

Delivering Social Change

Tackling poverty and social exclusion



Northern Ireland
Executive

www.northernireland.gov.uk

DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE

MAY 2016

Consultation on the draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21

A consultation on the draft Programme for Government (PfG) Framework 2016-21 was launched on Friday 27 May.

The PfG Consultation document is available to view on the NI Executive website at:

tinyurl.com/pfgni

We would welcome any views or comments that you would like to make on the draft PfG Framework document. You can respond by using the link to the questionnaire on the website.

Please note that the closing date for receipt of responses to the consultation is 5.00pm on Friday 22 July 2016.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Social Investment Fund – Delivery of Projects

The Social Investment Fund (SIF) is continuing to roll out across disadvantaged communities with projects worth around £70million now committed.

30 projects worth almost £44million have commenced and 13 projects worth £25million are ready for use in local communities. This includes the Bryson Street Surgery project in Belfast East which has just completed construction of new premises on the Newtownards Road. The pictures below show the vast improvement this has made by transforming derelict premises on the front of the road to a new GP surgery, providing services to the local community and making a vast improvement on the appearance of the area.



Premises before.....

.....and after

Two more projects, Best of the East Visitors Centre in the Belfast East zone and Cloona House in the South Eastern zone are also due to complete construction works over the next six weeks with three more projects to follow in the summer. The substantial capital investment being injected into local communities through the Social Investment Fund is now becoming visible with a steady stream of projects commencing and completing construction works this year.

In addition to the very visible capital projects underway, there are also ten revenue projects which are operational and providing valuable opportunities to people who need them most. These projects focus primarily on employment/training, early intervention and education - key

issues which have been identified by communities themselves and which are key drivers to realising future potential.

SIF Employment Support

SIF is currently investing £18.5million in employment focused projects and is currently supporting over 500 people through training and paid work placements, with 33 people having already secured full time jobs.

Whilst the projects are still ongoing and will continue over the next few years, participants are already beginning to see the very real benefit of these interventions. One participant, unemployed for over 26 years, secured a full time job with her host employer 8 months into the programme. She stated: *“The programme has helped me get back into employment after 26 years. I would never have had the confidence to look for work, go for interviews or do up a CV without the support from the programme. I received excellent support and advice on a weekly basis and it has given me a new outlook on life. I have not only gained employability skills but built friendships and a social life all thanks to the programme.”*

Those that are continuing to progress through the programme are also demonstrating early success with one participant recently awarded employee of the month in her host placement.



The host employer commented: *“Since starting, the employee’s confidence has grown immensely and she always has a smile on their face. A secret shopper recently visited the store and the programme participant was the member of staff who assisted them and scored 100%. This was such an achievement for her and it helped her*

gain more belief in herself and her abilities.” Her managers frequently comment on what an asset she is to the organisation and she has completed training in Emergency First Aid, attended personal development and customer service workshops as well as team building sessions, and is set to begin an NVQ in Retail through the programme.

SIF Early Intervention Support

SIF is investing £5.7million in supporting children and their families to maximise their future potential through early intervention practices. Through this, it is currently engaging almost

1,200 children and families in disadvantaged areas and supporting them at key times in their lives when they need help most.

There are many examples of families who have already benefitted through their participation in the projects, which include support to children and their families in schools and the local community to support their physical, intellectual, social and emotional development.

One parent, who regularly received phone calls from the school about her child's attendance and behaviour, was delighted to confirm that his behaviour had really improved since their involvement in the SIF project and he had recently received pupil of the month. This child had previously been removed from a day care centre due to poor behaviour.

SIF Education Support

Another project, focused on education, is operational with another two expected to commence over the coming months. This equates to over £5.5million of investment in educational support to improve the life chances of those who need it. 321 children and families are already engaged and support from the types of projects being rolled out includes dedicated Maths and English support at key stages 2 and 3, literacy support for primary school children and family support to better integrate schools and communities.

It is anticipated that all remaining projects will be approved over the coming months. Whilst there will be ongoing monitoring and evaluation of all projects throughout their delivery, it is clear that those involved in projects to date feel the support being offered is having a positive impact on their lives. The SIF team will be working with lead partners and delivery organisations to build on this as delivery rolls out further.

For more information on SIF go to <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/social-investment-fund>

Development of the next Children and Young People Strategy

In May, NICCY hosted workshops over two days with over 80 stakeholders from a range of organisations. These workshops were used to explore and discuss the key issues within each of the eight core outcome areas (health, play, education etc) as defined by the Children's Services Co-operation Act. The sessions were also used as an opportunity to discuss the impact of the Act and how co-operation could be promoted within the strategy to deliver better outcomes.

To continue to ensure the voice of the child is at the heart of the strategy a questionnaire, which has been designed primarily for children and young people, was issued to all key stakeholders. The questionnaire asks questions about the issues young people face and stakeholders have been sharing it with children and young people and encouraging them to complete. This provides them with an opportunity to contribute to the development of the new Strategy for Children and Young People. We want to know what they think needs to be included in the Strategy, the issues they think are the most important and how we can begin to tackle these issues. This will help us see how the views of young people vary depending on gender, age or location.

The survey runs until 17 June 2016. To make sure your voice is heard, please take the time to complete this survey which is available at:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CYP_Strategy_Survey.

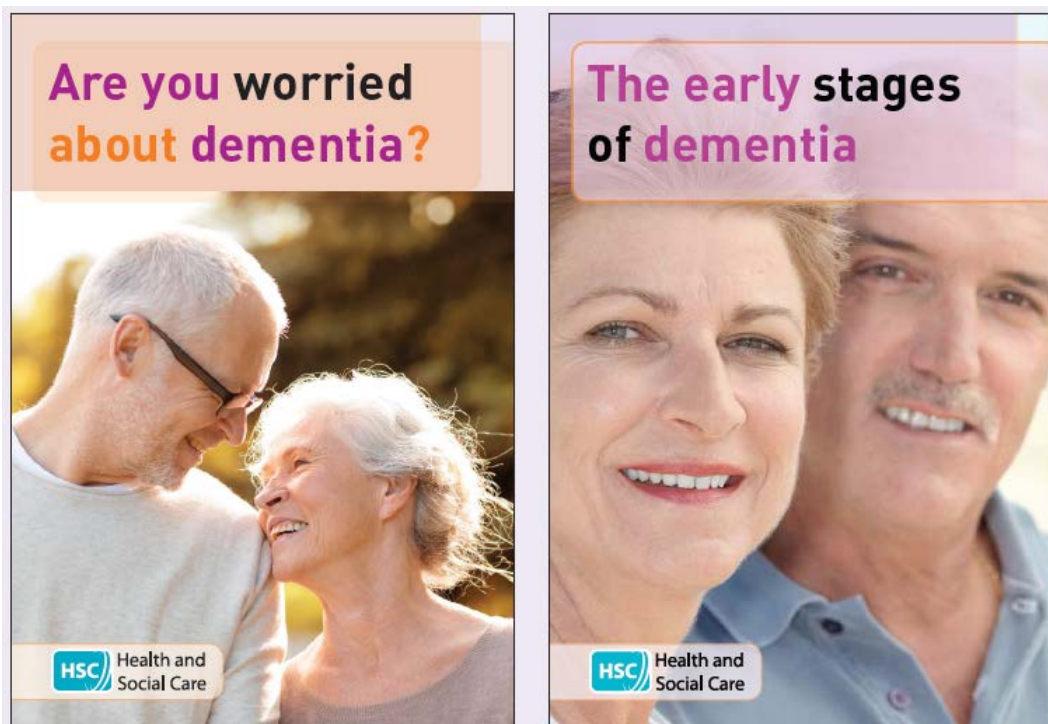
We have commissioned Parenting NI to host focus groups and run an on-line survey to ensure parents have the opportunity to participate in the development of the Children and Young People Strategy. This report will be completed by the end of June.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to date. Do not miss out on your opportunity to shape the next Children and Young People Strategy. We welcome your contribution and urge anyone who is interested in this work area to get in touch with the **Children and Young People Strategy Team** by emailing **CYP@education-ni.gov.uk** or telephoning **Alastair Carroll** on **02891 858026**.

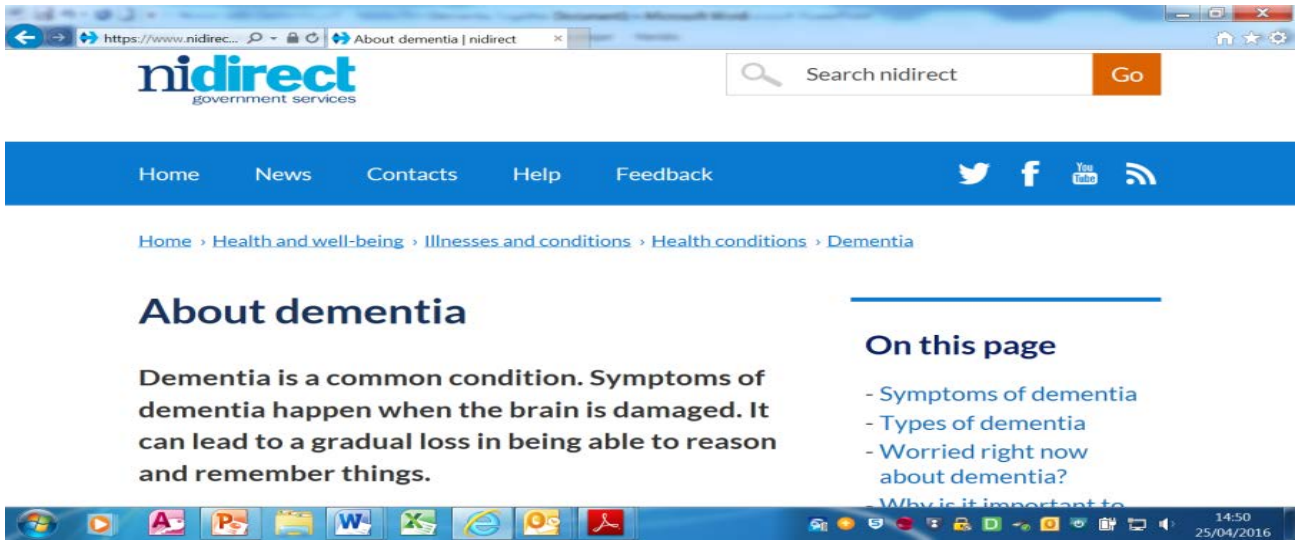
Dementia Signature Programme - Spotlight on Raising Awareness and Information Resources Development

This quarter sees the launch of two booklets aimed at those who may be worried about dementia or have just been diagnosed. These were developed in conjunction with those affected by the condition and focused on asking them the type of information they needed. These booklets are the first of four, with each covering a different stage of dementia.

This staging is designed to allow people to access timely information about the condition when it is appropriate, without overwhelming them. These booklets will be supplemented by information leaflets to support 'hard to reach' groups as well as the development of online resources. This is a great step forward for the project and will hopefully see more people seek a diagnosis of dementia and realise the wide variety of help and support available out there.



We have also developed a wide range of online information in conjunction with those affected by a dementia. These are being developed all the time and we will soon have video content to go alongside our written information. This can be accessed at: www.nidirect.gov.uk/dementia



Further information about the Delivering Social Change/Atlantic Philanthropies funded Dementia Signature Programme can be found at: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/social-change/delivering-social-change-signature-programmes#toc-2>

NICS Restructuring- Update

The changes to functions of the new **Executive Office** came into effect from Monday 9 May.

The new department assumes most of the roles and responsibilities of the former OFMDFM.

Some of the functions of OFMDFM have transferred to other departments, including Finance, Education, Communities and Justice.

The changes are all part of the '**Fresh Start**' **agreement** which involves restructuring the Northern Ireland government departments and reducing them in number from twelve to nine.

An overview of all departmental changes, including their functions, is available at [nidirect](#)



Have you missed previous newsletters?

Previous editions of the Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Update are available at:

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/delivering-social-change-stakeholder-updates-2015-16>

We would love to hear what you think about the Delivering Social Change Updates. You can contact us by.....

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