

Update on the Development of the next Children and Young People's Strategy – November 2016

Since the last update in October 2016, the draft Executive Children and Young People's Strategy consultation document is now with the Minister for consideration and submission to the Executive for agreement to the consultation process.

The draft Children and Young People's Strategy, like the Programme for Government (PfG), has been developed using an outcomes based approach. It is focused on achieving tangible outcomes for children and young people, and sets out a framework around which to achieve them. The draft Strategy has eight outcomes based on well-being as outlined in the Children's Services Co-operation Act (NI) 2015 -

- (a) Physical and mental health;
- (b) The enjoyment of play and leisure;
- (c) Learning and achievement;
- (d) Living in safety and with stability;
- (e) Economic and environmental well-being;
- (f) Making a positive contribution to society;
- (g) Living in a society which respects their rights; and
- (h) Living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted.

The outcomes are interlinked. Achieving a good positive outcome in one area will lead to further positive outcomes – a child who feels safe and respected will go out and play more, feel healthier and be happier in school and ready to learn. Negative outcomes will lead to more negative outcomes – a child who doesn't experience economic well-being and lives in poverty will be more likely to have poor health; could face barriers to play and feel isolated, and this in turn can affect their education. As part of the draft strategy, we have sought to explain what each of the outcomes mean; provide a context for the outcome, identify potential priority areas where the greatest effort is required, and suggest a small number of headline

indicators which will be used to measure progress.

What happens next?

When the Executive has agreed the draft Strategy consultation document we will commence the formal consultation process.

Consultation process

The Children's and Young People's Strategy Team continues to prepare for the public consultation. A comprehensive Consultation Plan is being developed to set out how the team plans to engage with stakeholders during the consultation process. As indicated in previous updates the consultation will be widely publicised, and a range of consultation events held to encourage wide ranging stakeholder participation and feedback. The views of children and young people in particular are sought. Stakeholders will also have the opportunity to respond to the consultation by completing an online survey.

When will the Strategy be laid before the Assembly?

The public consultation on the Strategy is planned to commence in the near future and will continue into the New Year.

It is anticipated that the Strategy will be laid before the Assembly in Spring 2017.

For more information about the development of the Strategy, please contact the Children's and Young People's Strategy Team directly by emailing cyps@education-ni.gov.uk or telephoning Andrea Kelly on (028) 9185 8024.