

**Children and Young People's
Strategic Partnership**

**NORTHERN IRELAND
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PLAN
2011 – 2014**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

FOREWORD

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has come together, as the first Chief Executive led partnership in Northern Ireland, with the aim of improving the lives of all our children and young people. We believe we have made a good start, in drawing up our approach to improving outcomes for children and young people as set out in this document, and agreeing our key themes –these are the most important issues that must be taken forward if the Children and Young People's Plan is to take shape. The detailed Action Plans will follow on in November, but we wanted to bring our overall approach to your attention at an early stage, as we work through the detail of how to put this Plan into action. We very much welcome your views.

John Compton,



Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Board, and
Chair of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This document sets out the suggested shape and content of the first Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP).

This document sets out the thinking of the CYPSP on what the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) should contain at a high level – without detail in relation to particular groups of children and young people or particular geographical areas. This detail will be contained in further Action Plans which will also be circulated widely for consultation later in the year. The Equality Screening document attached sets out that this Plan is built upon children's rights. The CYPSP views its responsibility with respect to Equality, Human Rights and Disability legislation very seriously, and asks that readers bear in mind that the specific ways in which the work will address equality and human rights requirements will be more evident in the Action Plans to be consulted upon later in the year. Any comments that you have on these aspects of the current Plan will be most welcome.

Also, throughout the document weblinks provide the opportunity to find more detailed information about the process, work in progress and how to become involved and have your say.

If you require this document in an alternative format (such as large print, Braille, disk, audio file, cassette, Easy Reader or in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English) please contact Ann Godfrey through the contact details on the attached consultation response form.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership would be very happy to find out your views on this first draft Plan and any suggestions you might have in relation to how children and young people's lives in Northern Ireland should be improved by joint planning.

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CHAPTER ONE - STRATEGY

1. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

1.1 Welcome to this consultation document on the first Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan. This Plan will build on the Children's Services Plans which were provided by the Children and Young People's Committees, based in the North, South, East and West of Northern Ireland.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) has now formed and has taken Northern Ireland wide responsibility for integrated planning. Together, we form a cross-sectoral strategic partnership consisting of the leadership of all statutory agencies concerned with children's lives, and regional representation of the community/voluntary sectors and Black and Minority Ethnic sector.

We view our Partnership as a critical development, which will enable us to improve supports and services for children and young people in ways that have not been possible up to now. Until now, there existed a range of partnerships which addressed specific parts of children's lives – and partnerships which addressed children's lives within a specific larger context, for example Investing for Health, Community Safety, Policing, Neighbourhood Renewal. However, there was no grouping which addressed the whole of children's lives across Northern Ireland with the aim of improving them – at agency level, as opposed to Government level.

We want to build on what has been achieved to date: many staff in our agencies and sectors have worked together over years to improve the lives of children and young people by addressing specific issues, by applying together for specific funding, by designing services together to address specific needs of children and young people in local areas and sometimes across Northern Ireland.

However, we are also aware that, despite these efforts, the vast majority of the state's resources are still put into place separately, which creates problems for children and young people and their families, and wastes resources. A unified approach is needed, and is now possible through the CYPSP. This is the first time that the Chief Executives of all statutory agencies with responsibility for supports and services for children and young people have come together – with the community/voluntary and Black and Minority Ethnic sector, to mandate significant changes in the way our resources are planned and put into place.

1.2 Role of Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

The CYPSP is a cross sectoral, strategic partnership, consisting of the leadership of all key agencies who have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

1.3 Purpose of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

- To put in place integrated planning and commissioning across agencies and sectors, which is recorded through the Children and Young People's Plan, aimed at improving wellbeing and the realisation of rights of children in Northern Ireland, in relation to the 6 outcomes for children:-
 - Being healthy
 - Enjoying, learning and achieving;
 - Living in safety and with stability;
 - Experiencing economic and environmental well being;
 - Contributing positively to community and society; and
 - Living in a society which respects their rights.
- To ensure that the CYPSP will be informed by and inform individual organisational business, corporate and community plans.

- To ensure the participation and involvement of children, young people, families and communities in the integrated planning process.
- To ensure an effective and efficient, fully mandated structure which is representative of all key stakeholders is in place to carry out the work of the partnership.

1.4 Representation on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

- Membership is assigned to designated people within each agency. This is because of the importance of the mandate from the top of each agency.
- Statutory sector agencies are represented at Chief Executive level.
- The representation of the community/voluntary and Black and Minority Ethnic sectors has been put into place through an open call organised by the community and voluntary sector.

Please see Appendix I for current membership of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

1.5 Ethos of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

The way in which the Partnership will work (our ethos) was decided at our first meeting. It was agreed as:-

- Focusing on outcomes
- Focusing on action
- Using a community development approach
- Using open, honest and straight talking
- Reality based
- Using information/evidence based decision making
- With clarity on joint accountability – no junior partners
- Leadership at a senior level
- Influencing upwards.

1.6 Strategic Context of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

1.7 Children's Rights. It is our view that the incorporation of children's rights into integrated planning is required. There is increasing emphasis, through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and human rights legislation, on rights based approaches to the provision of services.

The UNCRC is an international agreement on the rights of children. It sets out the basic rights to which all children are entitled to in all areas of their lives. In 1991 the UK Government ratified the Convention, thereby committing itself to promotion of children's rights, through the provision of services as well as other means.

There are four guiding principles of the UNCRC;

- non-discrimination, (article 2)
- the best interests of the child (article 3)
- respect for the child's view and the right to participate and for their view to be given due weight (article 12)
- The child's right to life, survival and development (article 6).

Taken together, these principles form the corner-stones of the Convention, which provides a set of minimum standards for children's civil, political, economic and cultural rights. These standards can be broken down into three main categories;-

- Provision – rights to minimum standards of health, education, social security, physical care, family life, play, recreation, culture and leisure and adequate standard of living
- Protection – rights of children to be safe from all forms of neglect and abuse, exploitation and the effects of conflict.
- Participation – rights of children to a name and identity, to be consulted and taken account of, to have information, freedom of speech and opinion and to challenge decisions taken on their behalf.

The UNCRC is the most complete international statement of children's rights to date. The rights in the Convention are seen as necessary for the full and harmonious development of the child's personality and are inherent to the dignity of the child. It also recognises children's developmental needs – physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and also recognises the additional needs of some children.

The CYPSP will therefore ensure that the Children and Young People's Plan will promote the rights of children and young people through integrated planning and commissioning.

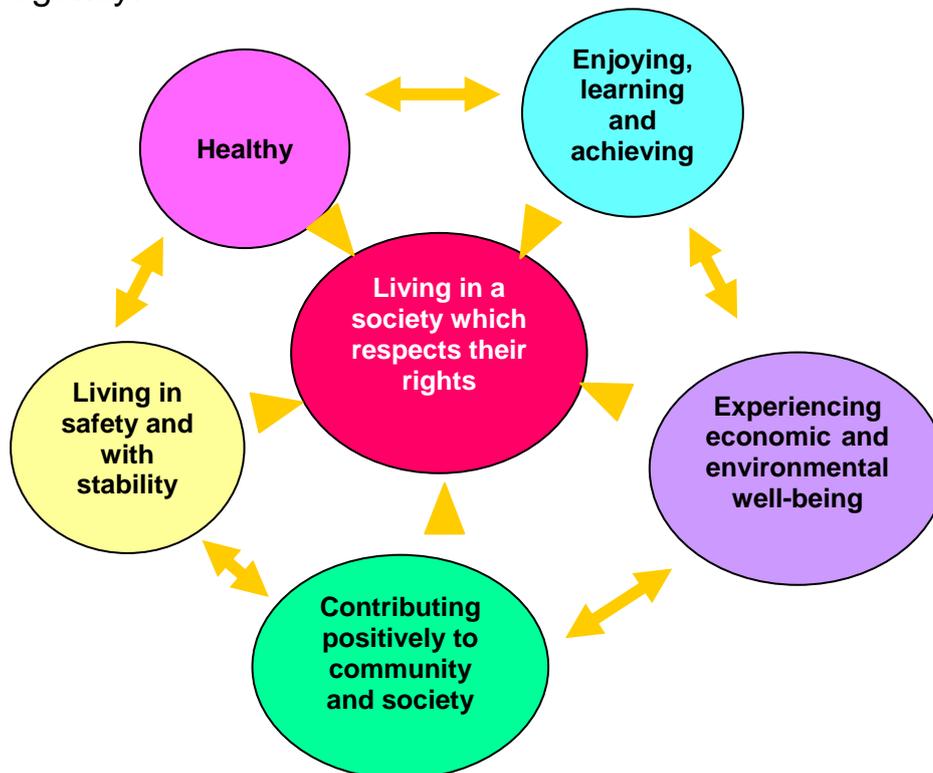
In particular, a Participation Strategy will accompany the Children and Young People's Plan, which will set out how children and young people will be enabled and supported to take part in the detailed planning. This will build on the current participation processes that are in place, both within the previous Children's Services Planning process and otherwise. Please see draft Participation Strategy at Appendix 2.

