Councils' Community Plans, we have a re-energised environment for the basis of a framework to facilitate the voice of children and young people.

However, from ongoing discussions had come the realisation there was a lack of awareness and/or understanding about the CSCA and a degree of circumspection about the role and obligations of Community Planning (Statutory) Partners in the delivery of Community Plans at local level.

With this in mind, LGPD and NICCY agreed to work in partnership to organise the '*Co-operation in Community Planning: Working with Children and Young People*' Conference to raise awareness of statutory obligations under CSCA and explore the roles and responsibilities of Statutory Community Planning Partners in the delivery of Community Plans as they relate to children and young people.

Please find link for the [Conference report and associated recommendations](#). Feedback is welcome on the recommendations (please forward any comments to the Senior Participation Officer, Ken Smyth (ken@niccy.org, 028 90311616).

If you require further participation related advice or support, please contact the Senior Participation Officer, Ken Smyth via ken@niccy.org or on 02890 311616).