



Subject:	Correspondence Received in Response to Motion – Suicide Prevention
Date:	4th June 2019
Reporting Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st April, passed a motion concerning suicide prevention. A letter was sent to The Executive Office detailing the motion and the Council's request to the Northern Ireland Assembly.</p> <p>Subsequently, a letter dated 16th May (Appendix 1) has been received from Mr Richard Pengelly, in reply to the aforementioned correspondence.</p>

2.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the correspondence.
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council, at its meeting of 1st April, passed the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Armitage and seconded by Councillor Attwood:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“This Council is deeply saddened by the increasing numbers of people dying by suicide in the city of Belfast. The Council recognises that each death is preventable and, therefore, is an even more painful episode for all; and understands the deep pain shared by families and close friends of those who have died by suicide.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Belfast needs to become a city safe from suicide and the Council needs to work with others to make Belfast a Zero Suicide City. This includes making the safe house in the City Centre permanent, supporting and resourcing those groups who work in counselling and suicide prevention, challenging the taboos of mental health and suicide and ensuring that there is adequate training and resources for all the citizens so that Belfast can react positively to assist those in need.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Council also calls on the Northern Ireland Assembly to implement the Protect Life 2 Strategy on suicide prevention.”</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There no financial implications relating to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications relating to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Response from Richard Pengelly, Department of Health, dated 16th May, 2019