

BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP

ACTION PLAN 2011-14

FINAL DRAFT JUNE 2012



INTRODUCTION

The Belfast Outcomes Group, as a sub group of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), met for the first time in June 2011. The geographical area of the work includes Belfast and Castlereagh District Council areas. Membership of the Group consists of representatives from the Statutory, Voluntary, Community and Black and Minority Ethnic sectors. Current membership can be found at Appendix __

The following action plan sets out how the Belfast Outcomes Group will contribute towards the implementation of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 set out above. The plan includes the priorities which need to be taken forward to improve the six high level outcomes for children and young people in this area. The plan has been informed by an extensive consultation exercise which ended on 11 April 2012. Details of the results of the consultation and how the responses were dealt with will be available in the coming months.

This action plan is one document in the suite of action plans which make up the NI Children and Young People's Plan. The Belfast Outcomes Group will collaborate with the other 4 Outcomes Groups, the CYPSP Groups and Regional Sub Groups in order to implement the overall Plan.

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 plan is set out in line with the 6 high level outcomes. A number of underpinning actions have been set out in the first pages. A review of the plan will be carried out annually.



| Actions: | Implementation Milestones | Lead person/other groups | What difference will it make to children and young people |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Action Planning | This is a strategic document – a more detailed action plan will be developed against each outcome in consultation with all relevant stakeholders in the area | | |
| Outcomes based planning | The Outcomes Group will continue to monitor the 6 high level outcomes in relation to the children and young people in the area and plan accordingly. This will include further tracking of the indicator set, collating qualitative information from communities through locality planning, the views of children and young people and parents through implementation of the CYPSP Participation strategies. | Outcomes Group CSP Information Participation Network Parenting NI | |
| Partnership building | The Group will continue to build a partnership across statutory, voluntary, community and BME sectors. | | |
| Linkages to other partnerships | The Outcomes Group will carry out the function of Early Intervention Sub Group for the Belfast Strategic Partnership. Linkages have been made and will be supported to the Belfast LCG and Child Care Partnership with regard to multi agency early intervention support. | | |
| Integrated Planning and Commissioning | The Outcomes Group, supported by the CYPSP, will work towards integrated planning and commissioning across agencies and sectors to ensure we make the best use of existing resources and allocate funding effectively. The group will put in place a commissioning framework to ensure the successful procurement of family support services. | Outcomes Group members CYPSP Integrated Commissioning Sub Group Procurement sub | Co-ordinated funding streams Resources will be allocated effectively Services commissioned to meet |

| Actions: | Implementation Milestones | Lead person/other groups | What difference will it make to children and young people |
|---|--|--|--|
| | A procurement sub group will be set up to implement the commissioning framework. | group. | identified needs and improve outcomes for children |
| Support, develop and maintain locality planning groups across the area to carry out outcomes based planning | <p>A mapping exercise has been carried out by the Outcomes Group of the partnerships working across the Belfast area.</p> <p>This will be used to inform the development of locality planning groups and family support hubs over the coming months.</p> <p>The Group is keen to reduce duplication and maximise the extensive partnership working already ongoing in the area.</p> <p>Discussions will be initiated with Area Partnerships, Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships and other existing partnerships.</p> | <p>All members</p> <p>Belfast Healthy Cities</p> | <p>Increased co-ordination and services better targeted to families</p> <p>Outcomes based planning will inform service development</p> |
| Support, develop and maintain family support hubs across the area | | <p>Outcomes Group Sub Group – Locality Planning and Family Support Hub Development</p> | |

Outcome: Healthy
What do we know about children and young people....

Quantitative:

- *There are 73,898 children under 18 living in the Belfast Outcomes Area – this is 22% of the total population (Mid-Year Estimates for 2010)*
- *Low Birth Weight Rates 66.7 per 1000 live births 2010/11 NI - 60.9 per 1000 live births 2010/11*
- *46.4% of Mums were breastfeeding their babies on discharge from hospital. NI average - 44.7% in 2010/1. Lowest ward is Shankill 9.8%.*
- *Mothers Reporting Smoking During Pregnancy: 22% in 2011 NI average – 17% in 2011. Ardoyne and Woodvale wards highest rates at both 44.9%.*
- *Uptake of MMR at 24 months: 89% in 2010/11 (lowest in NI) NI – 95% in 2010/11*
- *Dental Registrations of 0-2 year olds: 27% in 2011 (lowest in NI) – NI – 30%. Lowest ward in Belfast Outcomes Area - Whiterock 9.6% (also lowest ward in NI) while the highest was Ballyhanwood 56% (also the highest ward overall in NI)*
- *Dental Registrations of 3-5 year olds: 64% in 2011 (Lowest in*

