

Received
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Appendix 3

Consultation Questions Response Document

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
Room C4.22
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Fax: 02890 520529

Responses must be received no later than **30th March 2007.**

(Please tick a box)		
I am responding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> as an individual	<input type="checkbox"/> on behalf of an organisation
Name:	Priscilla Magee	
Job Title:	Family Support Strategy Coordinator	
Organisation:	NCH	
Address:	Erne Family Centre, 15 Elliott Place, Enniskillen, BT74 7HQ	
Tel:	02866 344245	Fax:
Email:		

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.

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

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

Very narrow, what about the children who cannot reach their full potential, the children who live in communities where participation is restricted. There is no mention of the role that parents / carers play

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.

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.

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.

Difficult to make a clear definition between intensive & preventative support, particularly when creating community based services without creating a 2 tier support system. Will less money be found for this strategy as it is "only preventative"

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.

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.

These are unclear actions particularly "Health Visitors Action" as the positive results of Hall 4 are yet to be seen. (if there is any) I believe the visiting of parents in their home is a vital part of their role taking into consideration 75% of speech therapy referrals comes from Health Visitors

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.

I basically agree with this however my local childcare website is very poor & out of date. More money needs to be spent getting the information channels created & professionals learning to "share" information taking into consideration confidentiality.

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.

But will it happen in the timescale?

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.

But will it happen by next week
[I do not think so] taking into
consideration the number of staff to
train & the lack of IT support

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.

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

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

All agencies/services/organisations need to be pulled into line & have the same set of protocols when working with families

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.

Does not go far enough

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.

Does not go far enough. What use is only
£100m to the communities within
NI. Multiagency working is promoted yet
organisations have to fight for yearly
funding. Education does not have
the ethos of Sure Start & it will be
interesting to see how they cope with
running it.

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.

- 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.

- 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.

Additional Comments

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

Law of sweeping/generalised statements on parenting have been used in this strategy. I do not like the statement in ~~§ 5.13~~ § 5.13 "The majority of us believe that parenting just comes naturally - that it is instinct - you are born with it." This is very simplistic & does not make any sense - if this was the case ~~we~~ the majority of the population would be perfect parents and we would not need this strategy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS