

# Delivering Social Change

Tackling poverty and social exclusion



Northern Ireland  
Executive

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

DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE

OCTOBER 2014

## JUNIOR MINISTERS VISIT FAMILY SUPPORT HUB IN NEWTOWNARDS

On 1 October Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell and Jennifer McCann visited North Down and Ards Family Support Hub to hear how local families in need are being helped by collaborative working and early intervention.



Left to right: Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell and Jennifer McCann with Helen Dunn, Regional Family Support Co-ordinator, Michael Murray, Assistant Director, Family Support and Safeguarding and Chair of North Down and Ards Family Support Hub, Linda McConnell

The Hub, which is one of 25 Hubs being supported under the Executive's Delivering Social Change framework, brings together agencies to provide numerous universal services to those families who are most in need. It provides points of contact for information and access to family support and referrals for children, young people and families to services in a process that avoids stigma.

Family Support Hubs offer a unique service tailored to meet individual needs in order to make a real difference to those families who benefit from the service. With an emphasis on prevention and early intervention, many families are getting the necessary help to benefit them both in the short term and long term.

More information about the Delivering Social Change framework and the work being taken forward is available at <http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/index/delivering-social-change.htm>

## UPDATE ON THE PLAY AND LEISURE SIGNATURE PROGRAMME

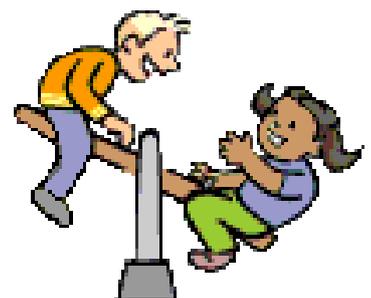
Play is a powerful medium for teaching values to children and young people of all ages and has the potential to contribute to the realisation of a healthier, more creative, more tolerant and more cohesive society. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child explains that all children and young people have the right to play however there are many barriers that prevent them from enjoying this right.



The Delivering Social Change Play and Leisure Signature Programme is tasked with developing new sustainable opportunities for play, raising awareness of the benefits of play and ensuring that play is considered when policy is developed and new services are provided. Its aim is to support the realisation of every child playing more, every adult encouraging and valuing play more and every community supporting play more.

OFMDFM has been engaging with a number of stakeholders, play experts and potential delivery partners to help to design a draft Programme Plan. This has included a Design Day held in June attended by representatives of a wide range of organisations with significant relevant experience and expertise. A Programme Board has been established to oversee progress on delivery and to make strategic decisions on the direction of the programme.

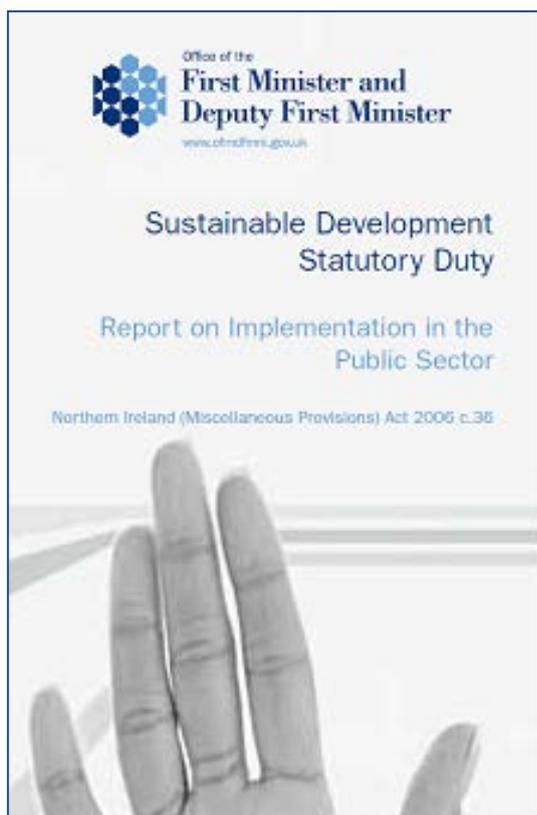
This work will be further supported by a working group with representatives from OFMDFM, the National Children's Bureau, the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland and PlayBoard Northern Ireland. The working group will ensure children's rights and best interests are considered as part of the programme; advise on examples of best practice in play and leisure and; ensure that proposed actions are evidence based and supportive of agreed outcomes.



**For further information please contact Peter Hutchinson on 028 9052 8353 or email [peter.hutchinson@ofmdfmi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hutchinson@ofmdfmi.gov.uk)**

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BEST PRACTICE

On 22 October OFMDFM hosted a 'Best Practice Sustainability' event at the DARD College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise, Greenmount Campus, Antrim. With a lead role in overseeing reporting on compliance under the sustainable development statutory duty, OFMDFM commissioned a compliance reporting process in May 2014 for Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) departments and District Councils.



Junior Ministers Jennifer McCann and Jonathan Bell launched a 'Sustainable Development Best Practice' report at the event. This report brings together examples of transferrable good practice in sustainable development provided through the compliance reporting process. A number of NICS departments and District Councils presented examples of best practice at the event including Belfast City Council on the redevelopment of the Belfast North Foreshore; the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety on sustainable building design within the Health Estates; and Omagh District Council on the delivery of social economy community based projects in that council area.

**The Sustainable Development Best Practice report is available at:**

**<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/statutory-duty-good-practice-report.pdf>**

**Further information can also be obtained from the Sustainable Development team:**

**OFMDFM Equality and Strategy Directorate**

**Room E4.15**

**Castle Buildings**

**Stormont Estate**

**Belfast BT4 3SR**

**Tel: 028 9052 0746**

**Email: [everyones.involved@ofmdfmi.gov.uk](mailto:everyones.involved@ofmdfmi.gov.uk)**

## **FURTHER SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HUBS OFFICIALLY LAUNCH**

Two more Social Enterprise Incubation Hubs have been officially launched under the Delivering Social Change Social Enterprise Signature Programme.

On 1 October Margaret Ritchie MP officially opened the Downpatrick branch of the South Eastern Social Enterprise Hub located within the Grove Shopping Centre and on 24 October the North Belfast Social Enterprise Hub based at 52 York Street, Belfast was officially launched.

Social enterprises are businesses that trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances or the environment and they reinvest their profits back into the business or the local community. The Social Enterprise Signature Programme is being taken forward by the Department for Social Development and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in conjunction with Invest NI.

Funding for all of the Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes has been made available from the Northern Ireland Executive's Delivering Social Change fund. For further information on Delivering Social Change go to:

<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/delivering-social-change.htm>

## **INTERNAL REORGANISATION**

With effect from 6 October the Racial Equality Unit has joined the Good Relations and Financial Governance Division within the Equality and Strategy Directorate in OFMDFM. The feedback received from stakeholders during the consultation on the new Racial Equality Strategy is that the Unit and those working on Together: Building a United Community should be working together. We believe that the organisational changes will make this happen.

Also, given the close links with other Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes, Childcare and Child Poverty have moved to the Programme for Government and Delivering Social Change Division from 6 October.

This is an important time in the development of the new Childcare Strategy. Work is progressing in close engagement with the main childcare stakeholders with the aim of securing Executive approval for public consultation before Christmas.

You can access further information by clicking on the links below:

- the [Racial Equality Strategy](#) including contact details for the Racial Equality team;
- the [‘Together: Building a United Community’ Strategy](#) or contact the team at: [secretariat.unitedcommunity@ofmdfmi.gov.uk](mailto:secretariat.unitedcommunity@ofmdfmi.gov.uk)
- the [Childcare Strategy](#) including contact details for the Childcare team.

**Contact the Delivering Social Change Team at:**

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Room E4.15, Block E

Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate

Belfast, BT4 3SR

 Email: [dscteam@ofmdfmi.gov.uk](mailto:dscteam@ofmdfmi.gov.uk)

 Telephone: 028 9052 0584