



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Paper

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**Northern Ireland Assembly Research & Information Service (RiSe) Team**

# Poverty and Social Deprivation

## Mapping Executive and Departmental Strategies, Policies and Programmes in Northern Ireland

This paper was commissioned by the Committee for Social Development to identify Executive and Departmental strategies, policies and programmes that are of relevance to the issues of poverty and deprivation; it also provides information on their associated working groups. This mapping exercise is the first stage of the Committee's potential investigation into the extent and nature of cross-departmental co-operation between the Department for Social Development and other Departments in relation to poverty and social deprivation. The exercise has identified over 90 strategies that are of high relevance to tackling the issues of poverty and social deprivation.

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# OFMDFM

## Programme for Government 2011-15

### PRIORITIES

- **Priority 2 Tackling disadvantage.**  
This priority seeks to address the challenges of disadvantage and inequality that afflict society and to address the relatively poor health and shorter life expectancy of our population; its purpose is to stimulate interventions that break the cycle of deprivation, educational under-achievement, and to address health inequalities and poor health and wellbeing as well as economic disengagement.

### KEY COMMITMENTS

- **Deliver a range of measures to tackle poverty and social exclusion through the Delivering Social Change delivery framework.** (By coordinating actions between Departments, this framework aims to achieve a sustained long term reduction in poverty & an improvement in children & young people's health, wellbeing & life opportunities. The framework will include key actions to develop an integrated policy framework to tackle multiple generational poverty, a new Victims & Survivors Service, a review of Historical Institutional Abuse & actions to ensure compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; measures to promote the rights of people from an ethnic minority background.)
- **Use the Social Protection Fund to help individuals and families facing hardship due to the current economic downturn**
- **Fulfil our commitments under the Child Poverty Act to reduce child poverty**
- **Extend age discrimination legislation to the provision of goods, facilities and services**
- **Establish an advisory group to assist Ministers in alleviating hardship including any implications of the UK Government's Welfare Reform Programme**

## OFMDFM Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (2011)

#### Objectives

To support communities to:

- build pathways to employment
- tackle the systemic issues linked to deprivation
- increase community services
- address dereliction

#### Actions

- Provide £40 million to address dereliction and promote investment in the physical regeneration of deprived areas
- Invest £40 million to improve pathways to employment, tackle systemic issues to deprivation and increase community services.

### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Each of the plans for the 9 Zones are being developed and managed by a steering group. Steering groups have statutory agency, political, voluntary and business representatives and have a maximum of 14 members. The nine steering groups will be overseen by:

- **A Learning and Advisory Forum.** This is to include a nominee from each of the 9 Steering groups, key officials from relevant government departments and the chair of the Funders Group. It is to meet quarterly.
- **A Funders Reference Group.** This group will be established in discussion with other departments, and will comprise all relevant funders. It will meet quarterly.

These groups will be overseen by the OFMDFM core team, which reports to **OFMDFM Ministers**. (see page 9 of the Consultation document for the proposed management structure)

## STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

### SOCIAL PROTECTION FUND (2011)

The Executive states that it remains committed to tackling the problem of disadvantage within Northern Ireland. This disadvantage is most acute in those interface communities where the problems are many and complex. To address these problems the Executive has proposed the establishment of a fund of £20 million per annum which will be administered by OFMDFM.

#### Actions

None as yet



## CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

DSD and DHSSPS involved so far

## STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

### ANTI-POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION STRATEGY (2006)

*("Lifetime Opportunities")*

#### Objectives

- Eliminating Poverty
- Eliminating Social Exclusion
- Tackling Area Based Deprivation
- Eliminating Poverty from Rural Areas
- Shared Future - Shared Challenges
- Tackling Inequality in the Labour market
- Tackling Health Inequalities
- Tackling Cycles of deprivation

#### Actions

##### Early Years:

- End child poverty by 2020 based on the estimate of approx. 130,000 children in NI in relative income poverty in 1998/99, this means lifting 65,000 children out of poverty by 2010 on the way to eradication by 2020.
- By 2020, to develop and implement a curriculum from pre-school to age 6, which is broad and balanced, which provides progression and which introduces children to more formal learning.
- By 2025, 70% of all infants will be breast-fed at one week after birth (50% by 2010).
- Every young child will experience and reap the benefits offered by good quality play provision.
- By 2020, every parent in NI will have access to a range of information and services to enable their children to reach their potential and have the opportunity to lead useful and satisfying lives by becoming active contributors to their community through participating social, educationally and economically.
- By 2020, ensure that every child lives in a decent and safe home which is warm.
- Provide opportunities for young children in rural areas to benefit from projects and schemes such as accessible rural transport, day care provision, crèches and initiatives that also support their parents as well as seeking to improve their overall quality



## CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

### **Inter-departmental Equality and Social Need Steering Group.**

This is chaired by a senior official in OFMDFM. It is the principal mechanism for co-ordinating, monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Strategy across departments and Agencies. Members of this group also represent their department on the Ministerial-led Poverty Forum.

### **Ministerial-led Poverty Forum.**

Includes relevant stakeholder groups including local politicians, employers, representatives, trade unions, the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, social economy and individuals experiencing social exclusion.

of life.

- By 2020, government will support every Local Authority to identify and address gaps in provision of services for Early Years children in rural areas.

**There are sets of actions for the other age groups**

## STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

### CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY (2011)

*"Improving Children's Life Chances"*

#### Objectives

Overarching aim:

To provide the opportunity for all our children and young people to thrive and to address the causes and consequences of disadvantage.

Key Strategic Priorities:

1. Ensure, that as far as possible, that poverty and disadvantage in childhood does not translate into poorer outcomes for children as they move into adulthood
2. Support more parents to be in work that pays or pays better
3. Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive
4. Target financial support to be responsive to family situations

#### Actions

Key Strategic Priority 1

- Provide all children & young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential
- Support disadvantaged families to promote the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of their children so that they flourish at home and when they get to school
- Target young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) to support them to re-engage
- Create training and employment opportunities for young people
- Support the delivery of an accessible, flexible and quality childcare sector, so that it is effective in reducing barriers to employment, particularly those experienced by disadvantaged groups, and supports child development and well-being
- Improve health outcomes and target those groups who are particularly at risk or vulnerable in order to tackle health inequalities of children and young people
- Strengthen and improve prevention and early intervention for all children and their families, particularly in the first three years of life to maximise future outcomes in health and wellbeing
- Help support those families that experiencing food poverty so that they can acquire the food and nutrition required for good health
- Provide family support and intervention services to children in vulnerable families
- Improve school readiness and increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.
- Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to services for children and young people.

**There are actions for each of the other key strategic priorities**

## CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

(Page 17 of the strategy shows the governance and delivery framework).

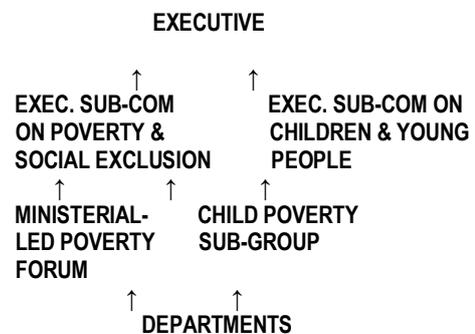
Reporting to the **Executive** are 2 groups:

- **Executive Sub-Committee on Poverty & Social Exclusion**
- **Executive Sub-Committee on Children & Young People**

**-The Child Poverty Sub-group** reports to both of these groups

**-The Ministerial-led Poverty Forum** reports to the Executive Sub-Committee on Poverty & Social Exclusion. (The Forum includes relevant stakeholder groups including local politicians, employers, representatives, trade unions, the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, social economy and individuals experiencing social exclusion).

**Individual departments** report to both of these groups



STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

**10 YEAR STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (2006)**  
"Our Children and Young People-Our Pledge"

**Objectives**

Vision: Our vision is that all children and young people living in Northern Ireland will thrive and look forward with confidence to the future.

Outcomes framework: We will know that we have achieved our shared vision for our children and young people if, after ten years we can report progress and evidence exists, which indicated that our children and young people are:

- Healthy
- Enjoying, learning and achieving
- Living in safety and with stability
- Experiencing economic and environmental well-being
- Contributing positively to community and society, and
- Living in a society which respects their rights

**Actions**

See: *Action Plan 2008-2011* – has a wide range of actions to achieve the elements in the outcomes framework.

CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Strategy states that the **Minister for Children & Young People** will have a key role in driving forward the strategy with the assistance of the **Ministerial Sub-Committee for Children & Young People**. The Minister will chair a **Strategy Planning and Review Group (SPRG)**. Membership includes senior representatives of statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. **Departments**, including the NIO and NI Court service also represented on the group.

STRATEGY/POLIC/PROGRAMME

**CHILDCARE STRATEGY**

A new strategy is **in preparation** – to be launched summer 2012

CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

**Childcare Strategy Group (CSG)**  
Chaired by a senior OFMDFM official, the CSG comprises senior officials from key departments, and OFMDFM Special Advisers. The work of the CSG will take account of the views of stakeholders, as well as other relevant information and research, and will put proposals on the development of the Childcare Strategy to Ministers, the Assembly and the Executive.

STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

**PLAY AND LEISURE PLAN (2011)**

**Objectives**

The implementation plan outlines how the Executive will deliver on its Play and Leisure policy vision, which is:

*"to recognise, respect and resource play is to recognise, respect and value childhood"*.

**Actions**

- raising public awareness about the benefits of play and leisure for children and young people;
- improving the quality of, and enhancing access to existing play and leisure services;
- supporting the development of new innovations in play and leisure;
- utilising public spaces for play and leisure;
- reflective professional practice and workforce development.

CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Multi-agency group – OFMDFM, DCAL, DEL, DOE, DHSSPS, statutory, voluntary and community and other stakeholder representatives.

STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

## **OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY (2005)**

*"Ageing in an Inclusive Society"*

### **A new strategy is in preparation:**

*"A Good Place to Grow Old".*

#### **Proposed Vision**

*Our vision is of a society in which everyone benefits from the opportunity to age well, make informed choices and participate fully in life.*

#### **Proposed Strategic Aims**

- 1: PROMOTE INDEPENDENT LIVING AND SUPPORT THE WELL-BEING OF OLDER PEOPLE.
- 2: PROMOTE THE ENGAGEMENT OF OLDER PEOPLE IN SOCIETY.
- 3: PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, HIGH QUALITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES WHICH ARE PEOPLE CENTRED AND PROMOTES POSITIVE AGEING, HEALTH AND WELL BEING.
- 4: PROMOTE SELF-FULFILMENT AMONG OLDER PEOPLE
- 5: PROMOTE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR ALL OUR OLDER CITIZENS.

**A consultation to be launched Autumn 2012**

Re- establishment of the Advisory Panel that had assisted with the development of the previous strategy "Ageing in an Inclusive Society". Chaired by the Older People's Advocate.

## **STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

### **RACIAL EQUALITY STRATEGY (2005)**

#### **Objectives**

- Elimination of Racial Inequality
- Equal Protection
- Equality of Service Provision
- Participation
- Dialogue
- Capacity Building

#### **(Examples of) Actions**

**Elimination of Racial Inequality:** (there are 4 Actions in total)

**Action 1** *In line with the need to involve the full range of external stakeholders, we will expand the membership of the Racial Equality Forum to include representatives from business and the Trades Unions.*

**Equal Protection** (there are 7 Actions in total)

**Action 1** *We will introduce a system to record and monitor details of "hate incidents" (including racist incidents). This will allow third party reporting through a range of statutory bodies and voluntary groups and should give a much better picture of incidents motivated by hatred across NI. It will provide the detailed evidence base and an early warning system to allow us to take appropriate action.*

**Equality of Service Provision:** (there are 4 Actions in total)

**Action 1** *Government will develop tailored approaches to meeting the needs of specific minority ethnic communities, and focus on those groups who still suffer particular disadvantage, rather than treating all minority ethnic groups as having the same needs. A key element of this will be appropriate ethnic monitoring of service delivery.*

## **CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The Minister Lord Rooker had overall responsibility for the strategy (published under Direct Rule), now the Executive's **Junior Ministers**. Whilst OFMDFM takes the lead in implementing the overall strategy, it guides and coordinates the work of individual departments.

**The Racial Equality Forum** drew up the action plan to implement the strategy, it also has responsibility for monitoring and reviewing progress. Membership of the Forum initially included representatives from both statutory sector and the community/voluntary sector. It was to be expanded to include representatives from the trades unions and from business.

**Participation:** (there are 2 Actions in total)

Action 1 Examine ways to increase significantly applications by people from ethnic minority backgrounds to public bodies (including the Police Service for NI) and for public appointments

**Dialogue:** (there is 1 action)

Action 1 We will actively promote local dialogue involving elected representatives, minority ethnic people, community leaders, police and other stakeholders to reduce and eliminate displays and manifestations of racial aggression, using such model as the Belfast City council good Relations panel or the South Belfast round Table on Racism.

**Capacity building:** (there are 3 actions in total)

Action 1 We want community development and good relations work on race issues to become an integrated programme of activities. In this regard there must be much closer working together of government agencies responsible for community development and good relations. Accordingly the Community Relations and Racial Equality Units in OFMDFM and the Voluntary and Community Unit in DSD will increasingly develop linked strategies.

The Racial Equality Strategy lapsed in 2010, however, there are still actions on-going pending the launch of an agreed Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy.

## STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

### GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY (2006)

*Vision A Society in which men and women are equally respected and valued as individuals in all of our multiple identities, sharing equality of opportunity, rights and responsibilities in all aspects of our lives.*

#### Objectives

- To achieve better gender disaggregated data collection, analysis and dissemination on all aspects of women's and men's lives.
- To ensure the economic security of both men and women and address the gender inequalities which lead to poverty and promote social inclusion, particularly acknowledging women's vulnerability to poverty e.g. lone parents, carers, low earners, inadequate pensions.
- To achieve equal value for paid work done by women and men and promote their equitable participation in the paid and unpaid labour force.
- To improve the health of women and men, including their reproductive health.
- To achieve a gender balance on all government appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies.
- To ensure the active and equal participation of women and men at all levels of civil society, economy, peace building and government.
- To promote and protect the rights of girls and boys by increasing awareness of their different needs and potential to have the same opportunity to live a fulfilled life and to contribute in the same way to shaping society in accordance with their own ideas.
- To eliminate gender based violence in society.
- To ensure women and men, including girls and boys shall have equal access to education and lifelong learning and opportunities to develop personal ambitions, interests and talents.

#### Actions

The KEY action areas are:

- Childcare/caring as roles for both women and men
- Health and well-being

## CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

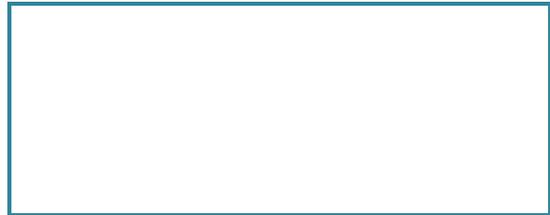
The Executive's **Junior Ministers** have responsibility for driving forward work on the strategy and its cross-departmental action plans.

The **Gender Equality Unit** of OFMDFM has a central role in working with departments to take forward the implementation of the strategy and its action plans.

**Departments and their Agencies** work in partnership with voluntary and community groups representing women and men.

A **Gender Advisory Panel** advises and assists the Gender Equality Unit to monitor the progress of the actions of departments. It also assists and advises in the five year review of the strategy. It assists government in ensuring on-going engagement with representatives of women and men, the Equality Commission for NI, the Confederation of British Industry and the NI Congress of Trade Unions on the promotion of gender equality and tackling gender inequalities.

- Representation in public life/decision making
- Education and life-long learning
- Access to employment
- Gender pay gap
- Work-life balance
- Stereotypes and prejudices linked to men and women's gender



**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION ACTION PLAN**

It is government's intention to publish a sexual orientation strategy during 2012

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Reports-11-12/06-February-2012/>



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**



**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**VICTIMS STRATEGY (2009)**

**Objectives**

- Put in place comprehensive arrangements to ensure that the voice of victims and survivors is represented and acted upon at a governmental and policy level
- Secure through the provision of an appropriate range of support service and other initiatives a measurable improvement in the wellbeing of victims and survivors
- Assist victims and survivors, where this is consistent with their wishes and wellbeing, to play a central role, as part of wider society in addressing the legacy of the past
- Assist victims and survivors to contribute to building a shared and better future.

**Actions**

**Action is required in three key areas:**

- A comprehensive needs assessment to inform the development of services (linked to the provision of long-term funding and support services for victims/survivors)
- Dealing with the 'past'
- Building for the future

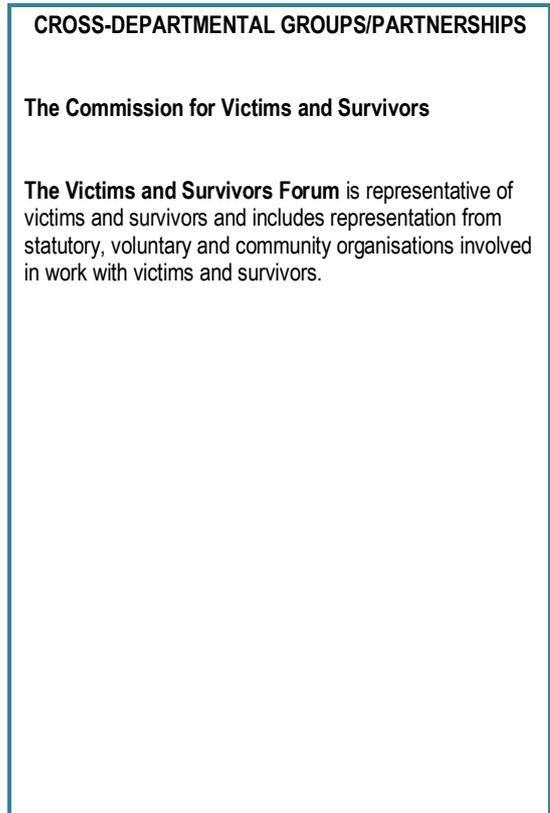
There is a high level of interrelationship between all three areas and work needs to be taken forward in a coordinated manner which recognises this inter-relationship



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**The Commission for Victims and Survivors**

**The Victims and Survivors Forum** is representative of victims and survivors and includes representation from statutory, voluntary and community organisations involved in work with victims and survivors.



**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE (2012)**

**Aim** - to deliver the following two outcomes by implementing the OGMDFM-led commitments relating to deprivation and children contained in the draft PfG

- a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues, across all ages; and
- an improvement in children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities thereby breaking the long-term cycle of multi-generational problems.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The commitments are cross-departmental in nature and, as such, OFMDFM is identified as the lead co-ordination department.

The DSC framework will be led by Ministers through the Executive Ministerial Sub-committee on Children and young People and the Sub-Committee on Poverty and social Inclusion. Both Committees will be chaired by Junior Ministers and will meet quarterly on alternate rotation. This will mean four meetings per year. Once a year, the Sub-Committee will hold a joint meeting to be chaired by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister



# Department for Social Development

## Programme for Government 2011-15

### Priority 2 (Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Wellbeing)

- Deliver 8,000 social and affordable homes.
- Introduce and support a range of initiatives aimed at reducing fuel poverty across Northern Ireland including preventative interventions.
- Improve the thermal efficiency of Housing Executive stock and ensure full double glazing in its properties; to have the Housing Executive bring forward a strategy by March 2012 to improve the thermal efficiency of their housing stock including a programme aimed at providing full double glazing by 2014/15.

### Priority 4 (Building a Strong and Shared Community)

- Deliver at least 30 Public Realm Schemes to improve landscapes in public areas to promote private sector investment in towns and cities across Northern Ireland.

### Priority 5 (Delivering High Quality and Efficient Public Services)

- By the end of 2014/15 to have implemented new structures to support the improved delivery of housing services to the citizens of NI.

## DSD Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### PEOPLE AND PLACE: A STRATEGY FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL (2003)

##### Strategic Objectives

A long term (7-10 year strategy) to tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of deprivation in an integrated way. It is a cross-governmental strategy which aims to bring together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life. Neighbourhood Renewal has four interlinking strategic objectives.

- *Community Renewal:* to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived neighbourhoods.
- *Economic Renewal:* to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy.
- *Social Renewal:* to improve social conditions to people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments.
- *Physical Renewal:* to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme includes 15 neighbourhoods in Belfast, 6 neighbourhoods in the North West and 15 neighbourhoods in towns and cities in across Northern Ireland.

##### Outcome Domains

To measure the impact of neighbourhood renewal DSD have adopted key outcome indicators for the following domains: work and worklessness; qualifications, skills and training; incomes and benefit dependency; health; educational attainment and attitudes to education, including childcare facilities; crime and safety; community involvement; and satisfaction with the area and housing.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (DSD)



Belfast Regeneration Office  
North West Development Office  
Regional Development Office



#### Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

(Partnerships in each Neighbourhood Renewal Area - includes representatives from political, statutory, voluntary community and private sector). Split into three regions – Belfast; North West and Regional Development.

How the partnerships fit in with Cross-Departmental structures requires clarification.

See [also Mid-Term Review of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy](#) for progress on outcomes for the Strategy.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME CONCORDAT

The relationship between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector plays a vital role in tackling poverty and social deprivation. The shared vision of the Concordat is for Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector to work together as social partners to build a participative, peaceful, equitable and inclusive community in Northern Ireland. It is a relationship which should value to contribution which the Voluntary and Community Sector makes to the social, economic, environmental, political and cultural life of Northern Ireland.

#### Shared Values

- *Accountability*: being answerable to all relevant stakeholders in relation to the propriety of policies, actions and use of resources.
- *Active citizenship*: participation of people in society through volunteering, community involvement and self-help initiatives.
- *Community*: people working together in localities or interest groups to strengthen and improve their lives by harnessing their experience, skills, creativity and potential.
- *Democracy*: a society that enables all its participants to participate, to share rights and responsibilities; and which incorporates an independent voluntary and community sector.
- *Equality and Good Relations*: fairness, inclusion, good relations and equality of opportunity in relation to employment and services and equality of access to resources and decision-making processes.
- *Partnership*: creative relationships between the public, private and voluntary and community sectors that broaden experience and understanding and promote the development of holistic approaches.
- *Pluralism*: upholding the rich diversity of cultures, identities and interests.
- *Social Justice*: cherishing all citizens equally, through the pursuit of fairness, tolerance and social cohesion, opposing all forms of discrimination and ensuring the participation of those who are most marginalised.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The Concordat has been agreed by all signatories including the First and Deputy First Ministers; the Ministers for ARD; CAL; Education; Employment and Learning; ETI; Environment; Finance and Personnel; HSSPS; Justice; Regional Development and Social Development. The Concordat has also been signed by a wide range of Voluntary and Community Organisations including NICVA.

Co-ordination and control arrangements for the delivery on the commitments of the Concordat framework document will be the responsibility of DSD as lead Government partner. Detailed delivery responsibility is to be determined and allocated as commitments roll out. A Joint Forum will be responsible for regularly reviewing implementation of the agreed commitment list and report progress to the NI Executive and Assembly via a yearly report.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### URBAN REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

The framework is currently at the consultation stage. It aims to set out the strategic direction of urban regeneration and community development policy over the coming years and identify clear priorities for DSD and its partners.

Four policy objectives have been developed which focus on the underlying structural problems in urban areas and helping to strengthen community development throughout NI:

1. **To tackle areas based deprivation**: e.g. supporting programmes that reduce worklessness; improving life changes of people in disadvantaged areas through partnership working with other departments; supporting programmes and projects that address the specific needs of socially excluded individuals and groups; promoting social economy interventions.
2. **Strengthen competitiveness of our towns and cities**: e.g. effective planning of town and city centres; regeneration and public realm improvements; diversification and town and city centre uses (e.g. promotion of housing in these areas); purchase of land and buildings for development in the public interest; undertaking initiatives that will bring together key stakeholders.
3. **Improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity**: e.g. strengthen connection between key investment sites and disadvantaged or segregated communities; physical regeneration of interface communities; sustainable brownfield development; strengthening networks and cross-interface schemes;



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Effective partnership between Government Departments and the Voluntary and Community sector a key element of the strategy.

