



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Suicide Awareness Training
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on a Suicide Awareness Training, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> July, the following motion was proposed by Councillor M. Kelly and seconded by Councillor Long:  <i>“This Council recognises the Covid-19 pandemic will exacerbate the current mental health crisis in our City.</i>

*The Council previously agreed to work with others to make Belfast a Zero Suicide City to include 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.*

*All of us need to be aware of the signs and understand the questions to ask someone we are worried about and what help they can get. Therefore, Council agrees:*

- 1. That Training in mental health and suicide intervention is crucial; therefore Council will investigate resourcing further SafeTALK and Mental Health First Aid training programmes for staff.*
- 2. To appoint mental health champions in each Council Department in to act as a point of contact for an employee who is experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress, helping the person get appropriate help, and also provide early intervention for someone who may be developing a mental health issue.*
- 3. As a practical first step, to encourage Councillors and staff to undertake a short, free online course in Suicide Awareness training (developed by Mersey Care Foundation Trust and widely used across the NI Health and Social Care Trusts) – this teaches people how to recognise the warning signs and safeguard someone who could be contemplating suicide, talking openly to them and then directing them to appropriate services.”*

3.2 In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.3 **Financial and Resource Implications**

None associated with this report.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

None

**4.0 Appendices - Documents Attached**

None