



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Healthcare Provision in Belfast
Date:	21st March, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext. 6314

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd February, passed unanimously the undernoted notice of motion, which had been moved by Councillor Convery and seconded by Councillor Groves:</p> <p><i>“This Council expresses grave concern at the crisis conditions experienced recently by patients in many of the Accident and Emergency Departments across Northern Ireland; a problem which is symptomatic of a more general crisis in the National Health Service (NHS). The Council calls on the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to work actively for and with GPs and other health professionals to ensure service provision and to demonstrate the political will to deliver the best healthcare possible for patients. An effective strategy must be put in place to address the managerial problems which exist and to identify the structural change needed within the NHS. The future provision of Accident and Emergency services and improved facilities throughout Belfast hospitals to accommodate patients where admission is required must, going forward, be a key component in any strategic plan.”</i></p>
2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>A response has now been received from the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Mr. Edwin Poots, MLA. A copy of the response is attached.</p>
2.2	<p>In his correspondence, the Minister assures the Council that he is committed to protecting and improving the quality of services being delivered within the Health and Social Care system and acknowledges the valuable work being undertaken by staff in emergency departments.</p>
2.3	<p>However, he acknowledges that concerns have been raised recently regarding some aspects of emergency departments and outlines the actions which he has initiated to address those concerns.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendation
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the Minister's response and take such action thereon which may be determined.

6	Decision Tracking
Democratic Services Section will follow up on any decision taken.	