Departmental Security Health Check (DSHC)

Ricky Irwin presented the annual DSHC to the Board and walked members through the sections of the report.

Action Points:

- DE Board members to undertake cyber security risk training; and
- DE Board to receive a presentation on the General Data Protection Regulation prior to May 2018.

Research on Post Primary Experiences of 16-21 Year old Young People who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender (LGB&T)

Richard Magowan updated members on the key findings of the research on post primary experiences of 16-21 year old young people who are LGB&T and the key issues identified. The Chair updated the Board on his meeting with Rainbow earlier in the week.

DE 2017/18 Corporate Risk Register & Risk Management

Fiona Hepper provided the Board with an update on risk management covering significant changes to the Corporate Risk Register since the last Board meeting on 31 August 2017. Fiona also informed members that the ALB alignment exercise had just been completed and summarized the findings.
Mid-year Report on 2017/18 Business Plan

Fiona Hepper provided the Board with the mid-year position against commitments/actions in the 2017/18 Business Plan. Members discussed the circumstances of the red actions and were content to accept the position.

- The status of action 4.3.1 in is to be re-assessed at to see if it should move from Amber to Red.

HR Report

Anne Breen presented the HR Report for the period ending October 2017 covering Resourcing, Employee Relations, Learning & Development and the NICS HR Transformation Project. Members noted that there was a slight improvement in performance management with the figure of outstanding 2017/18 Personal Performance Agreements/Personal Development Plans reducing to 16.8%.

Director of Finance Report

Gary Fair presented his paper on key finance issues covering:

- 2017-18 Resource Budget
- 2017-18 EA Resource Budget Allocation
- Earmarked Allocations
- Review of Earmarked Funds
- Budget 2018-20 (Resource) 2018-21 (Capital)
- 2017-18 Capital Budget and In-Year Review
- Prompt Payment Performance

Gary also informed the Board that he had just received Internal Audit’s draft report on the review of EA systems and capacity to monitor schools’ spend. He verbally updated members on the findings.

Impact of the UK Leaving the EU on Education in NI

Beverly Wall spoke to her paper and provided the Board with an update on the current position on the impact of the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union. She advised that planning is now underway for Day 1 and presented the Department’s draft EU Future Relations Communications Plan. The Board noted and approved the plan.