



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

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An Roinn  
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

## **Families Matter: *Supporting Families in Northern Ireland***

**The Department of Health, Social Services and  
Public Safety's Proposals on a Regional Family  
and Parenting Strategy**

### **Response Document**

**January 2007**

## 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](mailto: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

Name: Nuala Magee

Job Title: Project Manager

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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.

Comment: Mutual Respect and Understanding should also be included in Outcomes for Children & Young People in N. Ireland.

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.

## 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.

The Strategy should also link in with other local Initiatives such as Together 4 All in the Brownlow / Lurgan / Aghagallon & Bleary areas for promotion and parental support and local involvement. Together 4 All outcomes will also link in with this strategies outcomes.

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.

**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.

**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.

Also, Together 4 All, in developing a 10 year strategy 2008-2018, has undertaken extensive needs assessment, Epidemiology Study and consultations with Community, Children & Young People etc for early intervention and prevention in the project area. DHSSPS strategy should link into T4A Strategy for integrated working.

**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.

**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.

Comment: Together 4 All suggests that the possibility of a Children Centre in the T4A area should be looked at and should work closely with T4A's 10 year strategy in providing priority or targetted services for Children & Young People in the T4A area that will focus on early intervention and prevention

### **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?

Together 4 All would welcome the opportunity to inform the Department of the findings of T4A's extensive research and to share T4A's Strategy for comment.

Together 4 All would envisage working closely with the Department in the future in the delivery of T4A's 10 year strategy that will receive significant investment from Atlantic Philanthropies for Children & Young People and Family Support services in the Together 4 All area.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS**