

## **Update on the Development of the next Children and Young People's Strategy – October 2016**

Since the last update in September 2016, the draft Children and Young People's Strategy document has been refined in light of feedback received from NI Departments and other key stakeholders as part of the pre-consultation quality assurance process.

The draft Children and Young People's Strategy, like the Programme for Government (PfG), is being developed using an outcomes based approach. It is focused on achieving tangible outcomes for children and young people, and sets out a framework around which to achieve them.

### **What happens next?**

The draft Strategy will soon be issued to the Education Minister for consideration, in advance of being issued to the Executive. The Executive will then be asked to consider approving the draft Strategy for public consultation.

### **Consultation process**

The Children's and Young People's Strategy Team continues to prepare for the public consultation. As indicated in our update last month 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 continues to engage with statutory organisations and sectoral groups to inform the development of the Engagement Plan.

## **When will the Strategy be laid before the Assembly?**

The extensive pre-engagement that has been undertaken to develop the Children and Young People's Strategy to date means that public consultation on the Strategy is not likely to commence until November and will continue into the New Year.

This means that it will not be possible for the final Children and Young People's Strategy to be laid before the Assembly within one year of the Children's Services Co-operation Act receiving Royal Assent, i.e. December 2016. Instead, it is anticipated that the Strategy will be laid before the Assembly in early 2017. Whilst it would be preferable to lay the Strategy before the Assembly within the timeframe set out in the Act, the co-design process and intensive engagement during the consultation period will help to ensure that the final Strategy is right for children and young people.

For more information about the development of the next Strategy, please contact the Children's and Young People's Strategy Team directly by emailing [cyps@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:cyps@education-ni.gov.uk) or telephoning Andrea Kelly on (028) 9185 8024.