

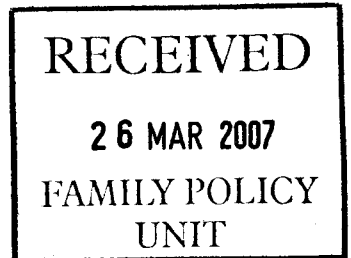
Consultation Questions Response Document

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: as an individual on behalf of an organisation

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Organisation: Parenting Partnership Service

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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

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.

Yes, prevention is the key, followed by interventions at level 2, extra support.

Priority Themes

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

YES

NO

Yes, generally however Programmes such as DELTA in the Southern Board have been running very successfully and DELTA's evidence, we would suggest that from birth helping children's learning and thinking abilities should be included. Early learning and play, setting good example, boundaries and consequences from a very early age, more emphasis on Ante natal and baby messages.

Stress management and mediation are extremely important parents understanding of the importance of their management on the home and family even when relationships breakdown is necessary in order to ensure damage limitation.

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

YES

NO

Parenting classes are not always response to a problem, the Southern Board's DELTA has run very successfully for 12 years and can be cited for encouraging people into further study and into the work force. It has worked successfully as within multidisciplinary framework and promoted a very positive holistic educare message to parents.

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

8. ACTION: We do not agree that *the Safe Parenting* hand book is positive, it is has a very negative message. The cover is positive ~ happy smiling children. The contents ~ the alphabetical order does not work, mixing messages for different age ranges of children doesn't work, ~research shows that messages at particular stages are more appropriate. In DELTA's experience when this booklets has been given out to groups of parents, the general comment is if "you read this book before you had children you would choose not to have them" ~ certainly not a positive message.
The few positive messages get lost in the problems!
DELTA in the Southern area is not included and is the largest parenting programme service in the Southern Area.

BARRIERS

Barriers to attending sessions include lack of crèche facilities and transport, will the strategy give funding this problem outside sure start areas?, even within sure start it is difficult to get crèche facilities for time limited programmes. Programmes such as DELTA work with all parents in the Southern Board and have been particularly successful in getting to some of the hard to reach families. Some parents have difficulty attending school settings for a number of reasons, but are happy to attend community groups or Home Start settings, therefore services must be offered in a variety of local settings. DELTA has not found that stigma is a barrier as our approach is about Developing Everyone's Learning & Thinking Abilities a very positive theme over 1,000 parents attended a variety of programmes for parents from birth to 12 years in the last 12 months.

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

YES

NO

9. Yes, some services are flexible, working evening and weekends e.g DELTA, indeed asking parents what time is most suitable for them.

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.

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.

11. Yes a coordinated approach is necessary.

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.

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.

Yes, the DELTA Parenting Partnership Service is an excellent example of
— Health, Social Services and Education working together for parents.
— DELTA staff are currently employed by Newry & Mourne Trust (Southern
— Trust after 1st April 2007) & SELB. The service works towards the Southern
— Area Childcare Partnerships and children services targets. The service is lined
— manager by Newry & Mourne Trust and accommodated by SELB .
An excellent working relationship is in place with very positive outcomes for
parents and carers of children in the antenatal/ pre-birth period and /or from
Birth through to 16 years old.

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.

Children's centre will be appropriate in urban settings
what about rural areas?
Is the suggestion equitable?

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.

_____ No ~ the nine dimensions are appropriate _____

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?

DELTA feels very strongly that government documents must use the term
— “pre birth or antenatal and birth” rather than “0” (nought) a parent never feels —
there child is zero/nothing. —

DELTA generally welcomes the document, Liz Jones had been working on a strategy —
document for the Southern Boards’ Area along with group of 12 others from multi- —
agencies, we had a draft document in place which was very similar to the Supporting —
Families document, —

Liz Jones

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS

Any Other Comments

Sept - Jan ('06 - '07)

Information taken from
a working party SELB / SHSSB Area.

This strategy attempts to set a framework by which to understand the services offered to support parents in SELB / Southern Board Area and the contribution they make to meeting the overall needs of parents and families. More importantly, the strategy sets a direction for the future so as to give clarity about why activity is prioritised.

This overall direction must be strongly influenced by what parents and families tell us about their needs and preferences. It must reflect the intention made explicit in Every Child Matters to build up the amount of early support and intervention that is on offer, and for agencies to work together to provide that. Essentially this implies that greater attention will be given over time to enhancing "protective factors" which increase families' ability to function effectively. Situations will not have to develop into crisis before appropriate support is offered. The driving force is to produce better outcomes for children and young people.

Overall, the approach rests on key findings from research that

- Parents wish to receive information, advice and support services, but that they do not want these to be intrusive or to undermine their feeling of being in control.
- There is a need for a range of services to meet the needs of parents and children at different times in their lives
- Support can be provided successfully by people other than professionals.

Principles that are fundamental to the implementation of the strategy.

These are -

- Services will be flexible, and organised and developed according to the needs and perspectives of the children and families who use them. We will invite and welcome their influence on what we do, and provide a means of them contributing to ongoing evaluation and review of it.

Comments from parents when SHSSB/SELB
Parenting Strategy was being developed.
Parents felt.

Parents wanted:

1. Access to quality services
2. Time with other parents
3. Being able to get decent housing
4. Time out with their children
5. Support from other adults / someone to talk
6. Opportunities to meet + share -
7. Realistic expectations from self and others about being a parent.
8. Access to constructive information support + advice.
9. Knowing how to help children be healthy & develop.

Liz Jones

23/3/07.

This strategy aims to contribute to the achievement of the five outcomes in the Children Act 2004, namely

Staying safe
Being healthy
Enjoying and achieving
Making a positive contribution
Achieving economic well-being

Parenting is recognised as a theme that cuts across all five outcomes.

At the same time, we became aware of the results of work on outcome measurement undertaken in the USA – particularly in the State of Vermont. Both of these influences, together with a focus on the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, have resulted in the following set of proposals for outcome measures for children and young people in Northern Ireland.

1. All children and young people have a stable upbringing;
2. All children and families live in safe, supportive communities;
3. All children and young people live free from poverty;
4. All pregnant women, new parents and babies thrive;
5. All children are ready for learning and school;
6. All children and young people enjoy and succeed during school years;
7. All children and young people are involved in decisions that affect them;
8. All children and young people make a positive contribution that is valued;
9. All children and young people make a safe transition to adulthood.