

Children and Young People's Strategy - Monthly Update

September 2017

The Children and Young People's Strategy Team within the Department of Education is continuing to develop the new Executive Strategy for Children and Young People.

Some of the work carried out by the team since the last update was published includes:

NICS Live 2017

'NICS Live' is the largest staff engagement event held by the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS). It provides an opportunity to focus on the latest thinking on public service modernisation and encourages innovation in policy development and future service delivery. It also acts as a platform for Departments to showcase their successful initiatives, exchange information and demonstrate best practice.

The theme of NICS Live on 24 May this year was 'Our Civil Service: Making a Difference for All', with one of the sub-themes being 'Delivering the Programme for Government. It was under this sub-theme that the Children and Young People's Strategy Team delivered a session entitled 'Working Together to Improve the Lives of Children and Young People'.

During the session, attendees had the opportunity to watch a video made by young people on the Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) Youth Panel, which drew the audience's attention to some of the issues which are important to children and young people in Northern Ireland today. The video was very powerful as the issues were presented in the words of the children and young people themselves. The Children and Young People's Strategy Team want to say a very big thanks to the young people and NICCY for helping get their messages across to those attending the session and encouraging them to think about how they can take the views of children and young people into account when developing and delivering the services they provide.

Analysis of Public Consultation responses

During the consultation period the Department and its partner organisations consulted directly with over 460 adults, children and young people.

In response to the consultation, the Department received 184 written responses, with a further 76 responses received via online questionnaire.

The Project Team, with analytical support provided by NISRA colleagues and the Centre for Effective Services (CES), is continuing to analyse the responses to the public consultation on the Strategy. The analysis seeks to identify recurring themes

and key issues raised by stakeholders. This will inform the shape of the final Strategy and Implementation Plan. A Consultation Response Report will also be published.

Development of Management Structures

The Project Team and the Project Board have been looking at the sort of structures we will need to ensure that the Strategy is delivered and that stakeholders will continue to have a say in issues affecting children and young people. Many respondents to the consultation gave us their views on proposed new structures that would be established and how existing structures should be utilised to oversee the delivery of the Strategy and ensure ongoing engagement. Taking these views as the basis, we are planning to hold a further co-design workshop in October on the management structures. We will tell you more about this in future updates.

Children and Young People's Strategy Logo

One of the things we have been looking at over the summer is the design of a logo for the new Children and Young People's Strategy. We would like to thank the young people from the Youth Council who met with us in Banbridge Resource Centre and Brownlow Resource Centre, and the NICCY Youth Panel, for their constructive criticism about our original designs and their excellent suggestions about how they might be improved. Here is what our new logo looks like.



What will happen next?

In the coming months, the Children and Young People's Strategy Team will be focusing on the following key areas:

- Finalisation of the analysis of the responses to the public consultation;
- Publication of a Consultation Response Report;
- Development of the Strategy management structures, including ongoing participation with children and young people, parents, stakeholders and academia.

- Drafting the final strategy (in response to the public consultation) for Executive agreement and laying in the Assembly when convened;
- Development of, and consultation on, the Children and Young People's Implementation/Delivery Plan
- Development of monitoring and reporting mechanisms; and
- Further work on the Data Development Agenda.

Updates on the development of the Strategy will be provided on a monthly basis. If you would like to find out more about the development of the Executive Strategy for Children and Young People, please contact the Children and Young People's Strategy Team:

Address: Children and Young People's Strategy Team
Room 6.14, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Bangor
BT19 7PR

Telephone: (028) 91858026

Email: cyps@education-ni.gov.uk **#cypni2017** **#ourplanforyou**