



The voice of the Public, Patients and Clients

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Date: 21 March 2005

Seamus Camplisson
Regional Strategy Team
DHSSPS,
Room C4.22
Castle Buildings
Belfast
BT4 3SJ

*Mr Sweeney
for deal.
(This looks familiar.)
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24.3*

Dear Mr Campson,

Re: A Healthier Future Consultation

I am writing to you on behalf of Western Health and Social Services Council in response to the consultation on the above strategy.

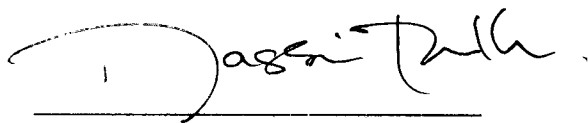
Firstly, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation and on behalf of my organisation, to congratulate the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on a well-involved process and the delivery of a comprehensive and well-read document.

This organisation endorses the thrust of the strategy that improving the health of the population has a major impact on us all, irrespective of our role in society. We acknowledge that the causes of poor health and health inequalities are directly linked to the wider determinants of health, of which we all must contribute a role in tackling. We welcome the direction of the strategy in that it sees a clear vision for the future, with a major emphasis on investing for health and well-being.

We strongly support the approach that prevention is much cheaper than cure and are encouraged by the approach outlined in the Departments Strategy. To an extent, the infrastructure for taking forward much of the initiatives that have been outlined already exist in the Investing for Health structures that have been established. We would encourage continued support for this model of engagement at a strategic level through structures such as the Ministerial Group on Public Health and at a local level, through the Investing for Health Partnerships.

We await the delivery of a comprehensive action plan, which clearly outlines the necessary resources and lead stakeholders in taking forward this strategy and look forward to playing our part in the implementation of the plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Reilly', written over a horizontal line.

Maggie Reilly (Ms)
Chief Officer
Western Health and Social Services Council