

1 July 2011

Chief Executive  
Northern Health and Social Care Trust  
The Cottage  
5 Greenmount Avenue  
BALLYMENA  
BT43 6DA

Dear Sir

**Termination of the Autism NI ASD Family Support Service Contract with WHSCT**

I enclose a copy of a letter received from Autism NI regarding the above, together with a copy of this Council's letter of protest to your colleagues in the WHSCT.

I believe the letter from Autism NI, together with the Council's reply is self-explanatory. However during the debate the Members decided that the Council should send a letter to your organisation, urging them not to even consider replicating the action taken by WHSCT. As stated in our letter to your colleague in the Western Trust this Council believes that these individuals together with their extended families are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. This Council is prepared to take whatever action is necessary in order to retain the current level of care which these individuals and their families currently receive. The Members fervently hope that your organisation will not be as uncaring and belligerent as your colleagues in the West and would urge you to not even consider such a proposal.

The Members would ask that you would confirm that your organisation has no such proposals under consideration.

Yours faithfully

**J A McLaughlin**  
**Chief Executive**

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