

PRESS RELEASE – *September 2012*

Integrated Outcomes Based Planning to Improve Children's Lives in Northern Ireland: Event 2 - Enjoying, Learning and Achieving



Clockwise from left: Ann Godfrey (CYPSP); Deena Haydon (School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, QUB); Professor Paul Connolly (ICL); Dr Liam O'Hare (ICL); Maureen Piggot (Mencap); Pauline Leeson (CiNI)

Over 70 delegates from government, policy, integrated planning and academia recently attended the second in a series of six training seminars based on the six high level outcomes of the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2006-2016). The event was held in The Canada Room/Council Chamber at Queen's on the morning of 19 September 2012.

This second seminar focused on the 'Enjoying, Learning and Achieving' outcome.

The training programme was developed in response to feedback from last year's conference on 'Improving Children's Lives: Outcomes, Partnership and Planning' which indicated the need for greater focus on outcomes based planning in the context of the six high level outcomes of the Ten Year Strategy.

Speaking about this second event, Professor Paul Connolly, Chair of Improving Children's Lives, observed:

"Integrated outcomes-based planning is of particular importance to education. Ensuring that children and young people are enjoying, learning and achieving is one of the six high level outcomes of the Children's Strategy and is at the heart of what we do in education.

However, this can only be achieved for all learners if we work in a joined-up fashion where educational professionals work effectively in planning services with other statutory and voluntary agencies.

“In Northern Ireland we have an agreed set of indicators that provide the basis for integrated planning of educational services as well as a benchmark against which we can evaluate our effectiveness. The key challenge for all of us involved in education is to ensure that we work together effectively, making the best use of available research evidence, to ensure that we are enabling all children and young people to achieve their full potential.”

These seminars also complement and support the work already being undertaken by the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), through the Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Plan, whose central role is taking forward integrated planning and commissioning to improve the lives of all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The event was co-hosted by the Improving Children’s Lives initiative (ICL); Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI); the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB); the Public Health Agency (PHA); the Office of First and Deputy First Minister and the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership.

Videos from the event are now available on the ICL website, at <http://www.improvingchildrenslives.org/videos>.

For more information please contact:

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