Qualitative:

- *6% of children are affected by a disability in Northern Ireland. Prevalence of disabilities is higher amongst boys than girls, 8% of boys aged 15 and under had a disability compared with 4% of girls on the same age. Most common types are linked to chronic illnesses, learning difficulties and social/behavioural difficulties (NISALD NISRA Prevalence survey 2006/07)*
- *The Bamford Report estimates that 10% of the children and young people in Northern Ireland will have a moderate to severe mental health problem (Bamford Report 2006)*
- *Over 30% of all domestic violence starts during pregnancy (Women's Aid Federation NI)*
- *There is overwhelming evidence that early years intervention can transform the lives of children, families and communities particularly where socio-economic disadvantage exists (Hosking and Walsh, 2010)*
- *There is an extremely worrying suicide rate, particularly in relation to under 18's, in the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland which are also the areas to have suffered worst as a result of the Northern Ireland conflict. Research shows a higher rate of mental illness in the North and West Belfast Trust area than elsewhere in*

NI) – NI – 70% in 2011. Lowest ward – Shaftesbury 43 and Ballyhanwood had the highest – 56%. Overall in NI Drumgor (Southern Area) had the lowest 3-5 year olds registered (41%) while Armoy (Northern) had the highest (93%)

Northern Ireland. (Children's Law Centre)

- *Suicide in under 18 age group in Belfast Outcomes Area is the highest in NI*

| Outcome: Healthy | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Groups | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| <p>1. Provide a cross agency, cross sectoral approach to the promotion of positive health at the pre-natal and post-natal stages with vulnerable families to develop healthier lifestyles including the promotion of physical activities</p> | <p>Contribute to the CYPSP and BSP priorities in respect of or in relation to the promotion of positive health and well being messages at the earliest opportunity.</p> | <p>CYPSP Early intervention</p> <p>Sub Group Integration of Planning Sub Group</p> <p>Belfast Strategic Partnership</p> <p>Public Health Agency Health Development Unit</p> <p>Childcare Partnership</p> | <p>Increased parental education and support at all ages</p> <p>Decrease in mums smoking in pregnancy</p> <p>Increase in children breastfed</p> <p>Decrease in Low birth weights</p> <p>Infant mortality</p> <p>Births to teenage mums Decrease in Obesity for children</p> <p>Increased access to antenatal and post natal services outside the hospital setting.</p> | <p>Living in Safety and with Stability</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

| Outcome: Healthy | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Groups | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| | The Group will contribute to and be informed by the CYPSP Early Intervention Sub Group mapping and analysis of early intervention services and identify gaps in the Belfast OG area | As above | As above | | |
| | Identify and develop linkages with other groups taking forward physical activities to support their work with children and young people and families and identify gaps. | As above including BCC & CBC | Reduction in child obesity levels Reduction in diabetes (Type 2) Increase opportunities for play and physical activity | | September 2012 |
| 2. Support those children and young people living in families with complex health needs, mental health needs and / or disabilities | Ensure a range of early intervention services are available to support children and young people and their families | Belfast HSC Trust OG members CYPSP Regional Subgroups | Increased access to support services Reduction in admissions to care due to family breakdown | All other Outcomes | 2012-2013 |

| Outcome: Healthy | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Groups | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| | Link to and support the work of the Infant Mental Health and Well being Group | Belfast Infant Mental Health and Wellbeing Group | Improved mental and emotional wellbeing in young children and their parents | | |

Outcome: Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

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

Quantitative:

- *In 2010/11 8.1% of primary and 15.7% of post-primary pupils had less than 85% attendance in BELB area In N the average was 1 – 4.5% of primary and 10.9% of post-primary. The poorest rates in the Belfast Area were - Primary School is in Botanic 24.6% and Post Primary School is Blackstaff 36.7%.*
- *67.8% of schools leavers in BELB area gained 5 or more GCSEs (A*-C grades) in 2011 (lowest in NI) – NI average was 73.3%*
- *3% of school leavers in BELB area left school with no GCSEs in 2011 (Highest in NI) – NI average was 2.2% in 2011*
- *32 of the 51 wards in Belfast and 9 of the 23 wards in Castlereagh had less than NI average percentage of school leavers gaining 5+ GCSEs in 2010*
- *48 of the 51 wards in Belfast and 8 of the 23 wards in Castlereagh have lower than NI average of school leavers*

Qualitative:

Truancy and low school attendance resulting in poor educational attainment ultimately has an impact on a young person's contribution to society, their understanding of the impact of their actions on others and their influence on the next generation. This is also recognised as a risk factor leading to involvement in antisocial or criminal behaviour and may be an indicator of potential neglect (PSNI, 2012).

We know that improving participation of parents in children's education is key to improving children's educational success. Parent's role as co-educators needs to be prioritised here. Participation in co-operative play and learning activities, parents and children together, could be added here. As we know that the majority of children's learning takes place outside school, support for home and community learning is essential (Barnardos)

Partnership with parents is key in supporting vulnerable children at key stages in their transition and is particularly important for those in areas of need (Altram)

going onto Higher Education

- *50 of the 51 wards in Belfast and 14 of the 23 in Castlereagh have a lower than NI average of school leavers going onto Further Education*

| Outcome: Enjoying, Learning and Achieving | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 1. Provide support for parents to enable children and young people attend and fully participate in school or to access other educational facilities. | Develop a cross agency/cross sectoral plan to improve outcomes for children and young people by identifying and removing the barriers to learning | Locality Planning Groups Belfast HSC Trust | Improved educational outcomes Increased attendance | Healthy, Experiencing Economic and Environmental Wellbeing, Contributing to Community and Society, Living in a Society that Respects their Rights | 2012/13 |
| | Support at the transitional stages from home - preschool – primary – post primary – further education, training or employment | BELB Childcare Partnership | Improved school-community links Removal of Barriers | | |
| | Assist families, schools, community and voluntary groups to work together to reinforce positive education messages and build aspirations. | CYPSP Regional Subgroups BCC | Parents are enabled to fully participate in the education of their children Increased resilience in children and young people | | |
| | Provide emotional wellbeing support services and build resilience in children and young people in school and community settings at all transitional stages | CBC | | | |

| Outcome: Enjoying, Learning and Achieving | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| | Promote the acquisition of speech, language and communication skills from the earliest stage | As above | <p>Improved parenting skills</p> <p>Improve transitions stages for children and young people</p> <p>Children are ready for formal education</p> <p>The formal education establishments are ready for the child</p> <p>Number of young people completing apprenticeships / employment, further and higher education</p> <p>Improve behaviour in schools</p> | | |

| Outcome: Enjoying, Learning and Achieving | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 2. Promote participation and access to positive co-operative play and leisure activities for vulnerable children and young people and their families | Support the provision of affordable, accessible play activities and opportunities Promote good practice and inclusion | BCC CBC Belfast HSC Trust Childcare Partnership | Increased numbers of vulnerable children and young people accessing play and leisure opportunities Number of disabled children included in mainstream play, leisure and educational activities | Healthy, Living in a Society that Respects their Rights | 2013/14 |

Outcome: Living in Safety and with Stability

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

Quantitative:

- *In the Belfast Outcomes Area 7.5 per 1000 Children & Young People are registered on the Child Protection Register with 17% re-registered in 2010/11 NI – 5.6 per 1000 on the CPR with 13.5 per 1000 re-registered in 2010/11*
- *In the Belfast Outcomes Area 8.4 per 1000 Children & Young People are Looked After Children NI average – 5.8 per 1000 in 2010/11*
- *Belfast Outcomes Area has the highest Domestic Abuse Offences and highest Children & Young People who are victims of Domestic Violence*
- *In 2010/11 222 Children & Young People from Belfast Outcomes Area were injured on the roads.*

Qualitative:

Domestic violence is a violation of Article 5 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights – that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

The joint NIO, DHSSPS Strategy “Tackling Violence at Home” estimates that the cost of domestic violence in Northern Ireland, including the potential loss of economic output, could amount to £180 million each year.

UNICEF research released in 2006, showing per capita incidence, indicates that there are up to 32,000 children and young people living with domestic violence in Northern Ireland (Women’s Aid Federation NI)

Offending is typical linked to social disadvantage and exclusion, in particular low educational achievement and lack of job opportunities....An important aspect is to engage the education sector and potentially support initiatives aimed at engaging students in their local community or reengaging those at risk of disaffection. Concrete initiatives might include intergenerational projects or a programme of visits by former offenders who can highlight the full consequences of offending. (Belfast Healthy Cities)

| Outcome: Living in Safety and with Stability | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 1. Improve the safety and stability of families who are at risk of or experiencing domestic abuse | Link to and support the Belfast Domestic Violence Partnership in relation to the impact on children and young people | Domestic Violence Partnership | Reduction of the number of incidents of domestic abuse Reduction in level of harm to children and young people's wellbeing Improve family relationships | Experiencing Economic and Environmental wellbeing, | Ongoing |
| 2. Reduce the numbers of children and young people engaged in/or at risk of offending | Support and link to the "Reducing Offending in Partnership" (Prevent and Deter Early Intervention) | Reducing Offending Partnership Regional CYPSP subgroup | Reduction of statistics for crime in areas Reduction in numbers of children entering into Juvenile Justice system Families engaged in services Increase in school attendance | Enjoying Learning and Achieving | Ongoing |

| Outcome: Living in Safety and with Stability | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| | Family support hubs will ensure a referral system will be in place to co-ordinate and provide easy and early access to services for children, young people and their families across community and voluntary and statutory sectors and identify gaps in services | Family Support Hubs | As Above | | |
| | Link with the existing Policing Community Safety Partnerships structures in the development of early intervention services and strategies | Policing Community Safety partnerships (PCSPs) | As above | | |

| Outcome: Living in Safety and with Stability | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 3. Support for vulnerable families, children and young people are at risk of or are experiencing hate crimes including sectarianism | Carry out further investigation of the issues affecting children, young people and families who are experiencing hate crimes in the Belfast area | BME Reps CYPSP sub group BME | As Above | | Ongoing |
| | Support the work of interface programmes/projects working with young people to build relationships , provide alternative activities at times of high tension | Community Relations Council Participation Network | | | |

| Outcome: Living in Safety and with Stability | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 4. Support for children and young people with respect to issues around sexuality and keeping safe in a digital age | Support and provide schools and community groups with information in relation to this. | Subgroup to be set up from OG members CEOP – Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre CYPSP Regional LGBT Sub Group Locality Planning Groups | Raised awareness among children and young people Children and young people are better able to access support | | To be agreed |
| 5. Reduction in child accidents | Support the work ongoing in relation to accident prevention for children | Belfast Strategic Partnership PHA Belfast HSC Trust Health Improvement Home Accident Prevention Partnership | Reduction in A&E Attendances Reduction in children injured in road accidents Increased awareness of safety issues in the home | | To be agreed |

Outcome: Experiencing Economic and Environmental Well Being

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

Quantitative:

- *2.9% of Children & Young People live in overcrowded accommodation compared with the NI average of 1.2% in 2010/11*
- *1600 families with 2452 children and 40 young people aged 16 to 18 were awarded statutory homeless in 2010/11*
- *279 Families with 440 Children were living in temporary accommodation in 2010/11*
- *Approximately 10% of children are living in absolute low income poverty compared within average of 16% in 2008/09*
- *There has been a rise in the % of Lone Parent families relying on JSA and Income Support*

Qualitative:

There is a correlation between levels of deprivation and criminality, antisocial behaviour and paramilitary activity, requiring early intervention, and some form of targeted investment in training and employment opportunities, to support vulnerable children and young people not in education or training. Therefore a multi-agency approach is required in the development of support mechanisms for young people getting into employment/further education. (PSNI, 2012)

The recession is seeing growing unemployment, rising everyday living costs, and this continues to exacerbate poverty and increase the vulnerability of families that were previously not identified as vulnerable. It is important that children and young people are given the correct information on educational choices in training, in future employment, in further education and in career choices.

Communities, schools and early years settings can be a 'safe haven' for children experiencing such problems (Clan Mor SureStart)

| Outcome: Experiencing Economic and Environmental Well-Being | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 1. Provide support for vulnerable children and young people experiencing problems relating to drugs and alcohol | Link to and support the work of the Belfast Drug and Alcohol Co-ordinating Team and the Local Hidden Harm Implementation Group | Outcomes Group Members | Reduction in level of risk/harm parents/carers will better understand the impacts of parental substance misuse on their children | Healthy, Living in Safety and With Stability | Ongoing |
| 2. Provide support for children and young people at risk of family breakdown, at risk of homelessness, promoting the development of | Ensure the co-ordination of earlier and easier access to earlier intervention services through family support hubs | Family Support Hubs NIHE | Enhanced parent/carer/adult-child relationships Reduction of young people at risk of being homeless | Healthy, Living in Safety and with Stability, Enjoying | Ongoing |

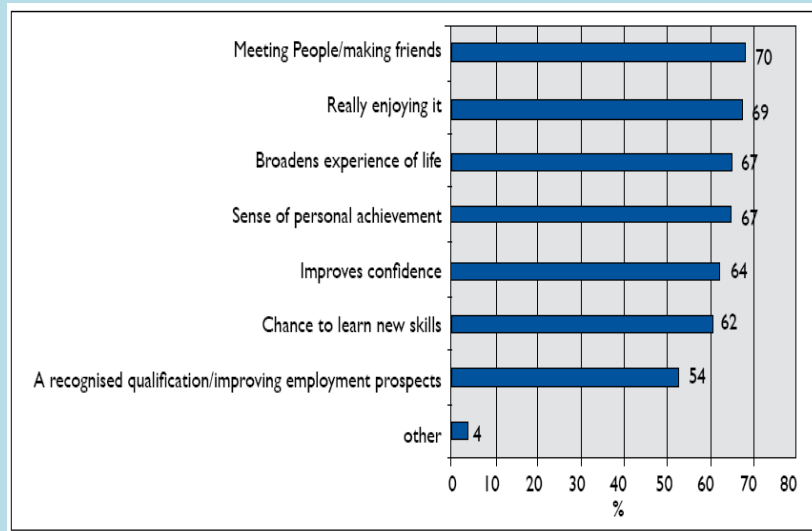
| Outcome: Experiencing Economic and Environmental Well-Being | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| positive family relationships | Monitor the impact of current economic climate and the impact of welfare reforms on families and identify the main stress factors | | | Learning and Achieving | |
| 3. Ensure early intervention services to support vulnerable children and young people not in education training, or employment | Ensure the implementation of the NEET Strategy linking to relevant agencies and partnerships | OG Members Neighbourhood partnerships | Number of young people entering & sustaining employment, education or training Accredited qualifications achieved Increased confidence and self esteem | Enjoying, Learning and Achieving, Living in a Society which Respects their Rights, Contributing Positively to Community and Society | Ongoing |

Outcome: Contributing Positively to Community and Society

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

Quantitative:

- *Young Life and Times Survey 2009 with 857 16 year olds chosen at random gave the answers below to the question What benefits do you get from volunteering?*



Qualitative:

A recent report (March 2012) based on the views of 141 Millennium Volunteers. The majority of young people surveyed said that they could contribute a significant change in the following areas of their life due to volunteering as a Millennium Volunteer- Increase in confidence (92%), feeling that they were making a useful contribution (89%), ability to organise their time (78%). 69% said that volunteering had increased their ability to get paid work and 67% believed it would increase their chances of getting a university / college place. 97% said that they would recommend volunteering to their friends and the same number said that they would recommend the Millennium Volunteers programme to other young people. Across all age groups those people that come from poorer backgrounds will be less likely to volunteer (It's All About Time, 2007). Northern Ireland based research has shown that young people from poorer backgrounds can benefit most from this experience and the benefits it can offer, including given young people the opportunity to meet people from different cultures / religions. (Volunteer Now)

Running alongside traditional educational and awareness programmes, young people should be actively encouraged to give something back to society through volunteering and made

to feel that their contribution is valued. (Opportunity Youth)

44% of Children & Young People in Belfast Outcomes area aged 4 – 18 participate in youth activities

In 2011 a total of 1465 (4%) Children & Young people aged 10-17 came to the attention of the Police for Offending behaviour in the Belfast Outcomes Area with Theft being highest recorded offence followed by common assault.

In 2011 a total of 1914 Children & Young people aged 0 – 17 came to the attention of the police for non-offending behaviour – including Concern for Safety, Missing Persons, Possession of Alcohol and Rowdy Nuisance.

| Outcome: Contributing Positively to Community and Society | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 1. Promoting volunteering opportunities in local communities for children and young people. | Develop a multi agency communication strategy to raise awareness of the opportunities available and the benefits to volunteering | Volunteer Now Locality Planning Groups | Increase in young people volunteering Reduction of YP in at risk behaviours | Healthy, Enjoying, Learning and Achieving, | 2012/ 2013 |
| | Develop volunteering opportunities for children and young people identifying barriers, training and safety needs | Belfast City Council OG Members HSCT Volunteer Strategy | Young people will have better knowledge of the personal development that they would gain from volunteering. They will be more aware of how the wider community benefits from volunteers, and what opportunities are available to them. Greater personal development Mutual understanding | Living in Safety and with Stability, Experiencing Economic and Environmental Wellbeing, Living in a Society that Respects their Rights | |

| Outcome: Contributing Positively to Community and Society | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 2. Ensure children and young people have the opportunity to and are supported to contribute positively in their community | Link with existing strategies, partnerships and ongoing work to promote this message | Locality Planning Groups | Young People feel that they are recognised as productive members of society Young people are engaged in positive activities | Healthy, Enjoying, Learning and Achieving, Living in a Society that respects their rights | Ongoing |

Outcome: Living in a Society that Respects Their Rights

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

Quantitative:

- *22% of the population in Belfast Outcomes Area are Children & Young People*
- *In 2009 2.5% of the population are from A8 countries NI Average of A8 population NI*
- *Approximately 22% of Traveller Families are living in the Belfast Outcomes Area*

Qualitative:

A culture where the views of our children and young people are routinely sought in matters which impact on their lives.” [Our Children and Young People - Our Pledge, a ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland, OFMDFM, 2006](#)

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by UK Government in 1989) which states all children and young people have a voice in any decisions affecting them and their views should be respected.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) which places particular duties on statutory authorities to take account the impact of their services and policies on children and young people. It is within this legislative context that a number of organisations, including [Save the Children](#), the [Youth Council for Northern Ireland](#), the [Northern Ireland Youth Forum](#), [YouthNet](#) and [Children in Northern Ireland](#) undertook a feasibility study in relation to children and young people's participation in decision making. The publication, [Turning Up the Sound](#) (2005), provided evidence that children and young people are interested in engaging with decision makers, and that decision makers appreciate their opinions. The main obstacle to effective engagement was the lack of appropriate mechanisms (Participation Network, 2012)

| Outcome: Living in a Society that Respects Their Rights | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 1. Supporting access to services for marginalised groups, e.g., travellers, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people, and black and minority ethnic groups. | Link with the CYPSP regional sub groups to – identify gaps and support groups dealing with these issues | <i>CYPSP Regional BME group</i> <i>CYPSP regional LGBT group</i> | Young people will not feel marginalised and confident to access services | All Outcomes | Ongoing |
| 2. Local implementation of the CYPSP Participation Strategy for children and young people and shape future commissioning strategy | Continue to support the development of a supported network of children and young people who are linked to the locality planning process and regional sub groups where appropriate. All member organisations to engage and involve children and young people in line with the CYPSP Strategy | All members Ci-NI Locality Planning Groups | Children and young people are involved in the planning process Children and young people will have their views listened to and acted upon | All Outcomes | Ongoing |

| Outcome: Living in a Society that Respects Their Rights | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Action | Implementation Milestone | Lead Person/Other Group | What Difference will it make to children and young people | Other Outcomes | By When |
| 3. Local implementation of the CYPSP Participation Strategy for Parents and shape future commissioning strategy | Ensure local parents have a voice in the planning process through the local parent forum and locality planning processes | Parenting NI Outcomes Group | Parents are involved in the planning process | All Outcomes | Ongoing |