



Appendix 3

Development Department

Your reference: Consultation on SBNI Strategic Plan

Our reference: #148780

Being dealt with by: David Purchase

Date: 30/5/13

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Sharon Beattie
Safeguarding Board for NI
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Dear Sharon,

RE: Consultation: SBNI Strategic Plan

Thank you for asking us to comment on the strategic plan and its equality impact assessment. Please find attached our provisional response to this consultation document. Please note that this is still subject to final ratification by full council.

We support most of the objectives and actions within the plan. Our specific responses to your consultation question are shown in the following section. Firstly though, we would like to make some observations on the strategy itself.

- 1.1.1. The proposed safeguarding panels (page 13-14) seem relevant for the mandatory duties outlined however; the proposed discretionary sub groups may overlap with the CYPSP sub groups that have already emerged. If there has not been a review of what already exists, this should be done before any development of new structures.
- 1.1.2. The Council would appreciate more detail about the powers to request information and how this will look in practice. There is also a general lack of clarity in terms of what arrangements a council needs to make to exercise their functions.
- 1.1.3. Reference is made on page 19 to the significance of cumulative adversity cases yet these are not flagged as a priority area for action. We suggest that the panel is best equipped to focus on where abuse is hard to spot and this should be a higher priority for them.
- 1.1.4. Overall we have some concerns over how the strategy will be delivered in terms of the level of resources, communicating responsibility and potential duplication of CYPSP structures and work.

Thank you for asking us to respond to the proposals.

Yours faithfully

David

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Docs 148780

I am responding: as an individual ☐
 on behalf of an organisation ☒

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Safeguarding Board for NI (SBNI) has considered the equality and human rights issues associated with the Strategic Plan. The screening documentation is also included as part of this consultation.

1. Please let us know if you are satisfied with the detail of the content screening exercise and the outcomes:

Yes: ☐ **No:** ☒

Comments:

The Equality screening seems to be heavily weighted with evidence of child sex exploitation. It is unclear why this is the case unless it is to be able to prioritise it as an action area. If so, we would expect a similar level of detail on all priority actions. For example, suicide is mentioned but very little evidence is provided.

The relevance of some of the evidence is questionable. For example, sources from England are used yet NI does not always have the same pattern of behaviour or offences.

There is limited reference to child's health and issues like obesity, a right



to play or child development which links to the family.

- 2. If there are other equality or human rights issues that you wish to raise with us in the context of the plan, please do so:**

Comments:

There is some information on p32 relating to the impact of family life where the adult has a disability. However, there is no mention of the impact on children as carers. We assume this has an impact on their rights and suspect there will be an increasing number of cases linked to care in the community.

- 3. If you have any additional quantitative or qualitative information that you wish to share with us to inform this screening exercise, please do so below:**

Comments: