



Subject:	Belfast Statement on Mental Health & Deafness
Date:	22 January 2016
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Stella Gilmartin, Equality Officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee endorsement of the Belfast Statement on Mental Health and Deafness. This Statement was developed and agreed at the 6 th World Congress on Mental Health & Deafness in September 2014.
1.2	Since its agreement President, Brian Symington, has submitted a request to the Council seeking its endorsement of the Statement. Endorsement of the Statement will reinforce the Council's commitment to equality and to the aims and objectives of our Disability Strategy.
1.3	The World Federation of the Deaf is among the many other organisations wishing to endorse the final document.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endorse and support the 'Belfast Statement on Mental Health & Deafness' (attached at Appendix 1).

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The 6th World Congress on Mental Health & Deafness, comprising 300 delegates from around the world, met in Belfast from 16-19 September 2014. The objective of the Congress was to address issues around equal rights for deaf people in mental health care with the aim of agreeing a Pathway to Rights. The Belfast Statement is an outcome of that work.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implication</u></p> <p>The Statement reinforces the Council's commitment to equality and to the aims and objectives of our Disability Strategy.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 : The Belfast Statement on Mental Health & Deafness