



Family Policy Unit
DHSSPS
Room C4.22
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

29 March 2007

Consultation On Families Matter: Supporting Families in Northern Ireland

To: Family Policy Unit

The Big Lottery Fund welcomes the publication of Families Matter for consultation.

Big Lottery Fund has funded a range of projects that have benefited families in Northern Ireland. An example of one such project is Parents' Education As Autism Therapists who were awarded £236,529 to fund the design and production of the Simple Steps multi-media CD-Rom training and support package. This package is for parents who have a child with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, which affects children by inhibiting social interaction, communication and meaningful play. The project will use the science of Applied Behaviour Analysis, which challenges behaviours and teaches new skills and is based on the principle of positive reinforcement of defined behaviours.

Throughout 2006 we launched a range of new programmes: -

- Reaching Communities Northern Ireland
- Improving Community Buildings
- Live and Learn
- Safe and Well
- We are currently developing a Trust Fund for Northern Ireland.

The development of our new programmes, for the period 2006/09 was informed by our consultation in 2005.

During programme development, BIG want to build upon existing strategies, good practice and any relevant initiatives. We therefore look forward to the publication of a regional family and parenting strategy for Northern Ireland.

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Big Lottery Fund
1 Cromac Quay
Cromac Wood
Ormeau Road
Belfast BT7 2JD
t 028 9055 1455
f 028 9055 1444
A 028 9055 1431
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Chair
Sir Clive Booth

Chief Executive
Stephen Dunmore
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Big Lottery Fund is the joint operating name of the New Opportunities Fund and the National Lottery Charities Board (which made grants under the name of the Community Fund)



Should you require any further information please contact Norrie Breslin on 028 90551442. Further details of all our new programmes can be found on our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Rader".

Walter Rader
Director, Northern Ireland