



Subject:	Correspondence – Motion: Special Educational Needs - Legal Protection for Young People in NI
Date:	13th December, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received regarding Councillor Doherty's motion on Special Educational Needs - Legal Protection for Young People in NI.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report and agree to close the Notice of Motion.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At its meeting on 4th November, the Council agreed to adopt the following motion, proposed by Councillor Doherty, and seconded by Councillor Whyte:
3.2	<p>“The Council is concerned that no legislation providing legal protection for young people over the age of 19 with Special Education Needs exists in NI, in contrast with England and Wales.</p> <p>The Council commends tireless efforts and campaigning of everyone connected with Caleb's Cause.</p> <p>Alongside addressing the current gaps in Equality and Disability Legislation, that this council calls on the Minister of Education to ensure the intended outcomes of the RAISE programme are adjusted to meet the needs and experience of young people transitioning from Special Education and/or with SEND and will write to Ministers for Communities, Education and Health requesting that the required legislation be enacted to provide legal protection to young people in Northern Ireland.”</p>
3.3	Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Ministers for Communities, Education and Health, and responses have been received which confirm the Ministers’ support for legislative change.
3.4	
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from Minister for Health Appendix 2 – Response from Minister for Education Appendix 3 – Response from Minister for Economy.