

# **SERVICE FRAMEWORK FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **1.0 Introduction**

A Service Framework is a document which contains explicit standards underpinned by evidence and legislative requirements. Service Frameworks will set standards, with measurable outputs, specific timeframes and expected outcomes designed to:

- improve the health and social wellbeing of the population of Northern Ireland;
- reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion;
- improve the quality and safety of care;
- safeguard vulnerable individuals and groups; and,
- improve partnership working with other agencies and sectors.

Each Service Framework document will be the subject of public consultation and will be developed in collaboration with HSC staff and through engagement with patients, clients, carers, the wider public and other key stakeholders.

This Service Framework will be used by the public, HSC commissioners, HSC providers, other providers of health and social care, other agencies concerned with providing services to children and young people, and those organisations which are required to report on the performance and quality of services and care.

Given the number of Service Frameworks that have been developed, the methodology is well established. Although the Service Framework for Children and Young People focuses on a section of the population rather than a specific group of diseases, it is important that the Service Framework focuses on a limited number of standards that will have the maximum impact on the greatest number of people.

## **2.0 Aim**

The overall aim of the Service Framework for the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People is to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Northern Ireland, promote social inclusion, reduce inequalities in health and improve HSC quality of care and thereby improving population health outcomes across the life course.

Achievement of these aims goes beyond traditional health and social care boundaries and is strongly influenced by population/individual attitudes and behaviours, and the contribution of parents, families, carers, communities and other sectors.

## **3.0 Values and Principles**

The Service Framework for the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People is underpinned by the following values and principles which build on The Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> "Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge, A ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland 2006-2016", OFMDFM

These values and principles need always to be promoted, in relation to services provided to children and young people.

All children and young people:

- Have dignity as human beings and are respected;
- Have rights as individuals;
- Need loving and supporting families or carers;
- Are unique individuals who each can make a valuable and diverse contribution to society;
- Have a voice that is heard through developing a culture where the views of children, young people and parents are actively sought;
- Are entitled to services that are both child and family centred;
- Are active participants in family, school, community and society;
- Are important in their own right both now and in the future;
- Are entitled to protection by adults and opportunities to exercise their independence;
- Are entitled to live in a peaceful and non-threatening environment;
- Are entitled to educational opportunities;
- Need support to explore and achieve their individual potential;
- Need support and encouragement through the transition from childhood to adulthood that enables them to express respect for others and take increasing responsibility for their actions and decisions; and,
- Have treatment, support and care in the primary, community and secondary sectors and access to intersectoral, interagency and multidisciplinary working, where appropriate.

#### **4.0 Definition**

This Service Framework aims to adopt a whole-child and family centred approach which gives recognition to the complex nature of children and young people's lives and the need to secure the support of parents, family members, carers and the communities in which young people live.

For the purposes of the Service Framework for the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People the age group covered will be 0-18 years in line with the Children (NI) Order 1995. It will also apply where children require ongoing services and transitional support after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to adult services.

The development of the Service Framework will be based on:

- population approaches to the promotion of health and prevention of disease, recognising that the incidence of ill health and poor wellbeing is linked to social and economic inequalities and social exclusion and other factors such as conditions specific to childhood and intergenerational issues including teenage pregnancy;
- best available evidence; wherever possible, this will be well-conducted, up to date, systematic reviews of valid, relevant evidence – both established and emerging;
- an acknowledgement of children and young people and parents as experts in their own life and care, and their familial and social context;

- the promotion of independence, self development and resilience in the child and young person;
- the promotion of health, social and emotional wellbeing, prevention of illness, early identification, assessment, intervention and where necessary long term support including transition and end of life care;
- existing policies and strategies already endorsed by the DHSSPS and, where appropriate, other Departments through formal publications or circulars and links with national standard setting bodies; and,
- the standardised template as agreed by the DHSSPS Service Framework Programme Board (this includes a definition of a standard, performance indicators and performance measurement).

## **5.0 Scope**

The Children and Young People's Service Framework will address six overarching themes each with relevant standards:

- 5.1 Promoting good health and social wellbeing in children and young people
  - Promoting age-appropriate sexual health
  - Promoting psychological and emotional wellbeing
  - Being and staying physically healthy
- 5.2 Safeguarding vulnerable children / children in need
  - Prevention of abuse
- 5.3 Early identification of need and support for children, their parents and families
  - Access to information
  - Assessment of needs
  - Information sharing
  - Multidisciplinary and multiagency working
- 5.4 Improving the health and social care experience of children, young people and their families
  - Participation of children and young people in matters in which they are involved
  - Recognition of matters which are important to children and young people
- 5.5 Improving service outcomes for children with complex needs and / or in special circumstances
  - Looked after children
  - Children with severe chronic health conditions
  - Children in conflict with the law, subject to youth justice disposal or in juvenile justice settings
- 5.6 Managing transitions and related care

- Hospital to home
- Pre-school to school
- Leaving care and transition to adulthood and independent living,
- Transition to adult services for disabled children

In developing these standards the Children and Young People's Service Framework will take into account the work of the other Service Frameworks and will examine:

- Perinatal and neonatal services;
- Early years' health and social care services;
- Children and young people suffering from acute illness or injury including access to treatment, emergency services, hospital services, specialist services and transport;
- Children with long term conditions including primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary care, managed clinical networks, specialist nursing and community services;
- Children and young people with a disability including early intervention, all inclusive ethos, multidisciplinary teams, participation, education, respite, equipment, transition and palliative care;
- The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people including suicide prevention and behavioural difficulties; and,
- Medicines for children.

The Service Framework will also draw on work already developed in relation to children in special circumstances which has been undertaken by children's services planning and previous child health service reviews:

- Children and young people living in families which require family support;
- Children and young people who require to be protected from abuse or neglect;
- Children and young people from minority cultural, ethnic and language groups;
- Young people who are gay, lesbian or transsexual;
- Young carers;
- Children and young people who are involved in offending;
- Looked after children and young people;
- Young people leaving care, those requiring aftercare services and those who are homeless;
- Young parents and their children; and,
- Pupils who refuse to attend school or who are excluded from school.

The Service Framework will link with national evidence based standards, e.g., NICE, SCIE, and SIGN. Key policy documents from other Departments and Agencies including the OFMDFM strategy 'Our Children and Young People, Our Pledge', Child Health Promotion Programme for Northern Ireland, Care Matters Northern Ireland, Families Matter, the 0-6 Early Years Strategy and other relevant policies. The development of this Service Framework will also take into account, where appropriate other DHSSPS strategies and planning processes, either already implemented or under development.

## **6.0 Timed Objectives**

The development work on the Service Framework will be co-ordinated via the Public Health Agency working in partnership with the Health and Social Care Board. The joint chairmanship (health and social care) of the Children and Young People's Service Framework Steering Group

will ensure active service user and carer participation, a range of social, clinical, public health, commissioners, senior management and financial expertise, taking account of the need to engage across the voluntary, community, primary and secondary care interface and drawing on already established networks and groups. The joint chairs will:

- provide a short project plan setting out details of proposed methodology;
- provide the DHSSPS with monthly progress reports (no longer than 1 page), which should identify any potential major cost consequences arising, taking account of paragraph 1.7 of the Children and Young People's Service Framework Template on resource implications;
- engage with the Service Framework Programme Board, as required;
- ensure external quality assurance (at national level) of the draft document, to include at least two recognised experts;
- submit a finalised consultation document to the Department by June 2011; and,
- thereafter, engage with the Department, (which will be responsible for consultation), regarding analysis of consultation responses and finalisation of document by March 2012.

A resource of up to £35 K will be provided to assist in project management and service/public engagement, subject to the proposed financial commitment being endorsed by the Safety, Quality and Standards Directorate.

**Safety, Quality and Standards Directorate**  
**June 2010**