

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

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

(Please tick a box)

I am responding: as an individual 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.

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

YES NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

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

See below.

If no, please state the reasons why.

"in times of need" - does this refer to the universalist service as well as specialist? If yes then critical period from birth needs to be fully understood as development of the child's full potential - is dependent on the right stimulation
"partnership" - parents should be the first and central partner.

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

See below

If no, please state the reasons why.

Importance of parenting is recognized but more emphasis is on short term parenting courses and classes than long term child development programmes. Short term courses may have short term impact.

Themes such as positive parenting should be included at several times in the birth to five curriculum in a non-stigmatising way. All services delivered by the community and voluntary sector seen as "professional".

Priority Themes

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

YES NO
See below

If no, please state the reasons why.

Need to ensure there is clarity re; roles and responsibilities of Health visitor attached to Early Years Facilities and greater integrated working particularly re; child development + early prevention.

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

YES NO
See below.

If no, please state the reasons why.

Need actions such as parenting classes to be addressed at different times from 0-5 yrs.

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

YES NO
See below.

If no, please state the reasons why.

Resource issues regarding database.
Difficulties in ensuring information is correct and up to date.

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.

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.

Comment - better use of skills + knowledge of the voluntary + community sector could reshape and speed up the referral process of in relation to speech + language therapy. Could direct referrals be made by family support services rather than via the health visitor?

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.

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.

*Need to keep parents at the centre of a partnership approach.
any protocols developed need to be clearly unambiguous and not open to interpretation.*

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.

Six centres are inappropriate for Northern Ireland, the level of funding for children's centres, specialist and children's services should be on a par with the rest of the UK. Children's centres should have to include community, voluntary and statutory services.

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?

Strategy needs to be properly received.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS