

MAKING IT R WRLD 2
SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Background

In November 2004 the Children and Young People's Unit (CYPU), Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister published, *Making it r wrld 2*, for consultation. 10,000 copies of the main document and 12,000 copies of a young people's version were widely distributed. 162 responses were received. Of the total, 120 were from community groups, voluntary and statutory sector organisations, churches and Government departments. Of the remaining 42 individual responses, 30 were from young people and 12 were from adults. All 30 responses from children and young people, were made using the 'reply sheets' included in the Young Person's version. A review of these responses suggests that all came from young people of post-primary school age. A list of those who responded is attached at Annex A. We are extremely grateful to all whose who responded.

To ensure that the views of children and young people and parents from marginalised groups were represented, OFMDFM commissioned the voluntary sector to carry out consultation events throughout the province. Approximately 246 adults and 1255 children/young people attended these consultation events.

The consultation document contained forty one specific questions, many of which were designed to establish a measure of support for the content of the strategy. However, the format and nature of the content of the majority of responses did not facilitate quantitative analysis. In relation to the majority of questions, responses were characterised by commentary rather than by explicit agreement or disagreement.

In addition to the questions set out in the draft strategy document, respondents took the opportunity to raise issues which lay outside the specific focus of individual questions. The key issues raised related to the following issues:

1. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In general terms, the majority of responses appeared to support the framework within which the strategy is being developed. There were, however, a number of notable exceptions to this broad agreement. These concerns, which centred on the relationship between the draft strategy and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), were clearly articulated by Save the Children in the following terms:

Our over-riding concern in relation to the draft document is that it is not an implementation plan for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. On a range of measures it fails to meet the standards set out in the Convention itself and elucidated by the CRC Committee. (Save the Children)

This was the general view expressed by a number of voluntary sector groups. These organisations included: Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI); Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA); Barnado's; the Children's Law Centre; and the NSPCC.

Other respondents whilst less critical of the strategic framework did express concern about the nature of the language used in the report. This language was characterised by one respondent as descriptive rather than prescriptive. Other respondents elaborated on this point and argued that the language did not match the standards set out in the UNCRC.

The UNCRC is supposed to underpin the entire framework for the strategy however it appears to be significantly undermined and eroded by language used and a lack of clear commitment to being the implementation plan for the UNCRC. (Contact Youth)

We believe that the strategy needs to identify how and when the UNCRC Implementation will be produced and ensure that this dovetails with the Children's strategy. (Barnardo's)

2. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A significant number of responses commented on the nature of the relationship between rights and responsibilities and expressed views on how this relationship should be reflected in the strategy document. A number of responses expressed the opinion that the document over-emphasised the rights and entitlements of young people with relatively little reference to responsibilities. A contrary view, expressed by a similar number of respondents, was that reference to the responsibilities was inappropriate, as children's rights were not dependent on them exercising responsibilities.

Whilst the values concentrate on the rights of the individual, the Association feels there is a need for greater emphasis on the responsibilities of the individual. (Association of Chief Librarians)

A fundamental principle governing International standards on human rights and children's rights is the recognition that rights are inalienable; they cannot be contingent on rights holders exercising responsibility. (Save the Children)

This qualification of rights with responsibilities features throughout the document and the implications of this are disappointing and undesirable. We strongly oppose the notion that children's rights are contingent on exercising 'responsibilities' (Children's Law Centre)

3. RESOURCING

A common concern expressed in responses was that funding had not been ring fenced in order to ensure that the actions contained in the draft strategy would actually take place and without firm resources in place the strategy carried little weight.

Overall there is a lack of clarity and transparency in relation to resourcing of the strategy. This inspires little confidence particularly in the current climate with the ending of the Executive Children's Fund and threats to statutory services for children and young people. (CiNI)

4. STRUCTURE

Cross-cutting themes

The structure of the draft strategy was based upon 5 key areas and a cross cutting section. A number of responses expressed concern about the inclusion of chapter 6 which related to 'Additional Draft Actions' relating to Cross-cutting themes. The key concern expressed was that by creating a specific section for the relevant groups of children, they appeared to marginalise these children further. Responses also indicated that the groups identified were insufficient and the following groups were regarded by respondents as also requiring greater attention in the draft strategy:

- Refugee and asylum seeking children and young people
- Children and young people with a disability
- Children and young people in the criminal justice system
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered young people
- Young parents
- Traveller children and young people
- Homeless children and young people
- Looked after children and young people

In relation to groups such as these it was highlighted that '...it had to be explicitly recognised that not all children and young people had equal experiences, and therefore additional specific action – and resources – were needed to enable these groups of children and young people to achieve equality of opportunity'. (CiNI); and

'If the strategy is serious about creating an inclusive environment for children and young people and implementing the "whole child" approach it is not appropriate for it to deal with children with "additional needs" separately from other children. In the strategy "children with additional needs" only refers to children with a disability, travelling children, young carers and looked after children and young people. While there can be no disputing the fact that these children and young people have additional needs which require attention the strategy makes no reference to young parents, young gay, lesbian and bisexual people and young people living in rural areas.(NICVA)

Prevention

A number of responses highlighted what was perceived to be a relatively minor focus on prevention within the strategy which was expressed by the Children's Law Centre and Barnardo's as follows:

It is striking in the section on protection that there is a lack of focus on prevention. There is no recognition of how important prevention is in order to avoid the need for crisis intervention. (Children's Law Centre)

Barnardo's are particularly concerned that there is no clear focus on prevention within the Strategy. Prevention is key in terms of early interventions for children and young people to prevent later problems and to ensure families receive support before they receive crisis point. The Strategy should endorse a preventative model and seek to put in place associated indicators. (Barnardo's)

Participation

The view was expressed by respondents that the theme of participation should be explicit throughout the strategy and did not sit well as a separate section. A number of responses highlighted the need to ensure effective participation for the most disadvantaged groups of children and young people.

Concern was also expressed that initiatives to date rarely secured involvement from the most marginalised groups of children and young people. Since participation had a key role in securing ownership, inclusion and self-worth, and as such played a key role in preventing further disengagement, much more effort was needed to involve representative cross-sections of children and young people. (CiNI)

We wish to inquire how OFMDFM has carried out direct consultation with children and young people in respect of this draft Strategy document... Youth@clc have also questioned the representativeness of the Young People's Advisory Forum and have queried the inclusion of the voices of

marginalised children and young people in the Children's Strategy (Children's Law Centre)

We are concerned to ensure that all children are enabled to participate and we would particularly draw attention to those children who are most likely to be overlooked. This includes; young children, disabled children particularly those who have difficulty with verbal communication, ethnic minority and refugee children. (Barnardo's)

....suggest that additional actions are undertaken in relation to ensuring that participation mechanisms are developed in relation to marginalised young people who are often difficult to reach and particularly young people living outside the main population centres. (Save the Children)

5. DEFINITION OF A CHILD

Responses to the consultation highlighted two issues relating to the definition of child that was employed in relation to the draft strategy. Firstly, it was argued that the definition should be extended to the child *in utero*. Secondly, it was argued that the definition of child should extend to the age of 25 for specific groups of children.

... is concerned that the definition of a 'child' and 'young person' as being 'a person under the age of 18', excludes the children in utero. In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the needs of the unborn child are recognised (Christian Action Research and Education (CARE))

6. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIONS

Some respondents expressed the view that the draft actions and indicators in the strategy related to areas of work that were already on-going within Departments and that the strategy should detail all the strategies currently in place and also the ones being developed in relation to children's issues.

There needs to be greater detail in the OFMDFM Strategy in relation to the synergy with other strategies and in some of the detail they will contain. It becomes difficult when key children's issues are subsumed as one topic under the headline of a particular department's strategy. All in all, the document makes reference to 16 other strategies. Simply put, the Children's Strategy may be in danger of becoming a document which merely references a variety of other strategies, none of which contain much detail. (NSPCC)

7. ASSOCIATED INDICATORS

The common view set out in responses was that the associated indicators set out in the draft strategy should be replaced by SMART targets. In keeping with this view, a number of responses highlighted the desirability of prioritising the research action relating to the development of indicators in order to measure the strategy's effectiveness. Responses frequently observed that to do so required baseline data. In this context, a number of the groups highlighted the present absence of such data and the need, therefore to ensure the collection or capture of disaggregated data relating to children and young people.

In relation to indicators it was noted '...there needed to be recognition that some groups required more support and resources to overcome institutionalised discrimination in the past and create a level playing field to afford a fair chance for all children. Indicators therefore needed to concentrate on eroding inequitable differentials as well as generally improving standards.' (CiNI)

8. POLICY PROOFING

The importance of policy proofing from a child/young person perspective was noted in a number of responses and it was noted that this process should apply to existing as well as new policies.

RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ASKED

This section provides an overview of the responses to the 41 questions contained within the draft strategy document.

1. *Do you agree with this vision?*

The overwhelming majority of responses to the consultation agreed with the vision set out in the strategy document. The vision was described as 'radical' 'commendable' with 'high aspirations'. A number of respondents, whilst agreeing with the vision, expressed the concern that it might be 'over ambitious'. As has been stated above, however, a number of groups expressed concern that the vision did not adequately reflect a commitment to implementation of the UNCRC.

Some comments in this section were perhaps inappropriate as they related not to a vision statement but highlighted areas of service provision (eg right of access to youth services or services for the homeless). Specific areas that were highlighted as missing from the vision statement included:

- Need to incorporate the health and well-being of children and young people as part of the vision.

2. *Do you agree with this set of values?*

The majority of those expressing an opinion were in agreement with the set of values contained in the draft strategy. Values such as dignity, rights and uniqueness were highlighted for their particular importance. A number of respondents, however, expressed concern that the values did not strike the correct balance between rights and responsibilities. On the one hand, respondents desired increased reference to responsibilities. On the other, the argument was made that children's rights are not contingent on responsibilities. A number of respondents expressed concern that the strategy overlooked the responsibility and function of parents.

The following specific revisions to the values statements were suggested:

- Weak language – ‘need’ should be replaced by ‘entitled to’
- Include respect for individuals and poverty as values
- Need encouragement and support to become active and responsible participants in society
- Need support and positive encouragement to explore and achieve their individual potential
- Need to include a statement about every child having the opportunity to make informed choices about their health and well being.

3. *Are the draft operational principles comprehensive enough?*

A number of respondents highlighted the importance of co-ordinated collaborative working but also suggested that the strategy should be more explicit about how this approach might work in practice. Parents and family support were highlighted as being of particular importance, as was inclusion. The need to clarify the relationship between these principles and the UNCRC was highlighted.

The following suggestions for additional principles were included in responses

- ‘Parent and family supporting’ and ‘Protection of child before birth’

4. *How can these principles be monitored?*

One response observed that it is not possible to monitor a principle, but added that it was essential that programmes and projects are closely monitored to ensure that they are in keeping with the principles, the values and the overall vision. Other responses to the question included the following suggestions:

- establish a children’s department;
- undertake public consultations involving children and young people and where appropriate their parents and carers;
- introduce local integrated planning processes (such as Children’s Services Planning);
- set targets for actions;
- involve The Commissioner for Children and Young People; and
- undertake regular reviews with interdisciplinary representation from families, community and voluntary groups along with statutory agencies and the private sector.

5. *Does a rights-based whole child perspective provide a helpful, inclusive view of childhood and youth?*

Almost all respondents expressed support for this perspective, which was described as ‘fundamental’ due to the overlapping nature of children’s needs. A number of statutory agencies highlighted the numerous ways in which they were already adopting this approach and that this was reflected in a number of their programmes and projects.

Some responses expressed concern that this approach might be too ambitious in scope and difficult to achieve and measure.

The need to reference the rights and responsibilities of children and parents and their role in relation to growth and development of children/young people (Article 5 of UNCRC) was noted.

The following specific revisions were suggested:

- The chapter is written in language that is more descriptive than prescriptive. For instance, the introduction should read “The Strategy will be anchored...” as opposed to “....needs to be...” And the section “Individual capacity and entitlement” should read “all children and young people have a right to be active participants...” as opposed to “...are active participants”
- Must and will rather than ‘needs to be anchored’
- The first bullet point in 5.3 reads “*the rounded, joint-up nature of children and young people’s lives*”. We would

recommend that this sentence is re-phrased, as it alludes to the possibility that anyone's life could be not 'joined-up'. Likewise, in 5.3.2 it is stated that young people are "*active participants and contributors to their own lives*". Again this phrase is unfortunate as it opens up the possibility for people *not* to be contributors to their own life.

ACTION AREAS

No question specifically sought comments on the collective grouping of 5 key areas but a significant number of respondents made such general comment. In relation to the additional actions, a number of respondents suggested that the separate section, in their view, relegated these themes to a lower level than the other key areas. A number of responses suggested that themes such as participation should be explicit throughout the strategy and not presented as separate sections. Prevention was suggested by a number of respondents as worthy of its own action area. Other general comments included:

- Need to show how actions are linked to outcomes;
- Need to set challenging indicators for departmental working;
- Indicators should measure quality of life for young people;
- Concern that strategic objectives were unlikely to achieve strategic outcomes;
- A number of examples of best practice outcomes based planning in relation to children were highlighted (Vermont, NCO);
- Some concern that health and well-being was not sufficiently reflected in 5 action areas; and
- Creating a specific section on additional draft actions relating to cross-cutting themes for the relevant groups of children appear to marginalize these children further

RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

6. Do you agree with the proposed strategic outcome?

Almost all responses which expressed a clear opinion, agreed with this strategic outcome. Given the focus of this section, there were a significant number of responses which raised the issue of the relationship between rights and responsibilities. A number of respondents questioned how well single identity issues were addressed by this outcome.

There is no recognition of the integrity of single identity work and support within communities and this amounts to an institutional lack of respect for those communities. This essentially undermines what the strategy says it is about. (West Belfast Economic Forum (WBEF))

The appropriateness of this outcome (and others) for children with special educational needs, children with a disability, and disaffected vulnerable groups was raised.

The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) questions how this [objective] can be realised for some children and young people with special educational needs and disability as well as disaffected and vulnerable groups.

7. Are the two strategic objectives proposed appropriate?

Almost all of those who responded to this question agreed that they were.

8. Do you think that the suggested actions will achieve those objectives?

Few responses expressed the view that the actions would not achieve these objectives. However, a number of respondents did reference the need for appropriate resources and for cultural change. A number of responses highlighted the importance of monitoring the implementation of the UNCRC in relation to this

question and that there needs to be a more robust action to mainstream the UNCRC into policy making. It was noted that actions designed to achieve these strategic outcomes and objectives should be based upon analysis of the reports of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In relation to the action to provide training on UNCRC, children's rights and the 'whole child' approach for relevant employees in government departments and public bodies, it was suggested that the expertise among the community and voluntary sectors should be utilised in developing training on UNCRC. It was also commented that the strategy needed to be more specific about how children and young people are going to be alerted to their rights and what they should do if they feel their rights have been breached.

Other comments included:

- More emphasis needs to be placed on religious equality
- There are clear links between developments on Race Equality Strategy and poverty especially with regard to NI Travellers.

9. *Are there any additional actions you feel should be taken?*

The following additional actions were suggested in responses:

- Actions relating to children with special needs and new arrivals (asylum and immigrant children);
- Need for a disability strategy;
- Single identity work;
- Core training on UNCRC should be given to new and existing teachers;
- Need to include how tolerance is to be addressed in a divided society;
- Examine the wage differentials between young and older people;
- Schools should adhere to anti-bullying policies;

- Actions need to tackle relative underperformance in educational attainment e.g. among travellers and disabled children; and
- Proofing of policies and legislation should be extended to include existing policies and legislation.

A number of organisations representing libraries and librarians highlighted the role of libraries in awareness raising.

10. *Which strategic indicators in relation to Rights and Equality would you suggest?*

Some respondents questioned how improvements will be measured in terms of some of the associated indicators in this section and stated that the indicators needed to be developed more. Questions asked included ‘How will the levels of inequality experienced by children and young people be measured?’ and ‘How will changes in attitude towards children and young people be measured?’

The following suggestions for strategic indicators were included in responses:

- Soft outcomes such as rights awareness amongst young people;
- Number of children who attend integrated schools;
- Develop a base line attitudinal survey which would measure incremental improvement in racial tolerance;
- There is no mention of homophobic bullying in the indicators;
- As well as monitoring the number of people affected by racial inequality, it is also important to monitor the inequality which young people with a disability experience; and
- There is no citizenship programme for primary schools, the strategy will need to develop actions to ensure that primary school children are educated about their rights too.

PARTICIPATION

11. *Do you agree with the proposed strategic outcome?*

Those who indicated a clear position, agreed with the strategic outcome. The view was expressed, however, that the theme of participation should be explicit throughout the strategy and did not sit well as a separate section.

12. *Are the two strategic objectives proposed appropriate?*

Whilst in general the objectives were deemed appropriate, some respondents highlighted the need for structures and processes to be inclusive and appropriate for all children (including traveller children, children with disabilities, children from ethnic minorities, those excluded from school, those not active in community networks). It was also noted that, where appropriate, there is a need to ensure participation for the parent/carer of some children. The challenge of ensuring participation for children and young people with special education needs was highlighted by a number of respondents.

Comments included:

- Objective 2 – ‘...participate in an effective manner’;
- Appears to be contradiction with the draft SENDO legislation in relation to funding;
- How will the strategy address the UN Committee recommendation that systems must be put in place to involve children and young people more fully in administration decision making and court proceedings and to ensure a right of appeal in school exclusions both fixed and permanent.

13. *Do you think that the suggested actions will achieve those objectives?*

Participation of children and young people was widely welcomed by respondents and there was a general consensus that participation played a vital part in developing children and young people as active members of society. A number of respondents

highlighted the need to monitor participation to ensure that it is effective and inclusive.

Many responded to drawing on the voluntary and youth sector to assist with participation of children and young people and to promote examples of best practice and tested models. Others commented that children and young people should be involved in the policy development areas which included employment, local area based strategies and economic and community development.

14. *Are there any additional actions you feel should be taken?*

The following additional actions were suggested in responses:

- Opportunity to participate in the new curriculum;
- Shadow Youth Council;
- Training and support and evaluation tools that measure improved outcomes due to participation;
- The audit and evaluation of existing participation mechanisms/structures needs to be repeated regularly;
- Production of children's versions of published reports/consultations as a government standard.

15. *What strategic indicators in relation to participation would you suggest?*

A key point made by a number of respondents was that a measure of the numbers involved in participation processes is not the most appropriate indicator. Respondents noted that it was important to measure: the experience of participation; perception of its impact; and outcomes due to participation in terms of levels of personal, social and skill development. The need for baseline figures against which to measure progress was also highlighted.

PROVISION

16. *Do you agree with the proposed strategic outcomes in each of the five 'Provision' areas set out above?*

Where a clear opinion was expressed, responses tended to agree with the formulation of the strategic outcome.

As with other strategic outcomes, some responses expressed concern that the outcome (and others) might not be appropriate for children with special educational needs, children with a disability, and disaffected vulnerable groups.

Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) was concerned that it might not be appropriate to children with a disability and suggested that the built environment should be 'safe, accessible and interesting to all young people regardless of disability or ability'.

17. *Are the strategic objectives proposed appropriate?*

It was the general consensus from those who responded that the strategic objectives proposed were appropriate.

18. *Do you think that the proposed actions set out above will achieve those objectives?*

In response to this question the following observations were made:-

Achievement, Learning and Enjoyment

The development of a play and recreation strategy and exploration of the extent to which schools could be resourced to become multi-agency centres with out-of-hours usage was widely welcomed by respondents. The inclusion of children and young people with additional needs was also highlighted. One respondent stated that a better school environment will let children be happier and ready to learn. Respondents also focused on the role of the youth sector, expressing the view that their experience should be acknowledged and that focusing on the formal approach i.e. the

education sector, is too narrow and that “The Youth Work Strategy should be a priority”.

The implementation of the Costello report was widely commented on and it was stated that this action leaves the impression that the focus is on existing initiatives rather than creative developments to maximise individual achievements for all children and young people”. One respondent asked the question “Does the policy review of pre-school education include children with additional needs?”

Built and Natural Environment

In general respondents felt that this section had a positive impact on social need. Some respondents commented that there should be reference made to the Neighbourhood Renewal strategies which have a key role in improving the environment for children and young people. Other respondents expressed the need for better funding in rural areas as facilities for children and young people in these areas are very poor. One respondent commented that there was “No specific provision for provincial towns”.

Other comments included:

- Sceptical about Planning Services current level of consultation with children and young people;
- Housing development should not be passed without adequate provision of private and public open space and built facilities for young people;

Family and Community Support

Many respondents highlighted the absence of prevention and early intervention actions within this section and responses included the following comments:

- The absence of reference to prevention means that the focus is too narrow and restrictive; and
- There is no need to look at the consequence of family breakdowns, but there is a need for a preventative strategy addressing family breakdowns.

Respondents welcomed parenting education and one respondent commented that there was a need for a long-term vision in relation to the kind of support that families can access. Sure Start was widely commented on and the view was expressed that it was “outdated” and that “Sure Start developments in Northern Ireland have not reached the expected and necessary levels”.

Childcare facilities were also an issue among respondents and one respondent expressed the view that the action to provide information to employers on benefits of family friendly working arrangements should be strengthened. Other comments included:

- Should be recognition that an increase in the number of children in childcare is not necessarily a success;
- Policies which encourage the maximum of in-home care should be pursued and facilitated.

Physical, Mental and Emotional Well-being

Respondents welcomed the actions in this section and commented that there should be a strong focus on prevention. On the action of the ‘Review of the anti-bullying strategy’ respondents stated that the action was not “robust” enough to tackle bullying and that the anti-bullying strategy alone “will not deliver the objectives”. There was a general consensus among respondents that the mental health needs of children and young people in Northern Ireland should be a priority. The action to build and maintain healthy relationships and self-confidence was well supported by respondents.

Other comments included:

- Young people should have access to information on health and sources of support external to Health and Social Services;
- Raising of the school starting age should be cited as an important measure which would impact positively on children’s emotional and mental well-being;
- Hard to understand that ‘building and maintaining healthy relationships and self confidence’ has a medium-long

timescale considering that we have the highest rates of self-harm and suicide in Western Europe;

- Encourage an attitude of abstinence amongst young people as the primary protection;
- There is no mention of sexual health in the strategy;
- Children and young people with mental health needs must be facilitated separately from adults;
- Lack of specialised NHS assistance for young people with eating disorders;
- There should be a commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and young people in towns as well as in rural areas.

Research and Information

In response to this section respondents recognised that carrying out research and gathering information on children and young people's issues was a key part in improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland and the action to develop a research and information strategy was widely welcomed. Other comments in relation to this action included:

- The need to build on existing research;
- Other means should be used regarding the dissemination of research and information other than a website as not all children and young people have a computer;
- It is essential that the development of more integrated children's information does not increase the bureaucratic burdens on schools.

19. *Are there any additional actions you feel should be taken?*

The following additional actions were suggested in responses:

Achievement, Learning and Enjoyment

- Practical financial management should be included in post primary curriculum;
- Community based infrastructures need to be supported;

- An evaluation of the role of extended schools and their applicability to Northern Ireland.

Built and Natural Environment

- Recommend that play provision be more explicitly dealt with in the strategy;
- Action which deals with the issue of provision of age-appropriate play space;
- District Councils should be required to develop strategies for parks and open spaces to ensure that children have access to them;
- The review of the Forest Services should reflect the views of children and young people as they are among the highest users of the service;
- There should be a regional commitment to the development of Home Zones to enable children to play safely on the streets;
- Need a strategy for managing and improving open spaces.

Family and Community Support

- Physical punishment should be outlawed as a matter of urgency;
- Need to provide Sure Start for teenagers with same strong involvement of parents;
- Government should give a commitment to carrying out a public education campaign on physical punishment;
- Offer cash benefits to parents of under-threes as an alternative to a place in a childcare project;
- Employers need to become more family friendly offering crèche facilities;
- Need for a children's Minister.

Physical, Mental and Emotional Well-being

- In addition to the development and implementation of an age-appropriate information programme there would be a need for a youth service programme;

- Appropriate high quality early childhood services and the support for social capital initiatives will have a positive impact on reducing teenage pregnancies;
- Assertiveness and confidence building is essential as part of the curriculum;
- Social competence and emotional literacy should be mentioned;
- Should have a strategy devoted to dealing with suicide and self harm;
- Commit funding to having a counsellor in schools for adolescents;
- Significant ring fenced investment needs to be made in child and adolescent mental health services as a matter of urgency;
- If the strategy is rights based a strong commitment should be given on the unacceptability of physical punishment.

Research and Information

- Recommend that an action is included to develop localised peer research groups in which young people have the opportunity to take responsibility for gathering information and data from other young people;
- Reference should be made to sharing and making information available in ways suitable for children and young people;
- Remedial action rather than further research is sometimes necessary as carrying out research can sometimes be seen as a means of merely delaying the urgent action;
- Need to chart demographic change in the populations of children and young people and include a mechanism to adapt the strategic priorities accordingly;
- Make specific mention of joint research and sharing of knowledge.

20. *What strategic indicators in relation to the five 'Provision' areas would you suggest?*

There was great dissatisfaction among respondents with regard to the associated indicators within this section. Many respondents

expressed the view that the indicators were weak, lacked detail, poorly focused on the outcomes for children and young people. The view was also expressed that there was no indication how achievements could be measured and no way of knowing if targets had been met. Comments included:

Achievement, Learning and Enjoyment

- No indication as to how 'improve quality provision' will be measured;
- Some indicators seem unrelated to benefits from actions eg. Physical activity is an essential part of children and young people's development – 'how many young people enjoy sport?' is not useful;
- It is difficult to determine how the 'consideration of a review' or the 'production of a report' serves as evidence of improved outcomes for children and young people;
- It would be more important to observe the accessibility of schools such as toilets and social recreational facilities for young people with disabilities, rather than monitoring the number of mobile classrooms and how clean the toilets are;
- Indicators should refer to after school provision/play clubs.

Built and Natural Environment

- The indicator on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Road Safety strategy should be amended to a 50% reduction in child road deaths and serious injuries by 2012;
- The indicator should be a decrease in the numbers of road collisions involving children and young people rather than citing figures;
- Indicators do not provide for a great deal of action on the findings of the baseline study, which is disappointing given the life span of the strategy;
- Associated indicators should be more specific;
- How many houses are provided to care experienced young people?

Family and Community Support

- Implementation of the family support strategy and identify gaps in current services for children and young people would act as a much more focused indicator;
- There should be a recognition that it is healthy for children to be at home with their family and that an increase in the number of children in childcare is not necessarily a success;
- The quality of play provision is a more important indicator than the amount of children with access to play;
- Parents and families need access to a central childcare information service;
- Indicators should be more specific i.e. Increase in the numbers of children in childcare, after-school play care settings or 'provision and uptake of parenting education programmes;
- There is no evidence of target dates for achieving indicators.

Physical, Mental and Emotional Well-being

- The associated indicators should include young people's accessibility to services, self harm and rates of attempted suicides;
- A reduction in the numbers of young people receiving mental health services does not equate with being healthy;
- One response suggested that the indicators did not measure the reduction in problem areas relating to physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Research and Information

It was commented that there was no mention of homophobic bullying in the indicators and none of the indicators are associated with sexuality.

PROTECTION

21. *Do you agree with the proposed strategic outcome?*

Where a clear opinion was expressed, respondents tended to agree with the formulation of the strategic outcome.

22. *Is the strategic objective appropriate?*

Where a clear opinion was expressed, respondents tended to agree with the formulation of the strategic objective.

23. *Do you think that the proposed actions will achieve the objective?*

Many respondents highlighted the need for preventative approaches within this section. The draft action to 'develop a health and safety strategy/good practice guidelines for work experience and work' was welcomed by respondents and it was stated that parents should be aware of how children need to be protected properly and that there should be training in child protection for all people involved with children.

The action on the 'implementation of any recommendation arising from the review of child protection vetting' was also welcomed and widely commented on, particularly in relation to 'Cross border co-operation'. Disappointment was expressed at the absence of a cross border dimension to child protection in the draft strategy are reflected in the comment "both governments have the potential to inadvertently sustain an environment in which those abusing children may evade detection or prosecution". The view was also expressed that "we should not be solely relying on a vetting service to protect young people" and "young people should be educated on the risks that they take and encourage responsibility trying to minimise these".

There was general endorsement from respondents who commented on the action 'Evaluation of extent and impact of domestic violence on children and young people' that it would not protect children and young people. It was stated that the action

should be stronger and it was suggested it should read “to reduce the number of incidences of domestic violence”.

Comments relating to the other actions within the ‘protection’ section were on the main welcomed except for some comments relating to the role of the NIO, they included:

- Where does the legislation on ASBOs fit within the strategy?
- Concerned at the absence of actions aimed at diverting children and young people away from the criminal justice system and protecting those in the system;
- The building of a purpose-designed juvenile justice centre is not enough. Young people in the juvenile justice centre need treatment for mental illnesses.

24. *Are there any additional actions you feel should be taken?*

Other additional actions included:

- Research into effects of sexual abuse on children and young people;
- Address particular problems of immigrant and asylum children who are exploited as cheap labour;
- Resources to develop diversion from custody outcomes for young people in the criminal justice system;
- Protection from internet abuse;
- Strategy must include a commitment to establish a system of statutory child death inquiries;
- Strategy must include an action to outlaw the use of physical punishment.

25. *What strategic indicators in relation to protection would you suggest?*

In relation to some of the proposed indicators It was suggested that the indicators were weak and it was unclear how they could help track protection in terms of outcomes for children and young people – for example indicators such as “effectiveness of

arrangements”; appointment of a Justice Oversight Commissioner; or “effective operation of purpose-designated centre”.

Some indicators suggested included:

- Provision for looked after children; and
- Improved stats on bullying, rape, domestic violence etc.

POVERTY

26. *Do you agree with the proposed strategic outcome?*

Where a clear opinion was expressed, respondents tended to agree with the formulation of the strategic outcome. One response did note, however, that the strategic outcome lies within the strategy period. Some responses, whilst agreeing with the strategic outcome, questioned how realistic it might be. A number of responses highlighted a need for a common definition of child poverty.

27. *Is the strategic objective proposed appropriate?*

This objective was particularly welcomed by a number of respondents. It was highlighted, however, that difficulties would exist in attempting to access the experiences of those affected by poverty. Concern that the objective might be unrealistic was also expressed in a number of responses. The need for a common definition of poverty was raised by a number of respondents.

28. *Do you think that the proposed actions will achieve the objective?*

Many respondents welcomed the action but felt they were limited in terms of achieving the objectives. It was commented that families need to know what support there is available and that home visits should be provided by Social Services to help assess need. Many respondents commented on the problem of ‘debt’ in NI and recognised that this was an issue which needed to be addressed. One respondent stated that there should be a ban on adverts which offer quick financial solutions to debt.

Other observations included:

- Need to give recognition to those with communication or language difficulties;
- There needs to be an examination of the benefit situation for 16-17 years and to address the financial hardship they experience;
- Unemployment and economic inactivity areas needs to be recognised;
- Need to eradicate youth homelessness.

29. *Are there any additional actions you feel should be taken?*

The following additional actions were suggested in responses:

- Need for further financial resources ;
- Simplify access to financial help;
- The Strategy should include a commitment to changes including the removal of differential minimum wage for 16-18 year olds and ensuring refugee and asylum seeking families access the same levels of benefit and support as other families;
- Action relating to lone parents;
- Development of all Ireland system of longitudinal data collection;
- To increase the uptake of entitlement in low income families in rural communities;
- CSA needs to be rectified – too difficult for lone parents to receive money from absent parents;
- Provide drop-in centres and clear sign posting to available services;
- Provide training on managing your money;
- Address the fact that 16-17 year olds receive a lower level of income support.

30. *What strategic indicators in relation to Poverty would you suggest?*

The following suggestions for strategic indicators were included in responses:

- Need for baselines.
- Reduction in number of children experiencing poverty;
- Should collaborate on this area with NCO in RoI;
- Need for definition of poverty.

ADDITIONAL DRAFT ACTIONS

31. *Do you agree with proposed actions in relation to the draft strategy's cross-cutting themes?*

A significant number of respondents viewed this separate section as inappropriate and thought that the actions contained within it should be assigned to the strategic objectives covered by the five key action areas. Comments included:

- Singling out children and young people with disabilities and those from ethnic backgrounds within additional cross cutting themes does not embrace the principle that the strategy is for all children;
- Parents were unhappy that children with additional needs were placed at the back of the draft strategy. This may lead some to believing that children with a disability were an afterthought.

The issue of appropriateness of mainstream education for all children was commented on by a number of respondents. Some respondents felt that mainstream schooling would not work for children and young people as they require a great deal of individual time and expertise. It was also commented that children and young people with learning disabilities have greater opportunities to achieve their rights in special schools. Several respondents stated the view that to introduce this action would mean that teachers would have less time to spend with children and young people who do not have special needs.

Consideration of the need to establish specific health services for adolescents was welcomed by respondents and in relation to the action “Identification of key times in the lives of children and young people when additional financial support is required and providing that support” concerns were expressed about the lack of information available on benefits and entitlement for young people.

32. *Are there any additional actions you feel should be taken?*

A number of respondents proposed a range of additional actions including:

- Expansion of EOTAS;
- Introduce a Children’s Service Department;
- Have a special needs class in every school.

There was some criticism by respondents of the indicators within this section. Most criticism related to the action “Development of an over-arching strategy for Children and Young People in Need” where respondents stated that more than the number of foster and residential places should measure this action. Other comments included “This indicator is extremely weak” and “requires to be expanded considerably in light of the definition of the Children in Need contained in the Children Order (Article 17). Another action widely commented on was “Ensuring that services for children and young people are seamless, integrated and age appropriate” where comments included “Feedback from children is insufficient” and “The indicator does not suggest a mechanism to promote integrated services”.

DELIVERY AND MONITORING

33. *Do you agree with the proposals for delivery and monitoring?*

Ministerial responsibility for the strategy was widely welcomed by respondents and some respondents expressed the view that a Minister for Children should be appointed.

There was widespread agreement that delivery of the strategy depended on collaborative work across departments with many respondents endorsing the Inter-Departmental Group. There was support for departments' actions to be reflected in their business plan.

The role of the CYPU with regard to the overarching action plan was supported by respondents, with one respondent commenting that CYPU's mandate to empower, co-ordinate and monitor implementation across all government departments needed clarification. With regard to the Biennial Report the question was asked, "What happens if targets are not met?"

The production of a technical report and the carrying out of a mapping exercise on Children and Young People's services was widely supported and welcomed by respondents. The view was expressed by some respondents that there is a need to provide qualitative and quantitative data and there needed to be a balance between the two. It was also commented that an all-island system of longitudinal data collection would seem a logical and cost effective way of proceeding.

Respondents in general supported the establishment of a Strategy Review Panel and welcomed the role of the voluntary and community sector within the panel. Several respondents commented that it was important the panel had clear terms of reference and that it was not sufficient for the panel to meet twice annually and that it should be a minimum of three times annually. It was also suggested that children and young people should be on the panel.

The introduction of appropriate mechanisms to involve young people and their parents had overwhelming support among respondents who recognised the important role they had as key stakeholders in the Strategy. The CYPU's Young People's Advisory Forum was praised. Some respondents also expressed the view that any mechanisms introduced to involve children and young people should be fully representative and include marginalized children and young people. It was also commented that it was not always appropriate to seek the views and participation of children without approaching parents.

The external mechanisms in the draft strategy were welcomed and it was also suggested that the four Health and Social Services Boards should be included in the external mechanisms. One respondent was “Puzzled by the dual role of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. It is impossible to be responsible for the delivery of a strategy and also to be an independent monitor”.

There was general agreement to continue with the structures in place to deliver at local level. The view was also expressed that these structures could be strengthened if resources were increased.

It was highly emphasised by respondents that adequate resources were required in order for the strategy to be delivered.

Comments included:

- Dedicated resources rather than competing with other need;
- Children’s fund was innovative and should not be abolished;
- Resources need to be centralised;
- Services should not have to depend on bid funding, which is time consuming and often leads to short-termism;
- “Every Child Matters Report” which has been allocated a budget of £22.5 million for 06/07 and £63 million for 07/08 which will help local authorities to implement changes similar to those proposed for NI.

34. *How best can the voices of parents be heard in the monitoring process?*

There was overwhelming support for the establishment of a Parents Forum. Some respondents also stated that parent’s voices can be heard through parent and toddler groups, clubs and societies. It was also suggested that other established structures could be used to hear the views of parents e.g. Parent Teacher Associations and some respondents expressed the view that additional funding of the Children and Young Peoples Committees would enable them to be extended to include parents.

ASSESSMENTS IN RELATION TO EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS, NEW TSN, HUMAN RIGHTS AND RURAL PROOFING

- 35. *Do you agree that the main equality impacts of the strategy are in relation to age, disability, people with/without dependants, political opinion, racial groups and gender?***

Many respondents agreed with the equality impacts listed in the strategy. Some respondents thought that further consideration should be given to families living in poverty. Other areas highlighted were children and young people living in rural areas; carers; marital status; religion; sexual orientation; traveller children and children of asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers.

- 36. *Do you have any comments on the equality impacts identified or anticipated?***

It was commented that child protection legislation applies to all children and young people up to the age of 21 or 25 in the case of those with special educational needs and that this anomaly will impact on equality issues when implementing the strategy. It was also stated that to have children and young people such as those with disabilities in a specific section of the draft strategy 'does not demonstrate a commitment to equality'.

It was also suggested that the Strategy should make a commitment to ensure that Child Impact Assessments are carried out on both new and existing legislation and policies, this would include macro and overarching policies such as the Programme for Government and Budget and Priorities.

- 37. *Are there in your view, any other equality impacts which have not been identified or any other ways in which the strategy could promote equality of opportunity and, if so, how?***

Other equality impacts suggested included: Social inclusion; rural/urban, inner city/suburbs; well maintained neighbourhoods; refugees and asylum seeking children; and needs of young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and traveller children.

38. Do you agree that the draft strategy will have a positive impact on the promotion of good relations in Northern Ireland?

Most people who responded to this question agreed that the strategy would have a positive impact on the promotion of good relations in Northern Ireland. Others agreed but with the provision that adequate resources were made available to implement the strategy.

39. Are there other ways in which the strategy could better promote good relations and, if so, how?

Suggestions included:

- Public libraries provide a neutral space for everyone therefore providing an opportunity to promote good relations between both sides of the community;
- All schools and youth organisations should be delivering aspects of community relations and citizenship programmes;
- Individual departments and other statutory bodies should promote contact between children and young people across communities.

40. Will the strategy help heal the existing divisions?

There was general agreement among respondents that the strategy will help heal existing divisions.

41. Do you agree that the strategy will have a positive impact on rural communities in relation to children and young people?

Broad support and the focus on rural issues was welcomed and it was commented that additional resources needed to be targeted at rural communities and should include a rural transport strategy.

Conclusion

It is aimed to have the final strategy published in February 2006 with an action/delivery plan published shortly thereafter. The strategy was initially intended to be published in June 2005 but has been delayed to take into account the responses to the draft strategy and to allow for negotiations with departments.

MAKING IT R WRLD 2

RESPONSES FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

General Responses

A total of 30 responses were received from children and young people, the majority of which were made via the 'reply sheets' included in the Children and Young Person's pack. A review of these responses suggests that these all came from young people of post-primary school age and above. There did not appear to be any responses received from primary school children. Respondents broadly welcomed the Strategy and several commented on the importance of young people being included as part of the consultation and 'having a say in their future'. A small number felt that the Strategy was inaccessible – 'difficult to understand', 'could have been more child-friendly', or 'complicated'. The vast majority did not make any reference to the format or presentation of the Strategy.

Young people's responses to the content of *Making it R Wrld 2* were generally very positive. They commented on the 'comprehensiveness' of the document and drew attention to the 'relevance' and 'importance' of many of the issues addressed. Around one-third of respondents commented on the actions contained in the document. Individuals described them as 'practical' and 'sensible', suggesting they could 'improve life for young people' and also be beneficial to the wider community. Several emphasised the importance of making all young people aware of the actions. While applauding the Strategy, around 17% of children and young people argued that its success was dependent on full and effective implementation, the active participation of government and careful monitoring and evaluation.

Responses to Questions Presented

The majority of respondents tended not to address each of the questions listed in the pack directly, responding rather to selected questions or tendering general comments.

Only a small number of children and young people commented on the **Vision**. Of these, a few suggested that it seemed to be a ‘tall order’ but extremely beneficial if achieved, while others made general comments about the importance of young people ‘having fun’ and ‘enjoying life’.

Around 20% of respondents submitted comments relating to the issue of **Poverty**, stating that more action should be taken to ensure adequate provision was made for all young people and their families. Comments focused specifically on provision for homeless young people, the introduction of grants for primary school uniforms and concerns about ‘labels’ being attached to young people from lower income families.

Under the issue of **Protection**, one third of respondents argued that more action should be taken to protect children and young people from domestic violence, child abuse, bullying and alcohol. Respondents suggested that there was a need to increase individuals’ awareness of these issues, for perpetrators to be dealt with more severely and for more counselling to be made available in schools. Respondents also highlighted the need to safeguard young people in the workplace (including farms), through the provision of safe working conditions and fair wages.

The issue of **Provision** attracted the greatest number of comments. Under the sub-heading of Family and Community Support a small number of respondents emphasised the importance of all families receiving adequate support and in particular young carers having access to support services, respite care and counselling. One respondent acknowledged the importance of addressing the ‘love and support’ provided by families in the Strategy document. In relation to Research and Information, respondents acknowledged the benefits of the Internet but also highlighted the importance of ensuring young people used it safely. One respondent indicated that other sources of information should not be forgotten and another noted that young people did not always use the internet as a source of information, tending rather to get information from their peers. Under the Built/Natural Environment, respondents emphasised the importance of a ‘clean’ and ‘healthy’ school environment and the provision of good standards of school buildings. One individual acknowledged that young people should also contribute to achieving and maintaining a ‘good’ school environment.

In addressing issues relating to Learning achievement and Enjoyment, just under one-third of respondents claimed that current recreational provision for young people was inadequate. Individuals suggested that more 'after school facilities', 'clubs', and 'leisure centres' were needed to 'take them off street corners'. One respondent highlighted a need for drop-in centres for homeless young people (15-19 year olds). In relation to Physical, Mental and Emotional Well-being, just over 25% of respondents focused on the importance of adequate and effective support for young people who are disabled, being bullied or suffering from eating disorders. Two respondents suggested that schools should be more responsive to young people's needs, introducing more 'confidence building' initiatives, such as peer mentoring, and adopting more interventionist strategies to tackle bullying. One young person suggested that educational initiatives and stricter laws might dissuade young men from joyriding or 'engaging in paramilitary behaviour'. The importance of adequate and accessible educational provision was highlighted by a small number of respondents. Two respondents welcomed the references to rural issues, commenting on the need for better transport services and the 'invaluable change' that would result if services were improved.

With regard to **Participation**, around 12% of respondents highlighted the importance of young people having an opportunity to offer their views and to take part in decision-making in relation to issues which concerned them. One young person stressed the benefits of school councils which in his/her view give young people 'a platform from which to voice opinions' and another suggested that children and young people should become more involved in issues affecting them, through a 'government committee' for young people.

A number of issues were raised in relation to **Rights and Equality**. These concerned the availability of resources for disabled young people, ensuring more provision was made for children from ethnic groups and the introduction of effective strategies to address racism. Respondents also referred to the importance of all young people being in a position to access education freely and easily. A small number of respondents made general comments in relation to children's rights, suggesting that all young people should be made aware of these, that children's rights should be respected by

everyone, and that young people should always be treated with respect 'at school, in police stations and in hospitals'. Addressing the issue of special needs pupils attending mainstream schools, one respondent argued that the decisions regarding school choice should remain with parents and children, while another cautioned that 'individuality [was] not recognised in mainstream schools'. Two respondents commented on the barriers confronting young people, suggesting that any actions to remove these were to be welcomed, particularly in relation to cross-community division.

Additional Points

Children and young people offered some further comments on a range of issues. Referring to the Strategy, one respondent proposed that the actions would be 'more effective if more funding was provided by government'. Two respondents suggested that more helplines or support groups for young people should be established to support the implementation of the actions contained in the document. Focusing on more general issues, two respondents commented on the images held of young people. One argued that it was unfair that negative stereotypical images were associated with all young people and another claimed that young people liked to be treated 'like adults and not immature children'.

Additional comments addressed the importance of establishing cross-community bridges particularly in school contexts, the potential benefits for children and young people to engage in further discussions about the issues in the Strategy in schools and young peoples' opinions regarding smoking, drinking, racism and drugs.

Annex A

List of Respondents	
1	Education Welfare Officer
2	Lord Maginnis of Drumglass
3	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland
4	Regional Training Unit
5	Dergfinn Partnership Ltd.
6	H Blair
7	Principal of Primary School
8	NI Council for the Curriculum Examination and Assessment
9	Action MS
10	Child or Young Person
11	Child or Young Person
12	Child or Young Person
13	Child or Young Person
14	Child or Young Person
15	Child or Young Person
16	George Dawson (MLA)
17	Institute for Conflict Research
18	Springwell Centre
19	Child or Young Person
20	Child or Young Person
21	Child or Young Person
22	Triangle Housing Association
23	Child or Young Person
24	Child or Young Person
25	Four Health & Social Services Councils
26	Volunteer Development Agency
27	Western Area Children & Young People's Committee
28	Contact A Family
29	Nexus
30	Christian Action Research & Education (CARE)
31	Association of Chief Librarians
32	Child or Young Person
33	Child or Young Person
34	Child or Young Person
35	Child or Young Person
36	Child or Young Person
37	Child or Young Person

38	Child or Young Person
39	Child or Young Person
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41	Child or Young Person
42	Child or Young Person
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44	Child or Young Person
45	Child or Young Person
46	Child or Young Person
47	Child or Young Person
48	Child or Young Person
49	Child or Young Person
50	Child or Young Person
51	Child or Young Person
52	Child or Young Person
53	Child or Young Person
54	Not identified
55	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
56	Craigavon Borough Council
57	Library and Information Services Council
58	Fermanagh Young People's Council
59	Royal National Institute of the Blind
60	Child or Young Person
61	Not identified
62	Contact Youth Counselling Services
63	Youth Council for Northern Ireland
64	Child or Young Person
65	Ballymena Borough Council
66	South Eastern Education and Library Board
67	Save the Children
68	Southern Health and Social Services Board
69	Craigavon and Banbridge Health & Social Care Group
70	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
71	Childline NI
72	Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education
73	Institute of Public Health in Ireland
74	West Belfast Economic Forum
75	National Deaf Children's Society
76	North and West Health Action Zone
77	Foyer Federation
78	Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation
79	Royal College of Nursing Northern Ireland

80	Sinn Féin
81	Education General Consumer Council for NI
82	Youthnet
83	Child or Young Person
84	Western Education and Library Board
85	North Eastern Education and Library Board
86	Southern Childcare Partnership
87	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
88	Youth Action Northern Ireland (Young People's Response)
89	Family Planning Association Northern Ireland
90	Inner City South Belfast
91	Ulster Farmers' Union
92	Prince's Trust NI
93	Northern Ireland Childminding Association
94	Sustrans
95	Superintendents' Association of Northern Ireland
96	Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee
97	E Irwin McNeill
98	Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
99	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
100	Rural Development Council for Northern Ireland
101	Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC)
102	NIPPA (Consultation Event)
103	Simon Community NI
104	National Association of Paediatric Occupational Therapists
105	Ulster Teachers' Union
106	Mencap
107	Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities
108	Disability Action
109	Foyle Health and Social Services Trust
110	Big Lottery Fund
111	Committee on the Administration of Justice
112	Brook Belfast
113	NIPPA
114	Child or Young Person
115	Child or Young Person
116	Child or Young Person
117	Child or Young Person
118	Northern Area Children and Young People's Committee
119	DUP
120	National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women

	Teachers Northern Ireland
121	Positive Futures
122	Youth Action Northern Ireland
123	Training for Women Network
124	Craigavon and Banbridge Community Health and Social Services Trust
125	NSPCC
126	Disability Action (Consultation Events)
127	Power To The People
128	Western Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory Support Services
129	Ulster-Scots Heritage Council
130	National Children's Homes
131	Parents Advice Centre
132	Youthcom
133	Ulster Unionist Party
134	Community Nursing, Craigavon and Banbridge Community Health and Social Services Trust
135	Fostering Network Northern Ireland
136	Joint Responses from Four Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Committees
137	Youth Link NI
138	Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland
139	Parenting Forum
140	Derry Children's Commission
141	Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Society
142	Children in Northern Ireland
143	Children's Law Centre
144	Shimna Integrated College
145	Include Youth
146	North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust
147	Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
148	Probation Board for Northern Ireland
149	Playboard
150	Mercy Justice Office
151	Children Order Advisory Committee
152	Barnardo's
153	Belfast Education and Library Board
154	Children's Occupational Therapy Manager's Group
155	Southern Education and Library Board
156	Eastern Health and Social Services Board
157	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

158	Arts & Community Development
159	General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland
160	Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland
161	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
162	Sports Council for Northern Ireland
163	Homefirst Community Trust