1.8 The Strategy for Children and Young People: our Children and Young People, our Pledge 2006-2016.

The Ten Year Children's Strategy provides the overarching strategic for integrated planning. All Departments of Government and all agencies must contribute towards improvement of the 6 high level outcomes set out in the strategy.

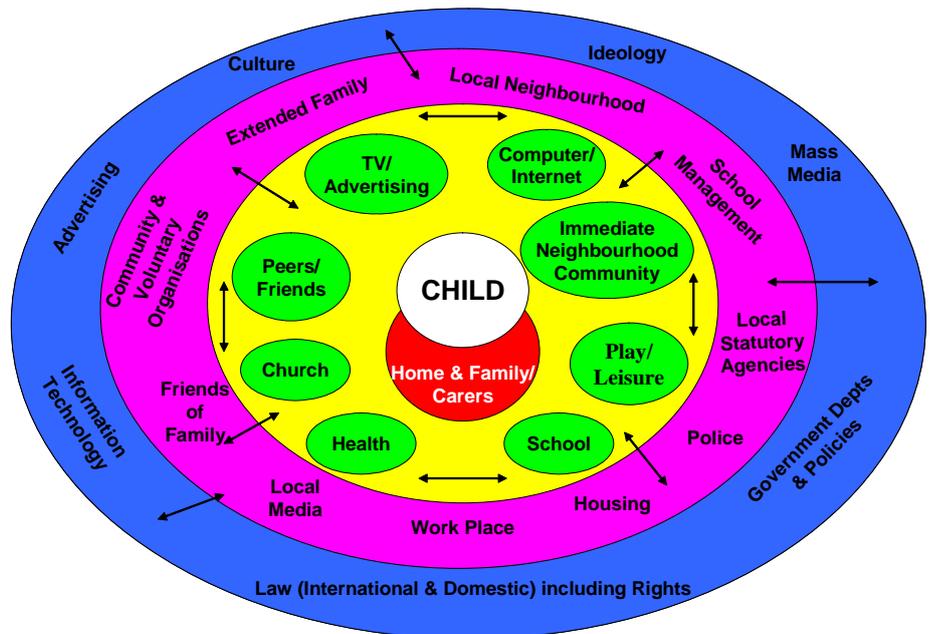


We will ensure that the Children and Young People's Plan contributes towards improvement in the six high level outcomes through integrating our planning and commissioning across agency.



1.9 The Whole Child Model

In order for all agencies and communities to see the role they have to play in achieving the above outcomes for children it is vital to have a common way of understanding children's lives. The CYPSP endorses the "Whole Child" Model (Figure 1) which establishes a common way of thinking which can be agreed



between agencies, between sectors (Voluntary, Community and Statutory) and between Departments of Government - for understanding how society impacts upon children, and on how children impact on society.

The model demonstrates that children are not and should not be passive recipients of services, but are active participants. It maps out those influences which must be considered when attempting to connect with children. Understanding these influences is critical in designing services that will be relevant.

This model will remind us that the supports and services we plan must chime with and back up the community supports in the child's life - and the model will help us identify those issues that can only be addressed at the strategic and political levels, so that we work on change at this level.

The challenge for us all will be to ensure that whatever level of our resources, reduced as they will be, that we deploy these in the most

effective and efficient manner possible in a way that supports this holistic view of childhood.

1.10 Other Strategic Drivers

The partner agencies on the CYPSP relate to a range of strategies and policies, in relation to requirements in terms of children and young people. Some key strategies are also being revised at present, so agencies need to review their own strategies and action plans in the light of changing expectations from Government. Some key strategies or policies are;-

- Families Matter, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety strategy for family support and parenting.
- Every School a Good School.
- Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
- Strategic Framework for Reducing Offending
- Community Safety Strategy
- Cohesion, Sharing and Integration.
- Community Planning legislation which may be introduced

Each agency within the CYPSP also has its own key strategies – at agency level – which need to be taken into account by the CYPSP.

1.11 Introduction to the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan will set out how integrated planning and commissioning arrangements will be put into place to secure improvements in the 6 high level outcomes for children and young people set out in the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People.

The Plan will take each of the Outcomes and link them to indicators – ways in which we will know how well children and young people are achieving the outcomes, and to actions that need to be taken to ensure improvements in these outcomes.

This remit to be covered by the Children and Young People's Plan is wider than that of the previous Children's Services Planning process, which was designed originally to address the needs of vulnerable groups of children and young people.

It has now been accepted, both through the experience of Children's Services Planning within Northern Ireland, and through similar experiences in other UK jurisdictions and beyond, that vulnerable children are best supported and protected when there is a process in place which supports an integrated approach to the planning of all services, from universal to those targeted to address specific needs. The new planning process will therefore address the needs of vulnerable children and young people within the wider planning process. It will support universal services to be proactive in identifying and addressing situations where children or young people would benefit from extra support and ensure that, where appropriate, targeted and specialist support is available when needed.

Such a process does not supplant or replace the statutory responsibilities, lines of accountability or commissioning responsibilities of individual agencies. Rather it allows a space for agencies to come together - with each other and, critically, with children and young people, families and communities, to make sure that individual efforts to support children and young people (across the whole range of needs) link up with and work well with other supports and services in the lives of children and young people.

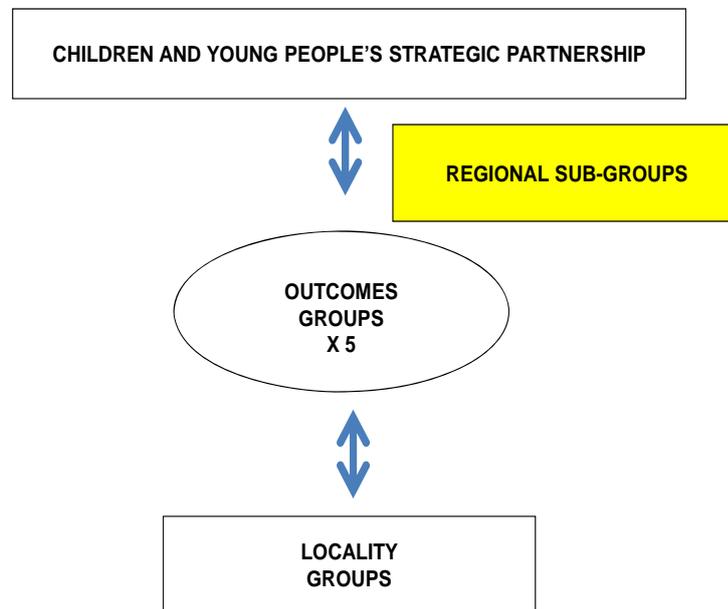
CHAPTER TWO - OUTCOMES BASED PLANNING

Introduction.

- 2.1 The Northern Ireland and Young People's Plan will be implemented at the three levels, firstly the Northern Ireland wide level, secondly planning at the level of geography of Health and Social Care Trusts (these boundaries chosen due to the lack of co-terminosity across agency boundaries and the fact that each HSC Trust boundary includes a number of Local Government boundaries), and thirdly at locality level – geographies which make sense to local communities.

