

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



13th September, 2012

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman / Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on **Tuesday, 18th September, 2012** at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Declarations of Interest

2. Belfast's Economy

- (a) HMS Caroline - Council Notice of Motion (Pages 1 - 2)
- (b) Cultural Framework for Belfast 2012/2015 (Pages 3 - 104)
- (c) Health Hack Northern Ireland Event (Pages 105 - 108)
- (d) Investors in People - Programme for Business (Pages 109 - 110)
- (e) Employer Engagement Support (Pages 111 - 114)
- (f) Integrated Economic Strategy (Pages 115 - 122)
- (g) International Marketing and Relations (Pages 123 - 126)

(h) Northern Ireland BIDS Bill - Consultation (Pages 127 - 156)

(i) Women in Business Awards (Pages 157 - 158)

3. **Marketing Belfast**

(a) Eurocities Engagement (Pages 159 - 164)

(b) Dunville Park / Gaeltacht Quarter (Pages 165 - 168)

4. **Departmental Performance**

(a) Departmental Finance Report - Quarter 1 (Pages 169 - 180)

(b) Departmental Business Plan - Quarter 1 (Pages 181 - 190)

(c) Waterfront and Ulster Halls - Quarter 1 Report (Pages 191 - 196)

5. **Neighbourhoods, Communities and People**

(a) Belfast Community Investment Programme (Pages 197 - 202)

(b) Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership - Action Plans
(Pages 203 - 312)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	HMS Caroline
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Ms Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>At the meeting of the Council on 2nd July, 2012 the undernoted Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kingston, seconded by Councillor McCarthy and referred to the Committee for consideration:</p> <p>“This Council recognises the historical significance of HMS Caroline as one of just two surviving First World War Royal Navy ships and the last survivor of the Battle of Jutland still afloat; notes the contribution which HMS Caroline has made to Belfast where she has been stationed for over 85 years; recognises the contribution which the development of this unique attraction can make to our tourism economy; and confirms its commitment and desire to work expeditiously with the Assembly Executive, the Ministry of Defence, the National Museum of the Royal Navy and other relevant bodies to preserve, develop and promote HMS Caroline as a key attraction and feature of maritime heritage in Belfast’s Titanic Quarter.”</p>
1.2	<p>HMS Caroline is a battle cruiser commissioned and built in 1914. She is the last surviving ship to have fought in the 1916 Battle of Jutland, the major naval battle of World War I. She also played a role in early experiments launching and collecting aircraft at sea. In 1923 Caroline came to Belfast as headquarters of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, having her guns removed and other conversion work carried out by Harland and Wolff.</p>
1.3	<p>In World War II HMS Caroline was the Royal Naval Headquarters and had a major role in the Battle of the Atlantic. Belfast Castle was a sub-station and the total complement of both men and women affiliated to the ship ran to many thousands.</p>

1.4	Post-war Caroline continued in her role with the Royal Naval Reserve until December 2009, at which time she was the second oldest ship serving, after HMS Victory. After a formal decommissioning ceremony at the end of March 2011 the ship became part of the core collections of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, from which the process of de-accessioning under the central government rules relating to museum accreditation would be difficult and complex.
-----	--

2	Key Issues
2.1	HMS Caroline was identified in the Maritime Heritage Study jointly commissioned by Council, Department of Social Development and Northern Ireland Tourist Board as one of the key potential assets in developing a wider maritime heritage offer. She is now and will remain in the ownership of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, as a key part of the national historic fleet.
2.2	Caroline was maintained as far as necessary to fulfil her limited operational role. The Royal Navy has paid for the removal of asbestos. Subsequent costs can be divided into two sections: necessary conservation and maintenance to ensure the ship's on-going survival and work related to her development as an accessible heritage attraction. These costs are not dependent on her location. It is understood that the National Museum of the Royal Navy has secured funding to address immediate maintenance issues and that this work is currently being carried out by Harland and Wolff.
2.3	Substantial additional sums would be required to prepare and transport the ship to another location which would only be possible within limited weather windows.
2.4	It is also understood that the Museum is submitting an application for c.£5m to the Heritage Lottery Fund November national board meeting. This will be the first of two stages necessary to receive a grant and could fund development work to inform the second stage in approximately one year's time.
2.6	The Minister for the Department of Trade, Enterprise and Investment met with the Rt. Hon. Andrew Robathan, Minister in the Ministry of Defence, to discuss HMS Caroline, following which officials met with National Museum of the Royal Navy. These discussions are ongoing to find a solution which would allow HMS Caroline to remain and be restored in Belfast.
2.7	The Titanic Foundation Limited, a not-for-profit body, is currently developing proposals for a co-ordinated approach to Titanic Quarter and maritime heritage, which will include the submission of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for monies to support the safeguarding, public access to and development of a number of assets, not including Caroline. However all projects sit within the context of a Heritage Plan including HMS Caroline.

3	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
3.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

4	Recommendations
4.1	It is recommended that Committee notes the current position regarding HMS Caroline and notes that further updates will be submitted in due course.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

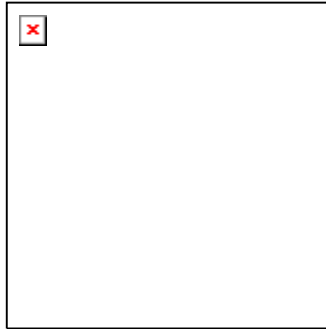
Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Health Hack NI Event

Date: 18 September 2012

Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470

Contact Officer: Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members are advised that on 21 February 2012 it was revealed Belfast was one of ten UK cities to successfully bid for funding, made available by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to become a “super-connected city” with ultrafast fixed broadband access and large areas of public wireless connectivity throughout the city.
1.2	A full business case and application for the funding was submitted in early August 2012 and it is expected that an announcement on the final amount to be allocated to each city will be made on 14 September 2012.
1.3	The broadband and wireless technology infrastructure that will be installed as a result of this investment will underpin the further development of a range of economic sectors that are reliant on these new technologies. One such sector is Connected Health. Northern Ireland is emerging as an important region within the Connected Health sector in Europe. The region has a number of large connected health projects ongoing, principally within the field of research and development.
1.4	<p>The Super-connected Belfast initiative is therefore emerging at an opportune time with the convergence of a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alignment of NI Government initiatives such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DHSS and DETI; – The launch of the Health Strategy (Compton Report), setting a very clear agenda of moving health care into the community; – Invest NI funding is targeting Connected Health as a key business growth area and this commitment is outlined in both the Regional Economic Strategy and the Programme for Government.

2	Key Issues
2.1	In support of the Super-connected Belfast initiative, Belfast City Council, University of Ulster and the NI Connected Health Innovation Centre (CHIC) have been looking at how the multi-million pound investment in ultrafast broadband infrastructure can support the further development of the sector in the city.
2.2	One such initiative is a “Health Hack NI” project – a business event which seeks to bring together clinicians, developers, designers, business people and other interested parties to devise useful apps to improve health care issues.
2.3	Healthcare is one of the areas of life that is most in need of the support of modern technologies, yet is one of the areas that is remains relatively unexploited. Aside from a lack of awareness of the possibilities and benefits of new and emerging technologies, there is a lack of engagement between the NHS and talented and enthusiastic technologists and entrepreneurs.
2.4	The Health Hack NI event will therefore focus on an NI audience and solving problems that are specific to the NHS in Northern Ireland. The proposed event will engage with clinicians (including consultants, GPs, Nursing Staff and NHS managers), technologists, students and entrepreneurs to use high speed internet technology to help expand access and quality of care to the local community.
2.5	Clinicians will be encouraged to bring forward problems and ideas while technologists will be encouraged to apply their skills to help solve these challenges. In advance of the event, these ideas and problems will be captured, discussed and prioritised using online collaborative tools. Developers may form teams in advance to address a selected problem or they may be matched with an appropriate clinician on the day. All software will be produced using freely available technologies and will be released to the clinical community on a flexible Open Source license.
2.6	Health Hack NI will be hosted in Belfast City Hall and will run over a weekend in December (Saturday 8 – Sunday 9) in order to facilitate clinical involvement. It will be based on a series of successful NHS Hack Days which have already been hosted in other UK cities such as London, Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester.
2.7	To ensure involvement of the optimum number of interested parties (approx 40 clinicians and developers) and to allow a critical mass of ideas and suggestions to be developed, the initiative will be officially launched early October, leaving two months between the date of the launch and the event itself.
2.8	Kainos Software Ltd has been involved in other NHS Health Hack events and is keen to promote this Health Hack NI event in partnership with Belfast City Council and its Super-connected Belfast initiative. The event will be organised and hosted by the Northern Ireland Connected Health Innovation Centre (CHIC) and Invest NI.
2.9	<p>The benefits of hosting such an event include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased engagement between NHS, industry and universities – Exposure of the NHS to applications of modern and emerging technologies – Exposure of industry/students to the real challenges of the NHS – Clear alignment with Health/Wealth MoU – Good PR for Belfast City Council and the Super-connected Belfast project – Creation of reusable technology components for Healthcare.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Up to £2,000 is required to cover the costs associated with providing wireless connectivity in the Reception Room, City Hall as well as light refreshments throughout the duration of the event.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> The work required will be undertaken by existing staff resources.

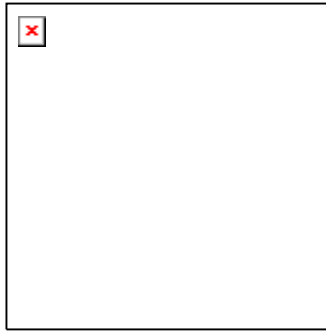
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no specific equality or good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approve the proposal for the Council to support Kainos Software Ltd, ECH Alliance and CHIC/Invest NI in the delivery of the Health Hack NI event; and – Approve the allocation of up to £2,000 towards the provision of appropriate wireless connectivity and hospitality.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CHIC – NI Connected Health Innovation Centre ECH Alliance – European Connected Health Alliance GPs – General Practitioners NHS – National Health Service	

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Investors in People (liP) programme
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Investors in People (liP) programme is a business improvement initiative designed to help employers improve performance by linking people development and skills development activities to overall company development activities.
1.2	Since 1994, over 1500 companies in Northern Ireland have taken part in the initiative, with an additional 300 currently going through the process.
1.3	Belfast City Council – as an organisation – has just achieved liP status and this was recognised at an event in City Hall in early September 2012.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The liP framework has been tailored by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) to support small businesses who are interested in improving their business performance by investing in their staff.
2.2	The department is offering to match-fund support from the Council to roll out the programme to small businesses located in the Belfast City Council area. The programme will consist of a series of workshops, supported by 1-2-1 mentoring to take the businesses through the steps required to help them achieve liP accreditation.
2.3	Research undertaken by DEL shows that organisational changes made by liP recognised employers are twice as profitable as changes made by other companies. Other benefits enjoyed by liP organisations include improved efficiency; improved productivity; increased sales; motivated staff and lower staff

	<p>absenteeism and turnover.</p> <p>In this pilot initiative, 10 local companies will take part in the programme, and each company is expected to complete the accreditation process. The total cost for the programme will be £11,200. DEL have committed to contributing 30% (£3,360) towards the overall costs, with the balance of £7,840 to come from the Council and the participating business.</p> <p>In order to encourage company engagement in this process, it is proposed that Belfast City Council contributes up to £4,840 towards the overall programme costs (around 40%), with the remaining £3,000 to be paid by the 10 participating businesses (£300 per business). The target of 10 has been set as this is the first time that this programme has been supported and therefore it may be useful to test the response and interest before making a greater commitment.</p> <p>The outcomes of this investment will be measured and targets established around efficiency improvements; sales growth; staff retention and satisfaction levels and productivity improvements.</p>
--	---

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The total programme costs, based on 10 businesses, will be £11,200. Belfast City Council is asked to contribute £4,840 towards the overall project costs.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no specific equality and good relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve the allocation of £4,840 towards the Belfast Investors in People programme for small businesses.

6	Decision Tracking
If approved, a report on progress will be brought back to committee in April 2013.	
Timeframe:	April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Shirley McCay

7	Key to Abbreviations
DEL – Department for Employment and Learning	
IiP – Investors in People	



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Employer Engagement Support
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the Investment Programme contains a range of commitment around employability and skills development. One of the key commitments involves collaboration with the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) and other partners on a city-wide employability and skills strategy.
1.2	The aim of this proposal is to develop a collaborative, targeted approach to employability and skills development issues by creating a better understanding of the local welfare to work arena and enabling partners to align and pool funding and resources to reduce duplication of services and fill gaps in provision. The anticipated outcome of this approach is that additional people would be helped into employment and that those employment prospects would be more sustainable
1.3	Members will be aware that a skilled, flexible workforce is one of the greatest contributors to economic growth and city competitiveness. Ensuring alignment between the skills development and employment agendas is a major challenge for all cities. This alignment is recognised in the recently-published Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (NIES) which focuses on re-building and re-balancing the Northern Ireland economy. Promoting employment and employability is the key “re-building” theme in the strategy while the “re-balancing” themes include a commitment to “improving employability and the relevance and use of skills.
1.4	In order to ensure that employability initiatives and approaches are in line with existing employer needs and future growth areas, it is important to ensure a structured dialogue with employers. One such avenue for engagement is through the Employers’ Forum. This was established in 2003 as part of the Task Force initiatives in west Belfast and greater Shankill. It is managed by Business

	in the Community (BITC) and draws on the resources of this organisation's members to provide opportunities for skills development and employment opportunities, focusing on those furthest from the labour market.
--	--

2	Key Issues
2.1	Since their establishment in 2003, initiatives undertaken by the Employers' Forum have helped almost 1300 long-term unemployed people into work. While the focus of the initiative has been on those from west Belfast and greater Shankill, employers have also provided opportunities for those from all communities across Belfast.
2.2	As part of the city-wide strategy, there is an opportunity to explore how the Employers' Forum can be engaged to act as the employer conduit. This will ensure that ideas and proposals can be tested to confirm that they are in line with employer demands. Equally, employers can be encouraged to develop new and flexible approaches to recruitment and skills development, particularly engaging those furthest from the labour market.
2.3	The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) has also confirmed that it would be keen to work with Belfast City Council and the Employers' Forum to develop an agreed approach to employer engagement that will ultimately improve the quality of interventions and ensure greater alignment between skills supply and demand.
2.4	In order to progress this, it is planned that a meeting will take place between DEL, Belfast City Council and Business in the Community to look at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft terms of reference for the city-wide employers' forum • A proposed work programme • Areas of focus e.g. key sectors; geographical areas; target groups • Governance arrangements • Financial commitments and contributions.
2.5	Subject to member agreement, a report will be brought back to the second meeting of the Development Committee in October to agree the way forward.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	No specific resource implications to be agreed at this stage – to be outlined in the October committee report.

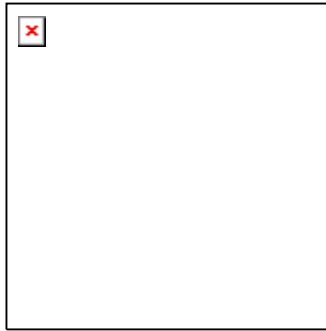
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations at this stage. The city-wide approach will take account of all relevant considerations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the proposed engagement with DEL and the Employers' Forum as part of the city-wide employability and skills plan • Agree to a further report to be presented to the October meeting, setting out a proposed way forward, and including financial commitments.

6	Decision Tracking
A further report to be brought to the second meeting of the Development Committee in October 2012.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
DEL – Department for Employment and Learning NIES – Northern Ireland Economic Strategy	

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Integrated Economic Strategy
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the Investment Programme contains a range of initiatives to stimulate economic growth in the city, while ensuring that social and equality issues are addressed.
1.2	One of the key supporting principles of the Investment Programme is the commitment to partnership and integration, “bringing together partners from all sectors and communities to develop innovative solutions to Belfast’s challenges and to take advantage of all opportunities”.
1.3	The Northern Ireland Executive approved the regional economic strategy in March 2012. This sets out a series of activities aimed at rebuilding and rebalancing the economy in Northern Ireland. The strategy’s cross-cutting principles include “balanced sub-regional growth”, namely ensuring that all sub-regions are able to grow and prosper while recognising the importance of Belfast and Derry/Londonderry as key drivers of regional economic growth.
1.4	The Belfast City Council area is home to almost one third of all jobs in the region. The GVA per head in the city is almost twice the regional average. This can be explained by the fact that those jobs with higher value-added are attracted to city locations such as Belfast. The city is home to half of Northern Ireland’s hi-tech manufacturing jobs, 3 in 5 computer and related service jobs and two-thirds of creative media and arts jobs located within the area. It has a strong software, financial services and telecoms base and attracts the largest number of software development projects in the UK outside of London.
1.5	However, on the other hand, Belfast is also home to some of the most deprived and segregated communities in the region. The unemployment rate in Belfast is the second highest of all district council areas (after Derry City Council area) and

1.6	<p>the level of incapacity benefits and inactive benefits claimed by Belfast is 10,000 above the regional average. The geographical concentrations of unemployment and low skills levels within the city itself are also significant: 73% of all income support claimants in the city live in north and west Belfast and 8.3% of those living in west Belfast are educated to degree level or higher while the proportion in south Belfast is 33.4%.</p> <p>Therefore, while the broad parameters of the regional economic strategy provide a framework within which Belfast's growth can be planned, it appears that there is a need for a targeted, city-based strategy which take account of the regional drivers but which also identifies the specific city-level – and neighbourhood-level – issues that impact on the city's competitiveness.</p>
-----	--

2	Key Issues
2.1	Initial discussions have been undertaken with a range of partners – principally Invest NI – with regard to the potential for developing an integrated economic strategy for Belfast.
2.2	Draft terms of reference have been produced and there has been broad agreement by Invest NI on the scope of the work. These are attached at Appendix 1.
2.3	The terms of reference note the need for collaborative working on this initiative in order to ensure shared ownership of the outcomes and a shared commitment to achieving the objectives set. In order to create this shared ownership, it is proposed that a consultant be appointed to carry out the research and strategy development work. Their role will be to create a framework for discussion, support progress towards prioritisation and shared objectives and establish an action plan to ensure deliverables against target.
2.4	<p>It is proposed that the strategy will include the following key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated socio economic analysis of the Belfast economy based on both the city's economic footprint as well as the new forthcoming Council boundary. This information should be provided at a number of geographies in order to illustrate the variances across the city - Assessment of key contextual environment and associated strategies to identify opportunities for engagement and alignment with wider developments - Proposed focus on business growth and entrepreneurship whilst reflecting the wider conditions necessary for successful and sustainable economic development. Consideration should also be given to the proposed transfer of urban regeneration powers and responsibilities from DSD and proposed transfers from Invest NI to Councils (acknowledging that the actual breadth of these transfers are still under review) - Establishment of a vision for Belfast's future economic development and evolution, identifying the city's USPs (unique selling points) – principally the priority sectors that demonstrate the greatest growth potential - Consideration of recent and proposed investments in Belfast's infrastructure, both physically and digitally, with an assessment of how these can maximise economic regeneration - Articulation of Belfast's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposition considering how to set Belfast apart from competitors and to boost our attractiveness as an investment location

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of future funding options for the city's economic regeneration, from both public (EU/national) and private sources - Focus on delivery, including a clearly articulated action plan with measurable outputs and outcomes attributed to the relevant responsible bodies for execution and agreed by them as part of this process.
--	--

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Based on an assessment of the work required, it is proposed that the budget for this work should be £60,000 maximum. Belfast City Council is asked to provide £30,000 maximum with additional contributions coming from five of Northern Ireland and/or other partners.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations at this stage. The finished strategy will be equality proofed.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Approve the proposed approach to be taken in developing the integrated economic strategy II. Approve the allocation of up to £30,000 from Belfast City Council towards the overall budget for the work, estimated to be £60,000 maximum.

6	Decision Tracking
	If approved, regular reports on progress will be brought back to Committee and Members will be directly involved in the strategy development.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>DSD – Department for Social Development FDI – Foreign Direct Investment IES – Integrated Economic Strategy</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1

Integrated Economic Strategy (IES) for Belfast

Background Context

Up to this point there has been no definitive economic strategy for Belfast owned by the key players in economic development in the city. In its own right, Council has produced local economic development strategies and plans since the early 1990s based on socio-economic analyses, assessment of needs and opportunities and proposal of solutions to increase wealth and improve quality of life. Whilst Council strategies have been supported to varying degrees and bought into by other organisations and funders they have still been regarded as belonging to Council alone. Other stakeholders such as Invest NI, Enterprise Agencies, Chamber of Commerce, Industry sectoral bodies have their own strategies based naturally on their area of interest which do not usually or necessarily consider the place as a priority. To this end it has been identified that there is a need for a cohesive and integrated economic strategy for Belfast as a place which connects policies and actions of all relevant players together. While there is some collaboration at an operational level it is clear that there is an opportunity for additional engagement to agree priority areas of work and to identify relevant delivery partners.

Therefore the focus of an IES will be on Belfast as a place. It will comprise an agreed strategy for Belfast which is owned collectively by key stakeholders in economic development and chiefly by Invest NI as the government agency responsible for business development and by BCC as the democratically elected body for the place. It is proposed that Invest NI and BCC lead on co producing the IES which should be aligned with the N Ireland Economic Strategy, the emerging Masterplan, proposed Skills and Employability Plan and including the Programme for Government overall and associated Departmental Plans.

It will set out the priorities to rebuild and rebalance the local economy including sectoral specialisms, enterprise and business development solutions and Belfast's investment proposition. A city wide economic partnership will be set up as part of the IES formulation process to unite the city's key stakeholders in economic development and to act as an integrated resource shaping the city's economic transformation going forward. This partnership will be integrated as part of the City's overall approach to Community Planning.

Draft outline terms of reference for IES

The purpose of this assignment is to develop an integrated economic development strategy for Belfast between 2012/13 and 2020 that is collectively shaped, designed and owned by the key stakeholders in the economic strategy arena in the city and primarily the joint partners of Invest NI and Belfast City Council.

The strategy should contain an updated socio economic analysis of the Belfast economy based on both the city's economic footprint as well as the new forthcoming Council boundary. It should identify the impact of the current recession on the city and summarise the effects to date as well as considering how far there is yet to go before a corner can be turned. It should chart the city's current growth trajectory and undertake scenario planning based on a range of forecasts. The positive and negative impacts of current initiatives underway designed to help bust through the recessionary period should be critically analysed: Where appropriate, shifts should be recommended in the short and medium term so that the rebuilding of the economy can be accelerated on a collective basis across the city by integrating actions already underway but which may not have been considered synergistically to date.

The backdrop of the IES should be the N Ireland Economic Strategy; the IES should be the Belfast-centric response to it focusing on goals, targets and actions for delivery to effect the required change to increase Belfast's competitiveness. The IES must also take into account the Council's present Investment Programme; draft Masterplan, emerging Skills and Employability Plan, Invest NI's 5 year corporate plan amongst others. Reflecting the importance of place, the IES should connect to the review of urban regeneration framework and city centre and neighbourhood regeneration policies. Transfer of the economic development and urban regeneration functions to Councils is an important contextual issue also which needs to be taken into account and the IES should be formulated to influence this debate. Engagement with and integration of relevant policies and interventions with relevant Government Departments will therefore be key in this project.

The scope of the IES should centre on business growth and entrepreneurship whilst reflecting the wider conditions necessary for successful and sustainable economic development. Several other strategies and plans are in existence or in preparation covering physical regeneration, skills and employability, etc therefore the IES does not need to extend into these fields specifically but obviously must be connected to them and integrated appropriately. The focus of the IES should be primarily shaped by the current portfolios of Invest NI and of Belfast City Council's activity in economic development and urban regeneration. Account must be taken of the proposed transfer of urban regeneration powers and responsibilities from DSD and proposed transfers from Invest NI to Councils acknowledging that the actual breadth of these transfers are still under review.

The IES should contain a vision for Belfast's future economic development and evolution. Belfast's Unique Selling Points (USP) should be identified going forward. It should form a blueprint for the city that is shared by all the key stakeholders and act as an agreed city wide plan. An analysis of the sectoral clusters which should be developed and prioritised should be provided. Much of the relevant analysis on sectoral clusters has already been undertaken at an NI level and is contained in the

NI Economic strategy which will in part reflect Belfast's role as regional economic driver. However the IES provides further scope for extracting and expanding upon the Belfast dimension and extrapolating where and how Belfast as a city should concentrate on specifically to support regional growth as well as its own economic and social evolution. Similarly Belfast City Council has focused on some sectoral development activity over the years with certain sectoral plans well researched and developed and others still in their infancy.

Consideration should be given to Belfast's infrastructure, both physically and digitally recognising the work underway through the draft Belfast Masterplan and the Urban Broadband Fund/ emerging Digital strategy. Ensuring that the potential of strategic sites such as North Foreshore, Forthriver, Titanic Quarter, Sirocco works, Crumlin Road etc is realised is essential so the IES should focus on this angle. In recognition of the area based agenda of Council, consideration should also be given to developments at a smaller geographical level in order to identify and measure performance across neighbourhoods and identify where targeted interventions may be required.

The IES should articulate Belfast's Foreign Direct Investment proposition considering how to set Belfast apart from competitors and to boost our attractiveness as an investment location. Considering how the city can work best together to support Invest NI's role in this field is required to ensure the city is presenting itself as an integrated supportive entity despite our fragmented governance arrangements. Consideration of the target markets for investment should be undertaken along with an assessment of the range of investment marketing opportunities available including Belfast's potential for participation in MIPIM, Corenet and Expo etc. Input to and linkages with the proposed International Marketing Strategy underway is also required as part of this assignment to ensure the investment message of Belfast is being presented and coordinated effectively.

The content of the IES will also perform an important function in supporting Belfast's case for an Integrated Territorial Investment Initiative under the next period of European Programmes. Therefore its construction must consider how to dovetail into this work and maximise success in achievement of this goal. The IES will also be central in attracting other financing and funding options to the city.

Delivery of the IES is key; the strategy should be supported by a clearly articulated action plan with measurable outputs and outcomes attributed to the relevant responsible bodies for execution and agreed by them as part of this process. Consideration however must be accorded to the targets and goals already set within existing corporate frameworks and attention paid to the tasks which can be delivered more effectively through stronger local collaboration between Invest NI and Belfast City Council primarily. An evaluation framework should be provided, designed at the outset based on the collective vision and targets agreed within the strategy.

Identifying the challenges for Belfast directly and proposing a set of business focused solutions should be provided. These should be presented as a suite of tools and business support mechanisms that should be put in place within the city along with agreement on where delivery responsibility lies. Consideration of the responsibilities and roles between Invest NI and Belfast City Council should be

assessed as a priority and consideration also given to demarcations and collaborative areas of activity with other key stakeholders in economic development so that there is a clear pipeline of support for business and entrepreneurship established. The IES must take account of the wider business base now embraced by Invest NI and identify how this expanded scope can be best serviced in conjunction with Council's responsibilities and services in this domain. Naturally there will be overlaps and joint initiatives but these should be properly identified and scoped out to ensure that the optimum support network exists for businesses, for Belfast citizens and for Belfast as a place.

Proposed budget

It is anticipated that this work will require a budget of around £50-60,000 financed on 50:50 basis between Invest NI and BCC.

Outline timetable

Agree TOR for IES between BCC and Invest NI	September 2012
Establish a project steering group to manage delivery	September 2012
Secure budget approval from BCC and Invest NI for IES	September 2012
Procure external expertise and commence project	October 2012
Deliver workshop approach to engagement with stakeholders	December 2012-January 2013
Draft strategy to be produced for wider consultation	February 2013
Strategy finalised and approved by BCC and Invest NI	April 2013
Agree TOR and membership of city wide economic partnership	September/October 2012
Set up city wide partnership	October/November 2012



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	International Marketing and Relations
Date:	Tuesday 18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Following the council's adoption of the Investment Programme, work has commenced on delivery of one of the key actions under the Economy theme to: 'develop an International Relations Strategy to support attracting tourism, foreign direct investment, commercial investment, European funding and talent.'
1.2	Over the last decade, the council has developed a range of long-standing relationships with other cities across the world under the Council's previous International Strategic Relations Framework, agreed in 2003. Changing economies and changing priorities have resulted in elements of our original Strategy having become obsolete. A review of lessons learned from past activities in Belfast's international partnerships has commenced along with the formulation of an integrated city wide approach to international marketing and relations.
1.3	Notwithstanding all the advances in the city's infrastructure over the past four years, the city has suffered from the recession and economic recovery is still a major challenge. There is now a strong argument that Belfast needs to once again take stock, revisit and refresh the Belfast brand based on our current values, develop a new city narrative that is agreed by all city stakeholders and undertake a reinvigorated coordinated city-wide approach to international marketing.
1.4	We must sustain and capitalise on our existing networks and relationships outside of Belfast, of UK and Ireland and beyond. We are operating in an increasingly global environment and to be inwardly focused is to limit the potential for growth, investment and social enhancement of Belfast itself. We are already connected to the world through all sorts of channels and relationships, some planned, some by default or by coincidence, some known widely and some yet to be uncovered. In order to maximise the value that this brings, Belfast must speak to the world as one City with all its constituent parts identifying with the brand, the messages and the purpose.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>We envisage that the key objectives in agreeing and implementing an International Marketing and Relations framework will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To secure buy-in of agree a coordinated approach to international relations and integrated city marketing across all key stakeholders in Belfast. - To develop a city narrative which is agreed by all key stakeholders - To refresh the Belfast brand ensuring it reflects the current values and narrative of Belfast and has city-wide ownership - To agree the key target audiences, messages and methodologies for an integrated approach to marketing - To agree the optimum vehicle for coordinated international marketing in agreement with city's key stakeholders - Agree the key global destinations for an integrated approach to international marketing with all key stakeholders in Belfast
2.2	<p>As a city convener, Council must not only consider its own direct international relationships, but also respect other international relationships which are already in place or desired by our city partners and stakeholders.</p>
2.3	<p>The range of key city partners include Invest NI, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Tourism Ireland, Arts Council, British Council, Belfast Port and Harbour, Queens University, Ulster University, Belfast Metropolitan College, Titanic Quarter, Northern Ireland Science Park and Bombardier.</p>
2.4	<p>Presently Belfast is marketed internationally by a range of city stakeholders albeit each focuses on their own perception and experience of Belfast and their own messages, methodologies and target audiences. There has been some effort to coordinate these activities however this has been limited to leisure and tourism marketing and even now this area is also demonstrating fragmentation with a plethora of agencies shifting focus.</p>
2.5	<p>Belfast City Council has now commenced the process of developing the international relations framework and we have talked to around 20 key stakeholders in the city over the last few months to start building relationships and to scope out the level of international activity in the city. The main findings from our discussions are:</p>
2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is widespread support, in principle, for an integrated approach to international marketing. - Many stakeholders focus on international relations rather than explicit international marketing. - Stakeholders are engaged in international activity largely for economic benefits however increased profile and positive imagery is also cited as a valid rationale for international engagement. - There are already established partnership arrangements in place between certain stakeholders however these tend to be sporadic and based on particular events or campaigns rather than strategic. - There are some overlaps between stakeholders on geographical market selection. These tend to be with the more obvious locations with an historical connection to Belfast/Northern Ireland. - The area with most overlap is New York and Boston in the USA. - There is a great deal of interest in India however there is no specific geographical focus. - China and the Far East is a target market for the education sector although

	<p>not all in the same geographical locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agreement on need to refresh and refine the Belfast brand and consider its expansion beyond those that have adopted it to date. – Joint showcasing abroad is considered worthwhile although each stakeholder likely to want to do own activity as well.
2.7	<p>Many stakeholders are also currently reviewing international activity and preparing new strategies including NI Executive, University of Ulster and Invest NI therefore BCC's attention is timely. The OFMDFM is currently preparing an International Relations strategy which will be released for consultation in the near future. It is very timely for the Council to develop a Belfast focus to the international relations and tie in with the Executive to ensure the Belfast message is not lost. This also applies to the newly established Northern Ireland Parliamentary Group on the USA where it will be crucial that we have a clear message and priorities to ensure the this group works for Belfast interests as well. Furthermore NI Connections has recently been established under the auspices of Invest NI. The purpose of this new vehicle is to use the NI diaspora to attract new investment and social opportunities for Belfast.</p>
2.8	<p>In order to ensure the buy-in of the key stakeholders we propose that the Lord Mayor hosts a stakeholder discussion on international marketing, supported by the Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees. The purpose of the dinner would be to develop an agreed approach to the development of an International Relations and Marketing framework for Belfast.</p>
2.9	<p>Building a shared Belfast proposition, focusing on the most lucrative international markets, making alliances and improving the city's infrastructure will enable us to grow our confidence and further ambitions for the future embodied in general keynote development and regeneration plans including Council's Investment Programme.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	It is estimated that the dinner would cost up to £1,000 and would come out of the Development department budget.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report and approve that the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development, or their nominees, attend the stakeholder dinner planned for the beginning of October being hosted by Lord Mayor.

6	Decision Tracking
The main points from the stakeholder dinner and engagement will be presented back to Committee in December 2012.	
Timeframe:	December 2012
Reporting Officer:	Shirley McCay

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Consultation: Assembly NI BIDS Bill
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	David Purchase, Policy & Business Development Officer, ext 3792

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Council have been invited to make a written submission to the Committee for Social Development to inform their consideration of the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) Bill.
1.2	The Bill will allow Business Improvement Districts to be formed. A BID allows businesses in a geographic location to agree a plan to implement additional services (such as street cleaning or security) in their area and to agree an additional levy, on top of their rates, to pay for these services. The Council will have responsibility for organising a BID vote, managing the BID money and possibly providing the additional services. They will be able to charge for these services.
1.3	Committee made a response to the original consultation request on BIDs, which informed the development of this Bill. A copy together with a copy of the Bill and guidance notes is included in the appendices.
1.4	The consultation request was received by the Department on the 16 July and comments are required to be returned by the 21 September.
1.5	The consultations document was distributed to officers across Council and their responses have been included in the provisional draft response attached as appendix 1.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	Of the comments Council made in the original consultation response, the only issues that do not seem to have been addressed are:

2.2	- Our main concern was that Land & Property Services (LPS), who already collect the rates, should collect the BID levy rather than Councils. The bill does not make specific reference to who will collect the levy though the accompanying notes document does say LPS will collect the levy (page 3 paragraph 10).
2.3	- We also expressed concern that the time length of BIDs may mean that any baseline level of service agreed by the Council or the cost for additional services may change over the length of the BID. Hence we would need reasonable flexibility. The BID Bill does not cover this level of detail.
2.4	- Our role in organising any ballots is not clear. The bottom of page 6 of the Bill and top of page 7 states “17. (1) The Department may by regulations make provision in relation to ballots. (2) The provision which may be made by regulations under subsection (1) includes provision— (e) as to the form that ballots may take, (f) as to the persons who are to hold ballots, (g) as to the conduct of ballots.”
2.5	- We had asked for clarity over our role such as guidance and oversight and guidance on the development of BIDs. These are not covered in the Bill.
2.6	- Our power to veto is mentioned but no guidance is given as to when we would reasonably be able to veto.
2.7	The documents suggest that these issues will be addressed through secondary legislation.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications attached to the report.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve the draft BCC response to the consultation and raise any additional issues, relating to the consultation document, that they would like to be included.

6.	Decision Tracking
Timeline:	21 st September 2012 Reporting Officer: John McGrillen

7.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 “DSD BIDS Draft Consultation Response.” August 2012. Appendix 2 “Business Improvement District Bill.” July 2012. Appendix 3 “Business Improvement District Bill: Explanatory & Financial Memorandum.” July 2012.	



Development Department

Your reference: Your letter of 9th July 2012

Our reference: #135761

Being dealt with by: David Purchase

Date: 31st August 2012

Tel: 02890 320202 ext 3792

Kevin Pelan
Clerk
Committee for Social Development
Room 412, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX
Committee.socialdevelopment@niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Kevin,

RE: Business Improvement Districts Bill

- 1.1.1. Thank you for inviting us to comment on this Bill. Please find attached our provisional response but note that this is still subject to final ratification by full council.
- 1.1.2. The Council is very supportive of the Bill and the concept of Business Improvement Districts. During these difficult economic times, it is important that businesses are given every possible support to improve their trading environment. Many of the businesses we work with and support and their representative groups have confirmed that they are keen to pursue the option of a BID. We have been made aware of three potential BIDs in the Belfast area alone. As such we would like to see this legislation enacted as soon as possible.
- 1.1.3. We do have some concerns that were raised in the original consultation exercise in February 2011. In particular, we feel that it would be very inefficient for Councils to develop a BID levy collection mechanisms, which would in effect be a duplication of the existing rate collection process operated by Land & Property Services (LPS). While the notes that accompanied the Bill do say that LPS will collect the BID levy, we would be happier if this was in the Bill itself.
- 1.1.4. To address this issue, while still allowing for any changes to rate collection that may occur in the future, section 13(4) could be changed to say "Any amount of BID levy for which an eligible ratepayer is liable will be collected through an amendment to the existing rates."
- 1.1.5. Another particular concern was that the time length of BIDs may mean that any baseline level of service agreed by the Council or the cost for additional services may change over the length of the BID. Hence we would need reasonable flexibility.
- 1.1.6. Section 4 could be amended to give this flexibility. For example, "4) Where BID arrangements are in force, the district council which made the arrangements must make reasonable efforts to comply with them. In the



event of significant changes in circumstances, the Council may appeal to the Department to renegotiate the arrangements.”

1.1.7. Most of our concerns that were expressed in the original consultation exercise have not been directly addressed in the Bill. These include:

1.1.7.1. That our role and responsibilities in organising any ballots is not clear.

1.1.7.2. That our role in terms of oversight and guidance on the development of BIDs is not clear.

1.1.7.3. Our power to Veto is mentioned but no guidance is given as to when we would reasonably be able to veto.

1.1.8. We appreciate that it is the intention to use secondary legislation to address these issues and would therefore request that we be consulted on the development of this secondary legislation.

1.1.9. In the hope that it will be useful to do so, we have included a copy of our original consultation response at the end of this letter. Thank you for asking us to respond to the Bill.

Yours sincerely

John

John McGrillen
Director
Development Dept.
Belfast City Council
The Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast. BT2 8BP



Copy of BCC's to the original consultation in Feb 2011.

Development Department

Your reference: Business Improvement Districts

Our reference: #114365

Being dealt with by: David Purchase

Date: 25th February 2011

Tel: 02890 320202 ext 3792

Bébhinn Ni Bhriain
Urban Regeneration Strategy Directorate
3rd Floor, Lighthouse Building
1 Cromac Place
Gasworks Business Park
Ormeau Road
BELFAST, BT7 2JB
social.policy@dsdni.gov.uk

Dear Bébhinn,

RE: Consultation: Business Improvement Districts

Please find attached our provisional response to this consultation document. Please note that this is still subject to final ratification by full council.

Overall comments

- 1.1.10. Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department for Social Development's (DSD) consultation on Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).
- 1.1.11. While we are aware that the consultation exercise covered both BIDs and Licensing of Pavement Cafés, we have taken the decision to compile two separate responses, given the degree of detail that we wished to include for both issues and the importance that we attach to ensuring that the appropriate legislative frameworks for each are established.
- 1.1.12. Belfast City Council is supportive of the key principles behind the legislation, namely the need for partnership between the public and private sector; the need for BIDs to be business-led; the need for BIDs to target specific issues and to deliver specific, measurable benefits.
- 1.1.13. Belfast City Council has significant experience of working with businesses across the city, both directly and through our support for individual traders' groups and well as Belfast City Centre Management. We are aware that there have been some initial discussions on the potential for Chamber of Commerce BIDs among a number of groups and are willing to engage with all interested parties to explore the opportunities, potential and challenges involved in implementing a BID within our council area.
- 1.1.14. Belfast City Council has a number of significant concerns with regard to the proposed legislation and these have been outlined below. We consider that these are fundamental issues which should be addressed before progressing to secondary legislation.



Specific questions & responses

- 1.2. Are the respective roles of local councils and the Department considered appropriate??
- 1.2.1. While we are generally supportive of the principles behind the legislation, we have some concerns with regard to the role envisaged for local councils. In particular, we consider that the consultation does not take account of the role the Land and Property Services (LPS) play in the collection of rates and as custodian of that data.
- 1.2.2. The consultation document suggests that the roles of local councils are:
- Provision of key information to BID partnerships (ratings information and baseline service information) to assist with the development of BID proposals and calculation of the levy
 - Organisation of formal BID ballots
 - Collection and enforcement of the BID levy.
- 1.2.3. In addition to these legal responsibilities, councils are also expected to “play an important facilitating role.”
- 1.2.4. Taking these in turn, we will identify specific issues and possible concerns.
- 1.2.5. **Provision of key information to BID partnerships:** The consultation indicates the Council is **legally responsibly** for providing ratings information to assist with the collection of the levy. This may be the case in the rest of the UK but within NI this responsibility rests with the LPS. Councils in NI currently do not hold this data and are not responsible for its accuracy.
- 1.2.6. With regard to baseline service information, we have a number of concerns regarding this. These include:
- Our baseline service provision does not remain static – we are subject to a series of constantly changing priorities and these dictate our baseline at the relevant time
 - Moreover, public services are under constant scrutiny at present with government agencies being asked to identify efficiencies and consider potential reductions in service, if appropriate. This makes committing to a static baseline very difficult
 - BIDs are generally committed to a five year plan while councils’ priorities change more regularly than this
 - Need for clarification as to how costs of baseline services are to be provided – should these cover direct service provision only or do overheads need to be taken into account?
- 1.2.7. **Organisation of formal BID ballots:** Councils could potentially carry out this role but it would be important to identify the parameters of the work so that the practical implications could be considered. We understand that the secondary legislation may stipulate that councils can charge for this work if required.
- 1.2.8. **Collection and enforcement of the BID levy:** we have significant concerns with this proposal for a number of reasons. These include:
- 1.2.9. The consultation document indicates the Council is **legally responsible** for the collection and enforcement of the BID Levy. In the rest of the UK the payment of the levy by businesses is collected alongside their business rates in most instances. In NI the collection of business rates is undertaken by the



Land & Property Services Agency (LPS). Local councils have no previous role in this field and it does not appear appropriate to engage them in this work. It is our proposal that the business levy should be collected by the LPS. To do otherwise will mean different billing, collection and enforcement systems causing both duplication and confusion. The preferred and most cost effective approach is therefore collection and enforcement by the LPS.

- 1.2.10. If the council was to collect the BID levy, as is proposed, there will be difficulties in ensuring the correct rateable value to use for each property given the constantly changing rates database. Council resources would also be needed to deal with collection, enforcement and appeals. If there is the potential for the Council to require the BID levy to be made in advance by direct debit, this would help to manage these risks.
- 1.2.11. We consider that this element of the proposal will require further exploration and discussion with Land and Property Services.
- 1.2.12. The Council may be asked to make a financial contribution to the running of the BID company or the provision of services. The Council could have difficulty in making such commitments for a five year period, given the changing environment and the potential for budgetary constraints.
- 1.2.13. The role of the department is set out as fulfilling "a central guidance and oversight role, with responsibility for monitoring the implementation of BIDs, development of written guidance and provision of support to BID partnerships and local councils".
- 1.2.14. We consider that there will be a need for additional guidance from the Department with regard to the process for establishment of BIDS, with a view to ensuring compliance with all agreed stipulations. This will be particularly important from the point of view of the ballot, for which the council is to have responsibility.
- 1.2.15. We would also wish to work with the department to address the concerns identified above with regard to council's role in the levy collection and baseline information provision.
- 1.3. Most of the detailed regulation of BIDs will be covered by secondary legislation and will therefore be the subject of another consultation. However, we would be interested to hear at this stage about the degree of prescription which stakeholders feel should be applied to the procedures for this element of the BID process, i.e. the development of proposals, consultation on proposals etc.?
 - 1.3.1. As part of the consultation process for developing a BID, applicants should be made aware of other city developments and priorities for example, the Integrated Tourism Strategy Framework for Belfast, the Belfast Masterplan, the Integrated Economic Strategy, etc.
 - 1.3.2. We recommend that there should be comprehensive guidance covering the development and submission of a BID. This would provide consistency between areas and make it easier for businesses to learn from other BID development. However, any framework must be flexible enough to accommodate the potentially wide ranging types of BIDs that may be developed. We understand from the consultation document that DSD proposes following the Scottish model and therefore we assume that there are lessons to be learned from previous experience in these BIDs.



- 1.3.3. As previously noted, we have some concerns regarding the proposed role of local councils in BIDs and therefore we trust that this phase of the consultation will allow those to be addressed before proceeding to the next stage of the process. We consider that these are fundamental issues which must be resolved before progressing to secondary legislation, in order to avoid creating a significant administrative and management burden across a number of public agencies, including local government.
- 1.3.4. Do you agree with the proposal not to require landlords to become involved in the operation of BIDs?
- 1.3.5. We acknowledge the arguments for not involving property owners, namely the concern that this would increase the administrative complexity of a BID and that any levy cost might be passed directly back to the tenant. However we believe that all necessary efforts should be made to engage landlords in the consultation on a BID which might affect their property and that evidence of this should be prepared as part of the consultation process.
- 1.3.6. We have experience of working with landlords and tenants as part of a physical regeneration scheme which we undertook in a range of areas of the city – Renewing the Routes. In managing this scheme, we stipulated that owners should make the financial contribution to the works where possible, given that they would benefit from the uplift in property values as a result of the work undertaken. While we accept that not all the work undertaken will directly affect an individuals’ property, the cumulative effect of the improvements undertaken in an area should have a positive impact on property values.
- 1.4. Is it reasonable to frame the voting system in terms of votes cast, rather than eligible votes? Should a minimum turnout be specified in order to validate a ballot??
- 1.4.1. The proposed approach seems fair in that it ensures that neither a large number of small businesses nor a small number of large businesses can carry the vote on their own. We assume that there must be evidence provided in the business case to demonstrate that all eligible businesses have been made aware of the vote and the stipulations around voting. Establishing a minimum turnout figure may help avoid non-payment and non-compliance issues once the BID is operational.
- 1.4.2. It is understood that guidance will be issued as part of secondary legislation to stipulate requirements for voting, once a BID is operational. We would suggest that that should include appropriate safeguards e.g. need for quorum to be present to endorse any new proposals.
- 1.5. Is this a reasonable balance between areas to be covered by legislation and those which will be left to local discretion??
- 1.5.1. We accept the premise that BIDs should be business-led and, as such, no specific stipulations regarding content, partners or coverage can be enforced.
- 1.5.2. However we also acknowledge that councils have the power of veto on any BID and therefore it would be important to be aware of which grounds might be used in any veto of a BID proposal.
- 1.5.3. Consideration may be given to whether a minimum number of properties might be stipulated for an individual BID. This would help ensure that the administrative and management effort was commensurate with the impact of the BID proposals.



1.5.4. There may also be difficulties with allowing a BID to set varying levy rates within a bid. This could potentially cause significant delays as businesses try to bargain for a lower levy. Again we defer to lesson learnt in other BIDs but we would suggest that there be very firm guidance in this area if not actual legislation.

1.6. What degree of guidance and support would be welcome from the Department??

1.6.1. We understand that the Department has carried out a significant amount of research on other BIDs in drafting these proposals. We would welcome some further discussion as to lessons learned and potential replicability in the local context.

1.6.2. Belfast City Council and the Department for Social Development are both currently engaged in providing funding to Belfast City Centre Management. We would welcome further discussion with the Department as to the potential implication of the introduction of BIDs on this organisation and any future public support offered to it.

1.6.3. While we have already indicated our major areas of concern with regard to the roles envisaged for councils in BIDs, we would request that the Department offsets any significant financial impact on councils, or puts in place arrangements to allow costs to be covered.

Thank you for asking us to respond to the proposals.

Yours sincerely

David

Dr David Purchase
Development Dept.
Belfast City Council
The Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast. BT2 8BP

This page is intentionally left blank

Business Improvement Districts Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

CONTENTS

BID arrangements

1. Arrangements with respect to business improvement districts
2. Joint arrangements
3. Additional contributions and action
4. Duty to comply with arrangements

Procedure

5. BID proposals
6. Entitlement to vote in ballot
7. Approval in ballot
8. Approval in ballot - alternative conditions
9. Power of veto
10. Appeal against veto
11. Commencement of BID arrangements

BID levy

12. Imposition and amount of BID levy
13. Liability and accounting for BID levy

Administration etc.

14. BID Revenue Account
15. Administration of BID levy etc.

Miscellaneous

16. Duration of BID arrangements etc.
17. Regulations about ballots
18. Power to make further provision
19. Further provision as to regulations
20. Crown application
21. Interpretation
22. Short title

A

B I L L

TO

Make provision for business improvement districts and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by Her Majesty as follows:

BID arrangements

Arrangements with respect to business improvement districts

5 **1.**—(1) A district council may, in accordance with this Act, make arrangements (“BID arrangements”) with respect to an area (a “business improvement district”) comprising all or part of the district of the council.

(2) A business improvement district may comprise areas which are not adjacent to each other.

(3) The purpose of BID arrangements is to enable—

10 (a) the projects specified in the arrangements to be carried out for the benefit of the business improvement district or those who live, work or carry on any activity in the district, and

(b) those projects to be financed (in whole or in part) by a levy (“BID levy”) imposed on the eligible ratepayers, or a class of such ratepayers in the district.

15 **Joint arrangements**

2.—(1) The Department may by regulations make provision for or in connection with enabling two or more district councils to make BID arrangements with respect to a business improvement district comprising all or part of the district of each of the councils.

(2) The provision which may be made by regulations under subsection (1) includes provision which modifies any provision made by or under this Act in its application to such arrangements.

Additional contributions and action

3.—(1) The persons specified in subsection (2) may make financial contributions or take action for the purpose of enabling the projects specified in BID arrangements to be carried out. 5

(2) Those persons are—

- (a) the district council which has made the arrangements, and
- (b) any other person authorised or required to do so in accordance with the arrangements. 10

Duty to comply with arrangements

4. Where BID arrangements are in force, the district council which made the arrangements must comply with them.

Procedure 15

BID proposals

5.—(1) BID arrangements are not to come into force unless proposals for the arrangements (“BID proposals”) are approved by a ballot.

(2) The Department may by regulations make provision—

- (a) as to the persons who may draw up BID proposals, 20
- (b) as to consultation on BID proposals,
- (c) as to other procedures to be followed in connection with the drawing up of BID proposals,
- (d) as to the matters to be included in BID proposals,
- (e) as to the date which may be provided under BID proposals for the coming into force of BID arrangements which give effect to the proposals, 25
- (f) as to—
 - (i) the disclosure for the purposes of BID proposals of information held by the Department of Finance and Personnel in connection with its functions relating to rating of hereditaments, 30
 - (ii) the use to which such information may be put, and
 - (iii) the creation of offences and penalties in connection with any unauthorised disclosure of such information.

Entitlement to vote in ballot

6.—(1) Entitlement to vote in a ballot held for the purposes of section 5(1) is to be determined in accordance with this section. 35

(2) When submitting BID proposals to the district council, those who have drawn up the proposals are also to submit a statement as to which eligible ratepayers are to be entitled to vote in the ballot.

(3) A person is an eligible ratepayer if on the prescribed date that person is chargeable to rates in respect of relevant property.

(4) In this section and in section 12 “relevant property” means a hereditament which is—

- 5 (a) within the business improvement district; and
- (b) included in the NAV list.

(5) In this section and in section 7 “NAV list” has the same meaning as in the Rates Order.

Approval in ballot

10 **7.—**(1) BID proposals are not to be regarded as approved by a ballot held for the purposes of section 5(1) unless four conditions are satisfied.

(2) Except where section 8 applies, the four conditions are those set out in subsections (3), (4), (5) and (6).

15 (3) The first condition is that the number of votes cast in favour of the BID proposals exceeds the number of votes cast against those proposals.

(4) The second condition is that A exceeds B.

(5) The third condition is that at least 25% of the eligible ratepayers entitled to vote in the ballot have done so.

20 (6) The fourth condition is that the total of A plus B is equal to at least 25% of the aggregate of the net annual values of all hereditaments in respect of which an eligible ratepayer is entitled to vote in the ballot.

(7) “A” is the aggregate of the net annual values of the hereditaments in respect of which an eligible ratepayer voting in the ballot has voted in favour of the BID proposals.

25 (8) “B” is the aggregate of the net annual values of the hereditaments in respect of which an eligible ratepayer voting in the ballot has voted against the BID proposals.

(9) For the purposes of subsections (6), (7) and (8), the net annual value of a hereditament is that shown in the NAV list on the day of the ballot.

30 (10) In this section “net annual value” has the same meaning as in the Rates Order.

Approval in ballot - alternative conditions

35 **8.—**(1) This section applies where the persons who have drawn up the BID proposals so specify when submitting those proposals to the district council in advance of a ballot being held for the purposes of section 5(1).

(2) Section 7(1) has effect in respect of that ballot subject to either or both of the following—

- (a) the substitution of the condition set out in subsection (3) for that set out in subsection (3) of section 7,
- 40 (b) the substitution of the condition set out in subsection (4) for that set out in subsection (4) of section 7.

(3) The condition is that the number of votes cast in favour of the BID proposals must exceed the number of votes cast against those proposals by such number or percentage as may be specified by the persons who have drawn up the BID proposals.

(4) The condition is that A must exceed B by such amount or percentage as may be specified by the persons who have drawn up the BID proposals. 5

(5) In subsection (4), “A” and “B” have the same meanings as in subsections (7) and (8) of section 7.

Power of veto

9.—(1) This section applies where a ballot is to be held for the purposes of section 5(1). 10

(2) By such date prior to the date of the ballot as may be prescribed, the district council to which the BID proposals relate is to give to—

(a) the persons who have drawn up the proposals, and

(b) the Department, 15

notice that the council is or is not vetoing the proposals.

(3) The council may veto proposals only in prescribed circumstances and is not entitled to do so after the date prescribed for the purposes of subsection (2).

(4) Where the district council has vetoed the BID proposals, no ballot may be held. 20

(5) In deciding whether to exercise the veto, the district council is to have regard to such matters as may be prescribed.

(6) A notice under subsection (2) vetoing the BID proposals must—

(a) set out the reasons for the exercise of the veto, and

(b) give details of the right of appeal under section 10. 25

(7) Any other notice under subsection (2) must set out the reasons for not exercising the veto.

Appeal against veto

10.—(1) Where a district council vetoes BID proposals, any eligible ratepayer who was entitled to vote in the ballot may appeal to the Department. 30

(2) The Department may by regulations make provision in relation to appeals under this section, including provision—

(a) as to the time by which an appeal is to be made,

(b) as to the manner in which an appeal is to be made,

(c) as to the procedure to be followed in connection with an appeal, and 35

(d) as to the matters to be taken into account in deciding whether to allow an appeal.

Commencement of BID arrangements

11.—(1) This section applies where BID proposals are approved by a ballot held for the purposes of section 5(1). 40

(2) The district council concerned must ensure that BID arrangements which give effect to the proposals are made by the time the arrangements are to come into force in accordance with this section.

