

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COOPERATION BILL

New Bill consists of 6 clauses	Children's Services Planning Guidance July 1998
<p>Clause 1: Duty to co-operate to further six high level outcomes for children</p> <p>Clause 1 creates a new two-fold duty on the Northern Ireland departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to work towards the achievement of 6 specified outcomes relating to the wellbeing of children and young people and, • to co-operate with one another in order to further the achievement of those objectives. <p>The objectives are consistent with those listed in the Children's Strategy and clause 1(4) allows the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM) to modify the objectives by means of subordinate legislation which would have to be approved by the Assembly.</p>	<p>Duty to cooperate for departments does not currently exist</p>
<p>Clause 2: Report on co-operation</p> <p>Clause 2 requires OFMdFM to publish periodically a report on the progress of the departments towards achieving the specified outcomes; the extent to which they have co-operated with one another as required under clause 1; any efficiency achieved through co-operation and any opportunities identified for further co-operation.</p> <p>The other departments are required to co-operate with OFMdFM in preparing the report and OFMdFM must lay a copy of the report before the Assembly as soon as is practicable after publication.</p>	<p>Requirement to report does not currently exist.</p>
<p>Clause 3: Sharing resources and pooling funds</p> <p>Clause 3 is an enabling power which will permit Northern Ireland departments to establish pooled budgets and share resources to achieve the six outcomes outlined in clause 1.</p>	<p>No current power exists.</p> <p>Nothing in legislation only recommendation in guidance rather than legal requirement. "facilitate joint commissioning by agencies when this is seen as appropriate to meet the needs of children" (in purpose of plans section)</p>

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<p>Clause 4: Children's services planning</p> <p>Clause 4 proposes to amend the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 substituting the existing paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 with a more detailed provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly inserted paragraph 2A(1) replaces the current duty on the Regional Health and Social Care Board ("the Regional Board") to review and publish a children's plan with the requirement to review and publish a children and young people's plan. • 2A(2) requires that the plan set out how the relevant public bodies will cooperate with one another in planning, commissioning and delivering children's services, what actions will be taken on a shared basis and a requirement to set targets to assess the effectiveness of co-operation. This sub-paragraph also links the plan to the specified outcomes. • 2A(3) sets out that the plan will be reviewed or modified at least every three years. • Sub-paragraphs (4)–(6) require the Regional Board to consult the relevant public bodies on the plan. • Sub-paragraph (7) provides a list of organisations currently represented on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership who, for the purposes of this Bill, are to be regarded as relevant public bodies. • Sub-paragraph (8) establishes a duty on the relevant public bodies to co-operate to prepare, review, implement and report on the children and young people's plan. • Sub-paragraphs (9) and (10) require the Regional Board to monitor the implementation of the plan and provide 	<p>HSCB has responsibility to review the services provided within its area and having regard to that review and the most recent reviews under Article 20, prepare and publish and produce a plan for the provision of services under part 4</p> <p>HSCB is required to consult</p> <p>In carrying out any review and in preparing any plan or modification to a plan HSCB shall consult every Health and Social Services Trust the whole or any part of who's area lies within the Board's area, every E&LB the whole or any part of whose area lies within the Board's area, every district council the whole or any part of whose district lies within the Board's area, such voluntary organisations as appear to the Board, the NIHE, Chief Constable, PBNI, such other persons as appear to the Board to be appropriate, such other persons as the Department may direct.</p> <p>No current duty exists</p> <p>HSCB is currently required to monitor the CSP</p>
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<p>information on its implementation when requested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sub-paragraphs (13) and (14) require the Regional Board to prepare a report on the implementation of the plan and how the plan and co-operation can be improved.	<p>No current specific requirement to report on cooperation</p>
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