



Rt Hon, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Gavin Robinson
Lord Mayor of Belfast
Lord Mayor's Office
Belfast City Hall
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Dear Lord Mayor,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the work of the Post 19 Lobby Group. The lobby group is made up of parents and carers of children and young people with severe learning disabilities and 21 special schools from across Northern Ireland.

Once October 9, 2012 the lobby group launched a research report "The Impact of Transition on Family Life" in the Long Gallery of Parliament Buildings. Stewart Dickson MLA kindly hosted the event. Transitions are a particularly significant part of anyone's life as we move from childhood into adulthood and this issue can be compounded for those with severe learning disabilities as they attempt to negotiate a complex set of arrangements when they leave the special school setting. Unfortunately for some of our young people this is not a time of hope and anticipation but rather of fitting in with available services which can be inappropriate in relation to need.

The lobby group would like to raise awareness within Councils across Northern Ireland of some of the issues surrounding transition, the research whilst providing a snapshot of life with a severely learning disabled member also seeks to provide examples of best practice, both nationally and internationally for ongoing opportunities for life-long learning.

To this end the lobby group would like to request the opportunity to make a short presentation to an appropriate committee within Council in order to raise awareness of transition and its impact on family life with a severely learning disabled member. The lobby group requests this presentation with the understanding that the role of councils in terms of commissioning services and committing resources is steadily increasing within the current change agenda, and the hope that by raising awareness of this issue and suggesting solutions/ alternatives to appropriate services for those with severe learning disabilities that the change agenda might translate into action. I hope that you will be able to grant this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Jamieson