The urban regeneration and community development framework is to link up with a number of other policies and strategies led by other Departments:

- Programme for Government 2011-2015.
- Economic Strategy.
- Regional Development Strategy 2035.
- Lifetime Opportunities.
- Delivering Social Change Programme.
- Sustainable Development Strategy.
- Architecture and Building Environment Policy for NI.
- Draft Rural White Paper.
- A Healthier Future: Twenty Year Vision for Health and Wellbeing in Northern Ireland.
- Strategic Framework for Education.
- Success Through Skills.
- Social Economy Enterprise Strategy.
- Child Poverty Strategy.
- Public Health Strategic Framework (Investing for Health).

working with the planning and housing authorities to strengthen the balance of urban communities (in terms of housing tenure, income, religious and social mix).

4. **Development more cohesive and engaged communities:** e.g. develop volunteering and active citizenship; develop networks, partnerships and participation within and between communities; strengthen networks and cross-interface schemes; support local asset ownership and management by communities.

See also DSD Public Realm policy and the various Town and City Centre Masterplans.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### Voluntary and Community Funding Programme: **AREAS AT RISK PILOT PROGRAMME**

Established in 2006 to identify and intervene in areas at risk of slipping into decline – i.e. ‘interface areas’ that lie outside Neighbourhood Renewal Areas; areas in economic decline. The pilot programme operated in three phases.

##### Areas at Risk Objectives

- Reduce level, frequency and impact of interface violence within the community.
- Increase levels of economic activity within the targeted areas.
- Stabilise the targeted area to the point that it is no longer considered as an area of risk.
- Increase community cohesion and capacity.
- Strengthen community infrastructure in those areas where it is weak.
- Achieve a more sustainable approach to community participation and development.

Areas at risk was a short term funding programme and extensions to funding were not given to areas that have already benefitted from the programme (AQW 12204/11-15)



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Selection process managed by a strategic partnership chaired by the Voluntary and Community Unit (DSD). Permanent members are the Development Offices (BRO; RDO; NWDO) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Other statutory bodies invited to join on an ad hoc basis when their expertise would be beneficial to the programme.

Once an area had been included in the programme a local voluntary organisation is nominated by the permanent partners to act as the lead organisation.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### Voluntary and Community Funding Programme: **COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

A collaborative initiative involving DSD and the 26 District Councils, local community and voluntary groups and local advice organisations. The programme is funded by both DSD and District Council. The aim of the programme is to “strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services”.

##### Outcomes

- *An active and organised community:* the increase in public participation on civic life; promotion of self-help and sustainability; strengthening of community organisations particularly those in disadvantaged areas.
- *An influential community:* increase ability of disadvantaged communities to articulate their interests; improve partnership working between district councils, other agencies and local communities; more effective interagency work at local level; positive change for marginalised and excluded individuals and groups within a community;
- *An informed community:* community access to effective, appropriate, approachable, timely and accurate advice and information services.
- *A sustainable community:* creation of the conditions for social and economic development and promotion, an integrated systems approach addressing social, health, environmental, economic and community relations issues.

Funding supports the provision of community centres, local advice services, resource centres; grants to community groups. Proportion of funding available varies from council to council, based on a formula using population and multiple deprivation data.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Local Councils responsible for the distribution of grant to local communities in line with priorities identified in the Community Support Plan.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### Voluntary and Community Funding Programme: [REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME](#)

Supports core costs of regional infrastructure organisations involved in playing a supporting, co-ordinating or development role in relation to voluntary and community sector organisations. Organisations receiving funding must supply clear evidence that it provides a key support service to voluntary and community organisations which is not otherwise available.

Funding areas:

- Representation and participation on behalf of their membership or sector.
- Advice and information (face-to-face mentoring, support for submitting funding applications) and signposting.
- Public policy – consultation, influencing and changing public policy.
- Support for the community development process, promotion of community empowerment, inclusion, equity, partnership and collective action.
- Encourage collaboration between community and voluntary sector organisations.
- Service delivery for membership organisations throughout NI.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Requires clarification from DSD

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### Voluntary and Community Funding Programme: [MODERNISATION FUND](#)

Supports voluntary and community organisations to modernise and become more sustainable. The capital programme is designed to encourage collaboration and resource sharing among voluntary and community organisations through the development of physical infrastructure. Particular priority is given to projects promote access to services and facilities for disadvantaged children and young people.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

DSD website states that an intermediate body administers the modernisation fund capital programme.

Further information needed on any cross-departmental co-operation.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### [VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND \(2012\)](#)

Volunteering impacts on the delivery of many Government initiatives delivered across a range of policy areas. It is particularly important in addressing poverty and social exclusion in communities experiencing deprivation. This five year strategy aims to create a strong policy context to facilitate the conditions that will enable volunteering to flourish.

#### Objectives and Priorities

- *Recognising the value and promoting the benefits:* build public recognition for volunteering; recruit more volunteers; measure the impact of volunteer involvement in volunteers, individuals, organisations and society; protect volunteering from the unintended negative effects of legislation and Government policy.
- *Enhancing accessibility and diversity:* ensure that everyone has the ability to volunteer and that volunteering is representative of the diversity of our community.
- *Improving the experience:* improve volunteer management practices; increase the number and quality of volunteer opportunities; encourage and support the development of volunteer skills; extend volunteering in the public sector.
- *Supporting and strengthening the infrastructure:* provide effective infrastructure support to volunteering.
- *Delivering the Strategy:* create a comprehensive investment programme to support the strategy; deliver the Strategy in an effective, accountable way reflecting its cross-cutting nature; identify a volunteering champion.

The Strategy's Action Plan contains a comprehensive range of actions



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteering Strategy Steering Group comprised of Health and Social Care Trusts, DSD, DE, DCAL, local government and a wide range of voluntary and community bodies and business representative organisations.

together with timeframes, performance indicators and measures for measuring progress.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**STRATEGY FOR THE DELIVERY OF VOLUNTARY ADVICE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY 'OPENING DOORS' (2007)**

The voluntary and community sector advice service infrastructure and advice services provided by a range of Government Departments and agencies provide valuable services to some of the most vulnerable individuals and communities.

The Strategy proposes a structure for delivering advice services with an aim to ensure increased co-operation between local providers and improved accessibility for the many people who rely on these services across Northern Ireland.

**Strategy Principles and Values**

- Access by all people, the disadvantaged in particular, to a level of advice that meets their needs.
- High quality of services that are sustainable in the long term.
- Value for money.
- Quality of provision.
- Integrated services that address gaps and overlaps and can respond to changing needs.
- The best use of the distinctive approach of the voluntary and community sector.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Key players – Voluntary and Community Unit (DSD) Government Departments and Agencies that provide advice services; Regional and Local Voluntary Organisations; independent advice services; community groups; Local Government.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY: 'WARMER HEALTHIER HOMES' (2011)**

The new fuel poverty strategy builds upon the work carried out on the last Fuel Poverty Strategy (published in 2004). Primary aim of the strategy is to target available resources on those vulnerable households who are in most need of help. The eradication of fuel poverty remains a core goal of the strategy.

The strategy has four key areas of action:

- *Targeting of resources*: to better target the resources available through the development and implementation of a robust mechanism for the measurement and analysis of fuel poverty in NI.
- *Improving Energy Efficiency*: to improve the energy efficiency of vulnerable households.
- *Achieving Affordable Energy*: to facilitate the achievement of affordable energy for households in NI.
- *Building Strong Partnerships*: to develop and consolidation effective partnership working across organisational and professional boundaries to provide more effective and integrated team working to eradicate fuel poverty.

The four key areas of action are supported by 18 action points covering areas such as targeting resources; evaluation of the definition of fuel poverty; hold discussions on a fuel poverty severity index; the Warm Homes Scheme; energy efficiency measures in the social housing sector; Boiler Replacement Scheme; equity release scheme for energy efficiency; feasibility of an Energy Performance Certificate database; piloting of smart meters; local authority domestic energy efficiency improvement plans; introduction of an energy brokerage scheme; benefit uptake campaign; promotion of Oil Stamp Savings Scheme; evaluation of domestic renewable energy technologies; affordability of fuel and fluctuating energy prices; develop and consolidate working arrangements across sectors; investigation of area based approach to energy efficiency.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The strategy states that it places significant emphasis on the partnership approach required to tackle fuel poverty and the cross-departmental nature of the whole area of poverty.

Awaiting Departmental response to Committee for Social Development recommendations on the establishment of Thematic Action Groups (TAGs) to take forward a collaborative approach to fuel poverty.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**WARM HOMES SCHEME**

The Warm Homes Scheme provides a package of energy efficiency and heating measures. It has two elements – Warm Homes and Warm Homes Plus. The scheme is targeted at vulnerable households that are either owner-occupiers or private rented tenants. Eligibility for Warm Homes is based on receipt of specific social security benefits or Pension Credit. Measures available include cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, hot water



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Warm Homes Scheme funded by DSD and delivered on behalf of DSD by Bryson Charitable Group and H&A Mechanical Services.

Level of cross departmental collaboration requires clarification from DSD.

cylinder jackets, benefit entitlement checks, energy advice. Warm Homes Plus is provided for eligible households were additional measures, such as heating or complex insulation is required. Heating measures are focused on households with no central heating, a solid fuel system, Economy 7 or bottled gas (LPG).

**STRATEGY/POLICY/ PROGRAMME**  
**BOILER REPLACEMENT SCHEME**

This scheme will run from September 2012. It is open to owner occupiers whose household income is less than £40,000 and have an inefficient boiler of at least 15 years old. The amount of grant payable will depend on total gross income. For those earning less than £20,000 the grant is £700 to replace the boiler, £1,000 if controls are being installed. For those earning over £20,000 but less than £40,000 the grant is £400 for the boiler but will rise to £500 if controls are installed.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**  
The scheme will be administered by the Housing Executive Grants Office.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**HOUSING STRATEGY**

Publication of draft Housing Strategy is awaited. It will likely cover all housing tenures.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**REVIEW OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE (2011)**

PwC was commissioned by DSD to undertake a fundamental review of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This strategic review was to identify a strategic direction of travel for the delivery of those services currently delivered by the Housing Executive. The objective was to identify a sustainable delivery model to meet future challenges in the Housing Executive's strategic, landlord and operational roles.

**Suggested Options**

- A new *Strategic Housing Authority* for Northern Ireland: responsibility for ownership of existing NIHE stock; development and delivery of holistic housing strategy; independent assessment of need; commissioning/delivery of homelessness services; undertake role of Energy Conservation Authority; commission and monitor programmes (e.g. SHDP).
- A new *Social Enterprise Landlord* for NIHE's existing stock: leasehold ownership of existing NIHE stock; maintenance investment programme; ability to source non-public sector funding; landlord services with a focus on tenants and communities; community cohesion and safety.
- A new *Housing Regulator* for Northern Ireland: independent inspection and governance across all tenure types including service and economic regulation; independent setting of rents for social and affordable landlords.
- *Joined-up service delivery to citizens*: establishment of a network of 'Jobs, Housing and Benefits' offices across NI, transfer of some frontline housing related services to local government.

The future structure and delivery of the NIHE functions and the potential for positive change will be of high importance to addressing the issues of poverty/social deprivation – e.g. supply and maintenance of quality social/affordable housing; energy efficiency and conservation; community cohesion, Supporting People etc.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**  
Key Players – DSD; NIHE; Registered Housing Associations; Local Councils; tenants and communities; Supporting People providers; housing and tenants representatives; Supporting People providers, homelessness advice organisation; maintenance service providers; NI Housing Council.

SSA and DEL in relation to potential joined up service delivery in Jobs, Housing and Benefits' offices recommendation.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**THE SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The SHDP is managed by the Housing Executive's Development Programme Group and provides grant to Registered Housing Associations to build social housing. The programme is currently managed on a five year basis.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**  
Key players – DSD, Housing Executive, Registered Housing Associations, Planning Service (?), banking/lending institutions; Local Councils; NI Housing Council.

The new 3-year SHDP (2012/13-2014/15) was approved by the Minister for Social Development in April 2012. It is published alongside an Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus (currently publicly unavailable). The Prospectus is an integral part of the SHDP formulation process, which recurs on an annual basis. The Prospectus document highlights areas throughout Northern Ireland with the greatest level of un-met housing need and a current shortage of acquired development sites. The SHDP is crucial to addressing the issues of poverty and social deprivation given the importance that good quality housing has on an individual's life chances.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME HOUSING SELECTION SCHEME

The Housing Selection Scheme is governed by a set of rules which are approved by the DSD. NIHE state that the scheme has been created to be fair and open and to give applicants a choice in where they wish to live. Anyone applying under this scheme is:

- assessed
- registered on the Common Waiting List
- allocated property according to the rules of the Scheme.

The Scheme applies to accommodation owned by Participating Landlords (except where it is accommodation that is let on a temporary basis).

Participating Landlords includes the Housing Executive and participating Registered Housing Associations.

The Scheme is an important mechanism by which vulnerable individuals and households can access social housing.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Key Players - DSD; Housing Executive; registered Housing Associations; NI Housing Council; tenant and housing representative bodies; homelessness organisations and bodies.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### 'BUILDING SOUND FOUNDATIONS': A STRATEGY FOR THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR (2010)

Changing housing market conditions and pressures on the social housing sector have led to increasing numbers of vulnerable and low income households accessing the private rented sector in order to meet housing need.

**Strategy's Actions** (i.e. those that are relevant to low income households in the private rented sector):

- *Knowledge and Awareness*: provision of relevant information and advice to landlords, local councils and tenants.
- *Tenancy Management*: introduction of a regulatory framework for the private rented sector including landlord registration and rent deposit scheme.
- *Security of Tenure*: extended notice to quit for long term tenants.
- *Standard of Fitness*: higher statutory fitness standards including thermal comfort standards.
- *Improving Accessibility*: work to scope and address the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families in securing and sustaining private sector tenancies.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Involves co-operation between DSD, housing representatives groups, landlord organisations and local government (in their enforcement of housing fitness standards capacity).

Any further involvement of other relevant Departments requires clarification from DSD.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY: 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES' (2012)

The Housing Executive highlight that homelessness continues to be a significant problem in Northern Ireland. There are numerous reasons for homelessness including family dispute and breakdown in relationships, addiction, mental ill health, debt and tenancy breakdown. The Housing Executive acknowledges that homelessness impacts on individual lives for many years and impedes an individual's health, financial and social wellbeing.

#### **Strategic Aims**

The new homelessness strategy aims to:

- Eliminate long term homelessness and rough sleeping across Northern Ireland by 2020.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The Housing Executive has statutory responsibility for the assessment of homelessness and the delivery of homelessness services. The new homelessness strategy emphasises that tackling homelessness, due to its multi-dimensional nature requires the collaboration of a wide range of statutory and voluntary and community sector partners.

DSD through the Promoting Social Inclusion Partnership will be the vehicle through which the strategy will be progressed and monitored so that an integrated approach is achieved.

The Promoting Social Inclusion Partnership is an inter-

- Ensure the risk of becoming homeless is minimised through effective preventative measures.
- Ensure through enhanced inter-agency co-operation, services to the most vulnerable homeless households is improved.

**Strategic Objectives**

- To place homelessness prevention at the forefront of service delivery.
- To reduce the length of time households and individuals experience homelessness by improving access to affordable housing.
- To remove the need to sleep rough.
- To improve services to vulnerable homeless households and individuals.

An implementation plan is to be developed following publication of the homelessness strategy.

Departmental, cross-sectoral working group established by DSD in 2004. The Committee may wish to request information on the membership of the partnership.

Legislation also dictates that the following bodies must take the homelessness strategy into account in the exercise of its functions – the Executive; Regional Board; Health and Social Care Trusts; Education and Library Boards; registered housing associations; district councils; Secretary of State (in relation to prisons); Probation Board of NI; Department of Education; Department for Employment and Learning; DHSSPS; DSD.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY (2005-10)**

The overarching aim of Supporting People Strategy was to commission housing support services to improve the quality of life and independence of vulnerable people. The three main strategic documents that inform the Supporting People Strategy are: the Homeless Strategy; Community Care agenda (People First); and Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) Accommodation Strategy. Other strategies that have an influence are those that seek to protect vulnerable people e.g. Community Safety Strategies and the Northern Ireland Domestic Violence Strategy.

Eligible Groups include older people; people with learning difficulties; people with physical disabilities; people subject to domestic violence; young people leaving care; and people having difficulty keeping to the terms of their tenancy.

**Key Objectives**

- To commission relevant housing support services.
- To develop services in line with service user needs and aspirations.
- To ensure value for money services.
- To continuously improve the quality of services.

In January 2012, DSD asked that finalisation of a new Supporting People Strategy (2011-15) be postponed pending the outcome of the review of the SP Commissioning Body.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The scheme is overseen by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and delivery by a range of partners – e.g. Health and Social Care Trusts; Housing Associations; Barnardos; Women's Aid; Belfast Central Mission; NIACRO etc.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**HOUSING AND HEALTH STRATEGY (2006)**

It is estimated that over 70% of health impacts occur as consequences of factors outside the formal health service. There is a close relationship between poor housing and poor health. Research indicates that there is a relationship between poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and ill health. The Housing and Health Action Plan 2008-2011 had a number of objectives and actions:

- *Achieving the Decent Homes Standard:* e.g. work towards meeting this standard through programmes of work to address health and safety issues such as fire protection; smoke alarms; heating servicing etc.; planned maintenance work including kitchen replacements; alleviating unfitness and disrepair through grants regime; registration of HMO properties.
- *Promoting Independent Living:* e.g. continued implementation of the Supporting People Programme; consideration the Investing for Health Strategy; implement older people housing policy review action plan; improve quality of housing for people with disabilities; implications for housing policy arising out of the Bamford Review; meet accommodation needs of Travellers; target vulnerable young people living in disadvantaged areas.
- *Building a Stronger Community:* e.g. respond to draft Private Rented Sector strategy; work with local councils to play a part in the community planning process; implement Shared Future action plan to promote good relations; implementation of Community Safety Strategy.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Key players include – Housing Executive; Public Health Agency; DHSSPS; Housing Associations; maintenance contractors; Supporting People partners; Local Councils; local community groups; youth groups; voluntary and community sector organisations;

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **HOUSING EXECUTIVE RURAL ACTION PLAN (2009)**

This is a three year action plan for rural housing policy it is based around the objects of the Housing Executive's five year housing policy 'Rural Homes and People'. Poverty and deprivation can often be overlooked in rural areas. The strategy and action plan acknowledges that rural housing issues often require different approaches to those in urban areas.

##### **Themes and Actions**

- *Enabling New Homes*: identifying and assessing rural housing need; meeting social and affordable housing needs in rural areas.
- *Improve Existing Properties*: improvement of housing conditions through grants system and maintenance of Housing Executive Homes; promotion of energy efficiency in rural areas.
- *Building and Serving Communities*: Encourage and facilitate rural resident involvement in community associations; promote community safety and Shared Future housing.
- *Supporting Independent Living*: dealing with rural homelessness; involvement in the Supporting People Programme for vulnerable people.
- *Rural Development and Regeneration*: partnership working to link housing and rural development; Housing Executive input into the Rural White Paper.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Co-operation between Housing Executive and DARD an essential component of the Action Plan. Co-operation with other bodies – e.g. Rural Residents Forum, Planning Service; District Council; Warm Homes Scheme providers; Rural Community Network, Supporting People providers.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY: CUSTOMER FIRST (formerly Strategic Business Review)**

Key issues for the Strategic Business Review – Does the Social Security Agency, particularly the local office network, have the capacity to cope with the volume of change ahead e.g. roll-out of ESA, welfare reform (e.g. changes to incapacity benefit, DLA)? Is a new service delivery model required. In answer to an Assembly Question in April 2012, the Minister stated that he had not yet made a final decision on the timetable for the implementation of Customer First and is currently considering the SSA's proposals in relation to the future roll-out of Customer First across the Working Age Network.

The roll-out of Customer First and the effective and efficient structure of local office networks are important for the delivery of social security benefits to individuals and households. It therefore will play a central role in contributing towards the alleviation of poverty and social deprivation.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

DSD, the Social Security Agency, DEL.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **BENEFIT UPTAKE PROGRAMME AND CAMPAIGNS**

DSD has run a series of annual benefit uptake programmes since 2005 (2011/12 is the 7<sup>th</sup> annual programme). Over the more recent period, the Department has targeted over 112,000 pensioners and generated an additional £23 million of benefits for successful claimants. Two recent initiatives, the 'Make the Call' campaign and a new Innovation Fund are examples of recent uptake activities. Attention is paid in particular to maximising benefit take-up amongst older people, an important feature given the levels of pensioner poverty and deprivation in Northern Ireland.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Key players – DSD; SSA; benefits advice sector bodies; age sector bodies; Atlantic Philanthropies (in relation to the Innovation Fund); Commissioner for Older People.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **CHILD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES AND CAMPAIGNS**

The regular payment of child maintenance is an important element in alleviating poverty and social deprivation for children, lone parents or other primary care givers. A Child Maintenance Choices media campaign was launched 17 January 2011, promoting a free impartial helpline service to talk parents, friends, families or anyone with an interest through the choices about child maintenance.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Child Maintenance Enforcement Division (DSD); Social Security Agency; Employers.

# Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

## Programme for Government 2011-15

### Priority 1: Growing a Sustainable Economy and Investing in the Future

#### Key commitments:

- Allocate an increasing percentage of the overall health budget to public health.

### Priority 2: Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving health and well being

#### Key commitments:

- Enrol people who have a long-term (chronic) condition, and who want to be enrolled, in a dedicated chronic condition management programme.
- Invest £7.2 million in programmes to tackle obesity.

### Priority 3: Protecting Our People, the Environment and Creating Safer Communities

#### Key Commitments:

- Introduce a package of measures aimed at improving Safeguarding Outcomes for Children and Vulnerable Adults.

### Priority 5: Delivering High Quality and Efficient Public Services

#### Key commitments

- Improve patient and client outcomes and access to new treatments and services.
- Reconfigure, reform and modernise the delivery of Health and Social Care services to improve the quality of patient care.

## DHSSPS Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### **INVESTING FOR HEALTH – A PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (2002)**

This strategy seeks to tackle the factors which adversely affect health and perpetuate health inequalities. A review of the strategy was published in 2010 which concluded that the strategy needs to be updated.

The overarching aims of this Strategy are:

- to improve the health status of all our people; and
- to reduce inequalities in health.

#### Objectives:

- To improve the health of our people by increasing the length of their lives and increasing the number of years they spend free from disease, illness and disability.
- To reduce inequalities in health between geographic areas, socio-economic and minority groups.
- To reduce poverty in families with children.
- To enable all people and young people in particular to develop the skills and attitudes that will give them the capacity to reach their full potential and make healthy choices.
- To promote mental health and emotional well-being at individual and community level.
- To offer everyone the opportunity to live and work in a healthy environment and to live in a decent affordable home.
- To improve our neighbourhoods and wider environment.
- To reduce accidental injuries and deaths in the home, workplace and from collisions on the road.
- To enable people to make healthier choices.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

- DHSSPS DETI, DOE, DARD, OFMDFM, DE, DSD.
- Ministerial Group on Public Health

#### Other partnerships:

- Investing for Health Forum
- Investing for health partnerships
- HSC Trusts
- Health and Social Care Board
- Public Health Agency
- Patient and Client Council
- Housing Executive
- Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
- NIO
- Local councils and numerous community, business and voluntary groups.

## STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

### A HEALTHIER FUTURE: A TWENTY YEAR VISION FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2005-2025

*Investing for Health* includes cross governmental actions in relation to promoting workplace health, improving housing, promoting physical activity and sports, improving employability through local strategy partnerships, improved water and air quality through regulation and enforcement, and food and road safety.

The strategy places special emphasis on promoting health and wellbeing amongst vulnerable groups for whom preventative measures could provide the greatest impact. People from less wealthy socio-economic groups tend to have less access to care facilities, present at a later stage of disease development and are less demanding of health professionals. People from poorer backgrounds are also more likely to smoke, become pregnant as teenagers and experience hopelessness, social exclusion and depression. Of particular concern are:

- boys and young men, who are less likely to seek health and social care advice, and who are more prone to suicide;
- girls and young women amongst whom smoking and alcohol-related harm are increasing;
- victims, homeless people, people with disabilities, older people, carers and Travellers.

