derry
healthy cities

Ref EOK/SM/DHSSPS

18 March 2005

Regional Strategy Team
DHSSPS
Room C4.22
Castle Buildings
Belfast
BT4 3SJ

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: A Healthier Future Consultation

On behalf of Derry Healthy Cities I welcome the opportunity to respond to the current consultation on the above strategy and congratulate the Department on the delivery of a comprehensive and readable document.

The Healthy Cities movement was created to ensure collaborative action in targeting the causes of poor health and health inequality that are directly linked to the wider determinants of health and we see this strategy reinforcing that purpose. To that extent we feel that the thrust of the strategy has synergy with our own.

We would however like to see more attention paid to the potential role of organisations like ours and the community and voluntary sector as a whole in achieving a healthier future. The Investing for Health strategy espouses the need to invest in existing local structures for delivery and we trust that this strategy will re-enforce that view.

We also feel that the health improvement, health promotion agenda whilst mentioned often, is still not sufficiently bedded into the core objectives of the 20 year plan. Prevention over cure needs to become a stronger theme of all health development on NI.

We await the delivery of a comprehensive action plan, which clearly outlines the necessary resources and lead stakeholders in taking forward this strategy and look forward to playing our part in the implementation of the plan.

Yours sincerely

John Meehan
Chairman

Glenshane Road, Derry / Londonderry BT47 6SB **t.** 028 7161 1384 **f.** 028 7161 1396 **e.** info.dhc@lineone.net
Company No. XR15820