

**Families Matter:
*Supporting Families in Northern Ireland***

Response from Home-Start Dalriada



I am responding: as an individual on behalf of an organisation

Home-Start Dalriada is a rural scheme with 18 families, a part-time organiser 20 hours per week, 8 Committee members, and 16 home visiting volunteers.

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Supporting Families

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

YES NO

Additional Comments

Home-Start Dalriada agrees with the aims of the Strategy. Parental choice is important and services should be flexible and offer choice.

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

YES NO

Additional Comments

The role of parents should be identified as a key to enabling children and young people to reach their full potential.

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

YES NO

Additional Comments

The 10 principles are absolutely critical to children/young people achieving their full potential.

Home-Start Dalriada considers that parents should be included in informing services. Parent to parent support and the contribution of the volunteer should be recognised.

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

Additional comments

It is important that when supporting children/young people who have suffered abuse that the services are flexible and tailor made.

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

Additional comments

The use of quantitative and qualitative data is important in providing evidence to show how supporting parents helps them support their children and young people to reach their full potential.

Priority Themes

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

YES NO

Additional comments

Good parenting should be described as the main way of preventing difficulties. The support Home-Start offers through parent-to-parent support makes a difference and is provided in a way families want and for as long as they need it.

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

YES NO

Additional comments

Home-Start Dalriada considers that Sure Start plays an important role in the development of parental support. There should also be recognition of voluntary and community based organisations.
Home-Start Dalriada would like to see the inclusion of parent-to-parent support in empowering parents to take up the opportunities available in their community.

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

YES NO

Additional comments

It is important to make available information about all the existing services available to families within the statutory, voluntary and community sector. The importance of parent-to-parent support should be included, as services and information may not be accessed without the offer of support encouraging parents to use what is available.

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

YES NO

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

YES NO

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

YES NO

Additional comments:

Home-Start Dalriada supports the introduction of a common assessment framework through the introduction of UNOCINI.

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

YES NO

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

YES ✓ NO

Additional comments:

Rights and welfare of the child are of paramount importance

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

YES ✓ NO

Additional comments:

Home-Start Dalriada welcomes the inclusion of integration and multi-agency working and has been working closely in partnership with Dalriada Sure Start. This has been to the benefit of families as most of the families receiving Home-Start support are also able to access Sure Start Services.

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

YES ✓ NO

Equality Impact - Questions 16 -19

Home-Start Dalriada considers that the actions or proposals within the document would not have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity.

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

If the services are to be further developed for families there is a need to provide increased funding.