#### Objectives:

- Improving population health and wellbeing by implementing the recommendations of the Review of the Public Health Function by 2010.
- Mainstreaming the commitment to population health throughout the HPSS by 2010.
- Ensuring *Investing for Health* remains at the heart of the government agenda through a review of this cross governmental policy by 2007.
- Implementing by 2010 the recommendations of strategies to promote health and wellbeing, including strategies relating to smoking, alcohol related harm, illicit drug use, physical activity, diet and sexual health.
- By 2007 produce an overarching policy for involving people and building caring communities.
- By 2008 have established seven region-wide Chronic Condition Management (CCM) programmes.
- By 2008 seven major service-wide Chronic Condition Management programmes will have been established across the HPSS.
- By 2010 to deliver to people within a minimum of 24 hours appropriate and equitable access to all primary care services.
- By 2010 to provide a comprehensive primary care out of hours emergency care service providing access, as appropriate, not only to general medical, general dental and community pharmacy services, but also to community nursing, mental health and other social care services.
- By 2008 to be able to access an appropriate primary care professional within 2 working days.
- By 2007, two proactive Social Care Management Programmes (SCMP) will be piloted in relation to older people and carers.
- By 2008 promote independence for people who require care by facilitating independent living.
- By 2015 to have modernised primary, community and hospital services.
- By 2015 to have significantly changed the profile of mental health services and services designed to meet the needs of people with a learning disability.
- By 2015 to have implemented the Information and Communications Technology Strategy for the HPSS.



## CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

DHSSPS DETI, DOE, DARD, OFMDFM, DE, DSD.

#### Other partnerships:

- HSC Trusts; primary and secondary care
- Health and Social Care Board
- Public Health Agency
- Patient and Client Council
- Housing Executive
- Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland,
- Local councils and numerous community, businesses, independent sector and voluntary groups
- CAWT (Co-operation and working together).

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### TEN YEAR TOBACCO CONTROL STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (2011)

The overall aim of this strategy is to create a tobacco-free society. Among certain social groups, high smoking prevalence is endemic. Smoking remains a particular problem for people living in areas of social or economic deprivation. There is evidence that those from disadvantaged backgrounds experience higher nicotine dependency than those from areas which do not experience economic or social deprivation.

The key objectives of the strategy are:

- fewer people starting to smoke;
- more smokers quitting; and
- greater protection from tobacco-related harm.

The strategy is accompanied by an **Action Plan**. The strategy states that implementation of the Action Plan requires input from a variety of organisations and agencies.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

DHSSPS, DE, DEL.

#### Other partnerships:

- Tobacco Action Plan Working Group
- Public Health Agency
- Health Trusts
- Medical and Allied Health Professionals
- Multi-agency Implementation Group
- Education and Skills Authority
- Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment
- The Health and Safety Executive
- District Councils/ Environmental Health Officers
- HM Revenue & Customs
- UK Border Agency
- Trades' Unions

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### HEALTHY CHILD, HEALTHY FUTURE: THE CHILD HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND (2010)

This programme aims to improve health and reduce inequalities for children and includes a full range of public health initiatives so that children experience better social and emotional wellbeing outcomes. It offers every family with children a programme of screening, immunisations, developmental reviews, and guidance to support parenting and healthy choices.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

- DHSSPS, DE.
- 'Regional Health for All Children' Steering Group

#### Other partnerships:

- Health and social care staff, early years, schools and colleges, integrated service partnerships - SureStart, voluntary and community groups etc.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### CARING FOR CARERS STRATEGY (2006)

This strategy recognises the invaluable and often challenging role facing carers, both young and old. Carers often live in poverty. The key aim of the Strategy is to "identify practical measures that would make a real difference to the lives of carers". The strategy suggests carers need the right kind of information and support (both financial and practical), and that they should be considered partners in the care of the person they are caring for.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

- DHSSPS

#### Other partnerships:

- Trusts
- Local Health and Social Care Groups
- Valuing Carers
- Carer /voluntary organisations
- Social Services
- Social Security/Benefits system

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE: A REGIONAL STRATEGY 2008-2013

This Regional Strategy is underpinned by Government's unwavering commitment to developing an integrated approach, through which all agencies and organisations can work together to ensure that victims and survivors receive the best service possible.

The long-term objectives of the Regional Strategy are to:

- ensure a joined-up, targeted approach by all Government Departments, agencies and partner organisations;
- reduce risk and prevent sexual violence and abuse;
- build confidence in the criminal justice system, through an appropriate professional and sensitive approach to reported crime



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

- DHSSPS, DoJ.
- Northern Ireland Inter-Departmental Steering Group on Sexual Violence.

#### Other partnerships:

Other agencies and voluntary sector partners share responsibility for implementing the Regional Strategy.

- and,
- provide and deliver easily accessible, co-ordinated, quality support services for victims/survivors and their families.

**Yearly Action Plans** have also been established to help implement the regional strategy objectives.



**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**PROTECT LIFE: THE NI SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2012-2014**

This strategy aims to reduce the differential in the suicide rate between deprived and non-deprived areas. Deprived areas in NI have higher suicide rates than non-deprived areas (especially in the male population).

**Objectives**

- Increased awareness of suicide and mental health related issues;
- Improved services for people who are in emotional crisis and those people with pre-existing mental health problems;
- Enhanced focus on self harm prevention and response services;
- Increased uptake of suicide prevention/ mental health awareness training;
- Improved awareness amongst healthcare staff of Lifeline crisis response helpline;
- Enhanced outreach services for males at risk of suicide in deprived areas;
- Further restrict access to means of suicide;
- Improved integration/ coordination within and across sectors;
- Enhanced focus on the needs of older people; and
- Enhanced focus on the needs of rural communities.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DHSSPS, DE.

**Other partnerships:**

- Public Health Agency.
- Action also required to work in partnership across government and voluntary, community, faith sectors.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**A FITTER FUTURE FOR ALL: OBESITY PREVENTION FRAMEWORK FOR NI 2012-2022**

This framework recognises that obesity is a societal issue, influenced by wider determinants of health (e.g. poverty, deprivation, health inequalities) that requires joint working across Government, sectors and society, in order to tackle the problem. This Framework aims to “empower the population of Northern Ireland to make healthy choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet”.

In addition, the following overarching targets have been set:

Adults

- To reduce the level of obesity by 4% and overweight and obesity by 3% by 2022.

Children

- A 3% reduction of obesity and 2% reduction of overweight and obesity by 2022.

**Objectives**

Two overarching objectives for the Framework have been set namely: to increase the percentage of people eating a healthy, nutritionally balanced diet; and to increase the percentage of the population meeting the Chief Medical Officer’s guidelines on physical activity.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

- DHSSPS, DE, DCAL.
- Obesity Prevention Steering Group,
- Ministerial Group on Public Health.

**Other partnerships:**

Schools, sporting organisations eg Sport NI, industry, health and social care settings and HSC Trusts, Public Health Agency, Voluntary and community groups, district councils, Safe food, Food Standards Agency.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**REVIEW OF BREAST FEEDING STRATEGY (2010)**

The Breastfeeding strategy for Northern Ireland was first published by the DHSSPS in 1999. The government’s aim was to promote breastfeeding among mothers in Northern Ireland. Low breastfeeding uptake rates are



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DHSSPS, DE.

linked to poorer health outcomes and are recognised as an accurate marker for deprivation. Increasing breastfeeding rates in areas of deprivation is an important mechanism for reducing health inequalities.

**Objectives:**

- province-wide co-ordination of breastfeeding promotional activities.
- commissioning of breastfeeding support within the health service.
- detailed and uniform collection of infant feeding statistics.
- research into effective means of breastfeeding promotion.
- improved training in lactation management for health professionals.
- supporting breast milk feeding for special needs infants.
- raising of public awareness of the importance of breastfeeding.
- cessation of artificial milk promotion within the health service.

**Other partnerships:**

- Breastfeeding Strategy Group for Northern Ireland
- Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland (HPANI)
- commissioners and providers
- La Leche League
- National Childbirth Trust
- Medical and dental profession,
- Surestart

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME  
PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH**

External factors which may compromise mental or emotional wellbeing include amongst other things; poverty and deprivation. The **aims** of this strategy are to:

- improve people's mental and emotional wellbeing, in particular that of people at risk or vulnerable, and people with identified mental health problems, their carers and families;
- prevent, or reduce the incidence and impact of, mental and emotional distress, anxiety, mental illness and suicide;
- raise awareness of the determinants of mental and emotional health at public, professional and policy making levels and reduce discrimination against people with mental health problems;
- ensure that all those with a contribution to make are knowledgeable, skilled and aware of effective practice in mental and emotional health promotion.

*"These aims will be realised through an integrated partnership approach including the statutory, voluntary, community and business sectors." p8.*

**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

- Aims will be realised through an integrated partnership approach including the statutory, voluntary, community and business sectors.
- DHSSPS has established a cross-departmental PSI Working Group on Mental Health.
- Multi-Agency Implementation Group to steer and oversee implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME  
NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUGS 2011-  
2016: PHASE 2**

The overall aim of New Strategic Direction (NSD) Phase 2 is to reduce the level of alcohol and drug-related harm in Northern Ireland. Alcohol and drug misuse have therefore been identified as significant public health and social issues, and they continue to be a key priority. A series of Local Action Plans to address the issue have been developed.

**Objectives:**

- provide accessible and effective treatment and support for people who are consuming alcohol and/or using drugs in a potentially hazardous, harmful or dependent way;
- reduce the level, breadth and depth of alcohol and drug-related harm to users, their families (including children and young people), their carers and the wider community;
- increase awareness, information, knowledge, and skills on all aspects of alcohol and drug-related harm in all settings and for all age groups;
- integrate those policies which contribute to the reduction of alcohol and drug-related harm into all Government Policy;
- develop a competent and skilled workforce across all sectors that can respond to the complexities of alcohol and drug use and misuse;
- promote opportunities for those under the age of 18 years to develop appropriate skills, attitudes and behaviours to enable them to resist societal pressures to drink alcohol and/or misuse drugs;
- continue to effectively tackle the issue of availability of illicit drugs

**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

- DHSSPS
- NSD Steering Group

Membership of the Steering Group includes relevant professionals, statutory bodies and agencies, Government Departments, and voluntary/community sector representatives.

**Other partnerships:**

The Department has established 4 advisory groups to provide advice and policy guidance including:

1. Children, Young People and Families;
2. Treatment and Support
3. Binge Drinking (now referred to as the Alcohol Advisory Group); and
4. Law and Criminal Justice.

DHSSPS has also established a Liaison Group consisting of the Chairs of each advisory group along with the senior co-ordinators from the Public Health Agency (PHA), plus representatives from the Public Health Information and Research Branch and the Health Development Policy Branch within the DHSSPS. Other groups involved in delivering the strategy include:

- Bamford Substance Misuse Group
- Treatment and Support Group

- and young people's access to alcohol; and
- to monitor and assess new and emerging illicit drugs and take action when appropriate.

- Drug & Alcohol Co-ordination Teams

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY STRATEGY (2011)**

This strategy has been developed to help achieve improved outcomes, services and support for people in Northern Ireland (NI), regardless of their age, who have a physical, communication or sensory disability.

People with a disability are more likely to experience poverty, poorer health outcomes, and suffer from marginalisation. This strategy takes account of the social model of disability, which aims to encourage society to consider disability in a different way.

**Objectives:**

- Support disabled people to better exercise their rights, choices and life opportunities;
- Support the continuing development of an inclusive and effective range of high quality health and social care services;
- Develop a more integrated approach to the planning and management of services within and across government departments, the HSC and the independent community and voluntary sector;
- Develop clear and achievable recommendations which are capable of being monitored and evaluated; and
- Ensure that an appropriate implementation infrastructure is put in place following the publication of the final strategy.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

- DHSSPS, DE, DEL, DSD, DRD
- Joint Housing Adaptations Steering Group (JHASG) (DSD and DHSSPS)
- Disability Strategy Implementation Group

**Other partnerships:**

- Health and Social Care Board
- Health and Social Care Trusts
- Patient and Client Council
- Public Health Agency
- Education and Library Boards
- Service users, their families and carers
- Wraparound project
- Voluntary and community sector
- Housing Executive

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION 2008-2013**

This strategy aims to improve, protect and promote the sexual health and well-being of the whole population of Northern Ireland with a focus on prevention, training, education and access to services.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

- DHSSPS, DE, DEL
- The Ministerial Group on Public Health (MGPH)
- Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Implementation/Network Group

**Other partnerships:**

- Investing for Health partnerships
- Public Health Agency
- HSC Board
- Education and Library Boards
- Community and Voluntary Groups

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**ORAL HEALTH STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (2007)**

One well-recognised factor which strongly influences dental decay levels is social deprivation. Children living in the 20% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland are almost twice as likely to have experienced dental decay as children from the 20% most affluent wards. The new Oral Health Strategy has two key aims:

- To improve the oral health of the Northern Ireland population;
- To reduce the inequalities in oral health within our society.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DHSSPS, DE.

**Other partnerships:**

Health Trusts and medical professionals  
 Education and library boards

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**FAMILIES MATTER: REGIONAL FAMILY AND PARENTING STRATEGY (2009)**

There is growing recognition of the need to help and support parents who experience poverty in order to have a positive impact on the lives of children and also recognition that child poverty will not be eradicated simply by tax or economic initiatives. Good quality parenting in the home is vital and this strategy gives commitment to work to eliminate child poverty.

Families Matter supports the aims and objectives of 'Our Children and Young People, Our Pledge' and sets out the vision for improving support and services for families and children. This strategy gives priority to prevention and early intervention in supporting families to parent confidently and responsibly, especially when they are facing difficulties. The aim is to ensure that all parents can access information and services in their local areas to support them in carrying out their parental responsibilities and prevention of a crisis.

**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DHSSPS, DE

Inter-Disciplinary Group on Positive Parenting (IDGPP)

**Other partnerships:**

- Area Child Protection Committees
- Child Care partnerships
- Social services
- SureStart
- CAWT
- Education and Library Boards
- PSNI
- Housing Associations
- Voluntary and community organisations.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**CARE MATTERS (2007)**

Children in the UK who have been in care are disproportionately more likely to become teenage parents, be unemployed, end up in prison or become homeless. This Strategy identifies 6 outcomes and indicators to help benchmark progress over the next 10 years. The outcomes are that children and young people should be:

- Healthy;
- Enjoying, learning and achieving;
- Living in safety and with stability;
- Experience economic and environmental well-being;
- Contributing positively to community and society; and
- Living in a society, which respects their rights.

**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DHSSPS, OFMDFM, DEL, DE, DSD, DETI

**Other partnerships:**

- Health Trusts
- Education and Library boards
- Social Services
- NIO
- Youth Justice Agency
- Community and Voluntary organisations
- Families, carers and young people

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**ADDRESSING YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRINKING IN NI ACTION PLAN (2009)**

The issue of young people's drinking is of significant concern in areas of high deprivation and has been raised as a priority to be addressed in these areas. This Action Plan aims to prevent, address, and reduce the harm suffered by young people in relation to the consumption of alcohol, and the harm caused to others, by young people's drinking.

**Objectives:**

While a major focus of the Action Plan is to address drinking among those aged 17 and under, it also contains actions aimed at promoting sensible drinking among young people aged 18-25.

The Action Plan essentially contains a structured framework that seeks to :

- restrict the supply of alcohol to those aged 17 and under;
- reduce children and young people's demand for alcohol;
- prevent and reduce the harms children and young people suffer from alcohol use - this includes actions to provide better information and education; and
- identify and provide the appropriate support for those most vulnerable or at risk.

**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DHSSPS, DSD, DCAL, DE, DEL, DOE

**Other partnerships:**

- NIO
- HSC board
- Health Trusts
- Public Health Agency
- District Policing Partnerships
- Community Safety Partnerships
- PSNI
- Local councils
- Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams
- Youth services
- Education and Library boards
- Neighbourhood partnerships
- Community Safety partnerships
- Alcohol industry

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**TRANSFORMING YOUR CARE (2011)**

Transforming Your Care (also known as the Compton review), sets out a series of proposals to reduce health inequalities, improve public health and providing better outcomes for patients by proposing a new model of care which will be accessible close to people's homes. The report details wide ranging issues, including poverty. It suggests that some of the most

**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Joint working with other government Departments

**Other partnerships:**

- HSC Trusts

common characteristics associated with being born into poverty including:

- lower life expectancy;
- 23% higher rates of emergency admission to hospital;
- 66% higher rates of respiratory mortality;
- 65% higher rates of lung cancer;
- 73% higher rates of suicide;
- self-harm admissions at twice the Northern Ireland average;
- 50% higher rates of smoking related deaths; and
- 120% higher rates of alcohol related deaths.

- Primary and Secondary Care services
- PHA
- HSC Board and bodies
- NI Ambulance service
- Integrated Care Partnerships
- Primary Care Partnerships
- Children and Young People's Strategic partnership
- Family Nurse Partnership Initiative
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- CAWT
- NI Medical and Dental Training Agency
- NI Clinical Forum
- Local commissioning Groups
- Voluntary and community sector

# Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

## Programme for Government 2011-15

### Priority 2 Tackling disadvantage

This priority seeks to address the challenges of disadvantage and inequality that afflict society and to address the relatively poor health and shorter life expectancy of our population; its purpose is to stimulate interventions that break the cycle of deprivation, educational under-achievement, and to address health inequalities and poor health and wellbeing as well as economic disengagement.

### KEY COMMITMENTS

- Bring forward a £13 million package to tackle rural poverty and social and economic isolation in the next three years.
- Advance the relocation of the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to a rural location by 2015.

## DARD Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 was approved by the European Commission in July 2007. The programme is co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and is worth £540m.

The current NIRDP runs until 2013 (2007-13) and has 4 overall axes/themes/priorities as follows:

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting restructuring, development and innovation (Axis 1);
- Improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management (Axis 2);
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity (Axis 3).

Of these 3 axes/themes/priorities it could be argued that all contain specific measures/actions that could be identified as alleviating social deprivation/poverty.

Axis/theme/priority 3, which is focused on improving the quality of life in rural communities, would contain the greatest number of actions that could be more explicitly identified with the alleviation of social/deprivation for the entire rural community. An example here includes the following:

- **Measure 3.4 – Access to Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population** – opportunity to develop or extend basic rural services. Eligibility criteria for projects include an ability to reduce multiple deprivation as defined by the Noble Index. Grant support available – 50% of eligible expenditure up to a maximum of £50,000 for the private sector and 75% of eligible expenditure up to a maximum of £250,000 for the social economy and NDPB sectors.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Responsibility for the delivery of Axis 3 within the NIRDP lies with the so called Local Action Groups (LAGs).

District, Borough and City councils have come together to form seven council clusters that cover all eligible rural areas. These clusters have facilitated the creation of Local Action Groups (LAGs), which are comprised of representatives from key sectors of the local community. Further details of the council clusters and the areas covered by each can be accessed here.

The LAGs also work in partnership with the so called Joint Council Committees (JCCs), which are made up of elected councillors, and DARD officials.

The nature of the NIRDP can also require co-operation with other Government Departments or Agencies (e.g. Planning Service) depending on the nature of the projects funded.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **DARD ANTI POVERTY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FRAMEWORK**

This framework will support a package of measures worth up to £16 million to support vulnerable people in rural communities.

This framework has been developed taking account of the views of DARD's stakeholders and builds on the rural anti-poverty and social exclusion work from 2008 – 2011.

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Build on the work of the Rural Anti-Poverty / Social Inclusion Framework 2008 – 2011;
- Provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas;
- Develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation amongst vulnerable people/groups in rural areas;
- Complement and add value to existing government strategies aimed at
- tackling poverty and social isolation; and
- Empower rural communities to help themselves.

#### TARGET GROUPS FOR THE FRAMEWORK

- Elderly
- Disabled
- Lone parents
- Ethnic Minorities
- Unemployed
- Sexual Orientation (LGBT)
- Carers
- Children
- Older children and young people.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Building on the Rural Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Framework 2008-2011 there are greater opportunities for DARD to embed existing joint working practices and identify collaborative working with others in the design, delivery and funding of this framework.

Within government, opportunities exist to further enhance the collaborative inter-departmental approach to tackling poverty and social isolation for example to work with the Department for Social Development on community development, Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety on health and well being initiatives, the Department of Employment and Learning on training and skills and the Department for Regional Development on transport issues.

There are also further opportunities to build on collaborative work with organisations such as the LEADER Local Action Groups, Rural Community Development Networks at a regional and sub-regional level, the Rural Development Council, farming unions and other non-governmental and representative organisations.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **RURAL WHITE PAPER ACTION PLAN**

The Rural White Paper Action Plan is an initiative aimed at addressing the many challenges facing rural communities both now and in the future. It is the first cross-departmental initiative to focus entirely on rural issues and provides a framework to guide the work of the Executive in responding to rural challenges over the next ten years.

The finalised document has recently received Executive approval and is due to be launched on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

In advance of this formal launch it is hard to accurately assess the content of the Action Plan but the consultation document made reference to the following proposed actions relating to the specific alleviation of social deprivation and poverty:

- Aiming to tackle the causes of poverty and disadvantage in rural areas;
- Ensuring new fuel poverty strategy takes account of rural needs;
- Providing financial assistance for rural dwellers to access a safe water supply;
- Maximising access and uptake of grants, benefits and services in rural areas.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The following mechanisms will be put in place for implementation of the Action Plan:

- The Executive will monitor the implementation of the Action Plan on an annual basis, or more regularly should specific issues arise in relation to the actions
- The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development will chair a reinvigorated Interdepartmental Committee on Rural Policy (comprising senior policy makers from across all Departments) which will drive forward the implementation of the Action Plan at a senior level.
- At least two meetings of the Interdepartmental Committee on Rural Policy each year will be a joint meeting with representatives from the Rural White Paper Stakeholder Advisory Group and will focus on the implementation of the Action Plan.
- Work will be done by officials to further develop each of the actions. This will address issues such as what specific set of actions may need to be taken to deliver on the main action, what further stakeholder engagement may be required, how success and outcomes are to be defined / measured and what opportunities are there to improve joined up working between Departments to deliver better outcomes

# Department for Employment and Learning

## Programme for Government 2011-15

DEL has commitments under two strategic priorities:

### Priority 1: Growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future

- Increase uptake in economically relevant STEM places; and
- Upskill the working age population by delivering over 200,000 qualifications.

### Priority 2: Creating opportunities, tackling disadvantage and improving health and wellbeing

- Support people (with an emphasis on young people) into employment by providing skillset training; and
- Ensure there are no increases in student fees beyond the rate of inflation for NI students studying here.

## DEL Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

'Pathways to Success', is the Executive's Strategy for young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training.

Includes initiatives such as:

- A new Community Family Support Programme which will focus on the needs of the most disadvantaged families, to enable young people to re-engage with education, training or employment;
- The introduction of a training allowance for young people participating on existing ESF programmes targeted at those who are NEET;
- To extend coverage of Sure Start Programmes targeted to the 25% most disadvantaged ward areas, over time. All parents with children age 0-4 can access services within the targeted areas.

### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

NEET Advisory group, led by DEL and comprising officials from the main departments involved, representatives from the voluntary/community, education and health and social care sectors.

The NEET Strategy Forum, linked to the NEET Advisory Group will provide the basis for: better co-operation and integration of voluntary and community sector NEET activity, sourcing best practice advice on community initiatives, (needs assessment, mentoring and family support) and provide for better engagement of young people in developments and initiatives.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME SUCCESS THROUGH SKILLS

Focuses on those entering the labour force for the first time, up-skilling the existing workforce and ensuring those currently excluded from the labour force are provided with the skills to compete for jobs, retain jobs and progress up the skills ladder.

One of the main aims of the strategy is to: *increase levels of social inclusion by enhancing the employability of those currently excluded from the labour market.*

This will be met by: Assisting individuals to address skills barriers to work and enable them to stay in work and progress up the skills ladder – intended to increase the number of people completing qualifications as they move from benefits into employment.

### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The Department considers its role to be centred on providing the opportunities for individuals to be trained in the current and future skills sought after by business. However, in order to have a workforce with the skills required, other Departments must contribute to the skills targets contained within this strategy. The Department of Education and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment are considered key partners if the Strategic Goals are to be successfully delivered.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME GRADUATING TO SUCCESS

Graduating for Success is DEL's strategy for Higher Education. It should be noted that Higher education has a central role to play in the Executive's plans for economic growth, investment and social inclusion.

### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

DEL will work with a number of organisations as part of this strategy, including:

Part of the strategy is increasing access to Higher Education for people across society and this includes the priorities of:

- Improving access to higher education in rural areas; and
- The development of a new system for funding the sector, including examination of the funding model for part-time students.

In addition, there are pockets of under-representation within certain socio-economic groups. The Department and the sector will continue to work in partnership to ensure that prospective students within these groups are given support in terms of aspiration, attainment and access to higher education.

The Department will work in partnership with the Higher Education Institutes and the Irish Government to reduce the obstacles to student mobility between north and south. The Department will work in co-operation with the QAA and stakeholders in creating a new credit framework for higher education in Northern Ireland.

# Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

## Programme for Government 2011-15

### Priority 1: Growing a Sustainable Economy and Investing in the Future

- Contribute to rising levels of employment by supporting the promotion of over 25,000 new jobs.
- Achieve £1bn of investment in the Northern Ireland economy (£375m foreign direct investment, £400m indigenous investment and £225m as a result of Jobs Fund).
- Aid liquidity of Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) through a £50 million loan fund.
- Increase the value of manufacturing exports by 20%.
- Support £300 million investment by businesses in R&D, with at least 20% coming from Small and Medium sized Enterprises (DETI).
- Develop and implement a Strategy to reduce economic inactivity through skills, training, incentives and job creation.

### Priority 2: Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Wellbeing

- Develop and implement a Financial Capability Strategy for consumers

## DETI Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME ECONOMIC STRATEGY – PRIORITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

The strategy contains a range of measures targeted at achieving an *'economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'* by 2030. Measures fall under the following areas:

- Stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base;
- Improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion;
- Compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business;
- Encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and
- Develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.

Full list of measures can be found [here](#).



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The strategy was developed by a Sub-Committee of the Executive chaired by the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. The Ministers for Employment and Learning, Education, Finance and Personnel, Regional Development and the Junior Ministers from OFMDFM sat on the Sub-Committee.

The strategy list complementary strategies from other departments and arms-length bodies including:

- DARD;
- DCAL;
- DEL;
- DHSSPS;
- DE;
- DoE;
- DRD;
- DSD;
- Invest NI, and
- Further Education and Higher Education providers.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME STRATEGIC ENERGY FRAMEWORK

Generally, the Strategic Energy Framework has considered and made an attempt to balance the *'many diverse social, environmental and economic issues'*. A key consideration in the development of the Framework has been the future cost of fossil fuels.

Specifically, the Framework contains measures to improve energy efficiency.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The following Departments have a roll in delivering enhanced energy efficiency:

- DHSSPS;
- DoE;
- DoJ;
- DRD;
- DSD; and,
- OFMDFM.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN 2012-2015

The Action Plan is aimed at the decarbonisation of Northern Ireland's energy production. The plan strives to achieve this at a low a cost to the consumer as possible. The Action Plan also includes a range of energy efficiency measures.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The following departments and arms-length bodies are included in within the remit of the plan:

- DETI;
- Invest NI;
- OFMDFM;
- DOE;
- DSD;
- DARD;
- DRD;
- DFP;
- DEL;
- DE;
- DHSSPS; and
- DCAL.

There is also a Sustainable Energy Inter-departmental Working Group which works towards policy alignment in this area.

#### Other related areas of DETI work

There are a number of areas of DETI work which, to varying extents, feed into the area of Social Deprivation. These include:

- The Department's work on the Social Economy, which includes Social Economy Policy Group which has members from Invest NI, DSD, DEL, DARD, DHSSPS, DFP, DOJ, DOE, OFMDFM, and DETI.
- The Department's work on credit unions, which as institutions may provide alternative sources of finance to those falling outside the banking system.
- The Department's consumer protection work, which is delivered through Trading Standards and Consumer Line. Both these bodies strive to protect all consumers including the most vulnerable in society.
- The Department's tourism work aims at strengthening the economy through GDP growth and securing jobs. Again, a stronger economy may have positive knock-on effects to other policy areas including deprivation.

# Department of Finance and Personnel

## Programme for Government 2011-15

### Priority 5: Delivering High Quality and Efficient Public Services

Include Social Clauses in public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction.

DFP Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### Social Clauses in public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction

**Objective:** to harness government spending power to provide apprenticeships to the long-term unemployed

**Milestones:** 2012-13 Develop and issue a procurement guidance note on model social clauses and modify the Procurement Board Strategic Plan to include targets for the delivery of social benefits through public contracts.

2013-14: Monitor the achievement of social benefits against targets to March 2014.

2014-15: Monitor the achievement of social benefits against targets to March 2015

#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Procurement policy is developed by DFP's Central Procurement Directorate, working to the Procurement Board. Policies must be implemented by Centres of Procurement Expertise across the Public Sector (eg Health Estates, Education and Library Boards)

The Procurement Board is chaired by the Finance Minister and membership comprises the Permanent Secretaries of the 11 Northern Ireland Departments. This ensures that there is compliance with agreed policies and procedures in all Departments, their Agencies, NDPBs and public corporations.

Other members of the Board include the Treasury Officer of Accounts, 2 external experts without a specific sectoral interest and the Director of Central Procurement Directorate (CPD). A representative of the Comptroller and Auditor General and of the Strategic Investment Board Ltd attend as observers.

Current Procurement Board Members (March 2012)

<http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/index/procurement-2/cpd/cpd-policy-and-legislation/cpd-procurement-board-roles-responsibilities/pb-members-march-2012.pdf>

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### Housing Benefit/Rates Rebate Scheme

**Objective:** To alleviate poverty through the provision of rating relief

**Milestones:** 2012-13 Develop new policy and put legislation in place to replace current Housing Benefit /Rate Rebate Schemes to facilitate the introduction of the Welfare Reform Programme

2013-14 Develop new rating policies to facilitate/complement wider reforms including RPA and begin implementation.

2014-15 Review implementation and evaluate the new rate rebate scheme with a view to improving effectiveness. Present any necessary legislation to the Assembly

#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Welfare Reform Executive Sub Committee

DFP and DSD Minister jointly prepared a paper for the sub-committee recommending that there is no viable alternative to continuing with the existing rates support system and making up the funding shortfall, in the short term, through public expenditure.. Longer -term policy appears to still be under consideration.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### Lone Pensioner Allowance/Disabled Persons Allowance Rating Reliefs

**Objective:** to alleviate poverty amongst the elderly and disabled persons through provision of rating relief

**Milestones:** no apparent milestones in either Departmental or Land and Property Services Business or Strategic Plans



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The Allowance is administered jointly by Land and Property Services (LPS) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) along the same lines as Housing Benefit/Rate Relief i.e. LPS will administer the allowance for the owner-occupier sector and NIHE will administer it for the private and social rented sectors.

# Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

## Programme for Government 2011-15

- *Increasing participation in sport and physical recreation*
- *Unlocking the potential of the culture, arts and leisure sectors*

### Priority 4: Building a Strong and Shared Community

#### Key commitment:

- Develop sports stadiums as agreed with the IFA, GAA and Ulster Rugby.

### Priority 5: Delivering High Quality Public Services

#### Key commitment:

- Modernisation of Public Library Service.

## DCAL Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### ARTS AND OLDER PEOPLE STRATEGY (2010)

This strategy underlines the role of the arts in supporting the social and creative needs of older people and its contribution to alleviating social issues such as isolation, loneliness, poverty and mental health problems. The strategy also connects with the Older People's Strategy and refers to ageing policy in jurisdictions elsewhere. The strategy has a number of strategic themes:

- **Poverty:** working to improve the quality of life of older people living in disadvantaged, marginalised and deprived areas of Northern Ireland (particularly those in Neighbourhood Renewal areas and in Areas at Risk).
- **Isolation and Loneliness:** working with older people to combat feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- **Social Inclusion:** creating a more peaceful, fair and inclusive community that does not discriminate against age and ethnicity.
- **Health and Mental Health Issues:** promote and provide opportunities for active ageing through participation in arts activities.
- **Strengthening the voice of older people:** particularly on issues that directly affect older people on a day to day basis.
- **Develop lifelong learning opportunities:** support and develop arts related lifelong learning opportunities for older people.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

- Poverty in areas with high levels of deprivation: DECAL; DE; DHSSPS; DEL; DETI; OFMDFM; DSD.
- Lifelong Learning: DCAL, DE, DEL.
- Arts and Older People Programme and Volunteering Opportunities for Older People: DCAL; DSD.
- Promoting increase usage of public transport: DRD.

Other key stakeholders identified in the strategy: Age NI; Age Sector Platform; NI media; specialist arts media; local government; political representatives; public sector partners; local older people community groups; artists and arts organisations.

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### 'SPORT MATTERS' – STRATEGY FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION (2009-2019)

This strategy is intended to ensure that 'every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities'. It recognises that sport has a particular contribution to make in areas of 'high social need' with a specific target to deliver by 2019 'at least 6 percentage points increase in participation rates in sport and physical recreation amongst socio-economically disadvantaged groups (from the 2011 baseline)'. Strategic Principles:

- Empowering individuals, groups and communities.
- Responding to need.
- Partnership working based on consultation and buy-in.
- Promoting good relations and working towards 'A Shared Future'.
- Focussing on outcomes.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The strategy states that it is committed to securing the commitment of, and partnership working across all relevant Government Departments particularly those responsible for health, education and regeneration. It also aimed to clarify the roles and secure the commitment of local government and other public bodies with responsibility for sport and physical recreation.

Leadership of the strategy to be provided by a **Strategy Monitoring Group (SMG)** comprising of senior representatives from Departments, agencies and organisations (e.g. health, education, employment, natural and built environments, social development). Three **Strategy Implementation Groups (SIGs)** were to be established to engage key partners and stakeholders (each SIG to have a broad based membership reflective of all relevant stakeholder groups).

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**MODERNISATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE (2006)**

DCAL's libraries strategy, 'Delivering Tomorrow's Libraries' recognises that libraries 'provide equality of opportunity and assist in combating social exclusion, with significant potential to address... 'the poverty of aspiration'. It contains a specific target that 'libraries should be proactive in identifying opportunities to reach out to those who have least access to other services, or who are least likely to use a library'.

In relation to improving access the strategy states that, taking into consideration resource constraints:

- New library buildings should be located where they are most easily accessed by the communities they serve, in neutral locations, close to centres of population and other amenities.
- At the planning stage of new libraries, consideration should be given to co-locate libraries with a range of other facilities and services.
- The use of mobile libraries should ensure optimal access in rural areas including internet access through strategically located stops.
- Extended opening hours for libraries including weekends and evenings to improve access.
- Development of a virtual library service.

The strategy acknowledges that library services play an important role in improving outcomes in targeted groups:

- Young people.
- Children who need school work or homework support.
- Literacy Support for those lacking basic skills.
- Those for whom English is a second language and other support for ethnic minorities.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DCAL; Libraries NI; DE; Education and Library Boards; Community Groups and Partnerships.

Note: The previous Programme for Government had a number of targets regarding increasing participation in sport, museums, the arts and libraries which are related to broadening participation amongst marginalised groups.

# Department of Justice

## Programme for Government 2011-15

Priority Three: Protecting our people our environment an creating safer communities

Priority Four: Building a strong and shared community

### Department of Justice Strategies/Policies relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMMES

##### **Strategic Framework for Reducing Reoffending (Currently out for consultation)**

The framework takes a thematic approach including tackling social determinants of crime, prevention and diversion, reducing opportunities to commit crime, effective delivery of justice and reducing offending. Tackling the social determinants of crime include increasing employment skills, improving educational attainment, providing appropriate accommodation, reducing poverty. Prevention and Diversion include early interventions, tackling drugs and alcohol misuse, restorative approaches and responding to mental health issues. Reducing opportunities to commit crime includes designing out crime, tackling anti-social behaviour, public awareness campaigns and targeted policing. Effective delivery of justice includes speeding up justice, sentencing, assets recovery and clear up rates. Reducing reoffending includes pathways to resettlement, supervision in the community, offender management and removing barriers to reintegration.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Strategy is a cross departmental, cross-sectoral strategy to reduce offending. Strategy specifies the need to work across departments, with local government and the voluntary and private sector.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMMES

##### **Women's Offending Behaviour in NI: a Strategy to manage women offenders and those vulnerable to offending behaviour-2010-2013**

Strategy sets out four strategic strands: Providing Alternatives to Prosecution and Custody; Reducing Offending; Gender Specific Community Supervisions and Interventions; and Developing a Gender Specific Approach to Women In Custody

The strategy highlights that women offenders often have additional concerns about their financial situation and accommodation needs and that poverty and lack of choices can lead to women feeling they have little control over their own lives (p9).

