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Boomer, Linda

From: Garfield Denise [Denise.Garfield@foyletrust.n-i.nhs.uk]
Sent: 08 February 2007 09:37
To: Boomer, Linda
Subject: FW: RE: SBNI Consulation Questionnaire
Importance: High
Attachments: SBNI Consultation Questionnaire January 2007.doc

Linda

Please see the attached response from Foyle Trust.

Many thanks

Denise
PA
Phil Mahon's office

-----Original Message-----

From: Mahon Phil
Sent: 08 February 2007 08:39
To: Garfield Denise
Subject: FW: RE: SBNI Consulation Questionnaire

please send on.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hutton Marie
Sent: 07 February 2007 15:13
To: Mahon Phil
Cc: Garfield Denise
Subject: FW: RE: SBNI Consulation Questionnaire

phil atached response from child protection panel It reflects the general response from ourselves -no point in reinventing wheel !

Marie

-----Original Message-----

From: Crumlish Loretta
Sent: 06 February 2007 12:26
To: Hutton Marie
Subject: FW: RE: SBNI Consulation Questionnaire

Marie, combined response from cpp attached, Loretta

-----Original Message-----

From: OHara Angela
Sent: 06 February 2007 12:18

08/02/2007

To: McTernan Eamon
Cc: Mooney Adele; Crumlish Loretta
Subject: RE: SBNI Consulation Questionnaire

Eamon

Please see attached completed questionnaire from Ann McDuff for your attention.

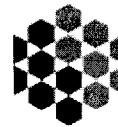
Any queries, please let me know.

Angela O'Hara
for Ann McDuff, A/PM F&CC

<<SBNI Consultation Questionnaire January 2007.doc>>

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CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

QUESTIONNAIRE JANUARY 2007

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety invites you to respond to this consultation document on the Establishment of a Regional Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.

Responses should be sent by letter or email to:

Linda Boomer
Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Child Care Policy Directorate
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Email: linda.boomer@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Your response must be received by 9th February 2007.

(Please tick box)

I am responding: as an individual on behalf
of an organisation.

Name: Mrs Phil Mahon

Job Title: Director of Health Care

Organisation: Foyle Health & Social Services Trust

Address: Riverview House, Abercorn Road, L'Derry

Tel: 71266111 EXT 2292 Fax: :71260806

Email: phil.mahon@foyletrust.n-i.nhs.uk

Before completing your response, please see Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality

Questions to answer. Please write clearly.

PROPOSED ROLE AND SCOPE OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (SBNI)

Q1: Do you agree that there should be one region wide Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI)? If not, what alternative model would you suggest?

Foyle Health & Social Services Trust is satisfied with and fully supportive of the proposal for one region wide Safeguarding Board.

Q2: Are there any other broad elements or interfaces which you think should be included in the scope of the SBNI's role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children?

Q3: Do you agree that a single database should be created for at risk children? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Fully agree with a single database. However we are anxious that one system should be clarified, announced and operated as soon as possible and with appropriate training. This should include adequate electronic infrastructure.

Q4: Are there any other objectives which you think should fall to the SBNI?

The objectives are clear and very appropriate for the safeguarding of children.

Q5: Do you agree that statutory powers should be created to enable the Minister to require the setting up of similar databases as outlined in the Children's Act 2004? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

We endorse this viewpoint.

APPOINTMENT AND ROLE OF CHAIRMAN AND LAY MEMBERS OF THE SBNI

Q6: Do you agree that the chairman and lay members should be public appointments? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Supportive of public appointments, would request criteria is compiled for
appointments and suggest adequate induction programme given the range of
agencies involved.

Q7: Do you agree that chairpersons and lay people should not serve for more than 2 terms, with each term lasting no more than 4 years? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

We suggest term of office should be 3 years rather than the 4 years suggested and we
agree appointments should not exceed 2 terms

Q8: What kind of experience, knowledge and qualifications do you consider is important for the independent chairman to have?

The issue of the independent nature of the Chair was debated with varying interpretations. This needs clarification eg can a former employee from an associate agency be appointed? Can an employee be released for the term of office? Person appointed should demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the legislative framework pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of the representative agencies. Appointee should be an effective communicator.

Q9: What kind of experience, knowledge and qualifications, if any, do you consider is important for lay members to have?

Commitment to child care issues and inter-agency working to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Q10: Do you agree that the SBNI should have its own secretariat and budget? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Yes

HOW THE SBNI WILL OPERATE

Q11: Do you agree that membership of the SBNI should be drawn from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Yes, and where possible to involve cross-border representation.

Also, we suggest representation from Learning Disability & Mental Health.

Q12: Do you agree that membership of the SBNI should be a statutory obligation? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Absolutely

Q13: Do you agree that membership of the SBNI should be drawn from senior members of relevant agencies? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Yes.

Require a robust communication strategy to ensure two way communication of important issues.

Q14: Do you agree with the level of seniority of the posts which are being proposed to comprise the SBNI? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Full agreement

Q15: Do you agree that individual Agencies should be held accountable for ensuring co-operation and promotion of the welfare of the child? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Full agreement.

What monitoring tool will be used to ensure this happens?

Q16: Do you agree with the range of Agencies/Interests proposed to comprise the core membership of the SBNI? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

We would suggest the scope of DHSSPS representation should be revised to consider

a wider representation eg health and education - this will also facilitate effective

inter-departmental liaison.

Q17: Do you agree with the proposal for rolling membership of the SBNI? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Yes - please ensure appointments are staggered or at the very least shadowed

before handover.

Q18: Do you agree that rolling membership of the SBNI should be reviewed no later than every 4 years? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

3 years as previously suggested.

Q19: What other expertise do you consider appropriate for the SBNI to utilise in order to discharge its functions effectively?

Well covered, no suggestions.

YOUNG PERSON'S REFERENCE GROUP

Q20: Do you think that a Young Person's Reference Group should be established? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Yes

Q21: Do you agree that the Young Person's Reference Group should be available to the SBNI through the chairman? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Yes

Q22: What age group should the Young Person's Reference Group be drawn from?

11 yrs – 20yrs

Q23: How many members of the Young Person's Reference Group should there be?

10 members. 2 from each Trust area.

Q24: How do you think that membership of the Young Person's Reference Group should be selected?

We are keen to be inclusive of children in our communities. We would suggest that existing representative groups should be consulted, gaps in representation identified and resolved. This will require work in creating linkages with children and young people.

Q25: How often do you think membership of the Young Person's Reference Group should be reviewed?

Yearly

SAFEGUARDING PANELS

Q26: Do you agree that there should be a Safeguarding Panel in each of the 5 new Trust areas? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Yes

Q27: What interests/disciplines/agencies/providers do you think should comprise membership of the Safeguarding Panels?

ACPC representative groups

Q28: What interests/disciplines/agencies/providers do you think should comprise membership of the sub-groups which will support the Safeguarding Panels?

Interagency groups reflecting current work streams from both ACPC, Child Protection

Panels eg audit, Policy and Procedures, Community Education and Training.

Q29: What do you think the functions of the sub-groups should include?

Satisfied with Consultation Paper

SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS

Q30: What do you consider the criteria to initiate a Serious Case Review should be?

Reference 13.1 in Regional Policies and Procedures.

Reference 10.1, 10.5 and 10.6 in Co-Operating to Safeguard Children

Q31: What do you consider to be a reasonable time frame for the completion of a Serious Case Review to be?

Option 1: If this task is an additionality the minimum of 1 year

Option 2: If case management members are released then this time frame might be 3-6 months.

Our preference is for option 2.

TIMESCALE

Q32: Is the timescale proposed reasonable? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

We suggest September 2007.

Q33: Where, or with which host organisation, do you think the SBNI should be located?

The Western Health and Social Services Trust.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Q34: What difficulties, if any, do you foresee in the transfer of functions from ACPCs to the SBNI? What actions are needed to resolve these difficulties?

Same core work streams may be lost in the transfer process, therefore there is a need for clear handover from current ACPC/ CPP Subgroups may need to Continue until new subgroups are established.

Q35: Is the time frame for transfer proposed reasonable? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Suggest September 2007.

COMMUNICATING AND RAISING AWARENESS

Q36: What do you consider to be the most effective ways to engage the range of stakeholders, including the wider community who can contribute to the effective safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children?

Roadshows for all agencies, statutory, voluntary and community

Media awareness campaigns, Leaflet and e-mail communications

Chair to visit every Trust

Web-site of membership, accessible to public. Mail drop.

EQUALITY SCREENING

Q37: Is there any indication or evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?

Group	Yes	No	Not Known
Religious belief			
Political opinion			
Racial group			
Age			
Marital status			
Sexual orientation			
Gender			
Disability			
Dependency			
<p>Comments</p> <p>15.2 adequately covers issue.</p> <p>Full Equality Impact Assessment is not necessary</p>			

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Q38: Do different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?

Group	Yes	No	Not Known
Religious belief			
Political opinion			
Racial group			
Age			
Marital status			
Sexual orientation			
Gender			
Disability			
Dependency			
Comments			

Q39: Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that policies of this type create problems that are specific to them?

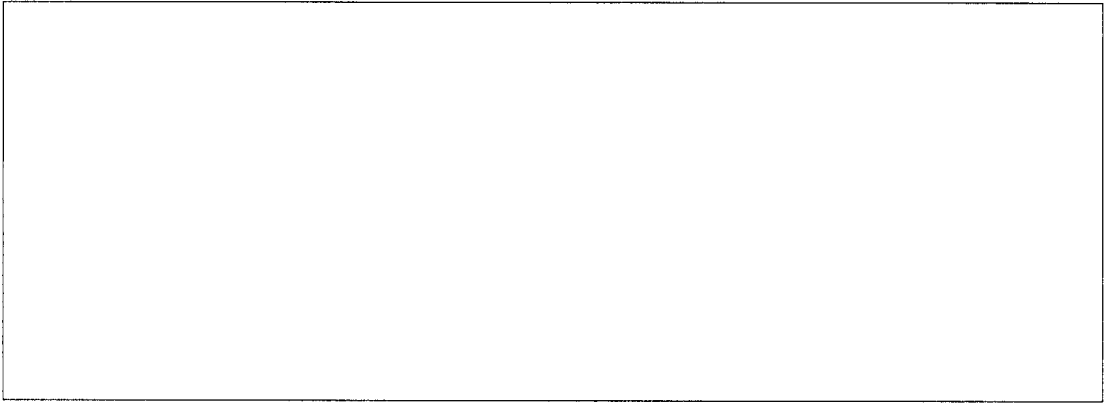
Group	Yes	No	Not Known
Religious belief			
Political opinion			
Racial group			
Age			
Marital status			
Sexual orientation			
Gender			
Disability			
Dependency			
Comments			

Q40: In relation to implementing this policy, is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations by altering the policy or by working with others in Government or in the larger community?

Yes	No	Not Known

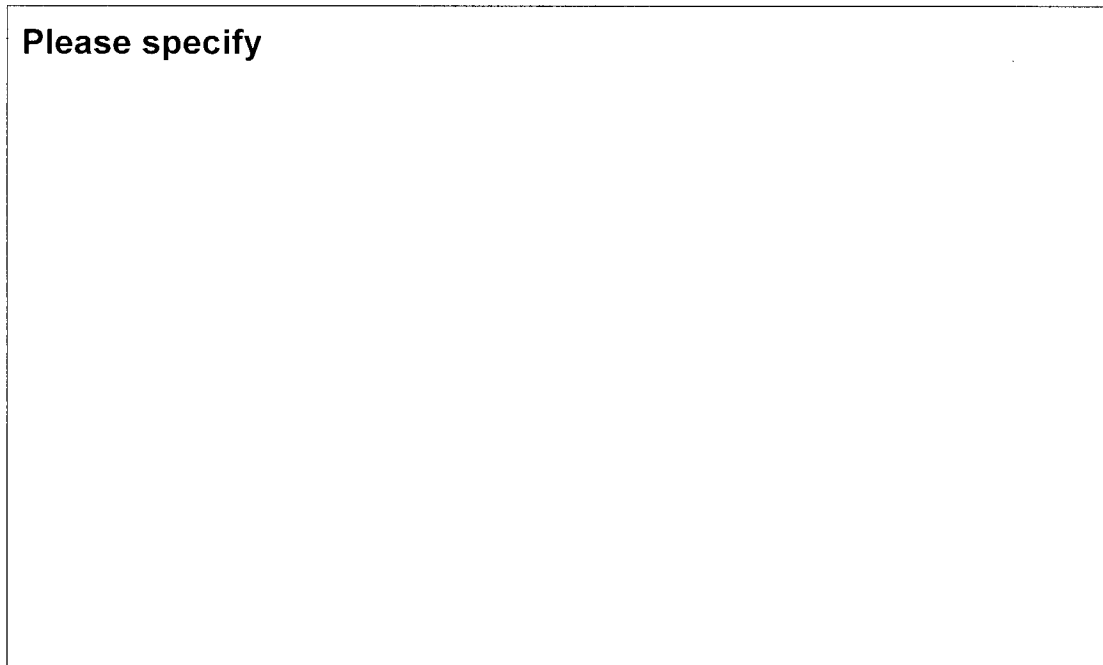
Please elaborate:

Q41: With reference to Questions set out please summarise how you believe the policy may impact on organisations' obligation to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity.

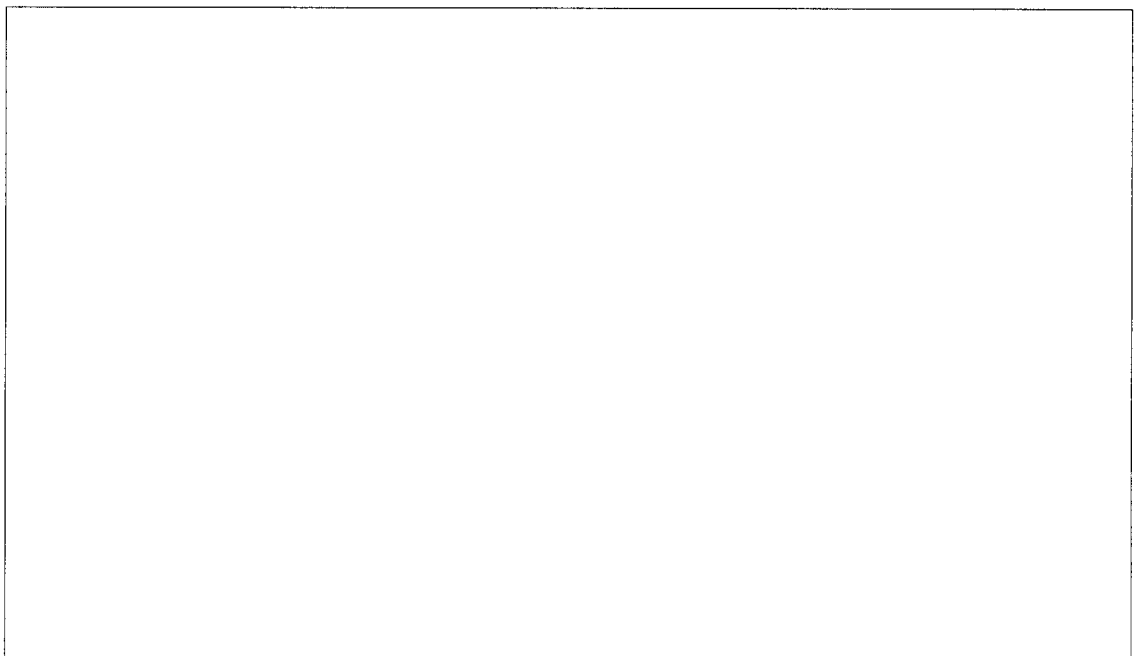


Q42: Are there any relevant groups which you believe should be consulted at this time?

Please specify



Q43: What data do you think will be required to ensure effective monitoring of the policy following implementation?



Q44: Any other comments on the policy and/or screening exercise?

Q45: On the basis of answers to Questions above (and in particular positive answers), do you recommend that the policy should be subjected to a full impact assessment?¹

Yes

No

Please elaborate

¹ Screening guidance states that considerations and decisions need to be formally recorded. The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland may wish to examine the screening exercise at a later date. Please be aware that screening decisions and supporting documentation must be robust as under Freedom of Information this documentation can be released on request.

Please advise if you are content to have your response published should the Department receive such a request (see Appendix 1 on Freedom of Information Act). If you are not content to have your response published, please indicate your reasons to assist the Department in reaching decisions using the guidance attached at Appendix 1.

Please tick the relevant box

(i) Content

(ii) Not content

Please give reasons if not content:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATION

The Department will consider all responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations which will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the DHSSPS should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the DHSSPS should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by the DHSSPS of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).

For further information about this particular consultation please contact the consulting branch at:

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Child Care Policy Directorate Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Email: Linda.boomer@dhsspsni.gov.uk