



## Forward

Big Lottery Fund wants to focus on those most in need. As an intelligent funder, we will continue to support people projects and programmes that make a real difference and impact across Northern Ireland.

I am delighted to introduce the Northern Ireland consultation on BIG Proposals for Supporting Families in Northern Ireland. We will be out and about across Northern Ireland over the coming months inviting people to respond to our ideas on how we can best deliver our new programme.

Big Thinking consultation supported the need for a programme to benefit families. This need is evidenced by local, national and international research into a range of support services highlighting the particular challenges faced by families. We now wish to develop a programme to support the needs of these families.

We want to ask you about a new proposed programme for Northern Ireland Supporting Families including the programme outcomes, programme delivery and the target beneficiary group. Our consultation launches on 13 February 2012 and will run until 4 May 2012. We are holding meetings across Northern Ireland to discuss these proposals and encourage responses, as well as providing an online survey available at [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland)

Consultation responses are invaluable in helping us design programmes which ensure that our funding makes a difference to communities and people most in need. We will use social media to promote the consultation and the availability of the online survey to ensure the consultation is open and accessible to a wide range of relevant stakeholders

I hope that you will respond to the consultation questionnaire and engage in events relating to this. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Frank Hewitt**  
**Chair, Northern Ireland Committee**

# Supporting Families

Following our Big Thinking consultation in 2008/09 we launched a range of programmes in Northern Ireland between March 2010 and January 2011:

- ▶ Reaching Out: Connecting Older People
- ▶ Reaching Out: Empowering Young People
- ▶ Healthy Minds
- ▶ Energy Efficient Venues
- ▶ Space and Place
- ▶ Impact of Alcohol

We also published our Strategic Framework 2009–2015 setting out our funding plans. In line with our intelligent funding principles we are refreshing these priorities so that they better match our changing external environment.

## Why a families programme?

Responses to our 2008/09 consultation, Big Thinking, referred to the needs of families in Northern Ireland. In particular, the consultation highlighted the need to:

- invest in early years and parents support
- to invest in the birth to 8 year old age group with early intervention work being key as a preventative strategy
- to target younger children tied in with whole family support of vulnerable families, and
- the importance of including families as part of the solution to young people issues.

Families throughout Northern Ireland have benefited from BIG grants valued at just over £20 million. We have learned from the demand for Building Quality Childcare, Change Ur Future, Reaching Out: Empowering Young People and from Big Thinking that there is a continuing need for innovative programmes for children and young people, particularly with a focus on early intervention.

This programme will link to a number of strategies including, Families Matters, The Child Poverty Strategy, Care Matters NI, Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge, and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are proposing to focus this new programme on families with children under age 12. We define families in the broadest terms to include: parents/ carers; grandparents; or siblings. This focus will complement our current Reaching Out: Empowering Young People programme.

## Supporting Families Programme Aim and Outcomes

Aim: Families will be enabled to provide supportive and nurturing relationships to improve their children's lives.

The aim will be supported by the following outcomes:-

1. Families will have improved resilience to overcome adversity
2. Families will have increased opportunities to learn together
3. Families will be enabled to participate in all aspects of community life.

## Our proposed beneficiaries

We plan to focus our support on families who are facing multiple challenges. Some of the challenges a family's face may include:

- physical and/or emotional abuse
- poverty
- substance/alcohol abuse
- disability
- homelessness
- separation
- social isolation
- caring.

## Delivery model

We plan to deliver a £15 million open programme from 2012 to 2015. We propose that under this programme we will provide funding for up to 5 years for activities that develop the skills of families to function as a unit and provide strong supportive and nurturing relationships for their children. We plan to make grants of £100,000 – £500,000 to fund mostly revenue activities which support the programme outcomes.

# We are seeking your views on Supporting Families

**Q.1** Do you think the programme aim best reflects the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

Yes  No

**Q.1b** If no, what do you think the most important aim is to support the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

**Q.2** Do you think the programme outcomes best reflect the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

Yes  No

**Q.2b** If no, what do you think the most important outcomes are for families in Northern Ireland?

**Q.3** We are proposing that this programme should support families facing challenges such as:

- physical and/or emotional abuse
- poverty
- substance/alcohol abuse
- disability
- homelessness
- separation
- social isolation
- caring

Do you agree with our definition of the challenges that a family may face?

Yes  No

**Q.3b** If no, what other factors should be included?

**Q.4** Do you agree that this programme should support families with a child/children younger than 12 years of age?

Yes  No

**Q.4b** If no, what age range would you suggest?

**Q.5** Should we encourage and support partnership working and collaboration across sectors?

Yes  No

**Q.6** Do you think the proposed grant sizes of £100,000 - £500,000 are appropriate?

Yes  No

**Q.6b** If no, what is the appropriate grant size?

**Q.7** Do you think the proposed grant length of three to five years is appropriate?

Yes  No

**Q.7b** If no, what is the appropriate grant length?

**Q.8** How can we ensure the projects we fund involve families in project design, development and delivery?

**Q.9** Are there any further comments you wish to make about our proposed programme to support families?

# To make a response

This document and the questions asked are available online at: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland)

This consultation will close on 4 May 2012. A summary of the consultation responses will be published and will inform the development of our new funding programme. We plan to launch this Northern Ireland programme at the end of 2012. All responses will be treated in confidence.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please send your completed consultation documents to:

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If you have any questions or if you would like further copies of this document contact the information team at the number or address above.