

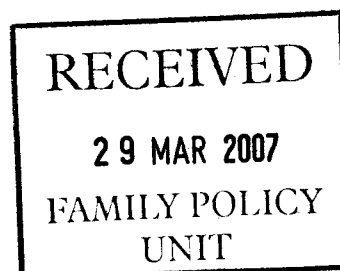
Consultation Questions

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

Responses should be sent to:

e-mail: familypolicyunit@dhspsni.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: as an individual on behalf of an organisation

Name: Bridget Nodder
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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.

BUT we would wish to see 'carers' explicitly included each time that parents are referenced

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

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

The vision should specifically relate to parents and carers and their role in improving outcomes for children

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.

BUT NICMA broadly support the principles but feel that there should be a principle that reflects the pivotal role that families play within society and the need to value and respect that

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.

NICMA believe that focusing on preventative and early intervention should be the appropriate focus for the strategy. Within this approach, there needs to be a recognition of the role that childminders can play in supporting families due to the close personal relationship between parent and childminder which is part of the childminding arrangement

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.

As per question 5 above there needs to be a recognition of the role that childminders play in supporting families. Currently nearly 20,000 children are cared for in a childminding setting; because of the close personal relationship that occurs between childminder and parent, childminders are often a support mechanism to parents in many aspects of the child's development and in parenting skills. This role needs to be recognised and built upon as a less informal, non threatening way of supporting parents, but one which also requires that childminders are skilled and knowledgeable in providing the appropriate support.

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.

[Empty rectangular box]

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.

As well as the actions suggested it would be important to use and extend existing information sources. NICMA have developed over the last 23 years a full and detailed Information & Advice helpline service, currently used by over 8,000 parents annually, for all aspects of childminding related queries

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.

[Empty rectangular box]

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.

[Empty rectangular box for reasons]

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

YES

NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

[Empty rectangular box for reasons]

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.

[Empty rectangular box for reasons]

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.

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.

[Empty rectangular box for response]

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

YES

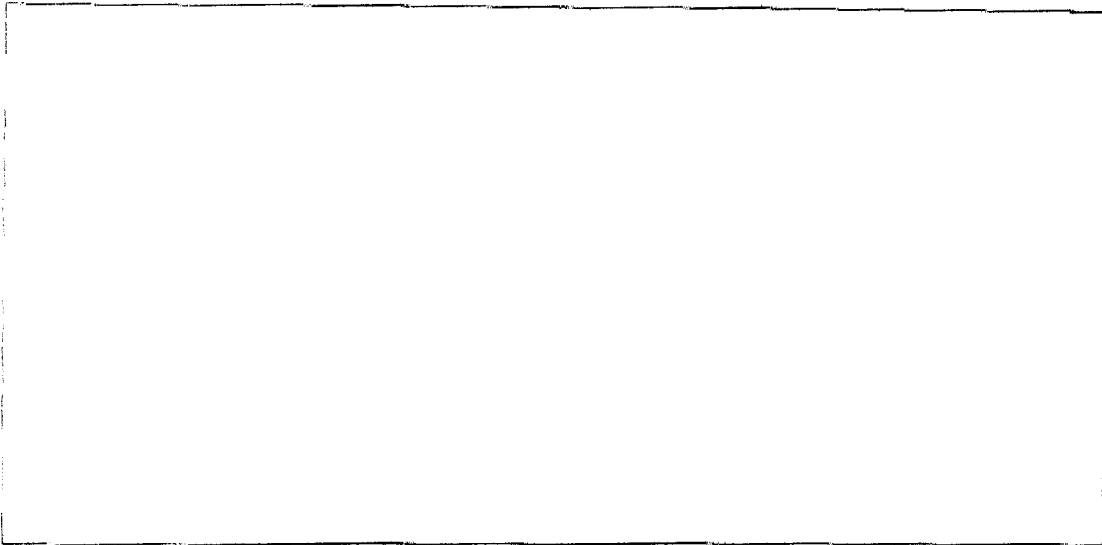
NO

If no, please state the reasons why.

[Empty rectangular box for response]

Additional Comments

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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS