



Subject:	Belfast City Council response to the Department of Health's new "Mental Health Strategy, 2021-31, for Northern Ireland"
Date:	9 th February 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
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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
1.1	The Department of Health has developed its draft mental health strategy for Northern Ireland and is now consulting on this. The consultation closes on Friday 26th March 2021 at 5.00pm.
1.2	Addressing mental health is a key priority within the Belfast Agenda and indeed for members. Therefore as with the previous response prepared for the consultation on the new drug and alcohol strategy being produced by DoH and which members considered at the January P&C Committee meeting, Council is again making the case as part of their response that the new strategy, and the structures associated with it, need to integrate and

1.3	<p>align with community planning structures to ensure both regional and local impact can be maximised.</p> <p>Officers have also highlighted the “Elephant in the Room” report jointly produced by the Belfast and NI Youth Forums and requested that the recommendations within it are fully considered and further developed as part of the implementation plan(s) for the strategy.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the draft consultation response at Appendix 1, which will then go to full Council for consideration in early March, in order that the final approved response can be submitted by the 26th March deadline.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial and resource implications for Council at present.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.2	<p>The consultation document confirms that the Department of Health has completed equality, good relations and rural needs screening (links to these provided).</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Draft Council Response</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Consultation document: “Mental Health Strategy for Northern Ireland, 2021-2031” (DoH)</p>