At the Northern Ireland level, the CYPSP will oversee a number of Northern Ireland wide sub groups, which will address the needs of specific groups of children and young people, and key issues.

These groups are currently being established. For list of regional sub groups please see Section 4.1.



At each level the work is Outcomes Based Planning, i.e. the groups will take the 6 high level outcomes, consider the information about these outcomes, and make changes to supports and services which are needed to improve the outcomes.

A planning framework will be used which has evolved in Northern Ireland over a period of years and is consistent with international best practice in planning, the *Framework for Integrated Planning for Outcomes for Children and Families*¹. Full details of the framework can be found at www.outcomesforchildren.org

These six outcomes are our common vision and their achievement our common purpose. Everyone from government to local communities; to parents and children and young people; has a role to play in helping to reach these goals.

¹ Framework for Integrated Planning for Outcomes for Children and Families'. CAWT, SHSSB, WHSSB, HSE, 2008. Available from www.cawt.com and www.outcomesforchildren.org and www.southernareacsp.n-i.nhs.uk

2.2 Key Priorities of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

At CYPSP level, four strategic themes will form the core work.

Strategic themes for CYPSP:-			
Early intervention	Advising Government	Integration of Planning	Optimisation of resources
<p>Designating NI as a site for early intervention</p> <p>Supporting all services across all departments to evidence what they do in regard to this.</p>	<p>Suggesting to government that all government departments develop single approach to children and young people</p> <p>Seeking that the Programme for Government supports joint approach to children and young people In the longer term, seeking coordinated children's budgets/single children's budget</p> <p>In the longer term, seeking a Children's minister</p>	<p>Connecting people at all levels to map information and evidence</p> <p>Using information (quantitative and qualitative) to make change to improve outcomes</p> <p>Measuring progress</p> <p>Making CYPSP trusted re. about what's going on for children and young people in NI</p> <p>Making CYPSP the trusted partnership of leaders which can be used to make required change.</p>	<p>Coordinating efforts to increase early intervention level of Family support</p> <p>Sharing resources, for example sharing facilities</p> <p>Reviewing and possibly changing use of resources</p> <p>Making sure that any new resources add to existing services and do not replace existing services.</p>
Impact measures			
Human capital impact - benefits directly to individuals	Systemic impact - changing systems and context to create better outcomes for children and young people	Social Capital impact - use of information, ideas and evidence to help agencies support children and young people jointly	Resource impacts - getting more out of what is available

The CYPSP has decided to set up strategic sub groups, to take forward the themes above. The sub group on early intervention will be discussed in Chapter 3.

2.3 Integration of Planning and Resource Optimisation.

We have agreed that integration of separate planning processes is required. So work will start on ensuring that each Partner agency's business plan, in relation to children and young people, should include the commitments required by the agency to contribute to the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan, which will include both how the agency will contribute to improvement in the outcomes for children and young people as a single agency, and as a member of the Partnership.

We have also agreed to strengthen the role of the Outcomes Groups, such that we expect them to work towards joint commissioning, both through integrating the use of existing resources, and through integrated use of any new resources, from whatever source, to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area.

We believe that duplication of effort across partnerships should be minimised. So we aim to provide a single first point of call, in relationship to integrated planning for children and young people, whatever the specific issue.

Part of our governance framework will be a method of monitoring itself in relation to this key strategic aim.

A sub group will be set up to explore models of joint commissioning, and the potential to bring together diverse planning processes.

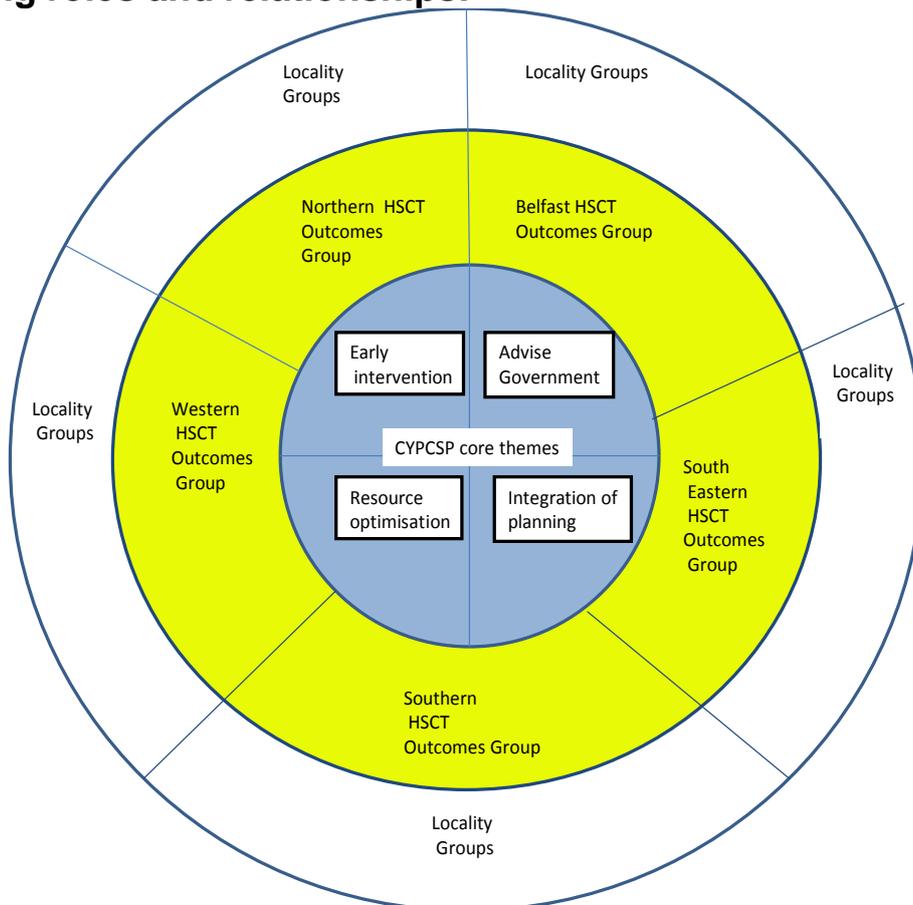
2.4 Advising Government

An Advising Government Sub Group will assist us in using our joint authority to argue for a more integrated approach to children and young people across Government departments. We believe that a more integrated approach at government level would better support us to enable agencies to share resources.

We have decided to communicate the following four messages:-

- **Children's rights as well as their needs must be addressed through integrated planning**
- **The benefits of early intervention**
- **The benefits and cost effectiveness of integration**
- **The CYPSP as the key integrated planning and commissioning process in relation to children and young people.**

Linking roles and relationships:-



This diagram shows the relationships between the CYPSP, Outcomes Groups and Locality Planning Groups.

The CYPSP is the strategic sponsor and steward of the implementation of the NI Children and Young People's Plan. The Terms of Reference and success indicators of the Outcomes Groups link into the NI wide Plan.

The detailed action plans for the Outcomes Groups and Locality Groups will be aligned to the overall NI wide Plan.

The CYPSP adds value to the planning process by progressing its strategic themes to facilitate progress on the ground.

It is our intention that Locality Groups are connected on the ground to carry out planning which makes best use of knowledge and resources; the Outcomes Groups will be empowered to make changes at Health and Social Care Trust level of geography and the CYPSP will lead the strategic campaign to change policy and remove obstacles in the overall context which prevent better outcomes for children and young people being achieved.

Each Outcomes Group will develop an draft Action Plan for their area – linked to the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan. It will include the priorities which need to be taken forward to improve the 6 high level outcomes for children and young people in its area.

Each regional sub group will develop its draft action plan as it forms, by November 2011. All the action plans will be subject to consultation, and, when agreed, will, together with this high level Plan, form the whole Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan.

2.3 Outcomes and Key Information on Outcomes

Much work has already taken place in measuring the outcomes for children and young people. Indicators have been chosen which link to each Outcome, with information from across a range of agencies. This information has been gathered together and is available at three levels, as follows;-

- Northern Ireland wide
- The geographical area of the 5 Outcomes Groups
- Each District Council area including electoral ward data analysis

This allows for in-depth analysis at local level and comparison across areas at the higher levels.

The information has been collected over time, in some cases up to 10 years, which provides information on whether children's lives are improving or not over time. This allows us to identify issues which need to be addressed, so that we can, together, change supports and services so that indicators start to improve – this can be described as “turning the curve” .

The Northern Ireland wide level of this information is now in the report “Outcome Monitoring Report 2010 with Trends 2001-2010” and can be found at

<http://www.outcomesforchildren.org/publications.html>

Reports covering Outcome Group areas and District Council areas are under development, and will be posted on the website above once finalised.

At local level this information is complemented by qualitative information from local communities, children and young people and their parents. This is essential in order to address issues at an early stage. The data and local information is collected in Children's Locality Plans. Appendix 2 includes an outline process for ensuring the participation of children and young people in the planning process, and Appendix 3 includes a similar outline regarding the participation of parents in the planning process.

The following tables provide a sample of the core pieces of information which we will use to measure how well children and young people in Northern Ireland are doing and where improvements are needed. This will take the form of specific indicators and in some cases further research will be required.

Each planning group will use these indicators, as well as other information, to allow them to identify what changes are needed for specific groups of children and young people.

In addition, the set of indicators has been further refined and quality checked against the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child to ensure that they relate to rights as well as needs. This piece of work had been carried out together with staff from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). This refined set of indicators 'Developing Child Rights-Based Indicators' can be provided by Ann Godfrey at ann.godfrey@hscni.net or Anne Hardy at anne.hardy@hscni.net or downloaded at <http://www.southernareacsp.n-i.nhs.uk/publications.htm>.

There is a wide body of research available also, which can be used to support the planning process. The available research has been mapped under the 6 high level outcomes of the Ten Year Strategy, and gaps which are required for the planning process have also been identified, particularly with respect to rights. This document 'Developing Child Rights-based Indicators: Record of Qualitative Research' can be found at <http://www.southernareacsp.n-i.nhs.uk/publications.htm>.







CHAPTER THREE – EARLY INTERVENTION

3.1 A Focus on Early Intervention

As stated above, we have decided that we will support an increased focus on early intervention as key to our role in improving the 6 high level outcomes for children and young people.

This approach is underpinned by the UNCRC, specifically Article 18, which states that:-

- 1. States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.*
- 2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.*

Agencies and Departments of Government in Northern Ireland are currently moving to an early intervention focus in their policies, strategies and funding streams. Some agencies have focused on specific early intervention programmes which have proved to be effective elsewhere.

3.2 Northern Ireland as a Early Intervention Region

We have decided to seek, from the NI Executive, through its constituent Ministries, status for Northern Ireland as an early intervention region. This would, if agreed, communicate across agency and department, that early intervention needs to be taken forward as a joint government priority. If such status were agreed it could support Departments and Agencies working in an

integrated way, at different levels, to make best use of available resources for early intervention. This is in the context of, for example, the Department of Education, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Department of Social Development, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Justice all focusing efforts on early intervention, and making funding streams available. We want to play a part in making sure that such funding is used to best effect, with best value for money, through integrated planning and commissioning.

3.3 Co-ordination across agencies for early intervention

Given that we see early intervention as a key strategic aim, we have agreed to use our combined authority to drive an early intervention focus in the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan – i.e. through integrated planning and commissioning across Northern Ireland, as well as within each of the Partner agencies' business planning processes.

So we will set up a sub group taking forward the actions on early intervention, which would encompass overseeing work on Family Support Hub development (see below) and an evaluation framework of early intervention across Northern Ireland (see below). This sub group will be made up of the existing membership of the Families Matter², Implementation Group, (the work of which will be subsumed into the Early Intervention Sub Group) augmented by a Local Government CYPSP representative and a Community CYPSP representative.

(Families Matter is the Northern Ireland strategy for family support and parenting). The 'Families Matter' policy framework promotes the importance of early intervention and support. The implementation of 'Families Matter' has been devolved to the Health and Social Care Board, which has decided that the implementation of such a strategy can only be addressed in an

² Families Matter: Supporting Families in Northern Ireland, Regional Family and Parenting Strategy', DHSS&PS, 2009

inter-sectoral context, so had previously decided to set up a Families Matter Implementation Group, reporting to the CYPSP).

The Early Intervention Sub Group will oversee the work of the CYPSP in relation to early intervention. As part of this, the Group will consider best methods for integrating the efforts of agencies and Departments, including the designation of Northern Ireland as an 'Early Intervention Region' of the UK, given the widely recognised relatively greater need for early intervention services in Northern Ireland, in relation to its history of conflict, which has raised need, and the long standing documented under-investment in terms of statutory provision for children and young people. It will also oversee Family Support Hub development and the development of an Evaluation Framework for Early intervention type family support services (see next two sections).

3.4 Family Support Hubs

At local level, it has been recognised for some time that many children and young people and families do not find their way quickly enough or sometimes at all to the existing early intervention supports and services that exist in their communities.

Therefore the Early Intervention Sub Group will also oversee the development of a network of local Family Support Hubs. The term 'Family Support Hub' has been used to convey a commonly held view that there needs to be better co-ordination of Family Support services at local level, and has gained currency in recent debate about provision for children and young people in Northern Ireland. It is evident that in many local areas there is a consensus that proposals for better local co-ordination of preventative and early intervention services should be positively embraced. The objective of a Hub is to enhance awareness, accessibility, co-ordination and provision of Family Support resources in local areas, with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention. The concept of a 'Family Support Hub' is of an easily recognizable, non-stigmatized brand or flagship for Family Support at local level.

Family support Hubs are coalitions of agencies which provide early

intervention services locally to provide:-

- Points of contact locally for information about Family Support
- Points of local and non-stigmatized access to Family Support
- Points of referral for children and young people and families to supports and services through a non-stigmatising process.

The intention is to ensure that families who do not meet the threshold for statutory child protection services but who nonetheless have a need for family support services are directed towards the appropriate help.

The approach is based on harnessing the expertise of voluntary and community sector organisations in supporting families. In a time of significant financial constraints this approach offers the potential of ensuring more coordination of services to vulnerable families and less wasteful duplication of service provision. This approach has the potential to help alleviate the overload in statutory services at the point of intake. This can occur by ensuring that referral to statutory social services is not seen as the pathway to access family support services. This approach can support 'hard to reach' families who may be distrustful of statutory services.

3.5 Evaluation of Early Intervention/Family Support.

The Early Intervention Sub Group will also link in with the Research Group to oversee the development of an evaluation strategy for family support. This strategy will address;-

- 1) the effectiveness of the coordination of early intervention family support, and
- 2) the effectiveness of family support provision across Northern Ireland.

A framework for the evaluation of early intervention family support services, based on the degree to which such services increase resilience in children and young people and families that use the

services, is in development. This piece of work, alongside the development of Family Support Hubs, is already taking place, having been started by the Health and Social Care Board during the period of the previous Children's Services Planning process, and has now been taken over by the CYPSP.

This development of this evaluation framework is being provided guidance by the CYPSP Research Group, chaired by UNESCO³ Chair, Professor Pat Dolan of the Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway.

³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

CHAPTER FOUR

PLANNING FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE and

PLANNING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPECIFIC LOCALITIES.

4.1 Regional Sub Groups

Regional sub groups are being established to plan for specific groups of children and young people and to address key issues. In addition to the groups listed below it is envisaged that interagency groups working on planning services for children that have been set up separately from Children's Services Planning will in time link into the Children and Young People's Plan.

An action plan for each of these groups will be published for consultation in November 2011.

Regional Sub Groups on specific groups of children and young people	
Young Carers	Children and young people with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties
Children with a Disability	Transition for disabled children and young people
Black and Minority Ethnic Children	Children and young people and Offending
Regional Sub Groups on Key Issues.	
Joint Commissioning Sub Group	
Advising Government Sub Group	
Early Intervention Sub Group	
Research Group	

4.2 Outcomes Groups

Outcomes Groups at the level of geography of the 5 Health and Social Care Trusts are in place. Action Plans for the Outcomes Groups will be published for consultation in November 2011. These will detail priorities, based on an examination of indicators for the area and knowledge of needs from Locality Planning Groups.

4.3 Locality Planning Groups

Locality Planning Groups are partnerships between children, young people, families, communities and representatives of agencies at local level. They carry out outcomes based planning at the level of geography which makes sense locally. The Groups will draw up a locality plan to address priorities identified through the outcomes based planning by mobilising local resources and drawing on the support of the CYPSP. The work will build on the current integrated planning work and will be directed and supported by each Outcomes Group. In addition to the groups listed below it is envisaged that interagency groups working on planning services for children that have been set up separately from the CYPSP will in time link into the Children and Young People's Plan. Groups already linked to the planning process are listed below.

These groups will be consulting locally about the issues relating to children, young people and families. Further details including action plans and how to get involved are available from Anne Hardy at anne.hardy@hscni.net.

Locality Planning Groups currently linked to CYPSP				
NORTHERN OUTCOMES GROUP	SOUTHERN OUTCOMES GROUP	WESTERN OUTCOMES GROUP	BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP	SOUTH EASTERN OUTCOMES GROUP
Antrim	Armagh	Fermanagh	The Belfast Outcomes Group is currently mapping and consulting with existing partnerships in the area with the aim of linkages which will avoid duplication of effort.	Colin Partnership
Ballymena	South Armagh	Derry		The South Eastern Outcomes Group will be connecting with existing partnerships with a view to linkages and development where necessary
Cookstown	Dungannon	Omagh		
Larne	Banbridge	Strabane		
Moyle		Limavady		
Bushmills				
Newtownabbey				
Carrickfergus				
Consultations underway with regard to development of locality groups in Ballymoney Coleraine and Magherafelt				

APPENDIX 1

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Membership

Agency	Agreed representative
STATUTORY SECTOR	
Health and Social Care Board	John Compton, Chief Executive Fionnuala McAndrew, Director, Social Care and Children Tony Rodgers, Assistant Director of Social Care and Children
Public Health Agency	Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive Carolyn Harper, Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health Mary Hinds, Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals
Education and Library Boards	David Cargo, Chief Executive , BELB Tony Murphy, Chief Executive, SELB Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive, WELB Shane McCurdy, Chief Executive, NELB Stanton Sloan, Chief Executive, SEELB.
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools	Jim Clarke, Deputy Chief Executive
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	Sean Donaghy, Chief Executive
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	Mairead McAlinden, Chief Executive
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	Hugh McCaughey, Chief Executive
Western Health and Social Care Trust	Elaine Way, Chief Executive
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Stewart Cuddy, Chief Executive
Youth Justice Agency	Paula Jack, Chief Executive
Probation Board for Northern Ireland	Brian McCaughey, Director of Probation.
Police Service of Northern Ireland	Will Kerr, Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice
Department of Social Development	Henry Johnston, Director of Urban Regeneration, DSD

Agency	Agreed representative
Ards Borough Council	Ashley Boreland, Chief Executive
Ballymena Borough Council	Anne Donaghy, Chief Executive
Banbridge District Council	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
Larne Borough Council	Geraldine McGahey, Chief Executive
VOLUNTARY SECTOR	
Children in Northern Ireland	Pauline Leeson, Director
Action for Children NI	Dawn Shaw, Operational Director Children's Services
Barnardo's NI	Lynda Wilson, Director
Include Youth	Koulla Yiasouma, Director
Mencap	Maureen Piggot, Director
Parents Advice Centre	Pip Jaffa, Director
COMMUNITY SECTOR	
Vacant due to resignation from agency	Aine McCabe, Blackie River Community Group - – left due to changing job – place now vacant
Clan Mor Sure Start	Tina Gregory, Coordinator
Integrated Services for Children and Young People	Mairead McCafferty, Programme Manager – West Belfast Partnership Board
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	Bernadette McAliskey, Chief Executive (STEP Coordinator)
Vacant – Western area	
Vacant – Northern area	
BME SECTOR	
Chinese Welfare Association	Eileen Chan-Hu, Director
Wah Hep Chinese Community Association	Paul Yam, Director
Vacant – migrant or Traveller community	

STAFF OF HSCB IN ATTENDANCE	
Ann Godfrey	Children's Services Planning Professional Advisor
Anne Hardy	Children's Services Planning Project Manager
Martin O'Neill	Community Development Manager
Valerie Maxwell	Children's Services Planning Information Manager
Gerry Conway	Commissioning Lead, Family Support.
Shirlie Murtagh	Communications Manager

APPENDIX 2

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Strategy for ensuring the participation of children and young people

Paula Keenan

The Participation Network

May 2011

Background

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) was formally established in January 2011. It is a cross-sectoral group consisting of the leadership of all key agencies who have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Membership includes health, social services, education, local government, youth justice, probation, policing, housing, urban renewal, alongside representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

The purpose of the CYPSP is to lead integrated planning and commissioning of support and services aimed at improving the lives of children and young people throughout Northern Ireland.

The partnership is committed to ensuring that children and young people participate as active partners at all stages and levels of our planning processes.

While the partnership is new, integrated planning of services for children and young people has been taking place in Northern Ireland for many years.

That work was underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and particular emphasis was placed on the need to ensure the involvement of children and young people. Consequently, a

number of mechanisms for engaging children and young people in planning processes have been developed and are on-going. Many of the agencies involved in the CYPSP have pioneered initiatives aimed at supporting children's voices and have a long history of promoting and facilitating participation. We will be depending on the sharing of that learning and expertise as we build upon that legacy and implement this strategy.

We need to ensure that participative work is further developed, co-ordinated and standardised across the partnership. To this end, we have engaged with the Participation Network to advise us on the development and delivery of our participation strategy.

The Participation Network was established in 2007 and funded by OFMDFM to:

“Increase the effectiveness of the Northern Ireland Public Sector in engaging children and young people directly in decision-making”.

Since then, the Participation Network, a project of Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI), has supported Government Departments, local Government and Public bodies to engage with children and young people, through the provision of free training, consultancy and signposting services.

The Participation Network has recently received renewed funding for 3 years to provide the public sector with expert support, advice and technical assistance in relation to directly engaging children and young people in public decision-making.

Participation Strategy

Aim:

To ensure that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership engages with the children and young people who will be effected by our decisions; that children and young people will be active participants in the planning of services and that their experiences, views and ideas help inform the planning process.

Standards:

Activity undertaken in relation to this strategy will be underpinned by the “Ask First” standards, developed by the Participation Network and endorsed by the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Health and Social Care Board. The standards will also serve as a means of measuring our progress towards ensuring the meaningful involvement of children and young people in the ongoing process of developing outcomes, indicators and services.

Standard 1: Appropriate methods

Children and young people will be engaged in a variety of ways, based on what is best suited to their age and level of development / maturity. In particular, play based methodologies will be developed for involving younger children.

It is clear that there is no “one size fits all” model of participation. We will need to develop a range of ways of engaging with children and young people and draw upon the expertise of members of the partnership who have direct contact with children and young people. Training and action planning workshops can build the capacity of those agencies / personnel who are less familiar with participation.

The methods we adopt should be creative and enjoyable for those involved. It is rarely appropriate or effective to simply have children and young people sitting on adult forums. Where adults and children and young people form groups to work together the methodology needs to be adapted to suit the younger members and attention needs to be paid to power imbalances. Methods might include focus groups on particular issues, one-off workshops with locality based groups, play based activities with younger children, building an on-going process with theme based groups (e.g. Disability and Transition) or large scale surveys via social networking sites (e.g. facebook). Methods will also be dictated by the purpose of the engagement e.g. needs assessment, ongoing contribution to the planning process , reviewing the impact of services etc.

Standard 2: Support

Children and young people will be provided with the support needed to engage effectively in the decision making process.

Children and young people who are being asked to give their views, share their experiences, identify their needs or contribute their ideas should be adequately prepared and supported to do so. Providing such support (e.g. a preparatory workshop to help them get their thoughts together before a consultation, or going through the agenda prior to a planning meeting) helps to develop skills and ensures that the engagement is effective and satisfying for all involved. Support is particularly important on occasions when children and young people are being asked to share or reflect upon sensitive issues or experiences. Partnership member agencies who undertake direct work with children and young people will have an important role to play in providing such support. It will also be important to connect with **those organisations who have been set up specifically to support the participation of children and young people.**

Standard 3: Knowledge

Children and young people will be provided with the knowledge they need to engage fully in decision making processes. Information will be easily understood, child friendly and produced in a range of accessible formats.

It is important that we clearly explain to children and young people what the purpose of the engagement is, the extent of their involvement and what we are asking them to do. Any materials to be used (e.g. background papers, proposals, discussion documents, statistics, plans etc.) should be written in child friendly language, avoid jargon, be short and easy to understand. Materials should also be accessible to children and young people with sensory and learning disabilities. Children and young people involved in the Disability and Transition thematic groups can advise on the development of suitable materials.

Standard 4: Feedback

Children and young people will be told about the outcomes of their involvement and how their input has been considered. Where their ideas have not been taken on board they will be told why this has happened.

Children and young people have highlighted the importance of believing that their views are being taken seriously during engagements. It is, for them, a key factor in determining their willingness to take part in further engagements. Children and young people want to know how their input has influenced plans and decisions. They understand that change does not necessarily come about speedily and that not all their ideas will be reflected in final outcomes. Where this happens it is important that the reasons are explained, either during the engagement or in a follow up meeting / communication. We should establish a variety of mechanisms for communicating the on-going outcomes of engagements e.g. children's newsletter, young people's web site, posting on social networking sites. We should also involve children and young people in reviewing the impact and effectiveness of plans and services they have helped us to develop.

Standard 5: Inclusion

All children and young people will be facilitated to engage in public decision making processes. Particular measures will be put in place to ensure the involvement of those who are vulnerable and marginalised, in line with Section 75 and UNCRC obligations.

We need to ensure that this strategy is equality proofed and that it supports us to engage with all children and young people who are affected by our work. It is important that we create opportunities to engage with our most marginalised children and young people, in ways that take account of their particular support requirements. To ensure full inclusion we should seek the assistance of specialist agencies from among our partnership members and where necessary from further afield. Opportunities for engagement should be widely publicised in accessible formats.

Standard 6: Respect

Children and young people will be treated with respect. They will decide the nature and extent of their involvement, including the option not to participate.

We can demonstrate respect for the children and young people with whom we engage by ensuring that their involvement is real and meaningful. This means that we will take their views seriously; prepare ourselves for the engagement; be honest and open about what they can or cannot influence; ensure that our processes are transparent; offer constructive challenge; encourage them to set their own agendas and bring their issues to the table; ensure that they are able to freely choose whether to participate or not and fully acknowledge their contribution.

Standard 7: Senior people

Children and young people will have direct contact with senior people who are in a position to make decisions and take action in relation to their ideas, views and experiences.

Participation is most effective and satisfying when it involves direct contact and dialogue between children and young people and those who are responsible for crafting plans and developing services. Reading reports or hearing accounts from third parties cannot match the impact of hearing a young person share their experiences and articulate their needs and ideas. Wherever possible CYPSP staff and/or members of the regional, outcomes or locality planning groups should be present during engagements.

Standard 8: Timing

Children and young people will be involved at the earliest possible stages of policy and service development, including processes to establish the need for service or policy initiatives.

Planning integrated services for children and young people is a complex process involving a number of stages. If participation is to be meaningful it is important that children and young people's experiences, views and ideas inform every stage and level of the planning process. It is of critical importance that children and young people are engaged, at the very outset of the planning process, in contributing to our understanding of the problems we are setting out to address. Their input in describing the problems they face, giving their views of current services and offering their ideas for solutions, provides an invaluable perspective during the first stages of planning.

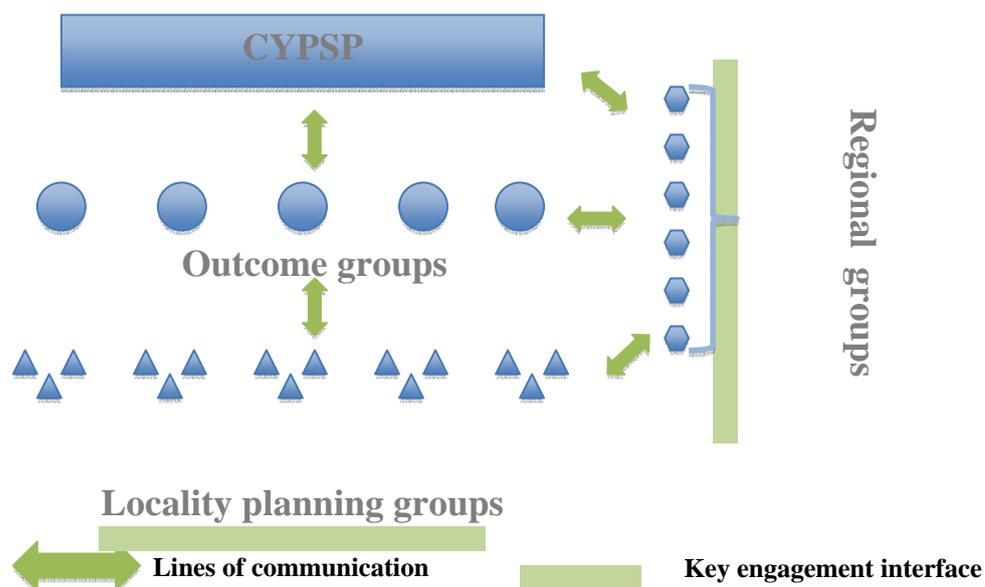
Participation Model

We need to ensure that the voices, experiences, views and perspectives of children and young people become a central focus and fully integrated element of our partnership. In developing a model for that participation we should ensure that it will:

- reflect the "Ask First" standards
- encompass a variety of routes / mechanisms through which children and young people can participate in the earliest stages of the planning process
- work alongside the overall CYPSP structure, ensuring that children and young people's experiences, views and perspectives are heard and considered at both regional and local levels
- build upon existing participative mechanisms and the practice of partner agencies
- be simple, transparent and accessible to all children and young people
- clearly set out who is responsible for ensuring participation at each level
- be sustainable, realistic and economically viable
- be accompanied by an on-going development / implementation plan which establishes a vision, sets out clear priorities and incorporates processes for capacity building, support and review

The CYPSP is a new partnership and while it is essential that children and young people's participation is planned and implemented from the outset, it is also important that we take the time to develop a fully comprehensive

model. It takes a considerable investment of time and resources to properly embed a culture of participation across a complex system. It therefore seems sensible to adopt a staged approach. We must ensure that we create a stable foundation upon which we can continue to build as the partnership develops. Given that planning begins at operational level our first task should be to develop direct participation processes at key interface points i.e. the locality planning groups and the regional sub-groups. In doing so, we must also ensure that the needs, experiences, ideas, views and perspectives contributed within those fora are communicated to both the Outcomes Groups and the Regional Partnership body; and that they are incorporated into the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan.



In addition, given that four out of the five Outcomes Groups are being set up shortly, we should encourage each Outcomes Group to bear in mind the need to ensure the participation of children and young people in their planning process.

When we have had a period of supporting participation through the regional sub groups and locality planning groups, we will review our learning from both the perspectives of children and young people and the agencies involved in those fora. This should help us to determine a clear plan for further developing the model e.g. considering

- how we might facilitate direct engagement with Outcomes groups, other sub-groups and the CYPSP itself
- how children and young people might be involved in budgeting and commissioning decisions
- how children and young people might be involved in monitoring the progress of action plans
- how we might establish mechanisms for being held accountable by children and young people collectively – e.g. through an annual review seminar / conference

Implementation

While some Outcomes Group, Regional sub groups and locality planning groups are already established, others are currently in development. The sub structure of the partnership is in the process of transition and this is likely to continue for some time.

However, it is important to acknowledge that participative work is already underway and that this work should continue while a broader system of participation is being developed.

Those groups which have been established (and others as they come on line) should create a plan for ensuring the participation of children and young people in their work. The Participation Network can facilitate the planning process and provide on-going advice and support to the group.

The **Participation plan** emerging from each group will be suited to their particular circumstances but, to ensure consistency and compatibility, each should be developed through a similar process, including some or all of the following elements.

Each group nominates one of their members to serve as **Participation Champion**. That person will have responsibility for driving the group participation plan and:

- liaising with CYPSP staff and the Participation Network
- ensuring the group identifies and avails of opportunities for engaging children and young people in line with the ASK FIRST standards
- ensuring that children and young people who have engaged with the group are kept informed of how their input has influenced the planning process
- ensuring the messages emerging from engagements are both reflected in the group's plans and communicated to the Outcomes Groups and CYPSP

Group members should attend **training** with the Participation Network either as a group, or through signing up individually for open sessions.

The plan should address the following areas:

- **Who** the group needs to engage with
For some groups e.g. the Regional Disability theme based group it will be obvious which children and young people should be involved, but even within this it may be important to distinguish according to e.g.

age, living with parents or independently, different types of disability etc. The locality planning groups are likely to have a wider range of children and young people who might contribute to their work.

- **What** the group needs to know from children and young people
This might include having children and young people identify their needs; raise their own issues; describe their life experiences; comment on service delivery; generate ideas / solutions; review plans; take part in making decisions etc.
- **Where** children and young people can be accessed
For some groups this will be very straightforward as children and young people will be full members of the group. But even here there will be occasions when a wider range of inputs may be sought. Each group should create a directory of organisations that can facilitate their access to particular groups of children and young people. These agencies may be members of the group, they may be regionally based or active in the local area, or they may be drawn from the Participation Network directory of organisations.
- **How** they will engage with children and young people.
In some instances groups may have been established with the express purpose of ensuring the participation of children and young people e.g. the Regional Disability theme based group. In such cases participation is integral and central to the whole group process.
Some groups may devise engagement exercises with specific groups of children and young people for particular purposes e.g. to hear about their needs, to ask their opinions about the service they receive, or to find out their ideas about, or solutions to, local problems. These might be one off engagements with a range of groups or may require developing close on-going relationships with a small number of groups on the basis that they are particularly relevant to the work or are active in the local community. More comprehensive, large scale, exercises may also be designed, if necessary, where resources are available. Opportunities might also be developed for hearing from large numbers of children and young people through on-line social media or establishing a local, issue based or regional web-site.

- **How** the input from children and young people will be communicated throughout the CYPSP system.

It is important that everyone involved in the CYPSP has the opportunity to hear, and act upon, key messages from children and young people. Equally we need to avoid duplication and make sure that different groups are not talking to the same young people about the same things. It may be useful to set up a central newsletter through which groups can advise what engagements they are involved in and share the key messages or learning.

Other mechanisms may be needed for theme based groups composed of children and young people – in these cases a liaison person from the Outcomes group may meet regularly with the group, or children and young people might do presentations at Outcomes group meetings.

The CYPSP will need to consider how the participation work can best be co-ordinated and what mechanisms will be needed to support the development of a robust, cohesive participation system. The Participation Network is happy to provide on-going advice.

APPENDIX 3

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Model for ensuing Parental Participation

in

**the planning of supports and services for children and
young people**

Draft Model

developed by

Parenting Forum NI

Introduction

The Parenting Forum has been asked to develop a strategy for the participation of parents in the planning processes overseen by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

An important aspect of this work will be to engage in transparent consultative processes that would provide a range of opportunities for parents to share their opinions and experiences at the three levels of planning.

The Parenting Forum NI (PFNI) was tasked with developing a model so that groups of parents and individual parents from across Northern Ireland could be supported to be involved in the planning process. As a membership organisation the Forum has over 1400 individual parents and family support organisations and circulates information to over 140,000 parents quarterly. The Parenting Forum NI has considerable experience in developing appropriate models of participation and has carried out a number of consultations on a range of issue for Departments and other bodies including the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Department of Justice and Department of Education.

PFNI has regular contact with a considerable network of parents and parent support groups throughout Northern Ireland. As the groups of parents come from diverse backgrounds and include parents of children with special needs and parents representing ethnic minority groups, PFNI is well placed to develop and support structures, which enable parents to be actively engaged in participation

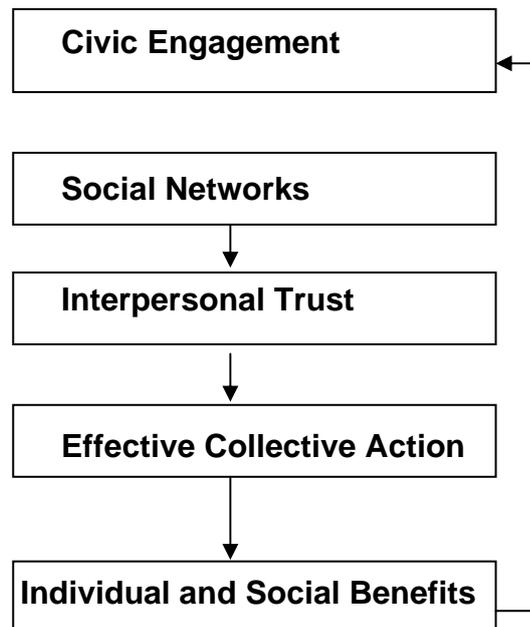
Consultation Methodology and Processes

In developing the methodologies and processes for parental participation the Parenting Forum NI would adhere to three of the ten key defining characteristics to deliver Family Support as defined by Pinkerton, Dolan and Canavan in 2006, which are:

- Working in partnership is an integral part of Family Support. Partnership includes, children, families, professionals and communities.
- Involvement of services users and providers in the planning, delivery and evaluation of family support services is promoted on an ongoing basis.
- Measures of success are routinely built into provision so as to facilitate evaluation based on attention to the outcomes for service users and

thereby facilitate ongoing support for quality services based on best practice.

The model which would be implemented would also adhere to the principles of community development which Dolan (2008) puts forward as key to increasing Social Capital at local and strategic levels. Social Capital in Community Development is most active in 'bridging and bonding'. Parents would be supported at the different levels identified by Dolan (2008) to ensure that not only will services be planned with the input of parents, but parents will also feel valued. Parents may engage in any of the levels as demonstrated in Dolan's model below:



A three tiered model of participation would be implemented that reflects the new structures the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has put in place to deliver integrated planning and commissioning arrangements for services to children, young people and families. A range of methods would be used which

are appropriate to each tier to ensure real engagement and feedback from parents. These are detailed below:

Level 1 - Locality Groups

Currently there are a number of Locality Groups operating across Northern Ireland. The remit of the groups is to put into place services at a local level which reflect local needs. The groups have representation of community, voluntary and statutory services operating within a specific geographic area.

The opportunity for parental participation at local level would be offered to all parents living within a locality area. There are three strands of engagement with parents:

- Supporting Locality members to represent the views and opinions of parents who attend their services at the Locality Group Meeting
- Supporting local parents to be involved on an ongoing basis in the work of the group.
- An annual meeting open to all parents who would be asked their views on the service delivery provision within the area and identify any gaps and to explore options for involvement on an ongoing basis using local support mechanisms .

Methodology

In order to deliver on these three requirements at local level two different methodologies would be applied.

- Training for the Locality Group members on engaging parents, supporting their views and feeding into Locality planning at regular meetings. (1 per Trust Area early in the implementation of the model).
- Consultation sessions with parents would be facilitated by the Parenting Forum NI in each Locality . Locality representatives will identify and support parents to take part in the events. PFNI would design and facilitate the sessions and provide a report to each Locality Group on their specific issues. PFNI will collate the information from across all the Locality Groups to produce an overall report based on all the meetings for the Strategic Partnership. The sessions in each Locality area will be used to determine how PFNI will support ongoing involvement.
- PFNI to support local involvement in Locality Planning in each area as determined by initial meeting in each area.

Level 2 – Regional Sub Groups

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is establishing a number of Regional Sub Groups, which will carry out integrated planning in relation to vulnerable groups of children and young people e.g. Disability, Black and Ethnic Minorities.

Two appropriate methodologies would be implemented to offer opportunities to ensure inclusion of parents.

Methodology

- For each such group, one group of 10-12 parents would be established. Parents will be recruited from parents who attend the Locality group's

sessions and parents who have experience or interest in the specific group of children and young people. This will include liaising with established existing groups, for example Black and Minority support groups or action groups.

- PFNI will design and facilitate each of the parents' meetings for the Regional sub groups and collate the information into a report for each group.
- As some parents from particular groups may or will not sign up to be part of sub group work in this way the Parenting Forum NI would also hold one off sessions with Parenting Forum Members (singled theme issue groups e.g. some Black and Minority Ethnic Groups) as and when required.

Level 3 – Outcomes Groups

Each Trust area will have one Outcomes Group. The role of local Outcomes Groups is to act as a local partnership for voluntary, community and statutory organisations to jointly consider how well local children and young people are doing in relation to the 6 high level outcomes for children and young people set out in the Ten Year Strategy, to identify where action on the priorities arising can be addressed and support such action.

Methodology

- One group of 10 - 12 parents will be established to form an Outcomes Group Consultation Panel Group.
- Parents will be recruited through Locality Groups and would act in a consultative role to the Outcomes Group.

- PFNI will design and facilitate each of the parents' meetings for the Outcomes Group Consultation sessions with parents, to help to identify actions which need to be taken to support the priorities of the Outcomes Group.
- PFNI will collate the information and produce a report for each of the five Outcomes Boards.

Level 4 Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

The CYPSP is a cross sectoral, strategic partnership, consisting of the leadership of all key agencies who have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Northern Ireland including health, social services, education, policing and housing as well as representatives from the voluntary and community sectors.

The overall purpose of the CYPSP is to lead integrated planning and commissioning of supports and services aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people across Northern Ireland . These six high level outcomes were set out in the ten year strategy entitled 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge', developed by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Methodology

One group of 20 parents would be established to form the Parents Advisory Forum. PFNI would design and facilitate the group sessions using appropriate information to be developed as directed by the CYPSP. PFNI will collate the information into a report for the Strategic Partnership. The parents will be recruited with 2 representatives from each Regional Sub Group and up to 10

individual parents from the Locality Groups, the PFNI membership and the general population. This group will meet 3 times per year or as required by the CYPSP.

How will we measure that parental participation is working?

- More parents will be involved in service planning
- Parents and carers will be able to see where changes have been made as a result of their involvement
- The CYPSP partner agencies, (those involved in planning or commissioning services), will be listening and acting upon regular feedback from parents/carers and parents will see evidence of this through feedback at group sessions and information produced in Parenting Forum NI newsletters
- Parents will have increased confidence in the quality and range of services that are provided

Parents Advisory Forum Functions

1. The members of the group will act in a consultative role to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership on integrated planning.
2. The members of the group will act as a source of information sharing with other parents the integrated planning process overseen by the CYPSP.

Parents Advisory Forum Proposed Framework

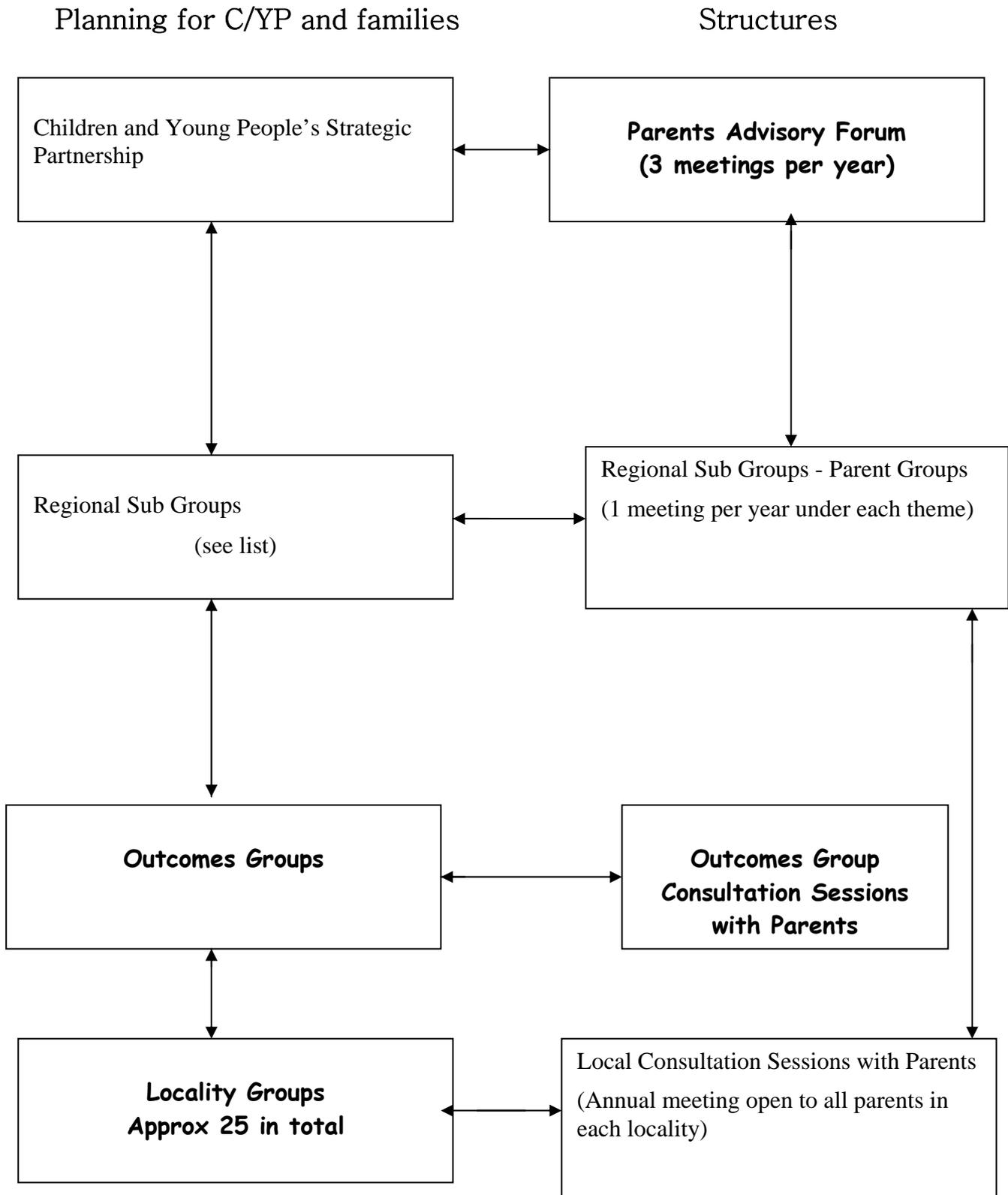
1. PAF would have representation from across all sections of the community and reflect Section 75.
2. PAF would have representation from the Regional Sub Groups parents groups, including each Chair and one other member as well as individual parents who self nominate.
3. PAF would have 20 members to reflect the range of parenting issues and themes. Members will be selected as part of the nomination process.
4. PAF will meet 3 times per year and within a month of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership meeting for up to 2 hours on each occasion. Times dates and venues to be agreed by PAF members.
5. Individual parent members can be nominated by a parents group, an organisation working directly with parents or self nomination. Selection

will be made by an independent panel and serve for two year hence new selections to take place on a rolling basis.

6. Members of PAF will elect a chair and vice chair.

7. The facilitation, administration and support of the group and individual members would be the task of the Parenting Forum NI.

New structures for integrated Parental Participation



**APPENDIX 4 – EQUALITY SCREENING – SEE
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT**