

Belfast City Council Corporate Consultation Response on (January 2015)

SBNI's Child Protection and Safeguarding Learning and Development Strategy and Framework

1) Introduction

- a) Belfast City Council (BCC) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to SBNI's consultation on the draft Child Protection and Safeguarding Learning and Development Strategy and Framework. Particularly the co-ordinated direction presented in the framework of a minimum standard based on key learning outcomes to support our safeguarding role protecting children.
- b) This response reflects Council's desire to work in effectively in partnership and integrate best practice standards throughout the organisation with the collaborative support of partners in SBNI. It also reflects a desire to support the community to safeguard its children.

2) Key comments on the draft framework

- a) In advance of the final framework, BCC would recommend the completion of a training needs analysis for each organisation including the community and voluntary sector. This needs to reflect the diversity in provision e.g. sports, arts and other engagement opportunities for children and young people. It also needs to be flexible enough to incorporate the diversity of the community and build an awareness of how best to promote and enable safeguarding across all communities and sections of the community. It may be most suitable for an independent community/voluntary organisation to undertake the community training needs analysis.
- b) There is opportunity for continuous improvement if the learning and development activity (p7) is also influenced by practice and service delivery. Council has many growth areas of work where engagement with children or young people may influence future learning.
- c) It is useful if the overall work of SBNI is captured in the framework. The standards in the mandatory audit need reflected in the training and development framework in particular the training and development programme, for example, procurement or different lines of accountability, and for it to be reflected in the training programme.
- d) There is a need for the framework to reflect all partners' business, for example, to incorporate the role of public representatives (Councillors) in future learning and development.
- e) Council seeks an understanding of the training structures that will be in place to roll out the framework and whether it directly links to the 'keeping children safe' training programme which the Council fully endorses and has 5 keeping children safe trainers. This is to ensure the programme content is of a quality and suitably meets organisational and community needs.
- f) Within the framework, a flexible tailored approach is recommended for each organisation. For example there may be elements of training that are peripheral to Council and there is also a need for the focus to meet the type of business of each organisation.
- g) It would be useful for Council to have a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities attached to the roll out of the framework and the level of resources available or required to achieve this across the organisation.

3) Conclusion

In conclusion, Council welcomes the proposed approach to co-ordinating training and development needs and setting a minimum safeguarding standard. In supporting this approach, we recommend it is linked to an organisational training needs analysis, the current keeping children safe structure and training programme. The training should be flexible and needs based in order to suit the needs of the city and all sections of its communities. The policy should understand and reflect the varied roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and the related level of resources in order to safeguard all the children in the city.