5 (3) The BID arrangements are to come into force on such day as may be provided under the BID proposals.

BID levy

Imposition and amount of BID levy

10 **12.**—(1) A BID levy is to be imposed only for periods falling within the period in which the BID arrangements are in force and any references in this section and section 13 to “chargeable periods” are to those periods.

(2) The length of any chargeable period, and the day on which it begins, must be specified in the BID proposals.

15 (3) The calculation of BID levy for any chargeable period must be specified in the BID proposals and the amount of the BID levy for such chargeable period is to be calculated in such manner as provided for in the BID arrangements.

(4) BID levy provided for in BID proposals may be different for different classes of—

- (a) eligible ratepayer;
 - (b) geographical area within the business improvement district; or
 - 20 (c) relevant property (within the meaning of section 6(4)),
- or any combination of these different classes.

25 (5) The provision in BID proposals for calculation of BID levy for any chargeable period must include a statement of whether any of the costs incurred in developing the BID proposals, or holding of the ballot are to be recovered through BID levy.

Liability and accounting for BID levy

13.—(1) BID proposals must specify the description of eligible ratepayers in the business improvement district who are to be liable for BID levy for a chargeable period.

30 (2) An eligible ratepayer is to pay a levy for a chargeable period if that ratepayer falls within that description at any time within the period.

(3) The amount of an eligible ratepayer’s liability for BID levy for any chargeable period is to be determined in accordance with the BID arrangements.

35 (4) Any amount of BID levy for which an eligible ratepayer is liable is to be paid to the district council which made the arrangements.

Administration etc.

BID Revenue Account

40 **14.**—(1) A district council which has made BID arrangements must, in accordance with proper practices, keep an account, to be called the BID Revenue Account.

(2) Amounts paid to the council for the purpose of enabling the projects specified in the BID arrangements to be carried out must be credited to the BID Revenue Account.

(3) Amounts are to be debited to the BID Revenue Account only in accordance with BID arrangements. 5

(4) The Department may by regulations make further provision in relation to the BID Revenue Account.

Administration of BID levy etc.

15. The Department may by regulations make provision with respect to the imposition, administration, collection, recovery and application of BID levy. 10

Miscellaneous

Duration of BID arrangements etc.

16.—(1) BID arrangements are to have effect for such period (not exceeding 5 years) as may be specified in the arrangements.

(2) BID arrangements may be renewed for one or more periods each of which must not exceed 5 years, but only if the renewal of the arrangements on that or each occasion is approved by a ballot. 15

(3) The renewal of BID arrangements is not to be regarded as approved by a ballot held for the purposes of subsection (2) unless the conditions which applied to the approval of the BID proposals (by virtue of section 7 and, where relevant, section 8) are satisfied in relation to the renewal of the arrangements. 20

- (4) The Department may by regulations make provision—
 - (a) as to the alteration of BID arrangements, and
 - (b) as to the termination of BID arrangements.

(5) The provision which may be made by virtue of subsection (4)(a) or (b) includes provision preventing or restricting the alteration or early termination of BID arrangements. 25

(6) Nothing in subsection (5) is to be taken as limiting the power conferred by subsection (4).

Regulations about ballots 30

17.—(1) The Department may by regulations make provision in relation to ballots.

(2) The provision which may be made by regulations under subsection (1) includes provision—

- (a) as to the timing of ballots, 35
- (b) as to the eligible ratepayers entitled to vote in a ballot,
- (c) as to the question or questions to be asked in a ballot,
- (d) as to the allocation of votes to those eligible ratepayers entitled to vote in a ballot,
- (e) as to the form that ballots may take, 40

(f) as to the persons who are to hold ballots,

(g) as to the conduct of ballots,

(h) conferring power on the Department to declare ballots void in cases of material irregularity,

5 (i) for or in connection with enabling a district council to recover the costs of a ballot from such persons and in such circumstances as may be prescribed.

(3) Nothing in subsection (2) is to be taken as limiting the power conferred by subsection (1).

10 (4) In this section “ballot” means a ballot held for the purposes of section 5(1) or 16(2).

Power to make further provision

15 **18.**—(1) The Department may by regulations make such supplementary, incidental, consequential or transitional provision as it considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of, in consequence of, or for giving full effect to, any provision made by or under this Act.

(2) The provision which may be made under subsection (1) includes provision which amends any statutory provision.

Further provision as to regulations

20 **19.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), regulations made under this Act are subject to negative resolution.

(2) Regulations to which this subsection applies may not be made unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before and approved by a resolution of the Assembly.

25 (3) Subsection (2) applies to regulations which include provision under—

(a) section 5(2)(f)(iii);

(b) section 9(3);

(c) section 2(1) where that provision modifies any provision made by or under this Act; and

30 (d) section 18(1) where that provision amends any statutory provision.

Crown application

20. This Act binds the Crown to the full extent authorised or permitted by the constitutional laws of Northern Ireland.

Interpretation

35 **21.**—(1) In this Act—

“BID arrangements” has the meaning given by section 1;

“BID levy” has the meaning given by section 1;

“BID proposals” has the meaning given by section 5;

“business improvement district” has the meaning given by section 1;

40 “the Department” means the Department for Social Development;

“eligible ratepayer” has the meaning given by section 6;

“hereditament” has the same meaning as in the Rates Order;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Department;

“the Rates Order” means the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977; and

“statutory provision” has the meaning given by section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954. 5

(2) Any reference to “BID proposals” in this Act includes proposals in relation to the renewal or alteration of BID arrangements under section 16 or by virtue of regulations made under that section.

(3) Any reference to “BID arrangements” in this Act includes BID arrangements as renewed or altered under section 16 or by virtue of regulations made under that section. 10

Short title

22. This Act may be cited as the Business Improvement Districts Act (Northern Ireland) 2012. 15

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS BILL

EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

INTRODUCTION

1. This Explanatory and Financial Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Social Development in order to assist the reader of the Bill and to help inform debate on it. It does not form part of the Bill and has not been endorsed by the Assembly.
2. The Memorandum needs to be read in conjunction with the Bill. It is not, and is not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill. So where a clause or part of a clause does not seem to require an explanation or comment, none is given.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY OBJECTIVES

3. The proposed Bill will introduce provisions to allow for statutory business improvement districts (BIDs) in Northern Ireland and will provide a general legislative framework for the BID scheme, with the detail of the scheme intended to be introduced through secondary legislation.
4. BIDs legislation is already in place in England, Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland. The concept originated in America and experience has shown that the BID model has the potential to bring about an improved business environment and improved economic growth. Proposals for Northern Ireland BIDs have been informed by legislation and practice in other parts of the UK and Ireland.
5. Failure to introduce BIDs legislation would mean that those who wish to establish BIDs would have to rely on informal or voluntary financial arrangements. Experience has shown that this can be problematic and lead to difficulties in raising sufficient finance to support schemes.
6. In broad terms, the Bill will:
 - Allow a district council to define a BID within its council area or in cooperation with a neighbouring council;

- Require a district council to set up a ring-fenced BID Revenue Account to hold funds raised by the local levy;
 - Require that BID proposals be formally compiled and put to a vote via an official ballot;
 - Specify those entitled to vote in the ballot (non-domestic rate payers within the proposed BID area);
 - Specify the conditions for approval of a ballot. The interests of large and small businesses are to be protected by a voting system which requires a simple majority in both votes cast and rateable value of votes cast plus a minimum 25% turnout (by number and rateable value) in order to be successful. BID proposers in a given area may specify that they wish to set a higher threshold;
 - Allow a district council to veto BID proposals in certain exceptional circumstances (e.g. if proposals are considered to significantly conflict with existing council policy or if they are likely to impose a disproportionate financial burden). In the event of a council exercising this veto, the BID proposers would be able to appeal to the Department;
 - Specify the maximum timeframe (five years) for BID arrangements to operate before needing to be resubmitted to a ballot.
7. Many of the provisions in the Bill will provide for the later introduction of statutory rules. It is largely through these instruments that the detail of what is required legislatively, to underpin the introduction of BID arrangements, will be put in place. The Department's intention is to allow maximum flexibility within the general framework provided for in primary legislation, in order that the scheme can be adapted to suit local needs.

CONSULTATION

8. The Department consulted on proposals for business improvement districts between 01 December 2010 and 28 February 2011 and received 37 written responses.
9. From the responses received it is clear that there is an overwhelming support for the introduction of business improvement districts in Northern Ireland. Of the 37 responses received 35 (95%) were very supportive, feeling that the BID model would facilitate local businesses to work in partnership with local government in addressing issues impacting on the viability and vitality of town centres.
10. The main area of concern raised in the consultation related to responsibility for the billing, collection and enforcement of the BID levy. The Department had proposed in its consultation paper that this should be handled at local council level. However, a significant percentage of respondents suggested that this responsibility would be better placed with Land and Property Services (LPS) which currently carries out a similar role in its collection of the annual rates. Following discussions with the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), it has been agreed that LPS will take on a role in the administration of the BID levy, the details of which will be set out in secondary legislation and guidance from the Department.
11. The Bill has been developed in consultation with DOE, DFP and DOJ in recognition of the overlap with their areas of policy responsibility.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

12. Three options were considered. Option 1 was to do nothing and allow BIDs in Northern Ireland to continue based on voluntary contributions with no mechanism to require payment or enforcement of a levy.
13. Option 2 was to develop legislation which would enable the introduction of statutory BIDs and provide a framework for regulation. Legislation would be flexible and the Department would leave questions such as the rate of the levy and relative contributions of different businesses to local discretion while providing a framework of advice and guidance.
14. Option 3 was to develop more prescriptive legislation that would attempt to regulate more aspects of BIDs operation and place more emphasis on standardisation and central control rather than local discretion.

15. The Department's preferred option was option 2 as it was considered that it offered the best balance between a statutory framework and local discretion for the business community to determine appropriate costs.

OVERVIEW

16. The Bill contains twenty-two clauses and commentary on these provisions follows. Comments are not given where the wording is self-explanatory.

Clause 1: Arrangements with respect to business improvement districts

This Clause enables a district council to make arrangements for a business improvement district in a defined area within the district council's boundary for the benefit of those identified in the BID proposals. Clause 1 also makes explicit that a BID project, in a district council area, need not involve businesses that are within a discrete geographic area, but can consist of businesses that are linked thematically, or that are near to one another without being wholly adjacent to each other.

Clause 2: Joint arrangements

This Clause allows the Department to make regulations outlining the procedure for when a BID proposal covers an area lying within the boundaries of two or more district councils.

Clause 3: Additional contributions and action

This Clause allows district councils, and any other person identified in the "BID arrangements", to make voluntary financial contributions towards funding a BID project.

Clause 4: Duty to comply with arrangements

This Clause places a duty on a district council to comply with the BID arrangements, once these are in force.

Clause 5: BID proposals

This Clause ensures that a BID project will only go ahead if the BID proposals have been approved by a ballot of those ratepayers identified in the BID proposals. Clause 5 also allows the Department to set out in regulations the persons who can draw up BID proposals; the procedures for consultation, including who can be consulted on the proposals; the procedures which a person taking forward a BID arrangement should follow when drawing up BID proposals; what should be outlined in the BID proposals; when the BID

arrangements would commence; the circumstances in which disclosure of relevant information must be made by DFP; the purpose(s) for which this information may be used; and provides for the creation of offences and penalties in relation to the unauthorised disclosure of any data provided by DFP.

Clause 6: Entitlement to vote in Ballot

This Clause sets out how entitlement to vote is determined. It requires the BID proposer to provide a statement to the district council that lists all those who will be eligible to vote in the BID ballot. The choice of who can vote is ultimately determined by the names appearing in the statement prepared by the BID proposers and the decision of who appears on the list is vested in the BID proposers. A person will be eligible to vote if he is chargeable to rates in respect of a property on the Net Annual Valuation (NAV) list within the BID area.

Clause 7: Approval in ballot

This Clause sets out the conditions that must be met before a BID ballot can be regarded as approved. The conditions are:

- (a) A majority of the votes cast are in favour of the BID proposal;
- (b) At least 25% of those entitled to vote have done so;
- (c) Those who vote in favour represent a greater aggregate of net annual value than those who vote against;
- (d) At least 25% of the aggregate of the net annual values of all hereditaments in respect of which an eligible ratepayer is entitled to vote, have done so.

Clause 8: Approval in ballot – alternative conditions

This Clause allows those who have drawn up BID proposals to set a higher margin of either net annual values, or numbers of votes cast, or both, before a BID ballot can be taken as approved. In addition, the BID proposals submitted to the district council are required to state whether the alternative voting conditions will apply, so that a greater majority will be required, in either the number of votes cast by persons voting, or of the net annual value element of the vote.

Clause 9: Power of veto

This Clause confers the right to veto BID proposals on a district council. It requires the district council to notify the BID proposers whether or not it will use its veto, and to provide reasons for that decision, including where the veto has not been applied. Clause 9 also provides that the circumstances in which the district council may veto a BID proposal may be prescribed by the Department and that

the Department may also prescribe the matters which the district council must consider before it may veto a BID proposal. Where the veto is applied, the ballot will not take place. District councils are also required to inform the person drawing up the BID proposals that he has a right of appeal against the veto to the Department. The district council must also notify the BID proposer of the details of that right of appeal.

Clause 10: Appeal against veto

This Clause allows any person who was entitled to vote in the BID ballot to appeal to the Department against a district council's decision to veto BID proposals. The Department will be able to make further provision via regulations as to the process behind an appeal.

Clause 11: Commencement of BID arrangements

This Clause provides for the BID arrangements to come into force on the day detailed in the BID proposals. It also places a duty on the district council to ensure the BID arrangements commence on the relevant day.

Clause 12: Imposition and amount of BID levy

This Clause provides that a BID levy can only be raised while BID arrangements are in force, and provides that the levy is to be calculated in accordance with the arrangements. The BID levy is not limited to being calculated on the basis of rateable value. It could for example be a flat rate levy. This clause also allows a BID levy to be different for different classes of ratepayer, which means relief(s) could be provided from the BID levy. Subsection (5) requires BID proposals to state whether the costs of developing the BID proposals and holding of the ballot are to be recovered through the BID levy.

Clause 13: Liability and accounting for BID levy

This Clause provides that BID proposals must specify who is liable for the BID levy, and that a person's liability is to be determined in accordance with the BID arrangements. It further specifies that all levy monies be paid directly to the district council which made the BID arrangements in question.

Clause 14: BID Revenue Account

This Clause requires a district council to open an account which is exclusively used to hold all revenues pertaining to a particular BID arrangement. This clause also gives the Department powers to make further provision relating to the BID account by regulations.

Clause 15: Administration of BID levy etc.

This Clause provides that the Department may make regulations governing the imposition, administration, collection, recovery and application of the BID levy.

Clause 16: Duration of BID arrangements etc.

This Clause sets a maximum time limit for BID projects of 5 years. It also provides for BID arrangements to be renewed, but only where a further ballot is approved under the same conditions as outlined in clause 7 or clause 8, if alternative conditions used. This clause also allows the Department to make regulations setting out the procedure for alteration and termination of BID arrangements.

Clause 17: Regulations about ballots

This Clause allows the Department to make regulations governing the ballot process, particularly, but not exclusively, in relation to:

- (a) The timing of ballots;
- (b) The persons entitled to vote;
- (c) The question to be asked in a ballot;
- (d) The allocation of votes to those eligible ratepayers entitled to vote in a ballot,
- (e) The form that ballots may take;
- (f) The persons who are to hold ballots;
- (g) The conduct of ballots;
- (h) Allowing the Department to declare ballots void in cases of material irregularity;
- (i) Enabling a district council to recover the costs of a ballot.

Clause 18: Power to make further provision

This Clause allows the Department to make consequential and transitional provisions where necessary.

Clause 19: Further provision as to regulations

This Clause provides that any regulations made in the Bill are subject to negative resolution procedures in the Assembly, other than regulations under clause 9. Draft affirmative procedure is required for regulations under clause 2(1) (where they contain provision which modifies other legislation), clause 5(2)(f)(iii) (the creation of offences and penalties in connection with any unauthorised disclosure of such information), clause 9(3) (circumstances in which the district council veto may be exercised) and clause 18(1) (where they contain provision amending any other statutory provision).

Clause 20: Crown application

This Clause provides that the Bill applies to the Crown.

Clause 21: Interpretation

This Clause provides definitions of terms used in the Bill.

Clause 22: Short title

This Clause provides that the new legislation shall be known as the Business Improvement Districts Act (Northern Ireland) 2012.

FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF THE BILL

17. The proposals do not have any significant financial implications for the Department. The operation of BIDs will require the Department to fulfil a central guidance and support role which can be met from within existing resources. The issue of the Department providing funding for the development of BID proposals will be considered further as arrangements are being developed. Provision will be made in secondary legislation for Land and Property Service (LPS) and district councils to have the option of recovering from the revenue raised by the levy, any costs incurred from the BID levy administration, data sharing and ballot arrangements.
18. In line with the legislation in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland, the legislation will not be prescriptive in stipulating who will be liable for the levy. It will be up to the BID proposer to determine in his BID proposals which non-domestic ratepayers will be liable to pay the BID levy and at what rate. Inclusion in a BID area will mean entitlement to vote on the BID proposals. However, as most BID proposals are targeted at commercial retail areas, it is unlikely that many government departments or other public bodies will become liable for a levy.

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

19. The Department considers the provisions of the Bill to be compatible with the Convention on Human Rights.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

20. In accordance with the duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, officials have conducted an equality screening exercise to determine the potential implications for equality of opportunity of the policy proposals. Initial conclusions were that the proposals will have no significant detrimental impacts and therefore a full impact assessment was not considered necessary. These conclusions were further supported in that there were no equality concerns raised during the public consultation exercise.

SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

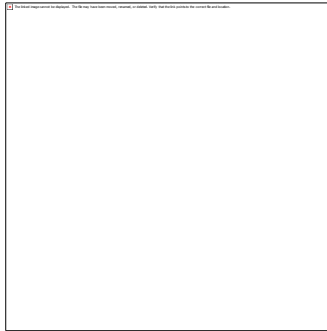
21. The Department has conducted a preliminary regulatory impact assessment and concluded that the proposals will not have a disproportionate impact on businesses, charities, social economy enterprises or the voluntary sector. BID projects will be funded directly by district businesses and other organisations and this will only occur if they agree through a ballot that the BID should be established.

LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE

22. The Minister for Social Development has made the following statement under section 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

“In my view the Business Improvement Districts Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly.”

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Women in Business Awards
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The 2012 Women in Business NI Awards take place on 22 November 2012. Now in their second year, the Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of women in business across a range of categories.
1.2	Last year's awards attracted over 100 entries and the event itself drew more than 350 participants. It was supported by a range of public and private sector partners including Deloitte, Enterprise NI, British Midland, Moy Park and Invest NI.

2	Key Issues
2.1	An opportunity has been presented to sponsor the "Best Small Business" category at the awards. This award recognises an outstanding small business which demonstrates a high level of service, is profitable and shows innovation. This business may be a sole trader, a partnership, a social enterprise or a small private sector company, with a maximum of 20 employees.
2.2	The cost for sponsorship of this category is £2,000. Sponsorship benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of logo on all event material • PR and publicity opportunities pre and post-event • Advert in event programme • Presentation of award on the evening (400 attendees expected) • A number of places at the event.
2.3	Other sponsors already secured for the event include Invest NI, JC Decaux, Vodafone, the Equality Commission and Isaac Agnew.

2.4	Last year's event secured significant media coverage with a total equivalent advertising value of £38,000. The Irish News has been confirmed as the media partner for the event and will feature regular coverage in the months running up to and after the event. Sponsors will be heavily featured as part of this coverage.
2.5	Engagement with the small business category aligns with the Council's commitment to encouraging small business growth in the city; rewarding excellence and promoting positive role models to encourage more would-be entrepreneurs. There will be an opportunity to use the winning business in future Council promotional events and activities.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The category sponsorship cost is £2,000.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	These events are intended to acknowledge, celebrate and reward the achievements of women in business.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the opportunity to sponsor the "best small business" category at the second annual Women in Business awards on 22 November 2012 • Approve the financial allocation of £2,000 towards the sponsorship costs.

6	Decision Tracking
No specific decision tracking required.	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Eurocities Engagement
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Laura Leonard, European Manager, ext 3577

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Members will recall their decision on 20 March 2012, to continue Belfast City Council (BCC) engagement in the Eurocities network. This network brings together over 140 of Europe's largest local authorities and BCC has been an active member since the 1990's. Through relevant Council officer engagement, BCC has participated regularly in the following thematic fora around which Eurocities is structured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Affairs - Economic Development - Environment - Culture - Knowledge Society <p>Members agreed the work plan for engagement in these fora for 2012 in March of this year.</p>
1.2	<p>Each year BCC experiences very positive gains from participation in the Eurocities network and importantly the Council contributes policy influencing at the EU commission and Parliament. Officers are currently heavily engaged in ensuring a maximum level of EU funding is directed to cities and an enhanced delivery role is secured for local government with respect to the EU structural funds spend post 2013</p>
1.3	<p>The Council engages in EU projects within the network and to date this year has secured engagement for 4 BCC projects namely,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illuminate - NICE - Sport I - Sport II

<p>1.4</p> <p>1.5</p> <p>1.6</p>	<p>Critically the Council works with Eurocities to track EU legislation and lobby heavily to influence this and ultimately create savings for the city, e.g. EU Services Directive.</p> <p>Profiling best practice is also a key objective to our engagement in Eurocities. Members will recall a highly successful cyber security conference hosted by BCC on 19-21 June this year in partnership with Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum. A report on the conference and the very positive PR generated will be brought to members in the near future.</p> <p>Members will be aware that BCC engages in Eurocities meetings and events at both officer and member levels. Indeed on 12 June 2012, Members agreed to the establishment of a Members EU Working Group with a view to up skilling Councillors on EU affairs and ensuring consistency with regard to Members engagement in Europe.</p> <p>This working group will meet for the first time in October 2012 and will report regularly to the Development Committee.</p>
----------------------------------	---

<p>2</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Each year BCC participates in the Eurocities annual conference. Traditionally attendance has been through the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development or their nominees, as well as the Director of Development and the EU Manager.</p> <p>The 2012 annual conference will take place in Nantes, France from 7-10 November 2012. The theme of the conference is “A New City Politics” focusing at how cities are turning to innovative ways of engaging citizens in local politics.</p> <p>The conference will be structured around keynote speakers sessions, workshops, speed networking and the annual City awards ceremony, as well as the Mayor’s debate. This session is only attended by BCC members and not officers. This year, the Mayor’s debate will focus on sharing experiences of political renewal in cities.</p> <p>Over 400 delegates are expected to attend the event and the focus of many of the sessions will be to look at new EU policies and funding opportunities coming down the line for local authorities.</p> <p>Members should note that BCC submitted the MTV awards and Peace Plan under the themes of participation and cooperation. Regrettably they were not shortlisted.</p> <p>A copy of the full conference programme is attached as an appendix to this report.</p> <p>Members are asked to approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development or their nominees as well as the Director of Development and the European Manager.</p>
---	--

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The estimated cost of attendance at the Eurocities AGM is £3840.00

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development or their nominees, as well as the Director of Development and the European Manager at the Eurocities Annual Conference in Nantes from 7-10 November 2012

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Draft Eurocities Nantes Conference Programme	

This page is intentionally left blank

Draft programme**Wednesday 7 November 2012**Venue: City Council, Salle du bureau municipal15.30 – 17.30 **ExCom meeting**Venue: Les Machines / La Fabrique18.30 – 20.00 **Welcome drinks** and visit of *Les Machines*20.00 – 21.00 **Awards ceremony** in *Stereolux* in *La Fabrique*
Welcome speech: Patrick Rimbart, mayor of Nantes21.00 – 22.30 **Cocktail****Thursday 8 November 2012**Venue: Cité des Congrès8.30 **Registration**9.00 - 9.30 **Opening of EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes** – welcome speeches
- Patrick Rimbart, mayor of Nantes
- Frank Jensen, president of EUROCITIES
- Paul Bevan, EUROCITIES secretary general9.30 – 11.00 **Plenary session**
A new city politics: innovation, inspiration, involvement
Moderation by Max Cotton, British TV journalist

Presentations by:

- Joan Font, political scientist, senior researcher, Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos, Cordoba, Spain
- Cécile van de Velde, researcher on public youth policies, School for advanced studies in social sciences (EHESS), Paris, France

Discussion with the audience

11.00 **Coffee break**11.30 – 13.00 **Mayors' debate**
Discussion with a panel of mayors – questions by the audience13.00-14.15 **Lunch**

- 14.30 – 17.30 **On-site workshops (6)**
 -My city, tomorrow
 -Closing the gap
 -Education for all
 -Embracing young potential
 -Connecting through culture
 -Shaping the post industrial city

Venue: Auditorium

- 19.30 **Welcome drinks**
- 20.00 – 22.30 **Gala dinner**
- 22.30 **Nantes after party at Le Lieu Unique**

Friday 9 November 2012

Venue: Cité des Congrès

- 8.30 – 10.30 **Speednetworking sessions**
- 9.00 – 10.30 **Private political session at Le château des Ducs de Bretagne**
- 10.30-11.00 **Coffee break**
- 11.00 – 11.20 Paul Bevan, EUROCITIES secretary general:
 - **Report on workshops and private political session**
 - **'EUROCITIES in 2012'** – film review of the past year
- 11.20-11.35 Frank Jensen, outgoing president of EUROCITIES, **introduces the newly elected president of EUROCITIES**
- 11.35 – 11.45 **Closing**, Patrick Rimbart, mayor of Nantes
- 11.45 – 13.00 **EUROCITIES AGM** (closed session)
- 13.00 **Lunch**
- 14.30 – 16.30 **Thematic exchanges**
 - "Green cities fit for life!"
 - *Interconnected mobility networks in Nantes*
 - *Le quartier de la création* (Nantes creative arts cluster)
- 14.30 – 17.00 **Nantes discovery**
 - City guided tour: *From history to memory*
- 19.30 **Informal evening** (venue tbc)

Saturday 10 November 2012

Guided tours

- 9.00 – 13.00 *The Land of Muscadet*
- 14.30 – 17.00 *A journey to Nantes*



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Gaeltacht Quarter
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 6370

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At its meeting on 18 May 2012, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed that in line with a previous decision by the Development Committee regarding city dressing, hoardings and signs relating to the delivery of the Investment Programme projects in the Gaeltacht Quarter should be bi-lingual and printed in both the Irish and English languages.
1.2	As work on the Investment Programme is now underway, it is necessary for the Council to define its understanding of the boundary of the Gaeltacht Quarter.

2	Key Issues
2.1	There have been several studies completed on the Gaeltacht Quarter and a number of boundaries identified.
2.2	In 2010, Deloitte were commissioned by An Cheathru Ghealtachta Teo (ACGT) and the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to prepare plans for the development of Belfast's Gaeltacht Quarter and to progress recommendations made in the 2004 Dutton report. This report outlines the different boundary options.
2.3	The Plans expand the original boundary delineation of the Dutton Report to create a wider area, together with a core, identifying eleven differing zones and their neighbourhoods having recognisable roles and objectives within a greater Gaeltacht Quarter Area.
2.4	The Deloitte report states that the physical hub of the Gaeltacht Quarter is concentrated on an area around one square mile, with its focal point on the Falls and is bisected by the Falls Road, which provides the arterial route connecting Belfast City Centre to the wider West Belfast area.

2.5	<p>In addition it defines the greater Gaeltacht Quarter boundary as:</p> <p>“that area bounded on its western edge by the Kennedy Way and Monagh By-Pass, continuing onto its Northern boundary at a line following the Upper Springfield and Springfield Roads on both sides as far as Springfield Park and continuing on one side on the Country-bound lane until its junction with Lanark Way. Then following the ‘peace line’ to connect with the start of its Eastern Boundary at Divis Street / John Street Boundary and from there to a Southern Boundary line running from Durham Street / Grosvenor Road on one side of road on its city-bound lane only until Grosvenor Road’s junction with the M1 Motorway and then following the city-bound Lane of the Motorway as far as its junction with Kennedy Way.”</p>
2.6	<p>Appendix 1 shows how the geographic area of the Gaeltacht Quarter as defined by Deloitte along with the original boundary as defined by the Dutton report.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no immediate resource costs associated with this consultation response.

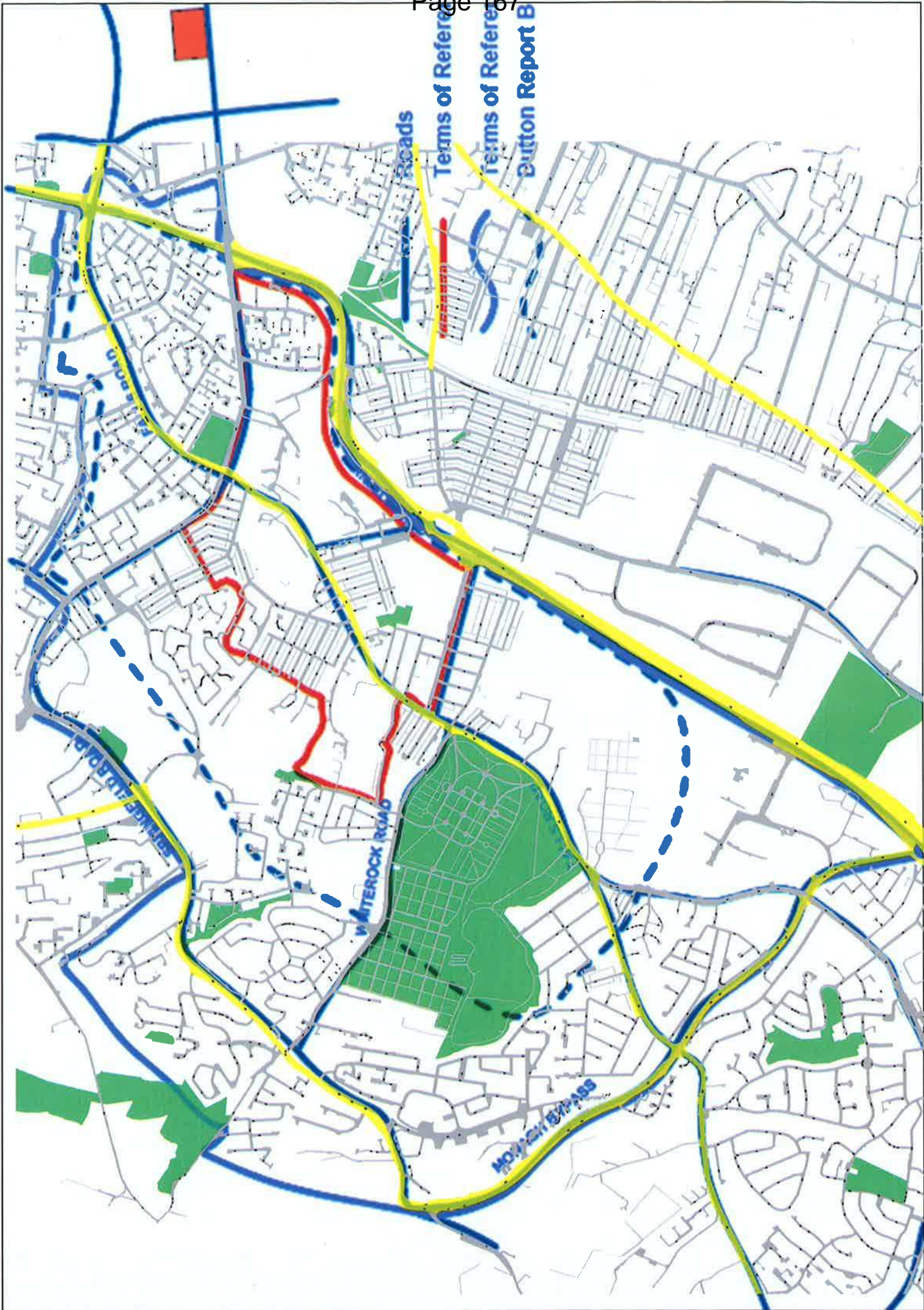
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations considerations associated with this response.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to provide guidance on which boundary option Belfast City Council should use to determine the provision of bilingual signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Further to approval the response will be sent to An Cheathru Ghealtachta</p> <p>Timeframe: October 2013 Reporting Officer: John McGrillen</p>	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>ACGT - An Cheathru Ghealtachta Teo</p> <p>DCAL – Department of Culture Arts and Leisure</p>	

8	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 shows how the geographic area of the Gaeltacht Quarter is defined within this plan and the Dutton report.</p>	



This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Quarterly Financial Report – Quarter 1 2012/13
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext 3470
Contact officer:	David Orr, Business Support Manager ext 3502

Relevant background information

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed at on 18 June 2010 that:

- the Council would produce financial reporting packs for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and each Standing Committee on a quarterly basis
- the Budget and Transformation Panel would also receive monthly financial updates if there were any significant issues to report.

The reporting pack (Appendix 1) contains a summary dashboard of the financial indicators and an executive summary explaining the financial performance of the Development Committee in the context of the financial performance of the overall council. It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators covering the year to date and forecast financial position.

The style and layout reflect much of the discussion and feedback arising from the Members' financial training at the end of September 2010. As we previously advised the Committee, we will continue to develop the style and contents of the reports in liaison with members.

Central Finance and our departmental management team have worked together to develop the information within this financial reporting pack.

Key issues

Current and forecast financial position 2012/13

The Development Department is over spent by £315,000, or 5% of its net budgeted expenditure of just over £6.1 million at the end of quarter one.

Community Services are over spent by £100,000 (6%), City Events and Venues are over spent by £215,000 (13%), and Economic Initiatives are over budget by £20,000 (1%) and Directorate is under budget by £20,000 (2%).

There are four main areas which give rise to the current overall £315k (5%) over spend within the Department at the end of quarter one:

- Gross Income was £3,438k, which was £384k (12.6%) higher than the budgeted income of £3,054k. This variance is mainly due to increased grant funding in relation to Events 2012 and is offset by matched programme expenditure.
- Employee costs of £2,418k were £112k (4.4%) less than the budgeted figure of £2,530k. This was due to a number of vacant posts and reduced expenditure on training against current budget profile.
- Supplies and Services expenditure of £3,690k was £468k (14.5%) above the budget of £3,222k. This was mainly due to higher than budgeted expenditure as a result of the Events 2012 programme and is matched by increased income, see above.
- Subscriptions and Grants paid amounted to £2,478k, which was £328k (15%) higher than the budgeted figure of £2,150k. This was due to groups meeting their monitoring requirements earlier than normal, and as a result monies were paid sooner than originally profiled.

It is currently forecast that the Development Department will be under spent by £120k (0.6%) at year end.

- Community Services is forecast to be £50k (0.9 %) under budget at year end.
- Economic Initiatives is forecast to be on budget at the year-end.
- Directorate is forecast to be £70k (1.8%) under budget at year end.
- Finally, the City Events and Venues Section are forecast to be on budget at year end.

The Department will continue to monitor the variance between actual and budgeted expenditure during quarter 2.

The financial reporting pack contains more detail on both the overall Council position and the financial performance in each of the Services within the Development Department.

Resource Implications

There is a year to date over spend of £315k and forecast is that the Department will be under budget by £120k at year end.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the above report and associated financial reporting pack.

Decision Tracking

N/A

Key to Abbreviations

N/A

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Financial Reporting Pack

This page is intentionally left blank















Development Committee



Quarterly Finance Report

Report Period: Quarter 1, 2012/13

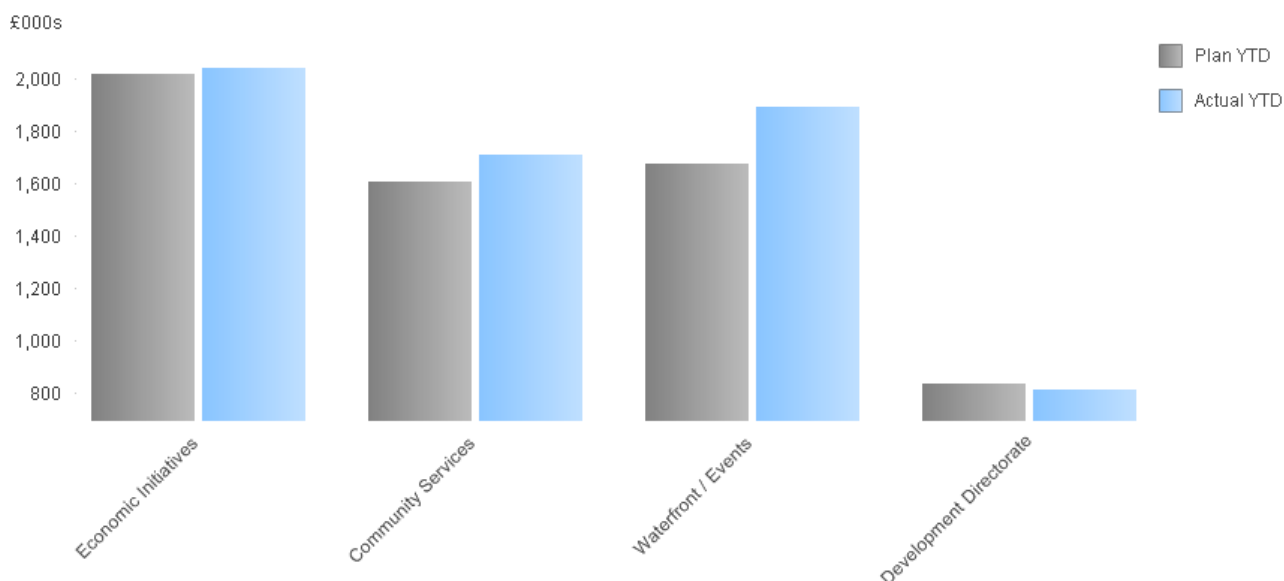
Dashboard

Revenue Section							Page
Service	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	3&4
Development Directorate		(20)	(2.4)%		(70)	(1.8)%	
Community Services		100	6.2%		(50)	(0.9)%	
Waterfront / Events		215	12.8%		0	0.0%	
Economic Initiatives		20	1.0%		0	0.0%	
Committee Total		315	5.1%		(120)	(0.6)%	
Total of all Committees	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	
Belfast City Council		(1,014)	(3.3)%		(927)	(0.8)%	

Note: Total of all committees is draft until ratified by SP&R.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)				Page
KPI	Actual	Target		
Compliant Purchases	66.8%	85.0%		5
Timeliness Of Goods On System	47.2%	75.0%		6

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Year to Date Position



Commentary and action required:

Community Services is over spent by £100,000 at the end of Quarter 1 (Budgeted expenditure: £1,606,655; Actual expenditure: £1,706,755).

The primary reason for this over spend is that grant payments have been made earlier than anticipated in relation to budget profiles resulting in a variance of £240k which is offset by under spends of £97k in employee costs and £43k in supplies and services.

City Events and Venues is over spent by £215,000 at the end of Quarter 1 (Budgeted expenditure: £1,675,464; Actual expenditure: £1,890,224).

This over spend was as a result of profiling issues due to variations in spend and income against profiles. Relevant budgets will be reprofiled in the next accounting period.

Economic Initiatives is over spent by £20,000 at the end of Quarter 1.

The reason for this variance was an increased spend in supplies and services which varied from the original profile, this will self correct in future periods.

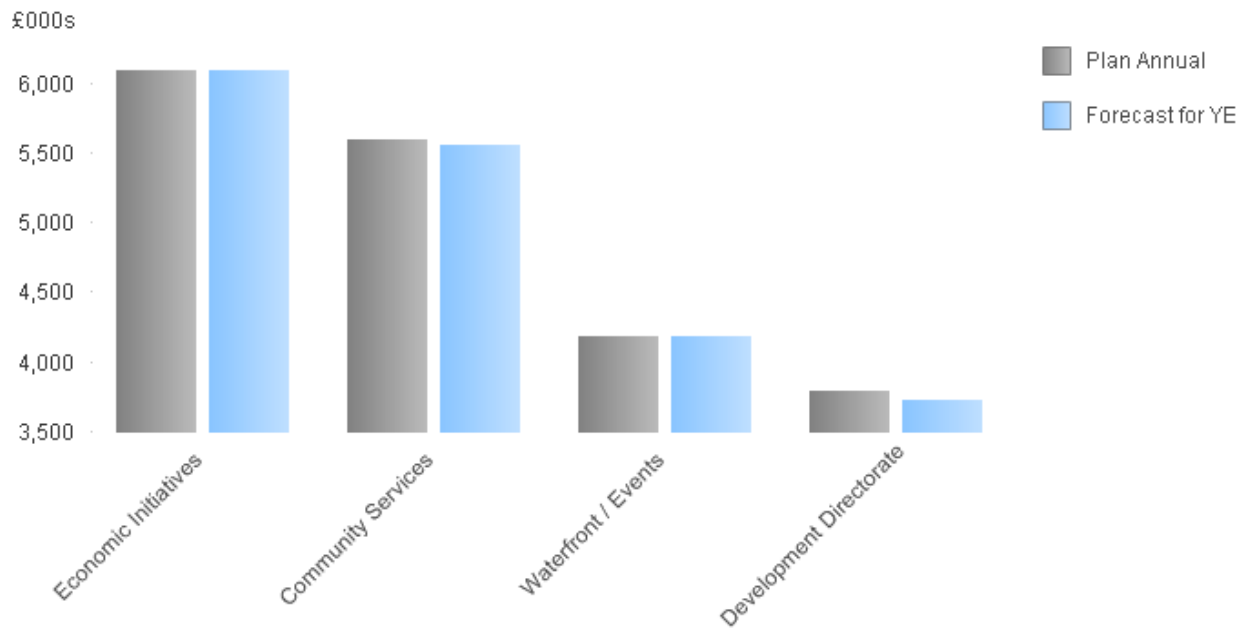
Directorate is under spent by £20,000 at the end of Quarter 1.

(Budgeted expenditure: £833,331; Actual expenditure: £813,476).

The under spend can be attributed to the following factors:

- A £51,000 under spend due to a number of vacant posts £40k and training £11k.
- A £29,000 over spend in hired and contracted services due to expenditure being out of line with profile and this will self correct in future periods.

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Forecast for Year End (YE)



Commentary and action required:

It is currently forecast that the Development Department will be under spent by £120k (0.6%) at year end.

- Community Services is forecast to be £50k (0.9%) under budget at year end as a result of vacant posts within Community Facilities at the beginning of the year.
- Economic Initiatives is forecast to be on budget at the year-end.
- Directorate is forecast to be £70k (1.8%) under budget at year end as a result of vacant posts in Business Support, Policy and SNAP units.
- Finally, the City Events and Venues Section are forecast to be on budget at year end.

Forecast for Reserves:

Renewing the Routes and SNAP: £645k.

The programme is in the process of being developed as part of the investment programme and work is under way at present. Contracts are in place and are expecting the next phase of expenditure to take place in the near future. This will be subject to Property & Projects being able to facilitate the delivery of these projects. It is anticipated 50% of this money will be utilised by the end of this financial year, with the remaining being utilised in 2013/14.

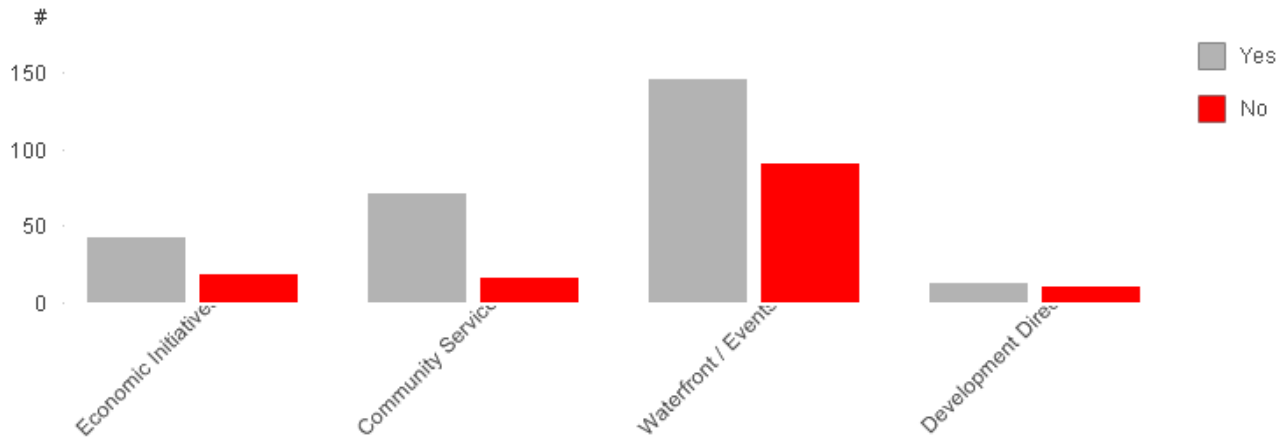
Olympic Torch: £75k.

These reserves have been utilised, and will be transferred from reserves to the Profit & Loss statements in the next accounting period.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Procurement Compliance

Procurement Compliance refers to the purchases that are made in compliance with the standard procure to pay process in BCC. These processes help ensure that our creditors are paid in a timely fashion and our accounts are accurate and up to date. The following indicators are intended to give a flavour of how well we are doing at adhering to the processes.

Indicator 1: Compliant Purchases (Purchase order created on system before ordering goods)



The impact of ordering goods without a purchase order being created on the system are that a) the authorisation for purchasing goods has not gone through the proper channels, b) incomplete records are available and decisions are being made based on information that is not correct and c) suppliers whose invoices do not have purchase orders take longer to pay and this contravenes an objective of the investment programme, negatively affecting supplier relationships with BCC.

Commentary and action required:

Belfast City Council is currently 80% compliant in terms of the Purchase Order being raised before the supplier invoice date. The Development Department is slightly below the Council average, and is 70% compliant.

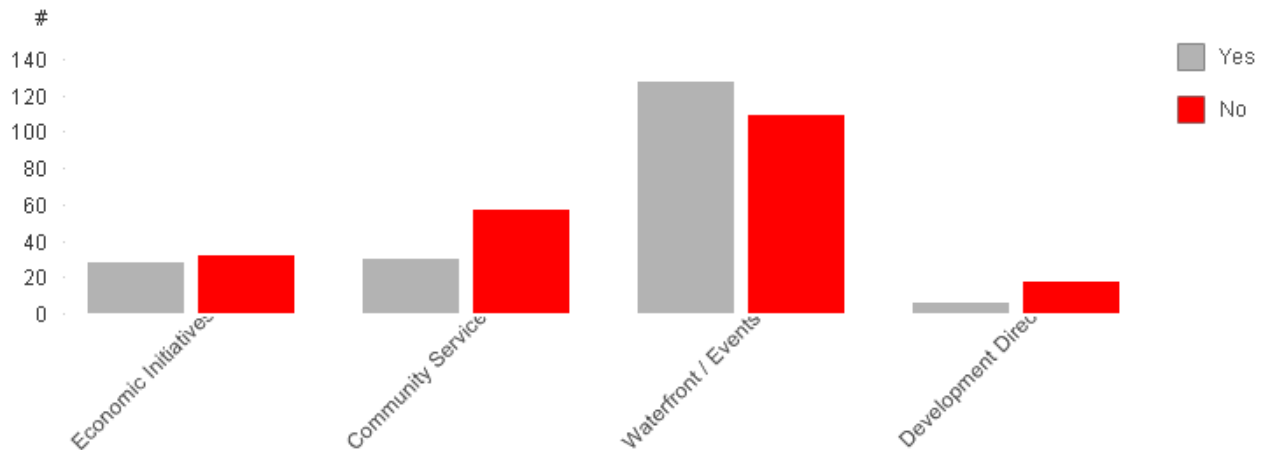
Departmental compliance is affected by the continuous reliance on manual requisitions and processes, collections and delivery of manual requisitions from remote locations, increased processing time as a result of "sourcing" which elongates the approval process and the recent implementation of the SRM system to specific services.

The Department are currently working to implement and roll out the SRM system to all services within the department, are fully participative in systems improvement via the SAP Improvement Group, the identification of hot spots and the provision of training and re-training of staff.

The Procurement compliance is kept under constant review and is reported on a monthly basis to the Departmental Management Team.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Procurement Compliance

Indicator 2: Timeliness of Goods on System (Goods received and marked received on system within 5 days)



The impact of not marking goods as received onto the system is that a) BCC records of goods on site are not up to date and b) there is a risk that a department might overspend its budget as goods have been received but are not showing against the budget and c) it can take longer to pay the suppliers invoices and this contravenes an objective of the investment programme, negatively affecting supplier relationships with BCC.

Commentary and action required:

Belfast City Council is currently 55% compliant in terms of the goods received note (GRN) being created before the supplier raises the invoice. The Development Department is slightly below the Council average at 48% compliance.

Departmental compliance is affected by the continued reliance on manual processes and paperwork, collections and delivery of manual goods received notes from remote locations and the recent implementation of the SRM system to specific services.

The Department are currently working to implement and roll out the SRM system to all services within the department, are fully participative in systems improvement via the SAP Improvement Group, the identification of hot spots and the provision of training and re-training of staff.

The Procurement compliance is kept under constant review and is reported on a monthly basis to the Departmental Management Team.

Development Committee

Service	Section	Plan YTD £000s	Actuals YTD £000s	Variance YTD £000s	% Variance	Annual Plan 2012/2013 £000s	Forecast for Y/E at P3 £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	% Variance
Total		6,131	6,446	315	5.1%	19,660	19,540	(120)	(0.6)%
Development Directorate	Total	833	813	(20)	(2.4)%	3,791	3,721	(70)	(1.8)%
Development Directorate	City Development	125	139	14	11.2%	877			
Development Directorate	Development Business Support	454	443	(11)	(2.3)%	1,811			
Development Directorate	European Unit	72	74	2	2.8%	236			
Development Directorate	Policy & Research	104	80	(24)	(23.4)%	510			
Development Directorate	SNAP	78	77	(1)	(1.0)%	358			
Community Services	Total	1,607	1,707	100	6.2%	5,598	5,548	(50)	(0.9)%
Community Services	Community Services	1,607	1,707	100	6.2%	5,598			
Waterfront / Events	Total	1,675	1,890	215	12.8%	4,182	4,182	0	0.0%
Waterfront / Events	Events	912	940	28	3.1%	1,703			
Waterfront / Events	Waterfront Hall	763	950	187	24.5%	2,478			
Economic Initiatives	Total	2,015	2,036	20	1.0%	6,089	6,089	0	0.0%
Economic Initiatives	Economic Development Unit	153	189	36	23.7%	1,173			
Economic Initiatives	Planning & Development	21	15	(6)	(29.7)%	(22)			
Economic Initiatives	Planning & Transport	161	146	(16)	(9.8)%	875			
Economic Initiatives	Tourism Unit	1,680	1,686	6	0.4%	4,062			

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Quarterly update of the Departmental Plan (Q1)
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	David Purchase, Policy and Business Development Officer, ext. 3792

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Development Departmental Plan 2012-2013 was approved by the Development Committee on the 26th June 2012 with agreement that update reports would be presented to Committee at later dates. This update is for the first quarter, 1 April 2012 to 30 June 2012.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<u>Method and key to coding</u> Service and unit managers were asked to provide updates on the status of their unit's key actions as listed in the plan and to provide commentary if necessary. The classifications used to provide updates are outlined below:
2.2	Complete – the action is complete and deadlines/targets met. On target – action has begun but is not yet complete. Ongoing – the action is day-to-day activity that continues through the year and there are no unexpected delays or issues.
2.3	Deferred – the action has been deferred due to changing circumstance or priorities. Externally Delayed – the action has been delayed due to circumstances outside of our control e.g. planning permission not received, waiting on a partner, etc. Delayed - project is delayed. Cancelled – the project has been cancelled with committee approval.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no additional resource implications.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The update of Development Department's plan for the period up to 30 June 2012.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	There is no Decision Tracking attached to this report.

7	Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1: Quarterly update of the 2012/13 Departmental Plan Q1.



Departmental Plan 2012-13

Development Department

Quarter 1 Update



Internal document





Update against Key actions: end of Quarter 1 - 2012/13

Actions Contributing to the Investment Programme

5.1 City Leadership

Key actions

Place Shaping / Physical investment programme

- Finalise the Belfast Masterplan, promote and help implement the Strategic Projects: Forum for the Belfast City Region, Royal Exchange, Windsor and Casement Stadia Hubs, Belfast Rapid Transit, and North Foreshore Bio Economy Hub.
 - **Delayed** - The Committee supported a revised approach with a two stage engagement / consultation. The current focus is on the consultation with the Ministers / Departments, which is scheduled for completion in August. Following Committee consideration a revised draft is proposed to be the subject of consultation in the autumn / winter.
- Lead on the delivery the Local Investment Fund Programme.
 - **On going** - The 5 area working groups have had their first meeting and are to meet again during the week commencing 27th August 2012. We have been working with the local communities to help finalise over 173 project proposals in terms of costing, timescales, etc so that members will be able to decide how best to allocate the funds and support.
- Help the strategic development of the University of Ulster North City Campus.
 - **On target** - We are working with DSD to develop a project plan and clarify our role with regard to planning and transport, community engagement, etc.
- Be the Policy lead on planning and transportation including 'Belfast on the Move' and 'Rapid Transit.'
 - **On going** - We continue to respond to consultation requests as required and to support various partnerships (Public Space Management Group, Healthy Urban Planning Group, Active Belfast, Belfast Strategic Partnership, Holylands Study Group/ Streets Ahead / BOTM Implementation Group etc). With regard to the review of BMAP, the PAC report has been released by the DoE and responses to the Council representations are being collated. Our Titanic Quarter Access Group activity has been completed. Work is continuing on other regeneration issues including the delayed Sprucefield inquiry.
- Support a city-wide marketing approach/International Relations strategy and develop action plans.
 - **On target** - We have been reviewing good practice, consulting with stakeholders and are planning some study visits to ensure that our approach is successful. Specific projects include further engagement with ITLG to agree the format of the internship and clarifying the requirements for Nashville prior to meeting the group in Sept.
- Maximise our draw-down and leveraging of EU funds including opportunities for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and other funding for key projects.
 - **Delayed** - 7 Interreg project funding bids were unsuccessful in this period. There are very little EU funding opportunities available as EU programmes are drawing to a close. However, the EU Unit submitted a funding application to extend



the secretariat and board costs for Comet to June 2015. Delivery of the agreed Comet action plan is underway. An official EU journal tender has been processed to deliver the £830,000 Young Entrepreneur Boot Camp. The EU unit will also make applications under FP7 and the Culture programme. A Claim has been completed for the B-Team Project Milestone 4 and resources have been secured from EU / Project Partners in line with agreed targets.

5.2 Environment

Key actions

Promote green business opportunities

- Support green industries and support the development of the Green Business Park. Including maximising any appropriate European opportunities.
 - **On target** - A funding application will be submitted in June 2012. The business sustainability initiative for 30 local companies is also on target.

Encourage environmentally friendly practices

- Lead on environmentally friendly travel initiatives for the Council including adopting the Council's Travel Plan and developing an active travel proposal.
 - **On target** - Completion of the Work Place Travel Plan has been delayed pending further consideration of the proposed plan scope. An Active Travel bid was submitted on schedule and a decision is anticipated in August 2012. The potential of Civitas is still under consideration with DRD. The potential for SUMP is being considered under the Civitas work to explore the potential for supported funding. Two events, as part of the Titanic Centenary, utilised a public transport systems. It is also anticipated that similar arrangements will be put in place for Halloween and Christmas events.
- Lead on the Connect project for cycling and walking to the Titanic signature project.
 - **Delayed** - Connect2 is underway but an element has been delayed by the Road Service due to additional design requirements. It is still due to be completed this year.
- Investigate funding opportunities for Belfast public bike hire
 - **On target** - A bid for funding was successful. We are now establishing a project team with DRD and developing partnerships with key stakeholders (such as major employers) to develop the detail of the scheme. We are also continuing to identify the best way to finance the ongoing operation of the scheme.

5.3 Economy

Key actions

Create an Economic infrastructure

- Manage the development and funding of increased convention centre and exhibition centre space at the Waterfront Hall.
 - **On target** - The economic appraisal has been completed and the application for funding submitted. We expect to hear back from DETI in July. Early indications are that there will not be too many issues raised because of preparation work NITB and McClure Waters.
- Support the delivery of new infrastructure for the Green Business Park.
 - **On target** - A funding application was submitted in June 2012.
- Lead on the delivery of a super-connected broadband project.



- **On target** - A bid has been submitted for funding and we expect to hear the result by the 14th September. If successful we will launch 4 connected sub-streams for the project. One will focus on improving local broadband infrastructure and access. Another will look at what public sector and partner information can be made freely available in digital form. Development will take the lead in the two other areas: helping local businesses take advantage of the new opportunities, and helping our local communities increase their IT skills.

Support employability and skills development

- Work with partners on implementing the emerging recommendations for bursary schemes.
 - **On target** – Initial research has been completed and a Committee report about the methodology that could be used will be presented in July 2012.
- Directly create jobs by working with local partners to deliver targeted employability initiatives across the city including HARTE and the Belfast Enterprise Academy.
 - **On target** - Various programmes are ongoing.
- Work with partners on the Belfast Social Clause Delivery Forum.
 - **On target** - We are working with Finance and CMT to develop possible options. A paper will be brought to committee in due course.
- Work with DEL and Belfast Metropolitan College on employment and skills strategies and set up a city-wide Employability and Skills Steering Group.
 - **On target** - A first meeting of the group has been arranged for September.

Encourage business growth and competitiveness in key sectors

- Provide business support programmes in targeted sectors including retail, creative industries, financial & business services and connected health. Programmes will include: exploring export opportunities for the first time or growing into new markets, becoming social economy enterprises, supporting the independent retail sector, supporting local technology companies to exploit opportunities in the health sector, business start initiatives for key groups and creative industries.
 - **On target** - Programmes are progressing as planned. Our start up initiative with InvestNI is currently out to tender and our planning initiative for 15 local companies will complete its recruitment in August. Unfortunately, our diversification initiative for small companies has been slightly delayed as only one submission was received for tender and, after interview, it was decided not to appoint this contractor. We are considering an alternative approach.

Support local procurement and maximise the potential of our procurement spend

- Deliver procurement programmes including: the Smarter Procurement Programme, the Construction Sales Growth Programme and Procurement fairs and road shows.
 - **Delayed** - The Sales Growth programme has been delayed due to staff resource issues.

Tourism development and promotion

- Along with our partners at NITB and Titanic Belfast, deliver 'Our Time, Our Place' Titanic Belfast Festival 2012.
 - **Completed** - All events completed as planned. Awaiting the final output in terms of evaluation of the events.



- Deliver events in line with the City Events Action Plan and the Waterfront and Ulster Hall programme, including the World Irish Dancing Championships 2012.
 - **On target** - All events so far have been completed to plan.
- Continue to deliver Council's contribution to the World Fire & Police Games.
 - **On target** - We are on target though a site for the opening and closing ceremonies is still to be agreed.
- Develop Belfast's tourism product and deliver actions within the Integrated Tourism Strategy and action plan.
 - **On target** – we continue to develop local area tourism plans and there is ongoing work in Shankill, Gaeltacht and the Cathedral Quarter. A consultancy team has been appointed to undertake action plans in these areas and Queen's Quarter / East Belfast before December 2012. Work on the Belfast Story has been slightly delayed as the Cultural Framework has taken priority within team. A workshop was held in June 2012 with the Tourism Forum to identify workstreams and actions for 2013 and beyond. An update is due for committee in September.
- Market Belfast by supporting the marketing and visitor servicing activities of the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau (BCVB).
 - **On going.**
- Relocate the Belfast Welcome Centre to a better location.
 - **On target.**
- Develop culture and arts by investing £2M in cultural and artistic activities including the 'City of Festivals' and Creative Legacies.
 - **On target** – The first group of applications have been allocated for April to September Festivals. There were 52 applications received and 18 festivals have been funded. The total value of requests was £394,717 and the total allocated was £73,000. A Pass mark of 64% was used due to competitive process. The City of Festivals Large Festivals Audience Development Programme was opened for tenders. 8 organisations were successful, which will see the programme supporting 15 festivals over an 18 month period. Quarterly meeting are being held with the Festivals Forum. A festivals 'needs analysis' has been undertaken and a draft Action Plan will be presented to committee in September. The Creative Legacies project has been delayed due to other priorities, in particular the recruitment of a Peace III officer to support delivery. This has now been actioned and the officer is in post.

5.4 People and Communities and Neighbourhoods

Key actions

Neighbourhood investment

- Support the delivery of neighbourhood regeneration across the city.
 - **On going** - Community Services has completed its support of engagement for renewing the routes in the Grosvenor Rd area. We continue to support the Integrated Neighbourhood Working pilot (Ballymacarett) and the Local action plan for Girdwood and Woodvale Park.
- Deliver the Renewing the Routes Programme 2012-16.
 - **On target** - The Majority of works have been completed across the four areas of Grosvenor Rd, Sandy Row, Antrim Rd and Castlereagh Rd. Work to finalise projects to utilise the remaining funds is underway. Scoping and consultations activity for Ormeau Rd / Newtownards Rd is nearing completion.



Discussions are ongoing with BRO in respect of potential additional partnership activity to supplement Renewing the Routes and other regeneration proposals.

Developing strong neighbourhoods & supporting communities

- Resource support for Community Development local activity (including management of an outcomes based £1.748m grant programme).
 - **On going** - 93 grants have so far been awarded with a total value of £691,634.
- Invest approximately £826,000 in community-based advice services per annum via 5 city-wide advice consortia.
 - **On going** - The recommendations from the Advice Review have been endorsed by the council.
- Deliver the Community Support Plan including:
 - Management and increased usage of community centres and other facilities.
 - **On going** - Usage of our centres is above target at over 71%. Unfortunately the number of users is slightly lower than anticipated at 130,490. It is expected that our new marketing strategy will address this.
 - Support for 70,000 volunteering hours per annum in community facilities and developing a new volunteering framework.
 - **On going** - We are just above target for the quarter with over 17,000 volunteer hours logged so far.
- Implement the actions under our Poverty and Social Inequalities Framework.
 - **Delayed** - Public consultation finished in May 2012. The responses have been analysed and the report for Chief Officers was written alongside the proposed revised Poverty Framework (to incorporate the consultee comments). After Chief Officers have reviewed the framework, the report will go to the Development committee. As the poverty framework overlaps, in some areas, with the Life Inequalities Framework led by the Belfast Strategic Partnership, it is proposed to submit both project plans to the People, Communities and Neighbourhood project board for discussion on the best implementation mechanism. The board's suggestions will go to CMT and Committee.

Other actions

5.5 City Leadership

- Develop an Integrated Economic Strategy and establish a city-wide economic forum with key stakeholders including DETI, DEL and InvestNI.
 - **On target** - We have completed initial meetings with Invest NI to confirm the scope of the work.
- Develop and deliver a transition plan for a single core community development infrastructure support programme for the city (with DSD).
 - **On target** - We continue to work with DSD and are on target to put in place mechanisms to transfer the grants and processing.
- Ensure a strong urban dimension to NI governments EU funding strategy, 2014–20.
 - **On going** - The Northern Ireland European Forum was launched at Queens University on 29th May and formally promoted at the NI Assembly OFMDFM committee on the 30th May. The Forum membership has now grown to 60 members. Forum members will be able to inform a piece of work that has been



- commissioned to outline a Greater Belfast position paper in relation to EU funding and delivery opportunities post 2013.
- Deliver State of the City Development Debates (to support the Masterplan implementation). (Review SOTC June 2012).
 - **On target** – A paper will be presented to Committee in June to suggest possible subjects for future State of the City Development Debates.

5.6 Economy

- Re-stimulate city centre regeneration using a coordinated approach.
 - **On going** - We are continuing to work with BCCM to dress individual empty shop units.
- Deliver city markets at St. George's and Smithfield and support creation of new markets in Belfast in the context of the Markets Policy.
 - **On going** - We are continuing to work closely with traders and their committee to improve the waiting list system and speed up the allocation of new stalls. An action plan has been developed and agreed with the traders' committee and initial actions have been completed. Implementation of the new Markets Policy is now expected in August 2012.
- Finalise the integrated Cultural Strategy, promote and implement it.
 - **On target** - The draft strategy has been approved and is now out for consultation. The deadline for submissions is Friday 31 August 2012. Now that the draft strategy is in place, MOU discussions with the Arts Council can begin in more detail.

5.7 People Communities and Neighbourhoods

- Champion and secure integrated support for a Community Development model for the city and deliver the related implementation plan.
 - **On target** - We are currently promoting the approach through our work to support Ballymacarett, Girdwood and Woodvale Park. We continue to deliver core training & mentoring support to local community groups and have also provided training to Parks & Leisure (3 sessions delivered with leisure and 2 with parks) in addition to mentoring for parks outreach workers. We have completed our support work for the Renewing the Routes project in Grosvenor Road.
- Deliver coherent inter agency and inter departmental approach to working with the Traveller community.
 - **On going** - We are continuing to support council units to more effectively engage with the traveller community. We are also working with Byrsons/An Munia Tober, Toy Box & NW health Trust to support outreach work.
- In support of a Neighbourhood Assets strategy, develop an evidence based model of community centre management. Then agree a criterion based assessment framework and start assessing against this.
 - **On target** - A project board, plan and task and finish groups have been agreed. The board will meet in August. A draft outcomes model is due to be completed in October.

Create and co-ordinate opportunities for children and young people.

- Deliver an inter-departmental framework for children and young people.
 - **On target** - An internal workshop was held on 13th June 2012 to establish terms of reference. The PCW Board will provide strategic guidance and direction,



augmented by meetings of an internal workshop which will be held 3 times per year. An organisational framework will be produced as part of that process.

- Deliver a comprehensive citywide summer programme.
 - **On target** – we are ready to roll out the schemes during the summer.
- Build the capacity of Youth Forum members to increase the participation of children and young people in the city and neighbourhood life.
 - **On going** - We are on target to implement a leaving strategy for existing Forum members and are co-design a developmental programme with members of the Youth Forum.

5.8 Value for Money

Key actions

- Ensure Community Centres are operated at a level sufficient for the quality kite mark.
 - **On target** - Initial research and evaluation of options has been completed. The Picaso quality assurance system is the most appropriate for our community centres. We are now gathering the evidence needed from all of our centres in order to apply for Picaso status. This should be ready for October. Subject to Picaso's availability, we would then hope to have our inspection in January and obtain the award in March 2013.
- Use, promote and support evidence based planning via the use of CityStats and other local information.
 - **On going** - We continue to update and promote the use of Citystats.

5.9 Human Resource Management

Key actions

- Ensure compliance with all corporate process requirements including, audit reports, WIRES, risk management, etc.
 - **On going** - We are on target to deliver all of our audit requirements. A risk review workshop is planned for September.
- Implement a revised structure based on reviews of PBDU, SNAP, Markets, Economic Development and P&T.
 - **On target** – we are working with the central HR team to finalise our proposals and ensure they align with the Investment programme.

5.10 Financial Planning

Key actions

- Implement a coordinated approach to grant management through the Grant Unit.
 - **On target** - Draft process maps of the revised grant allocation process have been completed. We are now investigating best practice in Grants governance and dispute resolution with a view to producing a draft for this final stage of the grants management process.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Progress report on the 'Building Better Communities' Belfast Community Investment Programme (BCIP)
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Services ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In June 2012 the Development Committee agreed that the council will work with the Department for Social Development (DSD) to create a new joint programme to support community development activity in the Belfast City Council area. The approach and timetable to developing the programme was subsequently agreed by the Minister for Social Development in July.
1.2	The new ' <i>Building Better Communities - Belfast Community Investment Programme</i> ' (BCIP) will bring together all of Community Service's existing grant schemes and combine them with Belfast Regeneration Office's Neighbourhood Renewal funding for community development and the Voluntary and Community Unit's Community Investment Fund to create a single fund in excess of £5 million which will be directly managed by the council.
1.3	<p>The fund, which is expected to run from April 2014, will provide a single approach to public sector support for Belfast's community development infrastructure and ensure that it is capable of having a positive and measurable impact in communities. The programme is likely to have three main strands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="363 1709 1385 1809">1. <u>Core community development</u>: Supporting local consortia and organisations to develop an active, influential, informed sustainable and organised community. <li data-bbox="363 1809 1385 1910">2. <u>Community buildings</u>: Supporting local organisations and communities by providing venues for them to gather, meet, participate, share information and collaborate. <li data-bbox="363 1910 1385 1977">3. <u>Advice and information</u>: Supporting advice consortia in north, south, east, west and central Belfast.

1.4	Members had requested regular updates on the progress of the BCIP and this is the first update paper.
-----	---

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Project plan</u> The director of Development represents the council on a project steering group which also includes representatives from BRO and VCU and from Community Foundation Northern Ireland (CFNI). This steering group has approved an eighteen month project plan for the development and implementation of the programme.</p>
2.2	A larger inter-agency delivery group (IADG) is responsible for the successful delivery of this plan. The IADG includes officers from the three organisations and a representation from the community and voluntary sector.
2.3	The team will be working closely with Members and stakeholders over the autumn period to identify the community development outcomes that the programme needs to achieve and then to build the necessary systems and processes to support it.
2.4	<p>The main elements of the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance & project management – ensuring the delivery of the project, relationship management between the key organisations and political representatives and ensuring links to the wider RPA process. - Communications and Engagement – ensuring communities are actively engaged in the design and implementation of the programme, ensuring our staff and other relevant partner organisations are engaged in the process. - Building Shared Outcomes – determine what impact we want from the programme and how we will measure its performance and engage with the sector on measuring success. - Grant Design – Working from agreed outcomes, determine grant criteria, assessment, baselining, develop application forms and supporting documentation. - Grant Administration- designing the processes and IT systems to manage administration and measurement of the programme. - Transition Year – Develop and implement an “investment readiness” programme for groups to prepare for the new programme including capacity support for staff. - Human Resources – Determining the skills, capacity and structures required to implement and arrange the new programme including transition.
2.5	<p>The project plan has a number of key dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autumn 2012: Development and engagement on programme content, criteria, supporting management systems. - February 2013-April 2013: Public consultation on the new programme.

2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April 2013- March 2014: Transition year, including support for the sector in readiness for the programme's new criteria. - October 2013: Open call for the new programme's contracts. - March 2014: New contracts awarded. - April 2014: New one-year contracts go live – with programme of support, monitoring and evaluation by field staff.
2.6	<p>During the current 2012/2013 period, over 300 community organisations are receiving funding under the existing grant schemes. Assuming they meet existing monitoring requirements, and are willing to participate in the development of the new programme, these same groups will also be offered a further one year of funding for the period 2013/2014. (The exceptions to this are the council's small grants schemes which will be subject to the usual open call process).</p>
2.7	<p><u>Current status</u> (as of August 2012) As agreed by Members in June, consultants Community Places have been appointed to work with the three organisations to develop a shared outcomes framework for the programme and associated grant design and performance management systems.</p>
2.8	<p>This work, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2012, will include substantial engagement with key stakeholders including Members and the community and voluntary sector. This will be in addition to a full public consultation in early 2013 as part of the standard Equality screening process.</p>
2.9	<p>The first stage of the engagement was a workshop for all field staff in the three partner organisations. The workshop examined the challenges for staff in implementing the programme and considered the potential positive impact that it will have in communities.</p>
2.10	<p>As noted above, 2013/2014 will be a transition year during which we will develop and test the programme while supporting the community and voluntary sector to prepare for it. Groups currently funded under the existing schemes have received initial correspondence about the programme, detailing the broader context of the programme and the change it will have in relation to how groups are currently funded.</p>
2.11	<p>A dedicated webpage has been set up which provides current information and developments on the programme and includes Frequently Asked Questions for groups and organisations. Members can view it at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bcip</p>
2.12	<p><u>Next steps</u> Over the next four months the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyse best practice to inform the framework design and content - Examine the existing funding schemes to identify common outcomes, indicators, etc that may inform the new programme. - Deliver an engagement plan with relevant stakeholders.

2.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold an engagement workshop for Members - Prepare a draft outcomes framework
------	---

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The project will continue to call upon officer support from across the Council with a particular emphasis on support from Development Department and its Community Services section. It should be noted that both BRO and VCU are committing substantial staff resources to the delivery of the project.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The project plan for the BCIP includes a commitment to EIAQ screening and the completion of a public consultation on the proposals. Following this work the Equality and Good Relations implications are expected to be identified.

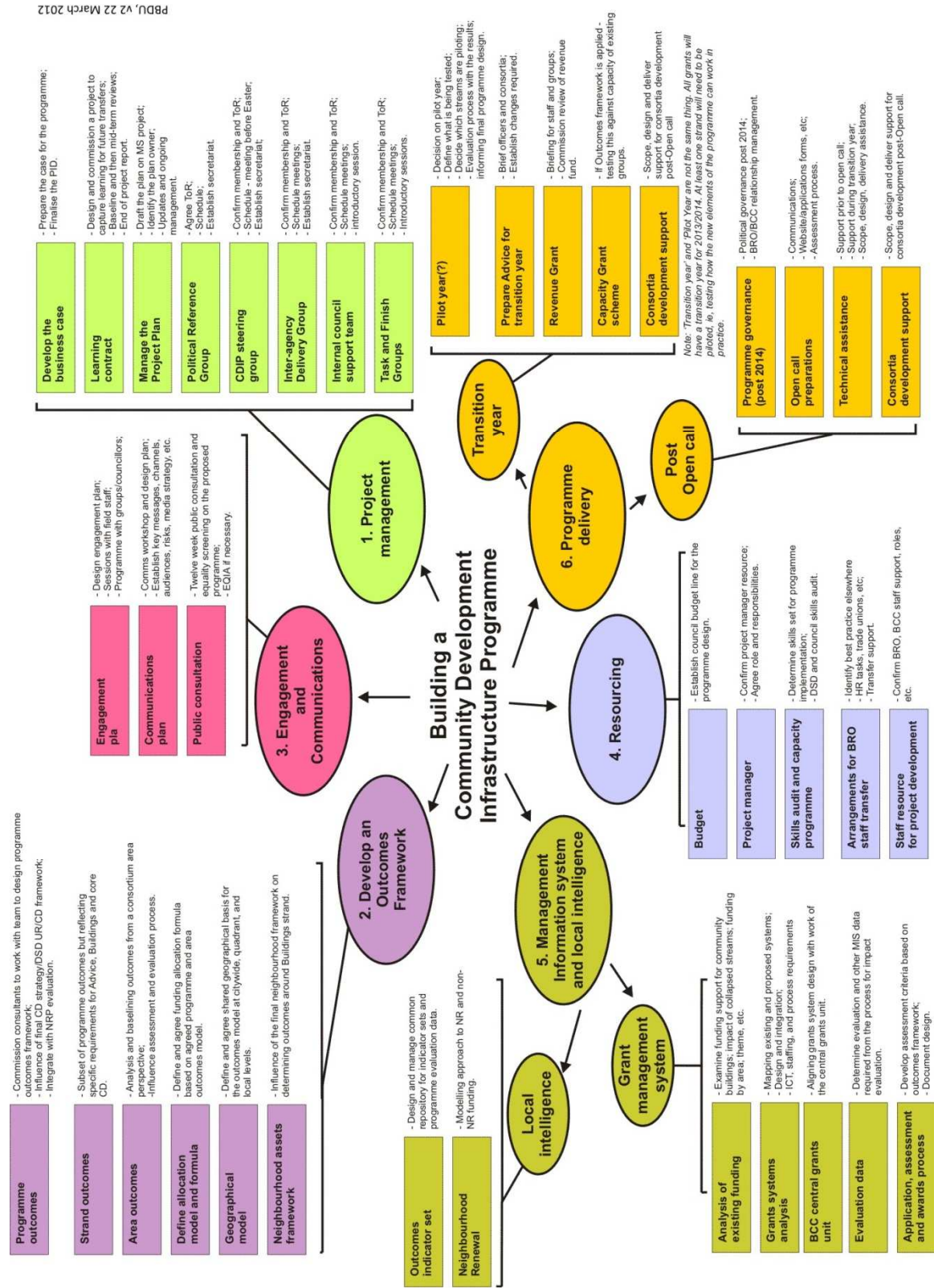
5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider the detail of the project plan and next steps. 2. To agree to a workshop for all Members on the outcomes of the programme.

6	Decision Tracking
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officer Responsible: John McGrillen - Catherine Taggart to implement actions in line with the BCIP project plan

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BRO - Belfast Regeneration Office - BCIP – Belfast Community Investment Programme - DSD - Department for Social Development - VCU - Voluntary and Community Unit

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Main areas of work in the BCIP project plan

Appendix 1: Main areas of work in the BCIP project plan





Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Consultation: CYPSP Various Plans
Date:	18 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	David Purchase, Policy and Business Development Officer, ext. 3792

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Council have been asked to provide their views on how to improve outcomes for specific groups of children and young people, who are at a particular disadvantage, and their families, across Northern Ireland. Regional sub groups with membership from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors have been set up by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Many of these groups have formed and developed action plans, others are at an earlier planning stage. The Sub Groups that have completed their action plans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and Young People with Disabilities - Transition to Adulthood for Young People with Disabilities - Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties - Young Carers <p>The full plans are attached as appendices.</p> <p>These plans follow a consultation that Council responded to in January 2012, "Belfast outcomes group: improving outcomes for children, young people and their families. Priorities to inform the action plan for the Belfast area".</p> <p>The consultation document was assigned to Development on the 2 July 2012 and comments are to be returned by the 25 September 2012.</p> <p>The consultations document was distributed to officers across Council and their responses have been included in the provisional draft response attached as appendix 1.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	The aims of the action plans are aligned with the Council's priorities relating to children and young people and those with disabilities.
2.2	<p>The plans would benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater recognition of the work that Council already does in this area. - Linking into existing mechanisms that could help them achieve their objectives, such as the Youth Forum and the Council's work with Volunteers. - Consideration of the role that the arts can play in increasing quality of life. - Including physical activity as a means of improving health, learning, and improved mental wellbeing. - Further dialogue and involvement with other experts in the public and voluntary sector.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no additional resource implications.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve the draft BCC response to the consultation and raise any additional issues, relating to the consultation document, that they would like to be included.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	There is no Decision Tracking attached to this report.

7	Documents Attached
7.1	<p>Appendix 1 "Consultation Draft Response CYPSP Various Plans"</p> <p>Appendix 2 "Children and Young People with Disabilities Draft Action Plan 2011-2014"</p> <p>Appendix 3 "Transition to Adulthood of Young People with Disabilities Draft Action Plan 2011-2014"</p> <p>Appendix 4 "Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Draft Action Plan 2011-2014"</p> <p>Appendix 5 "Young Carers Draft Action Plan 2011-2014"</p>



Development Department

Your reference: Consultation on the Draft Action Plans of the CYPSP Regional Sub Groups

Our reference: #135674

Being dealt with by: David Purchase

Date: 30/8/12

Tel: 02890 320202 ext 3792

Andrew Hawthorne
 Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
 Health and Social Care Board
 12-22 Linenhall St
 Belfast
 BT2 8BS
 Andrew.hawthorne@hscni.net

Dear Andrew,

RE: Consultation: CYPSP Various plans

Please find attached our provisional response to this consultation document. Please note that this is still subject to final ratification by full council.

Provisional Response

1.1. General comments

- 1.1.1. Thank you for asking us to comment on these plans.
- 1.1.2. Children and young people are a priority for the Council as can be seen by the substantial resources allocated to play and leisure services. In terms of play alone, Council invests some £1m annually in the inspection, maintenance and equipment replacement in 78 playgrounds across the city. Council deploy 16 play workers in 6 dedicated play centres and other sites across the city, representing a further investment of £650k per annum. Council also employ a Play Development Officer (PDO) to co-ordinate and develop play work practice; provide training, support and resources and manage a city wide play service. The PDO has links both nationally and internationally, being on the board of the International Play Association UK branch. In addition we operate and maintain 10 leisure centres and all the city's parks.
- 1.1.3. The Plan's objectives also align with the 3 key thrusts of the European Active Inclusion Strategy- Opportunity, Access and Solidarity, which in relation to CYPSP would provide quality public services and an inclusive labour market.
- 1.1.4. Therefore we welcome the development of these action plans.
- 1.1.5. Many of the plans refer to volunteering opportunities. Belfast City Council (BCC) and particularly its Community Services have many volunteering schemes in place and may be able to contribute in these areas.
- 1.1.6. However Belfast City Council (BCC) thinks there may be some additional issues to include. For example, BCC regards the arts as a vital tool to improve the quality of life – promoting enjoyment, learning and achievement – and for economic wellbeing. The contribution of arts should be acknowledged in the action plans.
- 1.1.7. The draft action plans are missing direct linkages to the contribution that physical activity, sport and recreational activities has in achieving the six high level outcomes of:



- Healthy
 - Enjoying, learning and achieving
 - Living in safety and with stability
 - Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing
 - Contributing positively to community and society.
 - Living in a society that respects their rights
- 1.1.8. It is evident and well documented that the: usage of parks and leisure facilities and sites; participation in sporting and physical activities; and participation in health and outreach programmes or events contribute towards healthy living, and improved mental wellbeing while also enabling enjoyment, learning and a sense of achievement. This is missing from each of the draft action plans.
- 1.1.9. The plans may also benefit from further and ongoing dialogue with experts in the public and voluntary sector (hence this consultation is welcomed). In particular we feel that there are existing mechanisms that have not been fully considered in how they could support these plans (for example the BCC Youth Forum).
- 1.1.10. Reference is made in the plans to young people expressing their wish to be seen for the potential contribution they can bring to society rather than focusing on the negatives. While we appreciate the difficulty of getting the balance right in these actions plans, we feel that the balance is still slightly towards the medical model of supporting young people with disabilities.
- 1.1.11. We appreciated that the action plans very detailed though some staff sometimes found them a bit hard to follow. We suggest that high level priority areas are identified for each of the outcomes, which may help focus and streamline activities.
- 1.1.12. Delivery dates for most of the activities are not clearly defined as they just state 2011-2014. This would not be effective for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Additionally it would be useful to know how achievement of the outcomes will be measured, as this is not always clear from the action plans.
- 1.1.13. The quantitative information at the start of each section illustrates performance indicators. These would be more useful if performance data was provided. There is some useful information detailed within the qualitative information but it would be useful to know how this information was collected.

1.2. Children and Young People with Disabilities.

- 1.2.1. While the research in the Children and Young People with Disabilities Draft Action plan demonstrates that there is a need for more accessible arts provision, there is no response to this in the priorities.

2.1 Healthy

- 1.2.2. It is not clear as to how some of the actions detailed within this section of the action plan will contribute to attaining the outcome of healthy.
- 1.2.3. This section is missing direct linkages to how the usage of parks and leisure facilities and sites; participation in sporting and physical activities; and participation in health and outreach programmes or events contributes towards healthy living. For example a total of 80% of 'Grow your own' respondents have cited increased health and wellbeing benefits from working on their allotment plot.

2.2. Enjoying, learning and achieving

- 1.2.4. There is perhaps too much focus on the medical/integrated model.
- 1.2.5. More use might be made of voluntary organisations with disability specialism.



- 1.2.6. Reference is made to access for early years and local activities organised through the community. We would like to see more information on how this will be measured and whether there are any partnership already established or proposed new structures.
- 1.2.7. In relation to the action of promoting the 'enjoying' aspect, the Parks and Leisure Department ensures that children and young people with disabilities are able to enjoy using its facilities and sites, actively participate in sport and physical activities and participate in health and outreach programmes and events. This is evident through the following services and facilities that the Parks and Leisure Department provides:

2.2.1 Parks and leisure facilities and sites

- 1.2.8. Our leisure centres, parks facilities and sites, playgrounds, playing pitches, cemeteries and the Belfast Zoo, community gardens and the City's Therapy Garden are DDA compliant and accessible to all.
- 1.2.9. When installing or replacing play equipment from playgrounds we identify and address the needs of children and young people of all abilities, installing equipment that can be used by all children and not specifically for children with a disability therefore providing 'inclusive play equipment'. We currently have 216 items of play equipment suitable for inclusive play. It is also our policy when replacing broken play equipment, where practical to replace it with 'inclusive play equipment'.

2.2.2 Activities and programmes

- 1.2.10. We have run a number of programmes at the Urban Sport Parks involving the Harberton and Clarawood special needs schools.
- 1.2.11. Our summer schemes are accessible to all and we will make reasonable adjustments to support all children and young people with disabilities who wish to take part.
- 1.2.12. Our 'Make a Splash' swimming programme and all our swimming classes are inclusive.
- 1.2.13. Our 'Watch this Space' Parks Education Programme in parks is accessible to all and we will make reasonable adjustments to support children with disabilities who wish to take part.
- 1.2.14. We also run a Bike Club which has targets to provide cycling participant opportunities for young people with limited mobility or a disability e.g. Special Schools Bike Club at Ormeau Park, a central resource shared by Fleming Fulton, Glenveagh, Tor Bank and Park Schools
- 1.2.15. Our Active Communities Programme is a Sport NI lottery funded initiative that aims to increase participation in sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland. As part of the programme, 20 coaches are employed, 3 of which have a specific remit for the provision of activities for people with disabilities. The current participation rate for people with a disability is 18%.
- 1.2.16. The Parks and Leisure Department is currently working with Sport NI Disability to provide 2 full time multi skills coaches plus a further 2 in the coming months
- 1.2.17. We also run a Teenage Kicks programme with participation from 2 special needs schools – Glenveagh and Harberton and wheelchair tennis for young people twice a week at the Ozone Tennis Centre.

2.3 Living in safety and with stability

- 1.2.18. Bullying is referenced in terms of schools but it is not clear if other areas have been considered – play and leisure facilities, playgrounds, etc.
- 1.2.19. Reference is made to rolling out training in local communities and ensuring that there are consistent standards. We would like to see more information about how this will be done and whether any consultation has been undertaken with current providers and



stakeholders. For example, all our parks and leisure centres are DDA compliant and all our staff receive mandatory disability awareness training which is refreshed every 2 years. The Parks and Leisure Department also has a Disability Action Plan which is updated and reviewed annually.

2.4 Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing

- 1.2.20. For the indicator '*% of children attending play and mainstream leisure services*' we would like clarity as to whether all services will be measured or just those registered with H&SS. We suspect the latter but this should be made clear. There were 116 children who attended summer schemes in BCC community and play centres in 2011.
- 1.2.21. Reference is made to the difficulties of accessing and participating in mainstream play and leisure services. We think there is value in further talk with providers who have addressed these issues.
- 1.2.22. A link is suggested to Early Years to improve access to mainstream services while supporting parents to continue in employment. It is important to balance a child care focus with that of play for play's sake.
- 1.2.23. The Council's Community Services has an established approach to volunteering and may be able to support the efforts to provide volunteering and mentoring for young people with disabilities.
- 1.2.24. The Parks and Leisure Department would be keen to know how the qualitative information presented on Page 16 was gathered, in particular the following information: "Play and leisure opportunities available to children and young people are limited because of difficulties associated with accessing and participating in mainstream play and leisure". More effort is needed to empower service providers to accommodate these children and young people and provide extra support.
- 1.2.25. The Council's shared space agenda means that our leisure centres, community centres, parks facilities and sites, playing pitches, playgrounds, cemeteries and the Belfast Zoo are shared spaces accessible for all and we encourage participation by everyone in our range of local activities and programmes, this is evident above in the previous section where we listed some of our 'Activities and programmes.'
- 1.2.26. We also support children and young people with disabilities to play outdoors e.g. in parks so that families can use a local park and tackle the 'invisibility' of disabled children. A Therapy Garden has been created in Musgrave Park which is a landscaped area incorporating planted and built features aimed at addressing the therapeutic requirements of children with physical disabilities and severe learning difficulties within a healthy play environment. When designing the Therapy garden we consulted with a range of schools including Fleming Fulton, Glenveagh, Harberton, Forest Lodge Respite Centre and Oakwood Assessment Centre. A range of workshops were held with teachers and pupils including art and horticulture workshops. We have also put a new path in the adventurous playground to allow wheelchair access to the lower children's level.

2.5 Living in a society that respects their rights

- 1.2.27. The qualitative information says that young people need to be recognised for their potential contribution to society. The plan still seems to be biased towards the medical model and what young people with disabilities can't do.
- 1.2.28. BCC agree with the action of establishing a self checking mechanism for the participation of children and young people. Formal structures already exist within the Council including consulting with the Council's Youth Forum and the Section 75 Consultative Forum when developing strategies such as Playing Pitches and Growing Communities Strategies. As part of the refurbishment of parks and open spaces we carry out consultation and engagement with the community and we encourage and seek the active involvement from all sections of the community.



1.3. Transition to Adulthood for Young People with Disabilities.

- 1.3.1. More use could be made of existing mechanisms such as the Belfast City Council Youth Forum.
- 1.3.2. With regard to diversity and disability awareness training, we would like more information on how this will work and who would provide the training. Has there been any consultation or proposed working agreements and has reference been made to the relevant professionals or the community sector? It may be that BCC may be able to contribute to this area.
- 1.3.3. It may be worth identifying how organizations currently include consideration for disabilities within their plans.

4.1 Living in safety and with stability

- 1.3.4. The Parks and Leisure Department would be keen to be involved in the training for service providers and policy makers on how to communicate effectively with adolescents with disabilities in order to help them identify their needs and aid participation, which will help complement existing formal mechanisms and structures that exist within the Council.

4.2 Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing

- 1.3.5. BCC currently employs people with learning difficulties through the New Horizons Programme in Woodvale Park, Waterworks, Musgrave Park and the Belfast Zoo. The Council would be keen to explore the development of further employment opportunities with the CYPSP.

4.3 Contributing positively to community and society

- 1.3.6. All our parks and leisure centres are DDA compliant and all our staff receive mandatory disability awareness training which is refreshed every 2 years. The Parks and Leisure Department include persons with a disability in our annual planning cycle, by developing a Disability Action Plan which is updated and reviewed annually and sent to our Equality Officer within the Council.
- 1.3.7. The Parks and Leisure Department would consult with the Council's Youth Forum and the Section 75 Consultative Forum when developing strategies such as Playing Pitches and Growing Communities Strategies. As part of the refurbishment of parks and open spaces we carry out consultation and engagement with the community and we encourage involvement from all section of the community.

4.4 Living in a society that respects their rights

- 1.3.8. BCC would be keen to know how the qualitative information presented on Page 20 was gathered, in particular the following information: Recreational services are often inaccessible to young disabled people in their local area. This information is highlighted but yet there are no specific actions to help address these inadequacies.
- 1.3.9. BCC believes that its leisure centres, community centres, parks facilities and sites, playing pitches, playgrounds, cemeteries and the Belfast Zoo, etc are shared spaces accessible for all and we encourage participation by everyone in our range of local activities and programmes, this is evident from the information detailed in the earlier Section '*Activities and programmes*'.

1.4. Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties.

- 1.4.1. There is a focus on learning and early intervention. Perhaps more emphasis could be placed on the child's need to play and the positive benefits this can bring.
- 1.4.2. The Council may be able to support the work on Family Support Hubs.



1.5. Young Carers.

- 1.5.1. The Parks and Leisure Department would like to highlight that as part of our current pricing policy, carers are admitted free to our facilities when accompanying a person with a disability.

Thank you for asking us to respond to the proposals. We hope our feedback is useful.

Yours sincerely

David

Dr David Purchase
Development Dept.
Belfast City Council
The Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast. BT2 8BP

Children and Young People with Disabilities Draft Action Plan

2011-2014



INTRODUCTION

The Children and Young People with Disabilities Sub Group reports to and is mandated by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). The Sub Group has been charged by the CYPSP with drawing up a plan for integrated commissioning of supports and services for children and young people with disabilities, which will improve their outcomes. The work is Northern Ireland wide. Membership of the Group consists of representatives from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community sectors. Current membership can be found at Appendix xxx. The participation of children and young people with disabilities, and their parents in all stages of this process is paramount.

The following draft action plan sets out how the Children and Young People with Disabilities Sub Group will contribute towards the implementation of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014. The draft plan includes the priorities that need to be taken forward to improve the six high level outcomes for children and young people with disabilities.

This draft action plan should be read in conjunction with the overall NI Children and Young People's Plan. This overall plan sets out that all CYPSP planning work will contribute towards a shift to early intervention, and to integration of resources from all possible sources in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

This action plan is one document in the suite of action plans, which, together, make up the NI Children and Young People's Plan. The Children and Young People with Disabilities Sub Group will collaborate with the other Regional Sub Groups, the CYPSP Groups and the 5 Outcomes groups in order to implement the overall Plan, under the leadership of the CYPSP.

The Plan is therefore a live document – at any one time the latest version of the overall Plan and the Action Plans of all of the planning groups will be available on our website, at www.cypsp.org.

“The focus of this Sub Group is children and young people who have a physical, sensory or learning disability or prolonged illness or condition which, in interaction



with various barriers, and without the provision of adequate support services, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others and hinder their optimal potential for personal development and social inclusion.”

Throughout the draft action plan, the term CWD refers to children and young people with disabilities. With references to children and young people, we mean children and young people with disabilities.

Outcome

Healthy

What do we know about children and young people... Quantitative Information

- Rates of depression, self harm, suicide amongst CWD
- 20 % of CWD will experience mental health problems by their 18th birthday and are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, self harm and suicidal thoughts
- % of CWD who are identified at age 8/9 as being obese or underweight
- % of CWD who receive an integrated plan
- Rates of parents/carers of CWD experiencing mental health/stress related illnesses
- % of CWD who experience mental health difficulties who access and receive support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Qualitative Information

- Young people report that their mental health and emotional wellbeing is influenced by the following factors:
 - A need for appropriate early intervention and support for families at the point of diagnosis to enable and empower parents, siblings, and to promote positive outcomes and attitudes enabling the child with a disability to live to their fullest potential;
 - Lack of planning for the future, from the point of diagnosis, due to delays in identification of support needs which affects decision-making and accessibility to holistic services and supports across agencies
 - Many young people feel that they cannot express their feelings because of a lack of opportunity to access someone they can talk to and confide in. In addition to this is a fear of adding additional stress to the family. This is coupled with a lack of access to peer support and advocacy;
 - Young people feel that due to a Lack of understanding among parents and professionals of the causes and symptoms of emotional wellbeing and mental health issues they are unable to express themselves. This often causes poor emotional health and wellbeing impeding their ability to live life to their fullest potential.

- The mental health and emotional wellbeing of the family as a whole is important. Carers of CWD are twice as likely to suffer psychological distress as other carers. Parents and carers express concerns regarding available services, the need to visit so many sites for appointments, not understanding why they have been referred to services, delays in getting access to services etc.
- There is a link between poor mental health and a lack of autonomy over decisions made regarding the life of a children or young person with disabilities. This points up to the importance of having a valued role in the decisions made.
- Need to ensure access to specialist AHP (Allied Health Professionals, for example, Occupational Therapy) interventions , as appropriate according to assessed need, across Northern Ireland at acute and community level to children and young people with various disabilities including complex needs, life limiting conditions, Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and at key stages of their lives – particularly as they get ready to start and leave school.
- The need is recognised for the introduction of an integrated plan which includes all levels of intervention required by the child or young person
- Young people have told us that there is no continuity of staff who work with them so that they have to repeat their story

many times. The pilot passport system developed in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area could address this, which entails easily accessible information about the child or young person being available for each opportunity.

What we will do

The Sub Group will develop the use of integrated plans for children and young people with disabilities beginning from the point of diagnosis onwards, with triggers over time. This will help to address the emotional wellbeing and mental health of parents and families and encourage the promotion of positive outcomes for the child or young person. These plans will be multi agency, place the child or young person at the centre of planning i.e. be person centred, include all levels of necessary intervention and will ensure an element of continuity as children and young people receive supports and services, including access to AHP services when required. The plans will be based on a framework consistent with the 6 high level outcomes. From this plan there will be tools available such as the passport, short breaks and personalisation of budgets. This development will impact all the high level outcomes and this is reflected throughout the action plan.

The development of passports will reduce the burden on children and young people to re-tell their stories and will ensure a more efficient response. The passport will be comprehensive, not a medical record, involve input from all relevant agencies, follow the child or young person through their lives, and be closely linked with their integrated plan to ensure continuity and efficiency when accessing supports and services based on their needs.

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Develop integrated plans	<p>Map current protocols between agencies (statutory, community and voluntary sector) and with children and young people to identify best practice regarding integrated plans</p> <p>Set up a protocol between agencies (statutory, community and voluntary sector), with the involvement of children and young people and their families for an integrated plan (from the point of diagnosis onwards).</p> <p>Link with Public Health Agency (PHA) and colleagues regarding ongoing work to improve access to AHP services</p>	<p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p>	<p>Improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people as better planning is in place across agencies, from the point of diagnosis onwards, which manages identified need in a more efficient way.</p> <p>Ensure the AHP needs of children and young people are assessed.</p>	<p>ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR</p> <p>LSSR</p>	<p>2011-2014</p> <p>2011-2014</p>

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Develop passports	<p>Benchmark nationally on the development of passports</p> <p>Evaluate the current use of passports to determine effectiveness and identify best practice (e.g. communication passports in speech and language therapy, A Young People's Passport (6th Sense, Southern Health and Social Care Trust))</p> <p>Integrated commissioning of multi agency passports across Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p>	<p>Reduce the burden on children and young people to constantly re-tell information and thereby reduce emotional and mental unwanted side effects of doing so. Multi agency approach to ensure passport is comprehensive and effective rather than a medical record</p>	<p>ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR</p>	<p>2011-2014</p> <p>2011-2014</p> <p>2011-2014</p>

Outcome	<i>Enjoying, learning and achieving</i>
What do we know about children and young people...	
Quantitative Information	Qualitative Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people leaving compulsory education achieving levels (1-8) on the Qualification Credit Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience of children and young people without a Statement of Special Educational Needs is that there are difficulties in accessing assistive technology as they are reliant on funding by education or health and social care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people moving from mainstream, special units and special schools into further and higher education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient provision of inclusive educational opportunities for children and young people locally as they are transported to areas outside their communities. More generally, transport options are limited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people moving from mainstream, special units and special schools into training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children lack the opportunity to access early years services often due to delays in diagnosis and the subsequent difficulties in parents trying to choose appropriate pre-school provision. This is against a backdrop of real capacity issues in early years services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people who access IT through assistive technology in school and at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a responsibility on Education to inspire children and young people to achieve their full potential and realize their goals, which sometimes is reduced by a focus on what the child or young person can not do rather than what they can do.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people with disabilities who also have a statement of special educational needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be important to capture the experiences of children and young people at key stages of education to increase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people at different stages of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) process who have an integrated plan 	

- % of children and young people who attend mainstream schools
- % of children with disabilities who access early years and/or pre-school provision in their local area or in statutory provision
- % of special schools who access local activities organized through local community and, primary and secondary schools

awareness of issues faced at those stages such as transferring between schools

- Children and young people with disabilities do not have access to sufficient non formal education awards such as Duke of Edinburgh, President's Award, sports, arts and culture awards.
- Children and young people in special schools can sometimes not be encouraged to achieve their full potential as much as those in mainstream or learning support units

What we will do

The existing SEN process is key to achieving educational outcomes for children and young people with disabilities. Understanding a process that impacts the educational outcomes for children and young people in a multi agency forum provides more scope to influence it positively. This group is aware of the current SEN developments and will account for them as the group progresses.

We will promote the 'enjoying' aspect of enjoying learning and achieving for children and young people with disabilities.

Given the multi agency nature of the development of integrated plans, the group will ensure that this outcome is emphasised as part of the framework, which is based on the 6 high level outcomes. Furthermore, the participation of education agencies and other relevant agencies and organisations is assured due to the multi agency aspect of this work.

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
Regional Sub Group on Children and Young People with Disabilities
DRAFT

Outcome: Enjoying, learning and achieving					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Tracking SEN to enhance understanding in multi agency forum	Track progress in the SEN process	Regional CWD Sub Group/ DE	Influencing a key education process to ensure positive outcomes for children and young people with disabilities	H, LSRR	Ongoing
Promoting the 'enjoying' aspect of enjoying, learning and achieving	Link with the Sport NI Disability Strategy	Regional CWD Sub Group	children and young people have access to same opportunities as their peers, including the attainment of non-formal education awards	H, EEEW, LSRR	2011-2014
Develop Integrated Plans	See 'Healthy' section for detail	Regional CWD Sub Group	See 'Healthy' section for detail	H, EEEW, LSS, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome	<i>Living in safety and with stability</i>
What do we know about children and young people...	
Quantitative Information	Qualitative Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people living in accessible out of home placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a prevalence of disability hate crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people living in inappropriate accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people require more opportunities to learn about personal safety and personal relationships. There is also a lack of appropriate counselling services or advocacy support for children and young people with disabilities who experience abuse or for parents and carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people with disability who experience hate crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to bullying and schools do not consistently monitor bullying of children and young people with disabilities. There is a need to develop surveys to capture the extent and impact of bullying experienced by children and young people, particularly in schools. There is also a need for teachers to be trained to identify and limit bullying of children with disabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people with disabilities on the Child Protection Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people should be empowered to support other children and young people with disabilities to prevent bullying and to respond to incidents of bullying and harassment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people with disabilities attending mainstream and special schools who experience bullying (survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family support is required which strengthens and builds the resilience of families and tackles the additional stress on families resulting from how services are delivered – including
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people with disabilities remaining in assessment and treatment services beyond their discharge date and the duration of their stay beyond this decision 	

assessments for support, short term interventions when long term support is needed, unclear eligibility criteria, transitions between and within programmes of care and professional teams.

- Children and young people with complex healthcare needs often are unable to be discharged from assessment and treatment centres due to a lack of community services and therefore remain beyond their discharge date

What we will do

Facilitating children and young people with disabilities to promote awareness of human rights, disability and diversity in schools, youth clubs and the local communities through the roll out of training programmes, similar to those in statutory agencies and organisations, that are designed and delivered by children and young people with disabilities.

Ensure that children and young people know their rights in relation to Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD) and facilitate children and young people with disabilities to educate others.

Ensure that issues regarding children and young people with disabilities are accounted for in the work of the newly established Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNi).

Ensure that family support is available which strengthens and builds the resilience of families and tackles the additional stress on families.

Outcome: <i>Living in safety and with stability</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Promote awareness of disability and the rights of children and young people	<p>Identify and build on best practice such as 'Aiming High' in England</p> <p>Develop a standard to ensure that all councils and youth services provide training on the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities</p> <p>Training designed in partnership with the children and young people</p> <p>Roll out of training in schools, youth clubs and the local community</p>	<p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group</p>	<p>Increasing awareness about the issues faced by children and young people with disabilities in their own everyday settings will positively impact upon incidences of bullying and hate crime. Coupled with more education about their rights, children and young people will feel more empowered.</p>	H, ELA, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
Regional Sub Group on Children and Young People with Disabilities
DRAFT

Outcome: Living in safety and with stability					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Ensure children and young people with disabilities know their rights	Raise awareness among children and young people about their rights	Regional CWD Sub Group	The safeguarding of children and young people with disabilities to be identified as a priority for consideration for the SBNI	LSRR	2011-2014
Establish link with the SBNI	Establish link with the SBNI	Regional CWD Sub Group			2011-2014
Ensure that family support is available	Raise with all agencies that currently commission family support, including the CYPSP Outcomes Groups	Regional CWD Sub Group	The resilience of families will be strengthened and built upon, which will impact positively on children with disabilities.	H, ELA, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome *Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing*

What do we know about children and young people... Quantitative Information

- % of new carers of children and young people with disabilities who are offered a carer's assessment
- % of siblings who are offered an assessment of their needs
- % of children and young people attending a range of play activities and mainstream leisure and youth services.
- % of children and young people who live in families experiencing income poverty
- % of families experiencing income poverty because of disability (extra costs)

Qualitative Information

- Children, young people and their families should be able to access short breaks that are arranged around what they need and prefer i.e. frequency, suitability, proximity to home, school, friends, for example.
- The impact of child poverty and the correlation between child poverty and disability are of major concern. On average, it costs three times as much to raise a child with a disability than a non-disabled child. The main areas of additional expenditure are transport, toiletries, bedding, food and special equipment. Children and young people are at greater risk of having an impoverished childhood without equal access to opportunities.
- An estimated 57% of children and young people with disabilities are poor or living in poverty compared to 37% of children without disabilities.
- Related to short breaks, parents of children and young people need to be supported to find or continue employment.
- Play and leisure opportunities available to children and young people are limited because of difficulties associated with accessing and participating in mainstream play, leisure, cultural, arts and youth activities. More effort is needed to

empower service providers to accommodate these children and young people and provide extra support. Furthermore, children and young people need to be included in mainstream childcare, which will also enable parents to continue or find employment.

- Accessible transport is an important issue and public transport, while meeting minimum requirements, is not fully accessible for disabled children. Transport is important to reduce social isolation and is critical to enhance inclusion for children and young people. Door to door transport should be available when required. Changes to how community transport in the Northern area, for example, is provided following cuts in funding impacts on the opportunities available for children and young people with disabilities (to go to college, to get a job, to out with friends etc) and will add substantially to the cost of travel. (Community transport provides transport to the nearest transport hub rather than from home to destination)

What we will do

The group will review the current provisions of short breaks services with a view to ensuring services that are:

- Involve the children, young people and families as equal partners in the decision making process.
- Fun, flexible, responsive and focussed on the child, young person or family
- Accessible, based on the preferences of the child or young person and their family
- Be local, inclusive and connected to the community
- Highlight the need for range of provision from a number of hours, overnight stays (family support focused rather than family placement focused) to extended breaks
- Offered comprehensively, i.e. families should be aware of all services available
- Transparent i.e. be clear about what options are available, the criteria used and the process in place for assessing and determining the needs and making decisions around short breaks and about unmet need.
- Involve accessing mainstream services as much as possible
- Follow through into the transition period

Short breaks are one of the tools used in the overarching integrated plan. As mentioned previously, this development will impact on all high level outcomes and this is reflected throughout the action plan.

The group will establish a link with Family Support Hubs to ensure that the needs of children and young people with disabilities are accounted for.

We will seek to address the economic wellbeing of families of children and young people with disabilities by linking with Childcare Partnerships and tracking relevant strategies and their implications.

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Review current short breaks provisions	Organise a seminar on Short Breaks examining best practice in England	Regional CWD Sub Group/ HSCB/ NCB/			2012
	To seek to influence to review the Children Order's regulations and guidance regarding short breaks	Regional CWD Sub Group/ DHSSPS	Short breaks become an exciting event in the lives of children, young people and their families. They enjoy the same access to mainstream play and leisure facilities and transport as their peers. This also impacts on all other outcomes. Mainly, the right of the child or young person to have the same access to mainstream activities as their peers, their right to be included and be the centre of the decision	H, ELA, LSS, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014
	Develop an integrated commissioning statement which will include influencing new funding streams, for example Early Years funding to ensure the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in childcare settings	Regional CWD Sub Group/ Childcare Partnerships			2011-2014
	Research short breaks models in Scotland and England, which puts families at the centre of decision making, for best practice	Regional CWD Sub Group			2011-2014

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Link with family support hubs	Link with DARD regarding public transport Identify a point of contact in the Family Support Hubs	Regional CWD Sub Groups Regional CWD Sub Groups/ FSH Developers	making process and improvement in their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Children and young people will be signposted to appropriate family supports and services	H, ELA, LSS, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014 2011-2014
Address the economic wellbeing of families	Establish link with Childcare Partnerships Review the Child Poverty Strategy in relation to children and young people with disabilities Review the changes and impact of	Regional CWD Sub Group Regional CWD Sub Group Regional	Linking with Early Years will improve access for children and young people to mainstream play and leisure facilities and support parents to continue employment. With a full understanding	H, LSS, LSRR, CPCS	2011-2014 2011-2014 2011-2014

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	Welfare Reform in relation to children and young people with disabilities Review the NEET strategy to ensure the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities	CWD Sub Group CWD Sub Group	the group is in a better position to address economic hardship for families of children and young people.		2012 2011-2014

Outcome *Contributing positively to community and society*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of children and young people who access personalized individual budgets
- % of children and young people with disabilities who participate in Youth Services, sports and leisure activities
- % of Young People with Disabilities who volunteer in their community
- % of children and young people who access direct payments

Qualitative Information

- Young people report that there is too much emphasis by families, carers and professionals on what they 'can't do' and this emphasis needs to be shifted. A 'can do' attitude should be promoted through Health, Social Care, Education and Parental Support Provision which will enable individual children and young people to value themselves as contributing members of society in a realistic way and allows them to realize their abilities. Children and young people should be supported to set and achieve realistic goals and their contribution should be valued and recognised.

What we will do

As part of the work on developing integrated plans, this group will seek to ensure a person centred approach including personalization of individual budgets and direct payments for children, young people, carers and families. This places the emphasis on the child or young person to make decisions about their own lives and gives them the flexibility to do so.

We will explore current volunteering opportunities for children and young people and in particular mentoring and befriending schemes for children and young people with disabilities.

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
Regional Sub Group on Children and Young People with Disabilities
DRAFT

The group acknowledges that many of the actions outlined so far under other outcomes will significantly and positively impact on this outcome as well such as, the inclusion of children and young people in decision making as part of integrated plans and short breaks, the designing and delivery of training by children and young people and accessing the same opportunities as their peers.

Outcome: Contributing positively to community and society					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Person centred approach and personalisation of budgets	Explore personalisation of budgets as a tool of the integrated plan Link with regional self directed support group	Regional CWD Sub Group	Empower children and young people and provide them with more flexibility to access supports and services that they want, particularly accessing the same as their peers	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, LSRR	2011-2014
Explore volunteering opportunities	Review current volunteering services for young people with disabilities Developing mentoring, volunteering, and	Regional CWD Sub Group/ Volunteer	Children and young people with disabilities will be given opportunities to be show what they 'can do' particularly helping	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome: Contributing positively to community and society					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	befriending opportunities with a focus on offering choice of opportunities of inclusion in local community activities.	Now	other children and young people and generally having the opportunity to contribute.		

Outcome *Living in a society that respects their rights*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of children with a statement of SEN who attend mainstream educational provision
- % of disabled children under 18 in homes not adapted for independent living
- % of children and young people who know their rights and where they can get extra support to exercise their rights (survey)

Qualitative Information

- Children and young people should be included in real and active opportunities to become active citizens in regard to their potential and capabilities.
- Young people report that often their views are not sought or heard, which results on service provision based on perceived need. They should be supported to actively participate in the decision making process regarding their services. Children and young people should also have access to advocacy services in order to help them have their say on issues that impact on their lives and exercise their right to be heard on issues which impact on them.
- Children and young people with disabilities are often not able to access and benefit from services in the same way as their peers. A lack of awareness and attitudinal barriers are often the greatest hurdle that children, young people and their families have to overcome to access their rights. Lack of training, physical barriers in internal and external environments, and a lack of coordinated working in a holistic manner compound the problems faced by children and young people.

- Children and young people have told us that they experience services based on the prevalence of a diagnosis and thresholds for services and resources. This leads to the need for robust and holistic information on children and young people with disabilities. Furthermore, information about children and young people should be disaggregated in accordance with UNCRPD Article 31
- Young people are telling us that the understanding of disability needs to be a social model, beginning from the point of diagnosis onwards.
- Children and young people with disability are children and young people first
- Need to raise awareness of Human Rights and Children's Rights. Government bodies are currently being trained but professional bodies also need to be. Children and young people with disabilities should be actively involved in designing and delivering training.
- Equality commission has a responsibility to provide advice on the rights of children and young people with disabilities.

What we will do

The group will ensure the roll out of training relating to, a Human Rights Based Approach, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and Disability Awareness for all staff involved in working with children and young people with disabilities. The training will be designed and delivered with children and young people.

Baseline information about the prevalence of disabilities among children and young people in Northern Ireland is difficult to obtain. This is further compounded by the co-morbidities of many disabilities. This gap in information needs to be comprehensively addressed, while maintaining a balance in safeguarding the rights and privacy of information, in order to conduct trend analyses, identify gaps in provision and preferences for models of intervention that are critical to future planning. To do this, the groups aims to develop a comprehensive, multi agency database of information for children and young people with disabilities. This will include the disaggregation of mainstream indicators which will ensure that progress against all the outcomes for children and young people with disabilities can be effectively compared with the rest of the population. Furthermore, under Article 31 of the UNCRPD, all information should be disaggregated by specific groups, including disability.

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
Regional Sub Group on Children and Young People with Disabilities
DRAFT

Outcome: <i>Living in a society that respects their rights</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Training on a human rights based approach, the UNCRC and UNCRRP	<p>Link with ongoing human rights training for departmental officials</p> <p>Agree a collaborative training programme for all agencies that is designed and delivered with children and young people.</p> <p>Obtain advice Equality Commission on promoting compliance with UNCRC and UNCRRP</p>	<p>Regional CWD Sub Group/ Relevant Departments</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group/ Children and young people</p> <p>Regional CWD Sub Group/ Equality Commission</p>	<p>Increased awareness of the rights of children and young people, told from a child or young person's point of view meaning that they are rightfully considered in, and given the opportunity to participate fully in the planning of services and supports concerning them. Having their voices heard means there is more chance that the design of services and supports will</p>	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
Regional Sub Group on Children and Young People with Disabilities
DRAFT

Outcome: Living in a society that respects their rights					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	Seek information from the Outcomes Groups and Locality Planning Groups about the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in the planning process	Regional CWD Sub Group/ Outcomes Group/Locality Planning Group	improve all the outcomes for children and young people.	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014
	Training for all groups involved in the CYPSP and its sub groups	Regional CWD Sub Group/ CYPSP/ children and young people			
	Human rights, UNCRC, UNCRPD and disability awareness training for all professional bodies	Regional CWD Sub Group/ Children and Young People			
Developing a comprehensive,	Listing all available information sources for children and young people	Regional CWD Sub	Robust information on the	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW,	2011-2014

Outcome: Living in a society that respects their rights					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
multi agency information database	with disabilities Critical examination of available data to highlight and resolve discrepancies Feed into the population planning process conducted by Transforming Your Care processes within Health and Social Care agencies.	Group Regional CWD Sub Group Regional CWD Sub Group/ HSCB	needs of children and young people will inform the planning and delivery of supports and services for children and young people, fulfilling compliance with the UNCRPD. This in turn will impact on all other outcomes.	CPCS,	
Ensure participation of children and young people	Establishing a self checking mechanism for the participation of children and young people	Regional CWD Sub Group/ Participation Network	Their status as rights holders are respected, they are treated as equal partners in decisions made about their lives and this will impact all outcomes.	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We would be very interested in your feedback on these initial priority areas as set out above. These will inform the action plan for the Children and Young People with Disabilities Sub Group. It is important to us to hear what you have to say about what the Group has planned to address for children and young people with disabilities across Northern Ireland.

We are happy to receive comments in any format. If you require this document in an alternative format (such as large print, Braille, disk, audio file, audio cassette, easy read or in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English please contact us at the details provided below.

Please return your response by TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2012 to

Andrew Hawthorne
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
Health and Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall St.
Belfast
BT2 8BS
Telephone: 028 90553979
Email: Andrew.hawthorne@hscni.net

Thank you very much for your response

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (if wishing to provide)

ADDRESS

(if wishing to provide)

TELEPHONE:

(if wishing to provide)

EMAIL

(if wishing to provide)

Text Phone:

Please select one:

I am responding from an organisation

I am responding on behalf of myself as a parent

I am responding on behalf of myself as a child or young person

I am responding on behalf of a group of children / young people

Transition to Adulthood of Young People with Disabilities Draft Action Plan

2011-2014



INTRODUCTION

The Transition to Adulthood for Young People with Disabilities Sub Group (Transition Sub Group for short) reports to and is mandated by the Children, Young Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). The Sub Group has been charged with drawing up a plan for integrated commissioning of supports and services for young people with disabilities to improve their outcomes as transition into adulthood. Membership of the Group consists of representatives from the Statutory, Voluntary and community sectors. Current membership can be found at Appendix The participation of young people with disabilities in all stages of this process is paramount, as well as the participation of parents of young people with disabilities. ___

The following draft action plan sets out how the Transition Sub Group will contribute towards the implementation of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 set out above. The draft plan includes the priorities that need to be taken forward to improve the six high level outcomes for young people with disabilities as they transition into adulthood. This draft action plan should be read in conjunction with the overall Children and Young People's Plan. This overall Plan sets out that all the CYPSP planning work will contribute towards a shift to early intervention, and to integration of resources from all possible sources in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

This action plan is one document in the suite of documents, which, together, make up the NI Children and Young People's Plan. The Transition Sub Group will collaborate with the other regional Sub Groups and the 5 Outcomes groups in order to implement the overall Plan, under the leadership of the CYPSP. The Plan is therefore a live document – at any one time the latest version of the overall Plan and the Action Plans of all of the planning groups will be available on our website, at www.cypsp.org.

Young people with disabilities refers to young people who have a physical, sensory or learning disability or prolonged illness or condition which, in interaction with various barriers, and without the provision of adequate support services, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others and hinder their optimal potential for personal development and social inclusion.



The provision of adequate support services into adulthood is vital for this group of young people.

Outcome

Healthy

**What do we know about children and young people...
Quantitative Information**

- % of young people with disabilities who receive an integrated plan
- Rates of parents/carers experiencing mental health/stress related illnesses
- % of young people with disabilities who experience mental health difficulties who transition into adult mental health services (i.e. are assessed by / access adult mental health services)

Qualitative Information

- There is a need to ensure that young people continue to access services and supports available in children's services into adult services, including Allied Health Professional (AHP) and complex health needs.
- Young people have limited access to social activities within their local community, which may lead to isolation/loneliness and possible mental health issues.
- Children and young people with disabilities are at higher risk of developing mental ill health than other children and young people and yet they experience great difficulty in accessing child and adolescent mental health services.
- Transition planning often occurs at a late stage, which causes a lot of anxiety for families.

What we will do

The group will develop an integrated plan for each young person. These plans will be multi-agency and will have a person centred approach. The plan will then be carried through from childhood into adult services and will transverse through and across many areas of all services needed.. Passports will be developed for each young person (with information about the young person which can be used to provide information on the young perspn). These will be comprehensive, not a medical record, involve all relevant organisations, and follow the young person throughout their lives. They will be closely linked to their integrated plan to ensure continuity, accuracy, safety and efficiency when accessing supports and services based on their needs. These will help reduce the need for retelling of information at the transitions stage.

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Develop an integrated plan including the use of	<p>Link with Health and Social Care Trusts stakeholder groups</p> <p>Scope current plans used across Northern Ireland across agencies.</p> <p>Agree an integrated plan across agencies throughout Northern Ireland</p>	Regional Transition Sub Group /	Integrated plans will ensure the young person is placed at the centre of the supports and services they receive. The multi agency approach will ensure all necessary agencies are involved.	ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
passports	<p>Ensure this Plan travels with the child through to adulthood.</p> <p>Develop the use of Passports</p> <p>Ensure the young person has access to a transition worker from as early as 14.</p> <p>Standardise good practice model.</p> <p>Review of acute health at Transitions stage</p>	<p>Regional CWD sub group</p> <p>Transition Sub Group</p>	<p>The integrated plan and the development of passports will mean better planning for young people and their families which will reduce anxiety, promote better mental health and enhance the transition process</p> <p>Ensure that the complex health needs of young people continue to be met into adulthood</p>		

Outcome

Enjoying, learning and achieving

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of children and young people leaving compulsory education achieving levels (1-8) on the Qualification Credit Framework
- % of children and young people moving from mainstream, special units and special schools into further and higher education
- % of children and young people moving from mainstream, special units and special schools into training
- % of children and young people moving from mainstream, special units and special schools into employment- under 16 hours a week / over 16 hours a week
- % of young people with special educational needs and disability who transfer from mainstream education to special schools at age 16
- % of young people who receive home tuition
- Numbers and % of young people identified as SLDD in mainstream and discreet provision in Further Education (FE) colleges.

Qualitative Information

- Evidence would indicate that young people with disabilities, on average, have less formal qualifications (GCSE's) on leaving school than their peers.
- Young people with disabilities feel that it is hard to know where to get support for their education or training, for example, when they finish a course and still are not qualified to do a job.
- Young people in special schools may not be encouraged to achieve as much as those in mainstream or learning support
- Young people with disabilities, depending on where they live, may have less access to post school opportunities.
- Patient & Client Council (2011) survey of 88 Severe Learning Disability / Difficulty (SLDD) students across the 6 Further Education Colleges. While most students had a positive and enjoyable experience, a number of concerns were identified including who decides on course students take, limited range of courses, uncertainty about post-college options, large class sizes, lower support levels, non acceptance by other students.

- Numbers and % of young people with a disability leaving further education achieving levels (1-8) on the Qualification Credit Framework
- Numbers and % of young people with a disability leaving further education into paid work under 16 hours, over 16 hours/ week

What we will do

We will keep up to date on the number of young people with disabilities moving into further education, training and employment. We will also examine the number of young people with disabilities receiving home tuition. The participation of Education, and other relevant, agencies will be assured given the nature of the multi agency care plans. We will ??

Outcome: Enjoying, learning and achieving					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Track the number of young people moving into further education, training and employment	Link with Education and Department of Learning (DEL) members to track young people through education / further education as part of their integrated plan	Regional Transition Sub	Ensuring that, as part of the integrated plan, young people are supported to	EEEEW,	

Outcome: Enjoying, learning and achieving					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Examine home tuition	<p>Set targets based on the identified indicators</p> <p>Standardise Good Practice model based on integrated working, as above, to address regressions and to support young people as they progress to leaving compulsory education</p> <p>Track the number of young people receiving home tuition</p>	<p>Group</p> <p>Regional TransitionSub Group</p>	<p>access the same opportunities as their peers.</p> <p>It will identify inequalities and ensure that young people who cannot attend school are supported to access the same opportunities as their peers.</p>	<p>LSRR</p> <p>EEEW, LSRR</p>	<p>2011-2014</p> <p>2011-2014</p>

Outcome *Living in safety and with stability*

What do we know about children and young people... Quantitative Information

- % of young people with disabilities living in accessible out of home placements
- % of young people with disabilities living in inappropriate accommodation.
- % of young people with disabilities on the Child Protection Register.
- % of disabled children and young people attending mainstream special schools who are bullied

Qualitative Information

- Young people with disabilities experience harassment in public because of their disability. They is also a high incidence of hate crime against young people with disabilities.
- There is a lack of awareness/equality training to highlight issues such as harassment or hate crime towards young people with disabilities.
- Young people with a disability who require mainstream public services such as residential short breaks often have a limited choice with some offered accommodation in residential homes with elderly clients.
- Disability processes should formally recognise the needs of young people as being distinct from those of children or adults.

What we will do

The Sub Group will promote awareness of disability in schools, youth clubs and local facilities in the community. Disability Awareness Training will be provided for staff to ensure young people with disabilities get the most out of the facilities available. The group will also ensure that young people know what their rights are in relation to Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRRPD).

Outcome: <i>Living in safety and with stability</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Promote awareness through training in disability awareness, Human Rights, UNCRC and the UNCRRPD	Diversity and Disability Awareness training for all primary and post primary school children and those in community and youth service provision. Children and young people with disabilities receive rights training based on the Human Rights Act, the UNCRC and the UNCRRPD, including advocacy training.	Regional Transition Sub Group Regional Transition Sub Group / young people	More awareness about issues related to disability within mainstream settings will promote the needs of young people and potentially lead to a reduction in the incidence of harassment and disability hate crime.	H, ELA, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR	

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
 Regional Sub Group Transition to Adulthood of Young People with Disabilities
 DRAFT

Outcome: <i>Living in safety and with stability</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	<p>Training for service providers such as social workers, teachers etc on how to identify the symptoms of emotional wellbeing and mental health issues particularly at aged 14+ in children with disabilities</p> <p>Training for service providers and policy makers on how to communicate effectively with adolescents with disabilities in order to help them to identify their needs and wishes and aid participation</p> <p>Training for Teachers, Community Nurses, Social Workers and other relevant professionals to challenge their attitudes to disability and expand</p>	<p>Regional Transition Sub Group / relevant statutory agencies/</p> <p>Regional Transitions group</p> <p>Regional Transition Sub Group / relevant</p>	<p>Training young people with disabilities about their rights will empower them to challenge and report incidences of harassment instead of accepting it as a 'social norm'.</p> <p>Training will enhance the</p>	<p>H, ELA, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR</p> <p>H, ELA, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR</p>	



Outcome: <i>Living in safety and with stability</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	their skills in supporting children with disabilities and their families. The aim of this training is to aid the young person to develop to their fullest potential and adapt a can do attitude to life aiding independence.	statutory agencies	view of a young person with distinct needs from children or adults		

Outcome *Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of young people with disabilities in full time paid employment (16+ hrs a week).
- % of young people with disabilities in part time paid employment.
- % of new carers of children and young people with disabilities who are offered a carer's assessment.
- % of siblings who are offered an assessment of their needs.
- % of young people with disabilities attending a range of activities and mainstream leisure and youth services.
- % of young people with disabilities who are not in education, employment or training.

Qualitative Information

- Fewer access to opportunities for young people at the transition stage and they continue to need support to get into employment.
- Up to 90% unemployment / economic inactivity levels for people with disabilities; it is increasingly difficult for young people with disabilities to find and sustain employment in the current economic climate
- Accessible transport, it is not available in all areas for young people. It is more available in some areas than others, for example in rural areas buses are less frequent. Furthermore, parental feedback indicates that the onus is on them to provide transport to and from day time provision because of where they live.
- Young people and their families should be accessing short breaks that are arranged around what they need and prefer, in relation to frequency, suitability, proximity to home, school and friends.
- Leisure opportunities available to young people with disabilities are limited because of difficulties associated with accessing and participating in mainstream leisure, cultural and

youth activities.

What we will do

Scoping will be carried out so adult services know how many children they should be expecting to come through to their service each year. The group will also create one point of access for information which will be available in an accessible format across agencies

The group will scope what short break services are currently available, and set up a multi-agency group to look at day opportunities to guide direction of travel. Group will ensure services are age appropriate and safe for the young person. There will also be a link in with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and local councils to provide accessible transport and facilities for young people.

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Scoping information to determine expected demand and creating an integrated point of access	Scope number of children coming through to adult services in Health and Social Care Trusts. Develop an understanding of what services are currently out there. Create one point of access for information in an accessible format across agencies and departments.	Regional Transition Sub Group / Regional CWD Sub Group	Better information will lead to better planning of services for young people in transition stage which will impact positively on all outcomes	H, ELA, LSS, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Review short breaks services	<p>E.g. www.familysupportni.gov.uk</p> <p>Scope current opportunities</p> <p>Set up a regional cross agency group to look at day opportunities to guide direction of travel.</p> <p>Carry out a regional short breaks review</p> <p>Ensure short breaks are age appropriate and safe</p> <p>Link with DARD for access to transport</p> <p>Link with Councils for access to facilities.</p>	Regional Transition Sub Group	<p>Short breaks become an exciting event in the lives of children, young people and their families. They enjoy the same access to mainstream play and leisure facilities and transport as their peers. This also impacts on all other outcomes. Mainly, the right of the child or young person to have the same access to mainstream activities as their peers, their right to be included and be the centre of the decision making process and improvement in their mental health and</p>	H, ELA, LSS, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Review employment opportunities	<p>Scope best practice in the UK for young people accessing employment</p> <p>Review the changes and impact of Welfare Reform in relation to children and young people with disabilities</p> <p>Review the strategy on Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET strategy) to ensure the inclusion of young people with disabilities</p>	Regional Transitions Sub Group	<p>emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Development of employment opportunities for young people</p> <p>With a full understanding the group is in a better position to address economic hardship for families of children and young people</p>	H, ELA, LSS, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome *Contributing positively to community and society*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of children and young people who know their rights and where they can get extra support to exercise their rights (survey)
- % of young people who access personalised individual budgets.
- % of young people with disabilities who volunteer in their community.
- % of young people who access direct payments

Qualitative Information

- Many young people and their families are not recognised and respected as partners with professionals in decision making processes. More generally, their participation is limited. Advocacy services and complaints procedures are not routinely accessible to young people.

What we will do

In ensuring a person centred approach the group will look at including self directed support including personalisation of individualised budgets and directs payments for young people. This places the emphasis on the young person to make their own decisions about their care and life. The group will also link with Sport NI Disability Strategy to ensure inclusion of young people in the community. There will also be a scoping exercise carried out on how organisations currently include persons with disabilities into their plan.

Outcome: Contributing positively to community and society					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Ensuring a person centred approach through self directed support including individualised budgets and direct payments	Scope how organisations currently include persons with disability in their plans – Councils, Youth Clubs, and Sports Clubs e.g. GAA. Link with Sport NI Disability Strategy Explore personalised budgets as a tool of the integrated care plan	Regional Transition Sub Group / Relevant Councils, youth, and sports bodies.	Supporting young people with disabilities to access the same opportunities as their peers Empowering young people to have control over the supports and services they access given them more opportunity to participate in community and society. This will also influence positively on all other outcomes	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, LSRR H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, LSRR	2011-2014 2011-2014

Outcome *Living in a society that respects their rights*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of young people living in homes not adapted for independent living
- % of young people with disabilities who know their rights and where they can get extra support to exercise their rights (survey).
- % of young people with disabilities from the BME community receiving an integrated plan

Qualitative Information

- Lack of training among professionals, accessibility barriers and a lack of co-ordinated working exaggerate the problems faced by young people.
- Recreational services are often inaccessible to young disabled people in their local area.
- Change the attitude of professionals and people within agencies and organisations to a 'can do' attitude rather than a 'can't do' attitude.

What we will do

The group will develop a multi-agency approach to individual assessment to best benefit the young person through transition stage. They will also develop an integrated commissioning statement, which will ensure equal opportunities through the transition process across the region. The group will also ensure the roll out of training relating to Human Rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability and Disability Awareness Training for all staff involved in working with young people.

Outcome: <i>Living in a society that respects their rights</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Integrated/ multi agency approach to individual assessment	Develop a collaborative multi-agency approach to individual assessment to best benefit the young person through transition stage.	Regional Transition Sub Group	Placing the young person at the centre of planning and delivering supports and services on a multi agency basis	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014
Develop integrated commissioning statement	Develop an integrated cross-departmental commissioning statement, which will ensure equal opportunities through transitions process across the region.	Regional Transition Sub Group	Young people will have equal access to Transition processes across the region		
Roll out of training on Human Rights, Disability Awareness, UNCRC and UNCRPD	Human rights, UNCRC, UNCRPD and disability awareness training for all staff working with young people and their professional bodies Agree a collaborative training programme for all agencies that is designed to be delivered to young people with disabilities.	Regional Transition Sub Group	Increased awareness will lead to greater knowledge of the rights of young people with disabilities, in turn, these rights are accounted for better when working with young people.	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We would be very interested in your feedback on these initial priority areas as set out above. These will inform the action plan for the Transitions Sub Group. It is important to us to hear what you have to say about what the Group has planned to address for children and young people going through Transitions, across Northern Ireland.

We are happy to receive comments in any format. If you require this document in an alternative format (such as large print, Braille, disk, audio file, audio cassette, easy read or in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English please contact us at the details provided below.

Please return your response by TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2012 to

**Andrew Hawthorne
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
Health and Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall St.
Belfast
BT2 8BS
Telephone: 028 90553979
Email: Andrew.hawthorne@hscni.net**

Thank you very much for your response

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (if wishing to provide)

ADDRESS

(if wishing to provide)

TELEPHONE:

(if wishing to provide)

EMAIL

(if wishing to provide)

Text Phone:

Please select one:

I am responding from an organisation

I am responding on behalf of myself as a parent

I am responding on behalf of myself as a child or young person

I am responding on behalf of a group of children / young people

This page is intentionally left blank

Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Draft Action Plan 2011-2014



INTRODUCTION

The Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD) Sub Group reports to and is mandated by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). The Sub Group has been charged by the CYPSP with drawing up a plan for integrated commissioning of supports and services for children and young people with EBD, which will improve their outcomes. The work is Northern Ireland wide. Membership of the Group consists of representatives from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community sectors. Current membership can be found at Appendix xxx. The participation of children and young people with EBD, and their parents in all stages of this process is paramount.

The following draft action plan sets out how the Children and Young People with EBD Sub Group will contribute towards the implementation of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014. The draft plan includes the priorities that need to be taken forward to improve the six high level outcomes for children and young people with EBD.

This draft action plan should be read in conjunction with the overall NI Children and Young People's Plan. This overall plan sets out that all CYPSP planning work will contribute towards a shift to early intervention, and to integration of resources from all possible sources in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

This action plan is one document in the suite of action plans, which, together, make up the NI Children and Young People's Plan. The Children and Young People with EBD Sub Group will collaborate with the other Regional Sub Groups, the CYPSP Groups and the 5 Outcomes groups in order to implement the overall Plan, under the leadership of the CYPSP.

The Plan is therefore a live document – at any one time the latest version of the overall Plan and the Action Plans of all of the planning groups will be available on our website, at www.cypsp.org.



The term 'emotional and behavioural difficulties' covers a wide range of difficulties experienced by many children and young people across Northern Ireland. This Sub Group focuses on children or young people suffering emotional or behavioural difficulties which impede or distort personal development and affect relationships, causing distress to the child or young person, their family or community. These difficulties include emotional disorders, anxiety, self-harm and suicide. Such difficulties range from those which can be addressed by early intervention – access to supports within the community – to those which need specialist help such as counselling or therapy

Outcome *Healthy*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- Data from Think Family regarding parental mental health. The Think Family Project is a holistic approach to managing parental mental health and includes the child, family and carers. explain Think Family
- Number of parents/carers with a mental health difficulty
- Number of children aged 0-4 yrs referred to family support teams in Health and Social Care Trusts
- % of Youth Suicides
- % children and young people that are obese
- % or children and young people who self harm

Qualitative Information

- The case histories of:
 - children and young people who are receiving a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) at Tier 3
 - children out of school
 - / Looked after children
 - Children with parents with mental health history
- The relationship between the child and parent is important in the perinatal period and is evidenced by attunement, attachment, good communication skills and empathetic behaviour. This relationship is key to mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Research suggests that children who experience poor nutrition, maternal and family stress, poverty, and neglect will also experience poor brain development from the prenatal period or earlier. These profound experiences in early childhood can have a profound, proportionate, and long lasting effect on well being.
- Furthermore, research demonstrates the impact of deficiencies in early years but also suggests that there is more ability to

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 Regional Sub Group on Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD)

intervene at this stage before more serious abuse or neglect has occurred. For a child to suffer avoidable setbacks in the most vulnerable years is a breach of Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)- that every child has the right to develop to their fullest potential.

- There are particular groups of children and young people who are at greater risk of emotional health and well-being issues compared to other groupings e.g. children with EBD, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, gender identity, and Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT).
- Families can avail of universal services such as ante-natal classes and post natal support programmes. However not everyone can avail of these services and not all services cover the issue of mental health comprehensively. Children, young people and their families also often cannot access public information regarding the importance of infant mental health.

What we will do:

We will promote the importance of infant mental health. Despite all the evidence, EBD services still tend to be primarily crisis driven with insufficient focus on intervening early and at a time in a child or young person's life where it matters most. There are four things that can make a positive difference:

- Agreed integrated information sharing across all relevant agencies and organisations regarding infant mental health
- Greater awareness of the importance of infant mental health in universal services in all disciplines across agencies through

education about the importance of infant mental health in universal services for children and young people, building upon existing training as part of a wider strategy

- Seeking a shift in policy to ensure resources targeted at infant mental health and early intervention, alongside treatment and crisis services to rebalance priorities.
- Recognising that there are particular difficulties with certain children and young people including; children and young people with disabilities; children and young people from black or ethnic minorities; children and young people in a family with a drugs or alcohol issue; and children and young people in a family where adult mental health is an issue

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Develop a Northern Ireland Infant Mental Health Strategy incorporating the elements outlined above	<p>Infant Mental Health training at all levels including the community and voluntary sector</p> <p>Develop a public information/ education programme</p> <p>Establish an integrated information sharing database</p>	<p>EBD Regional Sub Group /PHA lead for training element of Infant Mental Health</p> <p>EBD Regional Sub Group</p>	<p>Raising awareness of the importance of infant mental health and emphasising the importance of training in universal services will enable the identification of emotional well being and mental health problems at the earliest possible stage.</p>	<p>ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR</p> <p>ELA, LSS, EEEW,</p>	<p>2011-2014</p> <p>2011-2014</p>

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	<p>Develop a range of robust indicator tools for infant mental health including attachment and resilience</p> <p>Ensure greater cohesion between all agencies and PHA in progressing Infant Mental Health agenda</p> <p>Link with the Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland (SBNi) in relation to indicators, training and awareness raising regarding infant mental health</p> <p>Link with the work of the Early Intervention Sub Group on mapping services and resources to ensure that infant mental health remains a priority and are supported</p> <p>Ensure identified priorities are consistent with the Outcomes groups has they progress their integrated commissioning</p>	<p>EBD Regional Sub Group</p> <p>EBD Regional Sub Group/PHA</p> <p>EBD regional sub group / SBNi</p> <p>EBD Regional Sub Group / Early Intervention Sub Group</p>	<p>For example, emphasizing infant mental health in the ante-natal stage will be essential to counteract potential risk factors such as drug and alcohol abuse. In the post natal stage, parent-infant attachment can be measured and action taken as necessary to improve this relationship. When accompanied by awareness raising and public information, it will be possible to address even the most vulnerable families.</p> <p>The level of speech and language in children is seen as a key indicator of development and with the</p>	<p>CPCS, LSRR</p>	

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	Linking with other relevant strategies to ensure consistency of messages	EBD Regional sub group / Outcomes Groups EBD Regional Sub Group	emphasis on infant mental health, the referral rates to speech and language services can decrease, meaning children are experiencing better development outcomes Research clearly demonstrates that early intervention at this early stage of development can have a positive effect on emotional wellbeing and mental health in later life. Therefore, action taken at this stage can positively impact on all high level outcomes		

Outcome *Enjoying, learning and achieving*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of children and young people referred to speech and language services
- Early Years transition in to Primary 1 (can we measure this?)
- Rates of children and young people's school Attendance
- % of children and young people suspended
- % of children and young people expelled
- % of children and young people achieving at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 of the Code of Practice
- % of children and young people with low educational attainment

Qualitative Information

- Children and young people often experience the pure academic achievement side of schools, due to the available skills and time pressures placed upon teachers. Given the central role that schools play in a child or young person's life, there is potential for them to do more. In particular, there is a need to consider and nurture the emotional wellbeing of children and young people through available universal services, centred on the school.
- Children and young people can avail of extended schools programmes in some areas in Northern Ireland, which aim to provide targeted support services that focus on learning, development, and progress.
- There is a need to ensure children are 'school ready' – a child's development score at 22 months can serve as an accurate predictor of educational outcomes at 22 years (Millennium Cohort study)

What we will do

The group will take forward a model for Full Service Schools that will enhance collaborative working at all levels, and across agencies and sectors. Ensure that this development is acknowledged and builds on good practice by existing Education and Library Board (ELB) services and is consistent with area planning work within education.

Ensure the school ethos is focused on emotional nurturing through available universal programmes and ensuring early intervention services are available when required in schools

Outcome: <i>Enjoying, learning and achieving</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Take forward a model for Full Service Schools	<p>Conduct a mapping exercise of the existing resources and policies regarding full service schools</p> <p>Develop a proposal for Full Service Schools in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Identify the number of pilots which</p>	<p>Regional EBD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional EBD Sub Group with relevant agencies and Departments</p>	<p>Realigning early intervention services within schools will ensure children and young people have access to integrated services and supports at an early stage, often before a critical stage is reached and more specialist intervention is required This will have a positive impact on all outcomes for children and</p>	<p>H, LSS, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR</p>	

Outcome: Enjoying, learning and achieving					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	<p>are currently running in schools and building on the effective practice evident</p> <p>Building on progress such as the employment of health visitors in schools</p>	<p>Regional EBD sub group</p> <p>Regional EBD sub group</p>	<p>young people.</p> <p>Enhancing the school as a community resource, with a responsibility on all agencies working together, will ensure a clearer definition of roles, which allows the teachers and principals to focus on the educational side only. This approach builds on the concept of the whole child model. It places the child or young person at the centre of service delivery and ensures access to universal early intervention services within schools. This will ensure improvement against all the high level outcomes, consistent with outcomes based planning and the whole child model.</p>		

Outcome *Living in safety and with stability*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- Rates of children aged 0-4 on the Child Protection Register
- % of children 0-4 experiencing domestic violence (midwife/ health visitor/ PSNI/ Social Services)
- Number of parents/carers with substance misuse problems
- % of children and young people, across all ages experiencing domestic violence

What we will do

The group will ensure the actions outlined regarding, Infant Mental Health, Full Service Schools, linking primary mental health to Family Support Hubs, and reviewing the existing Tier 2 emotional well being and mental health service provision across the region, improve all outcomes for children and young people including those relating to living in safety and with stability. For example, the emphasis on Infant Mental Health will enable the identification of the risk factors mentioned above or the development of infant mental health indicators that relate to this outcome. Linking with Family Support Hubs will ensure that a child or young person presenting with issues regarding domestic violence can be identified and managed appropriately.

Qualitative Information

- Children are at risk of a number of ante-natal, birth and post-natal factors including: domestic abuse; alcohol abuse; trauma; abuse or neglect in early attachment and post natal depression, for example.
- The Munro Report (2010) notes that certain features of family life are associated with adverse outcomes for children and young people, which include the impact of factors such as parental mental ill health, alcohol/substance abuse, domestic violence, and living in poverty.

Outcome: Living in safety and with stability					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Ensure all outcomes positively impacted with actions outlined above.	Ensure holistic consideration of the issues identified under living in safety and with stability when implementing the actions outlined.	Regional EBD Sub Group	With the emphasis on infant mental health, risk factors can be identified earlier. Linking with Family Support Hubs can also ensure effective access to appropriate supports and services when required.	H, LSS, EEEW, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome *Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- Deprivation figures across the region
- Number of families living in low income / poverty

Qualitative Information

- Young Life and Times survey (2010) highlighted that 16 yr olds from not well off families, compared to those from well off families are more likely to have mental health presentations and stress according to the 12 item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ12). According to the survey they are the most vulnerable group.

What we will do

The group will ensure the actions outlined regarding, Infant Mental Health, Full Service Schools, linking primary mental health to Family Support Hubs, and reviewing the existing Tier 2 emotional well being and mental health service provision across the region, improve all outcomes for children and young people including those relating to experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing.

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Ensure all outcomes positively impacted with actions outlined above.	Ensure holistic consideration of the issues identified when implementing the actions outlined.	Regional EBD Sub Group	Given the close link between all the outcomes, the actions outlined will positively impact on Children and young people with EBD. For example, linking with Family Support Hubs can also ensure effective access to appropriate supports and services when required. The emphasis on early intervention will reduce the presentations of more serious complex mental health issues	H, ELA LSS, CPCS, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome *Contributing positively to community and society*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- The rate of parental and community engagement in schools (survey)

Qualitative Information

- Outcomes for children and young people are improved against key indicators when the school is used as a community resource. These key indicators include school attendance, achievement and parental engagement at the earliest opportunity.
- 27,000 institutions have adopted a community school approach internationally. Evidence suggests they play a key role in drawing together key components and critical resources to help children succeed.

What we will do

The group will ensure the actions outlined regarding, Infant Mental Health, Full Service Schools, linking primary mental health to Family Support Hubs, and reviewing the existing Tier 2 emotional well being and mental health service provision across the region, improve all outcomes for children and young people including those relating to experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing.

We will ensure that the development of full service schools enhances the use of the school as a community resource and promotes parental engagement.

Outcome: Contributing positively to community and society					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Ensure full service schools enhance the school as a community resource and promote parental engagement	Identify best practice regarding parental engagement Consider this in taking forward the work on full service schools	Regional EBD sub group	Increasing parental engagement in schools strengthens the role of schools for children and young people. The use of the school as a community resource gives children, young people and their families the opportunity to contribute positively.	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome *Living in a society which respects their rights*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- Rates of children and young people referred to paediatricians for emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Rates of children and young people referred to Tier 2 & Tier 3 CAMHS for emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Rates of children and young people waiting to access CAMHS services

Qualitative Information

- There is a concern about the number of children and young people referred to CAMHS at a Tier 3 level particularly with complex presentations. There are lower rates of referrals in places where there are dedicated CAMHS services at a Tier 2 level. A percentage of referrals regarding emotional and behavioural difficulties to Tier 3 services can be more appropriately managed at Tier 2.
- The referrals are made at a time when the child or young person has reached a potential crisis stage. Evidence suggests that if there was access to an early intervention and co-ordination of services then some of these referrals could be managed at this earlier stage, before crisis is reached
- There is local evidence where Family Support Hubs have been developed that demonstrate that families have been helped at an earlier stage in their difficulties thus preventing more intrusive and high level interventions being needed if problems were allowed to become more difficult and entrenched.

What we will do

A Family Support Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, community and voluntary organizations that either provide early intervention services or work with families who need early intervention services. The network accepts referrals of families who need early intervention family support and uses their knowledge of local service providers to signpost families with specific needs to appropriate services.

The intention is to ensure that families who do not meet the threshold for statutory Health and Social Care Trust assessment 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 organizations in supporting families.

Family Support Hubs are being developed throughout Northern Ireland. As they develop, this group will ensure the involvement of CAMHS mental health advice within the hubs. It is important that professional mental health expertise is incorporated into the decision making process of family support hubs, so that the emotional well being needs are accurately assessed. Incorporating this expertise will:

- Bring specialist emotional and mental health expertise to the decision making
- Bring a knowledge of emotional and mental health services at Tier 1 / 2 in both statutory and voluntary and community sector
- Identify referrals that require a dedicated Tier 2 response.

We will review existing Tier 2 Emotional well-being / Mental Health service provision across the region. National and International research universally indicates that early intervention for children and young people, presenting with emotional well-being or mental health difficulties, significantly reduces the incidence of complex presentations in later life, particularly within Adult Mental Health Services.

The EBD Sub Group is concerned at the continual increase of children and young people referred to CAMHS at a Tier 3 level, particularly the degree of complexity in terms of presentation. The group recognises the need for early intervention across age ranges and the need to establish a review of current service provision at a Tier 2 level across the region.

Outcome: <i>Living in a society which respects their rights</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Involvement of CAMHS mental advice within family support hubs	This group is to ensure that there is a primary mental health representative(s) from each Outcomes Group area to link with the Family Support Hubs in that area.	Regional EBD Sub Group	Establishing this link will also ensure there are suitable and accessible services available for children and young people within their local community and at an early stage of intervention- addressing a criticism raised by young people themselves.	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014
Review existing Tier 2 Emotional well-being / Mental Health service provision across the region.	Conduct a mapping exercise of current Emotional well-being and Mental Health service provision at a Tier 2 level (particular emphasis on early intervention). To incorporate statutory and Community / Voluntary sectors. Link with mapping work of Early	Regional EBD Sub Group Regional	National and International research universally indicates that early intervention for children and young people,, presenting with emotional well-being or mental health difficulties, significantly reduces the	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW,	2011-2014 2011-

Outcome: Living in a society which respects their rights					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	<p>Intervention Sub Group</p> <p>Establish an agreed Regional Tier 2 strategy creating a confederation of community, voluntary, and statutory partnerships to deliver agreed models of intervention.</p> <p>Development of overarching standards for all Tier 2 referrals with agreed threshold criteria and universal outcome indicators that are regionally agreed</p> <p>Link with group on Children's Services Framework Standards re mental health</p>	<p>EBD sub group/ Early Intervention Sub Group</p> <p>Regional EBD Sub Group</p> <p>Regional EBD Sub Group / relevant groups</p>	<p>incidence of complex presentations in later life, particularly within Adult Mental Health Services.</p> <p>With a shift in emphasis towards Tier 2, early intervention services, children and young people will be able to access more appropriate services at an earlier stage. With a philosophy of "early, earlier, earliest intervention" the Sub group believe that this will contribute to the improvement of the emotional wellbeing and mental health of the child population.</p>	<p>CPCS</p> <p>H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>2011-2014</p>

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We would be very interested in your feedback on these initial priority areas as set out above. These will inform the action plan for the EBD Sub Group. It is important to us to hear what you have to say about what the Group has planned to address for children and young people with EBD across Northern Ireland.

We are happy to receive comments in any format. If you require this document in an alternative format (such as large print, Braille, disk, audio file, audio cassette, easy read or in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English please contact us at the details provided below.

Please return your response by TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2012 to

**Andrew Hawthorne
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
Health and Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall St.
Belfast
BT2 8BS
Telephone: 028 90553979**

Email: Andrew.hawthorne@hscni.net

Thank you very much for your response

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (if wishing to provide)

ADDRESS

(if wishing to provide)

TELEPHONE:

(if wishing to provide)

EMAIL

(if wishing to provide)

Text Phone:

Please select one:

I am responding from an organisation

I am responding on behalf of myself as a parent

I am responding on behalf of myself as a child or young person

I am responding on behalf of a group of children / young people

This page is intentionally left blank

Young Carers Draft Action Plan 2011-2014



INTRODUCTION

The Young Carers Sub Group reports to and is mandated by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). The Sub Group has been charged by the CYPSP with drawing up a plan for integrated commissioning of supports and services for young carers, which will improve their outcomes. The work is Northern Ireland wide. Membership of the Group consists of representatives from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community sectors. Current membership can be found at Appendix xxx. The participation of young carers and their families in all stages of this process is paramount.

The following draft action plan sets out how the Young Carers Sub Group will contribute towards the implementation of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014. The draft plan includes the priorities that need to be taken forward to improve the six high level outcomes for young carers.

This draft action plan should be read in conjunction with the overall NI Children and Young People's Plan. This overall plan sets out that all CYPSP planning work will contribute towards a shift to early intervention, and to integration of resources from all possible sources in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

This action plan is one document in the suite of action plans, which, together, make up the NI Children and Young People's Plan. The Young Carers Sub Group will collaborate with the other Regional Sub Groups, the CYPSP Groups and the 5 Outcomes groups in order to implement the overall Plan, under the leadership of the CYPSP.

The Plan is therefore a live document – at any one time the latest version of the overall Plan and the Action Plans of all of the planning groups will be available on our website, at www.cypsp.org.

Young Carers are defined as children and young people aged up to 18 years who have a substantive caring role for a member for their family and Children and young



persons aged up to 18 years whose health or development is affected due to their caring responsibilities.

Given the importance of their role within the family context and the effect that this level of responsibility may have on their development and emotional well-being, it is vital to ensure that Young Carers receive additional support they may require.

Outcome *Healthy*

**What do we know about children and young people...
Quantitative Information**

- % of referrals to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services of young carers
- % of young carers caring for someone with Hidden Harm (i.e. with a parent or carer with drug or alcohol difficulties) issues
- % of young carers caring for someone with mental health issues

Qualitative Information

- Physical health- young carers accessing universal services such as dental care and nutritious meals. Young carers report concerns about often being responsible for preparing meals
- Many young carers report that their caring role can adversely affect their emotional wellbeing as they are constrained from leading a 'normal' lifestyle (Becker and Becker 2008). This leads to stress, isolation, bullying, 'no-one to talk to' which are key concerns.
- When trying to access CAMHS services, some young carers, can be referred directly; however, others have to be referred through a GP. Often there is no one to take them to a GP except a young carer worker. Access to CAMHS is beneficial not only for the mental health and emotional wellbeing of the young carer but also in understanding the mental health of their parents, which would be better explained by CAMHS

What we will do

There is a regional service that provides emotional and practical support for young carers. The group will ensure and promote access to this service.

Ensure equity of access to CAMHS services across the region.

Outcome: <i>Healthy</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Promote access to Regional Young Carers Service	Develop use of the Outcome Star Assessment Tool Obtain a more comprehensive picture of the situations faced by young carers in their caring . Develop local volunteers to help link young carers to existing community networks and facilities	Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ Regional Young Carers Service	This will ensure young carers are able to obtain supports and services that will improve their emotional wellbeing. To ensure young carers do not experience isolation detrimental to their health.	LSS, LSSR, EEEEW EEEEW, LSSR	2011-2014
Ensure equity of access to CAMHS services across the	Obtain and track information on young carers accessing CAMHS services across Northern Ireland to determine		Young Carers have the right to, and receive the same appropriate CAMHS	LSSR	2011-2014

Outcome: Healthy					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/ other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
region	<p>the detail of regional disparity.</p> <p>Address this regional disparity by coordinating with the relevant Trusts to promote young carers' access to CAMHS in their area.</p> <p>Link with the ongoing work that will ensure a CAMHS representative in Family Support Hubs and promote this service for young carers to ensure early intervention when required</p> <p>To collect information about young carers and Hidden Harm and feed into the Regional Hidden Harm Quality Assurance Group</p> <p>To collect information about young carers and parents/carers with mental health difficulties and feed into the established protocol regarding link between Children's and adult's mental health services.</p>	<p>Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ HSC Trusts/ Family Support Hubs/ Regional Hidden Harm Sub Group</p>	<p>support as their peers, improving their own mental health and wellbeing and also enhance their understanding of parental mental health issues.</p>		2011-2014

Outcome

Enjoying, learning and achieving

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- School attendance rates of identified young carers
- % of young carers referred to services through education
- Research highlights that 27% of young carers of secondary school age experience educational difficulties or miss school. This rises to 40% when caring for someone with Hidden Harm issues. Furthermore 68% experienced bullying at school and 39% said that nobody was aware of their role as a carer (Princess Royal Trust for Carers, 2011).

Qualitative Information

- Young carers report that the education is a very important issue for them and supporting them to remain in school will have long-term benefits.
- Young carers are restricted from participating in community-based activity due to their caring role.
- Young carers often experience barriers to learning. The impact of these barriers includes low attainment, social isolation, school absence and behavioural issues. This can consequently affect future wellbeing, life chances and fulfilling potential (The Princess Royal Trust for Carers 2011)
- Research suggests that there are contrasting experiences in school for young carers between those who had support and those who did not (Becker & Becker 2008)
- There is a need to raise awareness within schools about the issues young carers face and to show sensitivity and flexibility with these issues. This is particularly important as young carers report their problem as not so much attendance but rather with being late and facing punishment as a result. Often they are not able to participate in extra curricular

activities

What we will do

The group will aim to promote the identification of young carers in the school population appropriately through the development of a toolkit/ resource pack for teachers and a rolling programme of awareness raising within schools.

This group will encourage and support young carers in accessing community based activities.

Enjoying, learning and achieving					
Outcome:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Develop a toolkit/resource pack for teachers with resources	Research and review any existing toolkits designed for teachers in relation to young carers Update existing schools information packs for regional use	Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ Regional Young Carers Service	Teachers and other educational professionals have efficient access to resources that will ensure the additional needs of young carers within the school environment are met	LSRR, EEEW, H	2011-2014
Develop a rolling programme of raising awareness	Roll out of awareness raising programmes within schools	Young	Awareness raising sessions will raise the profile of young carers as a group	LSRR, EEEW, H	2011-2014

Enjoying, learning and achieving					
Outcome:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
within school	As part of the awareness raising programme, highlight the need to collect and collate data in order to support referrals to other support services	Carers Regional Sub Group/ Regional Young Carers Service/ ELBs	who may be in need of additional support. Furthermore, it will ensure that teachers have an enhanced understanding of the needs of young carers and can provide flexibility that will ensure the education experience of young carers is supported.		
Encourage and support Young Carers in accessing community based activities	Build links with Youth and community based services Promote the Family Support website in young carers information materials Awareness raising seminars/workshops aimed at community organizations, voluntary sector organizations, and youth services.	Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ Relevant community and voluntary organization s.	This will reduce the social isolation that young carers can experience and facilitate young carers individually to access social networks in the community and to help them develop independence	LSRR, EEEW, CPCS, H	2011-2014

Outcome *Living in safety and with stability*

**What do we know about children and young people...
Quantitative Information**

- % of identified young carers on the Child Protection Register
 - % of young carers with siblings who have behavioural difficulties
 - % of young carers who have a child protection plan/ care plan/ family support plan
 - User feedback regarding services, health and wellbeing, education and ability to learn, assistance in caring, information and advice, guidance and practical assistance, signposting and participation.

Qualitative Information

- There is no consistent carer if a parent is hospitalized and young carers may have to go into care
- There is a need to provide support for young carers where there is a child with behavioural difficulties in the family. Young carers report being physically assaulted by them
- Absence of services for parents of children with social and emotional behavioural difficulties
- Child protection plan/case plans/ advice to gateway/ Family Intervention Services (FIS)
- Voices of children/young people affected by substance misusing parents/carers gathered from Young Carers
- Services and Addiction Services.

What we will do

Raise awareness of issues, and promote support for, young carers face regarding Hidden Harm, living in a family in which an individual has a disability and young carers with a sibling who has behavioural difficulties.

Collate and track information in relation to numbers of young carers with siblings who have behavioural difficulties and who have a child protection plan/ Care Plan/ Family Support Plan

Outcome: <i>Living in safety and with stability</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Raise awareness of issues, and promote support	Develop awareness raising strategy regarding Young Carer Hidden Harm issues across the region.	Young Carers Regional Sub Group / Regional Young Carers Service	Reduce detrimental effects of Hidden Harm on young carers and encourage them to access supports and services that they have the right to.	H, LSRR	2011-2014
Collate and track information	Track numbers of young carers who have been admitted to care				

Outcome: Living in safety and with stability					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
	<p>Collect data on number of young carers with siblings who have behavioural difficulties</p> <p>Collate information on number of young carers who are on a child protection plan/ Care Plan/ Family Support Plan</p>	Young Carers Regional Sub Group	With more information on young carers, more action can be taken to ensure better outcomes for this group.	H, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome	Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing
<p>What do we know about children and young people...</p> <p>Quantitative Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of identified young carers not in employment, education or training at 16 years • % of young carers (16+) receiving benefits • % of young carers with inadequate housing • % of young carers over 16 years and study 20 hours or less • % of young carers offered adult carers assessments at age 18 	<p>Qualitative Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young carers (16+) are not receiving benefits that would enable them to pursue further education • Young carers often live in poor housing conditions • Young Carers need to be supported with the transition into adulthood • This includes supporting them into further education, training or employment • Support for young carers 18+ who may still be at school • No Education Welfare services for year 13 and 14 (16+) • Young carers have been reported to be one of the groups most likely to fall into the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) category. Furthermore, young carers are twice as likely as their peers to be NEET (Princess Young Carers Trust 2011) • Young carers often report financial difficulties as they

balance part time employment and their caring role (Becker and Becker 2008)

What we will do

This group will develop a strategy for improving resources and expertise with Young Carers services for the 16-18 age group.

Build upon young carers projects regarding transition to ensure the development of preparation programmes e.g. job/ course search skills, grant and applications for further education, preparing CVs, first aid, benefits, relationships and adult social services.

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
<p>Improve resources and expertise for working with young carers aged 16-18</p>	<p>Direct help and advice from young carers, particularly at early stages to prevent them becoming NEET,</p> <p>Awareness raising with schools, colleges, training and employment agencies</p> <p>Employers to raise young carers issues</p> <p>Improve links to Health and Social</p>	<p>Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ relevant education/employment agencies</p>	<p>Ensuring that Young Carers in this age group receive the specialist supports and services they need to access further, education, employment, training and benefits.</p>	<p>LSS, H, LSRR, ELA</p>	<p>2011-2014</p>

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
Regional Sub Group on Young Carers

Outcome: Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Build upon Young Carers Transition projects	<p>Care services for adults services, in relation to the period of transition.</p> <p>Improve equity of access to available grants e.g. Belfast up to £100 for young carers for equipment for college- need to improve equity across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Link with Multi-agency liaison group, Trust Carers Coordinator</p> <p>Linking with work of Regional Young Carers Service, which supports young people to access benefits and adequate housing</p>	<p>Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ Regional Young Carers Service / Multi-agency Liaison Groups/ Trusts Carers Coordinators</p>	<p>Young Carers will be better prepared for this important transitional phase in their life and be supported in balancing their caring role with their new role and experiences into adulthood.</p>	<p>LSS, H, LSRR, ELA</p>	<p>2011-2014</p>

Outcome *Contributing positively to community and society*

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of young carers engaged in civic activities (survey)

Qualitative Information

- Young carers, by virtue of their caring role continue to contribute massively to society as they undertake many caring roles that would otherwise have to be provided by others.
- Due to their caring role, young carers do not get the opportunity to take part in civic activity as easily as their counterpart and are excluded from activities such as Youth Forums.

What we will do

This group will ensure that the contribution that young carers make to society continues to be promoted and recognised.

Develop a strategy to improve the engagement of young carers in civic activities.

Outcome: Contributing positively to community and society					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Promoting and recognising young carers contributions	Link with Regional Young Carers Service to promote the work of young carers	Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ Regional Young Carers Service	Young Carers will be recognised for their continuous efforts in contributing positively	H, ELA, EEEW, LSS, LSRR	2011-2014
A strategy to improve engagement with civic activities	Engaging with, influencing and participating in civic and political activities	Young Carers Regional Sub Group	Ensure young carers have the same access to opportunities as their peers	H, EEEW, LSRR	2011-2014

Outcome

Living in a society that respects their rights

What do we know about children and young people...

Quantitative Information

- % of young carers from the BME community
- Number of young carers per Trust area compared with incidence from the research.
- % of young carers offered carers assessments

Qualitative Information

- Young carers are children in need and as such they are entitled to a UNOCINI assessment and to avail of supports and services. There is regional disparity in the number of assessments offered to young carers with young carers in some areas more likely to be offered an assessment than those in another area.
- Small number of young people from the BME community accessing Young Carers services however, with the increasing population of the BME community in Northern Ireland it is likely that BME young carers exist and therefore this proportion should be higher
- The caring role that young carers undertake means that their rights are not fulfilled as highlighted in the previous outcomes. They are often not able to enjoy their rights in the same way as their counterparts because of this..

What we will do

Develop a strategy to increase engagement with the BME community ,through BME organisations, and to enhance understanding of BME young carers' issues.

Working with statutory agencies and the Regional Young Carers Service to ensure that supports and services are in place that mean the rights of young carers, highlighted in previous outcomes, are respected, protected and fulfilled.

Outcome: <i>Living in a society that respects their rights</i>					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
Develop a strategy to increase engagement with the BME community	Link with BME organisations	Young Carers Regional Sub Group/ BME organisations	Ensure that young carers from the BME community have access to the same supports and services as their peers	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014
Working with statutory agencies and the Regional	Protocol issued from Health and Social Care Board to Health and Social Care Trusts regarding the duty	Young	Ensuring that every young carer has their needs assessed means that they	H, ELA, LSS, EEEW, CPCS	2011-2014

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014
Regional Sub Group on Young Carers

Outcome: Living in a society that respects their rights					
Actions:	Implementation Milestones	Lead person/other groups	What difference will it make to children and young people	Other outcomes	By when
<p>Young Carers Service to ensure that supports and services are in place that mean the rights of young carers, highlighted in previous outcomes, are respected, protected and fulfilled.</p>	<p>to offer assessments to young carers due to their legal status as children in need.</p> <p>Young carers will be supported, through clear arrangements for young carers through Trusts</p> <p>Regional equity will be promoted regarding assessments for support for young carers.</p>	<p>Carers Regional Sub Group/ HSCB/ HSC Trusts</p>	<p>will be able to access services and supports to which they have a right to access.</p>		

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We would be very interested in your feedback on these initial priority areas as set out above. These will inform the action plan for the Young Carers Sub Group. It is important to us to hear what you have to say about what the Group has planned to address for young carers across Northern Ireland.

We are happy to receive comments in any format. If you require this document in an alternative format (such as large print, Braille, disk, audio file, audio cassette, easy read or in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English please contact us at the details provided below.

Please return your response by TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2012 to

Andrew Hawthorne
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
Health and Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall St.
Belfast
BT2 8BS
Telephone: 028 90553979

Email: Andrew.hawthorne@hscni.net

Thank you very much for your response

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (if wishing to provide)

ADDRESS

(if wishing to provide)

TELEPHONE:

(if wishing to provide)

EMAIL

(if wishing to provide)

Text Phone:

Please select one:

I am responding from an organisation

I am responding on behalf of myself as a parent

I am responding on behalf of myself as a child or young person

I am responding on behalf of a group of children / young people