

Autism Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Autism

(4) The HSC trusts must provide the Department with all information it requests under subsection (3).

(5) The Department must keep the autism strategy under review and must publish a revised strategy at intervals of not more than seven years.

(6) The Department must monitor the implementation of the autism strategy by the Northern Ireland departments. 5

(7) The Northern Ireland departments must co-operate with the Department in relation to the preparation, review and implementation of the autism strategy.

(8) The Northern Ireland departments must implement that part of the autism strategy which falls within their responsibilities and the Department must implement that part of the autism strategy which falls within its responsibilities. 10

(9) Not more than three years after the publication of the autism strategy, and at intervals of no more than three years thereafter, the Department must prepare a report on implementation of the autism strategy by the Northern Ireland departments and the Department. 15

(10) The Minister shall lay a report prepared by the Department under subsection (9) before the Assembly as soon as possible after its preparation.

Content of the autism strategy

3.—(1) The autism strategy must set out how the needs of persons with autism are to be addressed throughout their lives. 20

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) the needs to be set out in the autism strategy shall include the health care, educational and social needs of persons with autism.

(3) The autism strategy must set out how the needs of families and carers of persons with autism are to be addressed. 25

(4) The autism strategy must set out the Department's proposals for promoting an autism awareness campaign.

(5) The autism strategy must set out the steps the Department proposes to take to ensure that Northern Ireland Civil Service staff who deal directly with the public in the course of their duties are given autism awareness training. 30

(6) The Department may make regulations as regards the content of the autism strategy.

Supplementary

Interpretation

4.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— 35

“autism” means autism, Asperger's syndrome, Rett's syndrome, Heller's syndrome or any pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified;

“autism strategy” means the strategy required to be published under section 2;

“carer”, in relation to a person with autism, means an individual who provides a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for that person; 40

“Department” means the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety;

“HSC trust” refers to a body established under Article 10 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (NI 1);

5 “Minister” means the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety;

“Northern Ireland department” means the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, the Department of Education, the Department for Employment and Learning, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Department of Justice, the Department for Regional Development, the Department for Social Development and the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Regulations and orders made under this Act

15 **5.**—(1) No order or regulation may be made under this Act unless a draft of the order or regulation has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Assembly.

(2) Before making a regulation or an order under this Act the Department must consult the Northern Ireland departments and such other persons as the Department thinks appropriate.

Commencement

6. This Act comes into operation after the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which it is passed.

Short title

25 **7.** This Act may be cited as the Autism Act (Northern Ireland) 2010.