

Delivering Social Change

Tackling poverty and social exclusion

SEPTEMBER 2016

PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2016-21

The eight week public consultation on the draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 ended on 22 July after which work commenced to consider all of the responses.

Just over 800 valid responses were received and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed.

Analysis of the responses is now complete and the emerging picture is overwhelmingly positive with strong support for the outcomes-based approach as well as for the proposed outcomes and indicators.

A Consultation Report has been published on the Northern Ireland Executive website.

The report, along with further information, is available from:

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/publications/draft-programme-government-framework-2016-21-0>

We are now entering into a new phase in the development of the Programme for Government, moving from a Framework to producing the first draft of the Programme itself and a further public consultation period.

Further information on this work will be provided in future Delivering Social Change updates.

TOGETHER BUILDING A UNITED COMMUNITY - JUNIOR MINISTERS VISIT SUMMER CAMPS



Junior Ministers Megan Fearon and Alastair Ross took the opportunity in August to visit Summer Camps in action!

They met young people from Monkstown Boxing Club and EA Youth Service Larne. Junior Minister Ross also had the opportunity to meet with the young people from

Peaceplayers T:BUC Summer Camp.

Junior Minister Fearon commented: “Young people participating in this initiative demonstrates the appetite of our young people to take an active role in shaping a society we can be proud of. Young people from the EA Youth Service Larne and Monkstown Boxing Club and indeed all the summer camps can be positive catalysts for change and help unite our community like never before.”

Junior Minister Ross said: “Through the experience they have met others from different communities and backgrounds they may not have had the opportunity to meet in their everyday lives. It is only by bringing young people together, at events such as these camps, that we can create a shared society based on good relations and reconciliation. Through understanding and mutual respect, our young people can make a real difference.”



For more photos on Junior
Ministers' visits please visit our
Facebook page
www.facebook.com

RACIAL EQUALITY SUBGROUP ESTABLISHED

A key milestone of the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-25 was reached on the 14 September when the Racial Equality Subgroup held its inaugural meeting in Parliament Buildings. The First Minister, deputy First Minister and both Junior Ministers attended the event to thank members for taking part and to wish the Subgroup well for its future endeavours.



Ministers at the inaugural meeting of the Racial Equality Subgroup

The intention is that the Subgroup should function as a strong voice within government on issues specifically affecting minority ethnic people, migrants and race relations. Membership is made up of key stakeholders from the sector and representatives of the largest minority ethnic groups here determined by census figures.

The Racial Equality Unit will act as secretariat to the Racial Equality Subgroup.

If you want to learn more about the work of the Subgroup, please contact the Racial Equality Unit on 028 9052 8560.

DEMENTIA SIGNATURE PROGRAMME

Launch of the **Still Me** Public Information Campaign **#stillme**

The **Dementia Together NI Public Information Campaign** was launched on 20 September at Parliament Buildings by the Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, Junior Minister, Alastair Ross and Health Minister, Michelle O'Neill. An event was also held for guests in Belfast City Hall where an enthusiastic audience heard from speakers involved in the development of the campaign and from people with a dementia.



The Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, Junior Minister, Alastair Ross and Health Minister, Michelle O'Neill with two of the stars of the television adverts Robert Wade and Liz Cunningham (centre) and Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive of the Public Health Agency (left) at the launch of the Dementia Public Information Campaign

The campaign aims to reduce stigma and fear regarding the condition and to raise awareness of the signs of dementia. It is entitled 'Still Me' and encourages the public to look beyond the dementia and see the person rather than the condition. It also promotes the idea of 'dealing with dementia together' in order to reduce people's experience of isolation and loneliness. The campaign aims to challenge thinking and show that life can still be good with dementia.

It features local people living with a dementia and was developed in conjunction with the Public Health Agency, Health and Social Care Board and partner organisations - the Alzheimer's Society, Dementia NI and Age NI.



The first phase of the campaign runs from 21 September until the end of October 2016 and is comprised of three television adverts, each starring a person with dementia, along with a wider campaign both online and via various other media outlets.

Online information supporting the campaign can be found at

www.nidirect.gov.uk/dementia

For further information please contact Martin McCrory at martin.mccrory@hscni.net

Mary Shaw, one of the stars of the television advertisements (left) and Lorna Conn, Project Manager, Dementia Together NI (right)

DEMENTIA SIGNATURE PROGRAMME

Launch of the Dementia Learning and Development Framework

The Long Gallery in Stormont was the venue for the launch of the **Dementia Learning and Development Framework** by the Health Minister, Michelle O'Neill on 14 September.

Lorna Conn, Project Manager for Dementia Together NI welcomed everyone to the event. Eleanor Ross MBE, Nurse Consultant in the Public Health Agency, Co-chair of the NI Dementia Strategy/Dementia Together NI Project delivered the opening address and was followed by a very powerful video presentation by key stakeholders involved in the development of the Framework including Anne Scott, a person with dementia and Philip Cunningham, a carer for his wife who has dementia.

Over 100 people were in attendance to hear Seamus McErlean of the Health and Social Care Board, Co-chair of the NI Dementia Strategy/Dementia Together NI Project, interview Liz Cunningham regarding her personal experience of receiving her diagnosis of dementia and her contact with Health and Social Care staff throughout her journey.

Speaking at the launch, Minister for Health Michelle O'Neill said she hoped: "the Framework would provide an assurance to the public that staff caring for those living with dementia have the right knowledge and skills to do their job well, to challenge the stigma that exists around dementia, and to improve communication skills with people with dementia."



Health Minister Michelle O'Neill (centre) pictured with members of the Steering Group of Dementia Together NI and the Framework Stakeholder Group

The key message from the launch was that the Framework should allow staff, employers, educators and regulators to examine training needs, establish baseline requirements and plan course provision. Ultimately this will ensure that people with dementia and their carers receive safe care and treatment from staff who are suitably qualified, competent and well-motivated to undertake their roles.

Lorna Conn, Project Manager closed the event by reiterating the call to action made by Eleanor Ross, Liz Cunningham, and Minister Michelle O'Neill for organisations to adopt the Dementia Learning and Development Framework. She urged those present to begin a process of implementation of the Framework and its content which would ultimately drive up the standards in the training expected and provided for all Health and Social Care staff with regard to dementia.



Health Minister Michelle O'Neill (centre) pictured with representatives from the Department of Health, The Executive Office, The Atlantic Philanthropies, Health and Social Care Board, Public Health Agency and Dementia NI

The Learning and Development Framework is accessible via the Health and Social Care Board's website - <http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/our-work/social-care-and-children/dementia/learning-development-framework/>

Hard copies are also available by contacting Thelma Swann thelma.swann@hscni.net or telephone 028 9536 2980

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Officials from The Executive Office represented the NI Executive in the UK delegation which visited Geneva from 4 to 5 August to give evidence to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The UK is one of 177 States that have ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and is therefore reviewed regularly by the Committee of 18 international independent experts.

The majority of the visit was spent in Palais Wilson, the headquarters of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, situated on the banks of Lake Geneva. Palais Wilson is named after US President Woodrow Wilson and originally served as the headquarters of the League of Nations.

The first day was taken up by opening statements from the UK delegation, followed by observations and questions from Committee members. Some of the specific issues raised in relation to Northern Ireland were the consistency of our equality legislation with that in GB, the relationship between sectarianism and racism, and progress on a Bill of Rights.

Following the evidence session the CERD Committee had several weeks to consider and produce a series of concluding observations on the UK. These observations were published on 26 August and include recognition of some of the positive steps that have been taken in Northern Ireland including the publication of the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025 and the Executive's participation in the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme. The Committee also made a number of recommendations for consideration by the Executive. The full concluding observations are available at:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/GBR/CERD_C_GBR_CO_21-23_24985_E.pdf.

Overall, Northern Ireland's involvement in the delegation was welcomed and it was a useful opportunity to meet and work together with officials from other areas of the UK who work on racial equality issues.

For further information please contact Ken Fraser via ken.fraser@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

LAUNCH OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST EVALUATION REPORT ON PRIMARY SCHOOL NURTURE UNITS

One of the six initial Delivering Social Change (DSC) Signature Programmes announced in October 2012, this programme saw the development of an additional twenty new Nurture Units within local Primary Schools at a cost of some £3million, with ten Nurture Units already operating.

Nurture Units are facilities specifically developed within schools to support children with particular social, emotional and behavioural issues, who are having difficulty in coping in mainstream classes, who fail to engage in the learning process and who may otherwise be at risk of underachievement, leading to the need for more intensive support.

On 22 September, Queen's University's Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation formally launched its Evaluation Report on the impact and cost effectiveness of Nurture Units in Northern Ireland.

The Evaluation Report, commissioned by the Department of Education, found clear evidence that Nurture Group Provision in Northern Ireland is *"highly successful in its primary aim of achieving improvements in the social, emotional and behavioural skills of children from deprived areas exhibiting significant difficulties."*

The launch event heard from representatives from some of the schools who had developed Nurture Units and of the positive benefits they had brought to pupils, parents and teachers. This positivity was very much mirrored by teachers representing the other Nurture Unit schools, who were also represented at the launch.

The impact of the DSC Nurture Units Signature Programme was positively reflected upon and viewed as a most beneficial intervention. Since the DSC funding for the Units ended, the Department of Education has continued to fund the existing 30 Units and a further two Units have also been approved.

In delivering the closing speech at the event the Education Minister, Peter Weir, praised the outstanding work being undertaken within the Units, some of which he had seen at first hand,

and advised that he had instructed officials to consider how nurture provision can in some way be mainstreamed and expanded if possible to more Primary Schools.

Minister Weir also committed to the ongoing funding of the existing 32 Nurture Units until such time as the mainstream proposals have been finalised.

For further information on the DSC Signature Programmes please contact the DSC team by emailing DSCteam@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Further details about the DSC Signature Programmes are also available on The Executive Office website <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/equality-and-good-relations/delivering-social-change-signature-programmes>

SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND – FUNDING NOW COMMITTED TO ALL PROJECTS

All £80 million allocated from the Executive's Delivering Social Change fund to the Social Investment Fund (SIF) has now been committed to projects to improve the quality of life of people living in targeted areas of need.

SIF was set up to deliver social change in areas of need and has a focus on supporting communities to address issues associated with poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. Significant work has been undertaken over the last few years in conjunction with local Steering Groups to transform the aspirations of local communities into targeted interventions aimed at addressing priority needs. Indeed the volume of projects being committed and commencing delivery has increased at pace over the last year and a number of capital projects have already completed construction and are delivering vital services in the local communities.

In parallel, approvals for the remaining projects prioritised by local Steering Groups have been secured and funding committed. This is a key milestone for SIF, with the programme now entering full delivery mode and work focusing on expediting projects through the delivery process to maximise the impact in local communities.

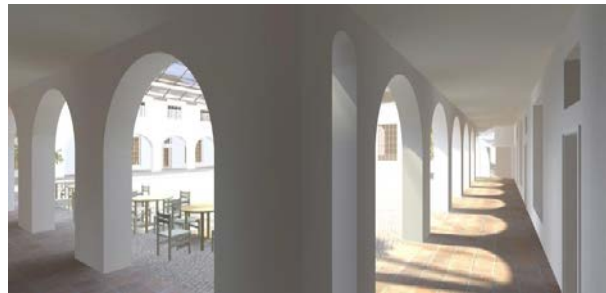
Two of the final projects to recently receive approval are the restoration of the St Comgall's building to provide a community hub on the Falls Road/Divis Street area of West Belfast, and the regeneration of the Lanyon Tunnels project in the Markets area of South Belfast. These are large scale projects with combined costs of around £9.5 million. SIF is contributing £5.8million with Belfast City Council engaged as a co-funder and lead partner organisation.

These are challenging and innovative projects which will really transform the areas and provide real benefits to local people. They will be viewed as signature projects in each of these zones, with tremendous community endorsement and it is fitting that such high profile projects complete the approvals process and launch the full delivery stage of SIF. The photographs below give an indication of what each is expected to look like on completion.

LANYON



ST COMGALL'S



For more information please contact Orla McStravick orla.mcstravick@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk or telephone 028 9052 8244.

SHARED EDUCATION SIGNATURE PROGRAMME

Further opportunity to access £25million fund for Shared Education

Schools are being encouraged to access the £25million fund for the Delivering Social Change Shared Education Signature Programme.

The Programme has been extended to June 2019 for existing partnerships wishing to increase their level of activity or to include additional partner(s) as well as new partnerships of schools.

Shared Education is now well established across Northern Ireland with around 134 partnerships involving 314 schools having successfully applied for funding and being actively engaged in the Programme.



Education Minister, Peter Weir, recently visited Belfast Royal Academy and met with Joe McGann from St Malachy's College and Lucia McCarry from Belfast Royal Academy during their shared Home Economics lesson

This additional opportunity for funding will help to further embed the good practice and learning which is already established to deliver improved outcomes for our children, young people and wider society.

The Shared Education Signature Programme is funded by the Executive, The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Department of Education and requires schools to progress their current level of collaboration.

Further details about the project and applications forms can be accessed on the Shared Education Signature Programme website <http://www.sepni.org/site/>

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY

Since the last update in August 2016, the draft Children and Young People's Strategy document has been prepared and shared with Government Departments as part of a pre-consultation quality assurance process. The Children and Young People's Strategy Team will be seeking endorsement of the draft Strategy by the Strategy Project Board before it is issued to the Education Minister and the Executive for consideration in advance of public consultation.

In the interim, the Children and Young People's Strategy Team continues to prepare for the public consultation. The consultation will be widely publicised and a range of consultation events held to encourage wide ranging stakeholder participation and feedback, and a comprehensive Engagement Plan is being developed to set out how the team plans to engage with specific stakeholders during the consultation process.

The team is also working with service providers to develop easy read and children's versions of the draft Strategy document to ensure that it can be accessed by a broad range of stakeholders who will have the opportunity to tell the Department what they think.

For more information about the development of the next Strategy, please contact the Children and Young People's Strategy Team directly by emailing cyps@education-ni.gov.uk or telephoning Alastair Carroll on 028 9185 8026.



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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