



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Families Matter: *Supporting Families in Northern Ireland*

**The Department of Health, Social Services and
Public Safety's Proposals on a Regional Family
and Parenting Strategy**

Response Document

January 2007

Consultation Questions

Please respond to the consultation document by e-mail, letter or fax.

Responses should be sent to:

e-mail: familypolicyunit@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Family Policy Unit
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
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Stormont
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Responses must be received no later than **30th March 2007**.

(Please tick a box)	
I am responding:	<input type="checkbox"/> as an individual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> on behalf of an organisation
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Supporting Families

1. **Do you agree that the aims stated are the right aims? (Please tick)**

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: But also disabled children and their families may need additional support to access universal and specialist services

2. **Do you agree that the vision stated is the right vision? (Please tick)**

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: But also disabled children and their families may need additional support to access universal and specialist services

3. **The document lists 10 principles that underpin the strategy. Do you agree with the principles stated? (Please tick)**

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: But also disabled children and their families may need additional support to access universal and specialist services

4. **The document lists 7 outcomes from the Children and Young People's strategy, 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge'. Do you agree that these are the right outcomes for this strategy? (Please tick)**

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: But also disabled children and their families will need additional benefits and financial support because of the additional costs of bringing up disabled children

5. **The focus of this strategy is primarily on preventative and early intervention to support parents at particular times of need and at particular stages in the development of their child. Do you think that this is the appropriate scope for the strategy? (Please tick)**

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

Disabled children, young people and their families will need additional services and support beyond early needs

Priority Themes

6. Do you agree that Theme 1 – Parental Support is an appropriate theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: But - disabled children and their families need support and additional services not because they are poor or failing parents but because of the need for support so that every disabled child can meet their potential. Age to be increased to 25 for disabled young people.

7. Do you agree the actions suggested in Theme 1 are appropriate actions to take under this theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: But disabled children will need universal and specialist services provided by H.V they will need additional training to meet the needs of disabled children and families.

8. Do you agree that Theme 2 – Access to Information is an appropriate theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: But sure start programme is not meeting the needs of disabled children and their families currently and additional resources and training needed. Also the emphasis needs to be on support because of additional needs not because parents are failing

9. Do you agree the actions suggested in Theme 2 are appropriate actions to take under this theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

NB: Northern Ireland to look at the Early Support programme for disabled children for England and build it in to the Sure Start programme

10. Do you agree that Theme 3 – Assessment of Needs is an appropriate theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

11. Do you agree the actions suggested in Theme 3 are appropriate actions to take under this theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

Additional work will need to ensure that the assessment process meets the needs of disabled children and their families. Pilot work in England suggests that there are a number of issues/problems. Problems with the timescale in terms of RPA

12. Do you agree that Theme 4 – Information Sharing is an appropriate theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

13. Do you agree the actions suggested in Theme 4 are appropriate actions to take under this theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

Parental involvement in the process is crucial. Issues are ever more complex for disabled children and their families.

14. Do you agree Theme 5 – Integration and Multi-Agency Working is an appropriate theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

15. Do you agree the actions suggested in Theme 5 are appropriate actions to take under this theme? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

CCNUK has produced best practice stanards for key working for disabled children and their families. Keyworking is a way of implementing multi-agency working. Evidence from England suggests that disabled children are not having their needs met by the structures of Children's Centres. Visit www.ccnuk.org.uk for more information

Equality Implications

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires Departments and other public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Between persons with dependants and persons without.

In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, public authorities must also in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have regard to

the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Where there is evidence or an indication that an existing policy is having an adverse impact on equality of opportunity, or that a proposed policy may cause an adverse impact, an **Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)** may need to be carried out on the policy. The process used by a public authority to determine whether an existing policy or new policy needs an EQIA is called **screening**.

The Department is now screening the proposals set out in this consultation document and as part of the screening process, the Department invites you to consider the following questions.

The Department is inviting responses to the following questions:

- 17. Are the actions or proposals, which are set out in this document likely to have an adverse impact on any group of people in terms of the nine equality dimensions? (Please tick)**

YES

NO

If yes, please state the reasons why.

Disabled children, young people and their families.

- 18. Are you aware of any indication or evidence – qualitative or quantitative – that the actions or proposals in this document may**

have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or good relations? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If yes, please state the reasons why and how these might be mitigated.

Look at research around disabled children and their families. The launch of the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign in England.

19. Does the proposed strategy and actions afford an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? (Please tick)

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

More work needs doing on disabled children and their families

Additional Comments

20. Do you have any other comments, which you think might be relevant to the development of the strategy?

CCNUK is a networking organisation promoting and supporting key working for disabled children and their families in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. CCNUK is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee with its head office in York and with national offices in Scotland and Wales. We have an active Northern Ireland group. We have evidence of best practice for the CCNUK key worker standards that have been endorsed by Westminster and Wales Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive. The research to support the standards is in "An Exploration of Different Models of Multi-Agency Partnerships in Key Worker Services for Disabled Children: Effectiveness and Costs" By V. Greco, P.Sloper, R. Webb and J. Beecham (2005)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS