**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

**The Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022**

**S.R. 2022 No. 45**

## 1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Education to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 7(2) and 43(5) of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

## 2. Purpose

2.1. The Rule amends the Education (Curriculm Minimum Content) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 ("the 2007 Order") to add cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) education and automatic external defibrillator (AED) awareness as a compulsory part of the curriculum at Key Stage 3.

## 3. Background

3.1. There is widespread consensus around the need for CPR training to be available as widely as possible in Northern Ireland. Evidence from other countires indicates that early CPR intervention can save thousands of lives.

3.2. In particular there has been a consensus that CPR training and AED awareness should be included within the school curriculum at Key Stage 3. A Private Member's Bill on this issue had previously been introduced to the Assembly but has now been withdrawn.

3.3. The Department is therefore amending the 2007 Order to add CPR training and AED awareness as a compulsory topic in Learning for Life and Work: Personal Development at Key Stage 3 from September 2022.

3.4. The changes to the curriculum are part of a wider package to provide resources and training to support the rollout of CPR training in schools and the Department is working closely with its educational partners and key stakeholders including the British Heart Foundation and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

## 4. Consultation

4.1. There is no legislative requirement for the Department to consult on these proposals. However, an extensive consultation was carried out on the Private Member's Bill which indicated overwhelming support for the topic to be made compulsory.

## 5. Equality Impact

5.1. An Equality Screening Exercise has concluded that it will not differentially impact on any of the section 75 groups.

## 6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for these regulations as they have no impact on businesses, charities, social economy enterprises or voluntary bodies.

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1. The Department of Education is providing funding to support this legislative change.

## 8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Departmental Solicitor's Office has confirmed that the Order complies with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which requires that it is compatible with the rights in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

## 9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

## 10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. There are no parity or replicatory measures.

## 11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.