Actions include: <sup>1</sup>

- to review the accommodation needs of women offenders and vulnerable women and existing arrangements with a view to working with other accommodation providers;
- to work with the prison service to address the specific educational needs of women offenders and to further examine the employment needs of women as a discrete group
- To further develop and progress the work of the Learning and Skills Forum which will focus on making better use of existing education and skills training to provide a more joined-up service for existing offenders, and those at risk of offending.<sup>1</sup> ;
- To establish joint working groups with relevant parties to ensure development of cohesive integrated services for women with mental health difficulties in prison and in the community who exhibit offending behaviour.<sup>1</sup>
- To continue to work with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SET) and other agencies to develop and deliver services and interventions based on assessed need.<sup>1</sup>
- To further develop the NIPS Family Strategy for women offenders



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Probation Board, Northern Ireland Prison Service and INSPIRE Women's Project, including Women's Community Support Project, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

<sup>1</sup> This is not an exhaustive list of all the actions in the strategy but provides some examples

in custody, exploring ways to enhance the range of family services, including identifying improvements in relation to visits, particularly child-centred visits, as well as wider family links issues;

- To work with specialist services to provide greater support for women offenders who have been abused, raped, or who have experienced domestic violence.'



**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMMES**

**Community Safety Strategy (consulted on in Jan 2011)**

Objective to build safer, shared and confident communities  
Actions in relation to safer communities include: to address anti-social behaviour effectively; support early interventions for long term crime reduction, reduce the opportunities for crime, work in partnership to reduce harm caused by alcohol and drug abuse; and tackle domestic and sexual violence.

Actions in relation to shared communities include: to work to maximise the impact of government efforts in interface and other areas facing community safety problems; work with communities seeking the reconfiguration or removal of physical barriers; support communities to overcome community safety related constraints to the use of shared spaces; develop a strategic approach to addressing hate crime.

Actions in relation to building confident communities include: build confidence at regional and local level; empower and support local communities; encourage reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour; and improve our understanding of the fear of crime.

Committee for Justice updated on 22 March 2012 on the development of the strategy, see [http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Documents/Official-Reports/Justice/120322\\_CommunitySafetyStrategyDepartmentalBriefing.pdf](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Documents/Official-Reports/Justice/120322_CommunitySafetyStrategyDepartmentalBriefing.pdf)



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Cross -Executive and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs). The strategy for example states in it will work across the Executive to consider how it will support early intervention and promote it at local and partnership level where appropriate and lead on tackling sexual and domestic violence with DHSSPS and other agencies. DoJ will also work with partners in the business community through the Business Crime Partnership

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMMES**

**Implementation of Access to Justice Review recommendations**

The objective of the Access to Justice Review is to produce effective and affordable access to justice and legal aid systems which help resolve disputes at the earliest stage. (Published in September 2011)

The Justice Minister outlined his response to the recommendations and the departmental action plans at the Justice Committee meeting on 21 June 2012.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) and Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (NILSC), DSD led Government Advice and Information Group, DHSSPS.

# Department for Regional Development

## Programme for Government 2011-15

### Priority 2: Tackling Disadvantage

Key Commitment: For households, ensure no additional water charges during this Programme for Government.

### DRD Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **NORTHERN IRELAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY**

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) published in 2001 described how the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) is an integral part of it and set the vision for it "to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life". This vision remains in the latest revision (2012) of the RTS. The RTS recognises the importance of transport in reducing social exclusion and makes a specific commitment to improve social inclusion. *"This will mean seeking innovative public transport services including transport programmes focused on the user and services that meet the needs of communities. These will include Door-to-Door services, demand responsive services, Rapid Transit and services tailored to the needs of older people and people with disabilities".*



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **NORTHERN IRELAND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

The Department for Regional Development is committed to making transport as accessible as possible. In 2005 it published the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) which has the vision to *"have an accessible transport system that enables older people and people with disabilities to participate more fully in society, enjoy greater independence and experience a better quality of life"*. The ATS included a commitment to produce Action Plans to implement the Strategy. The current action plan is the fourth incarnation and it identifies policies and actions to be progressed for the period 2012-2015. The Strategy originally identified 5 specific areas where barriers existed to travel for older people and people with disabilities. These included: physical, attitudinal or psychological barriers, information provision, type of transport services available and their affordability.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

The ATS made a commitment to continue to support the Northern Ireland Transport Advisory Committee (NITAC), which at the time, was the main source of advice for DRD on issues relating to accessibility (NITAC was a precursor to IMTAC).

As of May 2006 NITAC became known as the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee having been established as a company, limited by guarantee. IMTAC is funded through the Transport Programme for People with Disabilities (TPPD) up to approximately £100,000.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

##### **CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME**

The Concessionary Fares scheme was established to promote accessible public transport to members of the community who are most at risk of social exclusion, through discounted fares. Currently the following concessions are provided:

Free travel for:

- Everyone aged 60 and over.
- People who are registered blind.
- War disablement pensioners.

Half fare travel for people:

- Who are in receipt of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.
- Who have had a driving licence refused or revoked on medical grounds.
- Who have a learning disability.
- Who are partially sighted.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**THE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Transport Programme for People with Disabilities (TPPD) has been in existence since 1991. The aims of the programme are:

- To target social need by improving accessibility of public transport to people with disabilities who cannot avail of existing conventional services in Northern Ireland; and
- To complement the work of existing service providers involved in programmes designed to promote social inclusion for people with reduced mobility.

To achieve this, the Programme supports a number of services in areas that contain a disproportionately high number of people who are mobility impaired and who could sustain a sufficient demand to visit key destinations and utilise these services.

The programme currently funds a number of initiatives including:

- Door to Door transport;
- Easibus Services;
- Shopmobility; and
- The Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC)



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

See info on IMTAC overleaf.

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**  
**THE RURAL TRANSPORT FUND**

The Rural Transport Fund (RTF) is administered by the Department and has been in existence in Northern Ireland since November 1998. Its primary objective is to support transport services designed to give people in rural areas improved access to work, education, healthcare, shopping and recreational activities and by so doing assists in reducing their social isolation.

The RTF offers support through two primary means of assistance:

- Subsidy for new rural services provided by Translink which are economically unviable but socially necessary; and
- Revenue and capital funding for Rural Community Transport Partnerships that offer a range of complementary services to the public transport network for their members.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DRD delivers the RTF in partnership with the public and community transport sectors. The projects supported by the RTF are required to demonstrate that they fulfil some or all of the following criteria:

- Target social need by improving rural people's access to training and employment opportunities;
- Complement the work of other agencies involved in the development of rural communities;
- Support a wide range of community-based activities and have a broad base of community support; and
- Encourage volunteering activity.

The RFT provides financial support for 19 Rural Transport Partnership across Northern Ireland and to the Community Transport Association (CTA) which offers training, advice and information to the community transport sector.

# Department of the Environment

## Programme for Government 2011-15

Priority 5: Delivering high quality and efficient public services.

Commitment: Establish the new 11 Council model for local government by 2015.

### DoE Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME LOCAL GOVERNMENT (REORGANISATION) BILL

While the main aim of the Bill provides for the reorganisation of local government, the transition provisions to promote the transfer of functions, staff etc., from 26 councils to 11 councils, also introduces community planning powers and the complementary power of well-being. One of the aims of community planning is to ensure that people and communities are genuinely engaged in decisions made about the public services that impact upon them. The power of well-being allows councils to do anything that they consider is likely to promote or improve the well-being of their areas and/or persons in it.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Local Government Taskforce Community Planning Sub-Group  
[www.doe.gov.uk/grt\\_cp\\_recommendations\\_to\\_the\\_taskforce.pdf](http://www.doe.gov.uk/grt_cp_recommendations_to_the_taskforce.pdf)  
The Department of the Environment set up a Local Government Taskforce in March 2006, in consultation with the local government sector and other relevant stakeholders to produce proposals for modern and effective local government in the light of requirements of the Review of Public Administration (RPA) and other drivers for change. Nine sub-groups were established to take work forward including a sub-group on community planning.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS ACTS

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 contains a range of legislative measures to improve the quality of the local environment and tackling forms of anti-social behaviour by giving district councils additional powers to deal with litter, fly-posting and graffiti, dogs, noise, statutory nuisance, alleyways, abandoned and nuisance vehicles and abandoned shopping trolleys. It also provides for the development of a community safety strategy.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

DoE is the lead department liaising with DRD (alleyway gating, parking etc.) and all local councils who are given new powers/functions. DoE liaises with DoJ on the Community Safety Strategy.

#### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR NI – DISCUSSION DOCUMENT (2011)

The Strategy will be structured according to the potential influence of environmental policy on three broad themes, one being Quality of Life – e.g. air, water and land quality, recreation, cultural, heritage, natural heritage, local environment quality, environmental justice, planning. The Strategy states that Northern Ireland's health and wellbeing is not as good as many regions in GB and Europe. This has a significant impact on society, the economy and public services. Health and wellbeing is, however, fundamentally linked to the environment in which people live and the lifestyles they lead. Poor environments, particularly in urban areas (where the majority of people live and/or spend their time) can lead to, or exacerbate anti-social behaviour and a range of other social problems (graffiti, vandalism, noise and litter). This can encourage a feeling that nobody cares for the local environment, leading to apathy, a sense of hopelessness and, ultimately, serious crime. High quality environments, on the other hand, can make an area seem more welcoming and cared for, and can discourage acts of anti-social behaviour which are more likely to be noticed. Enhancing the built environment leads to an enhanced sense of place and encourages pride in the local community.



#### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

To date the lead Department is DoE in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**PPS4: PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

In terms of development plans, 4.10 states that the re-use of previously developed land has an important role to play not only in the supply of sites for economic development, but it can also help to support the Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy and assist with economic regeneration and physical renewal. This helps to stimulate the enterprise in the most disadvantaged areas in order to tackle long-term unemployment and issues of employability.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DoE (Planning and Environmental Policy Group, PEPG) and DRD. Also DARD (Rural Strategy), OFMDFM (Social Inclusion and Anti-Poverty Strategy).

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**PPS7: QUALITY RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS**

The promotion of more housing in urban areas should not be allowed to result in town cramming or damage to areas of distinctive townscape character. In establishing residential areas, the overriding objective will be to avoid any significant erosion of the local character and the environmental quality, amenity and privacy enjoyed by existing residents (1.4).

The main objectives of this Statement are to promote quality residential development that:

- Creates places for people that are attractive, locally distinctive and appropriate to their surroundings, safe, convenient, adaptable and easy to maintain.
- Reduces the reliance on the private car, supports movement by pedestrians and cyclists, provides adequate and convenient access to public transport and connects well with the wider locality (2.1).



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DoE (PEPG) and DRD. Also DSD (development strategies).

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**PPS12: HOUSING IN SETTLEMENTS**

PPS12 is consistent with the strategic approach of New Targeting Social Need and includes provisions such as the promotion of accessibility for all, which will contribute to tackling poverty, social exclusion and the regeneration of disadvantaged neighbourhoods. These provisions and the subsequent actions will complement and reinforce actions directly aimed at promoting equality of opportunity (11).

PPS12 has been prepared in line with DARD's "Guide to Rural Proofing – considering the needs of rural communities". Rural proofing ensures that the needs and special circumstances of rural communities and areas are routinely and objectively considered as part of the policy development process. The guidance within this PPS acknowledges and aims to address the needs of rural communities.

Draft Policy HS3 deals with travellers accommodation and furthers the Ministers commitments to meeting the distinctive accommodation needs of travellers.



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DoE (PEPG), DRD and DSD (development strategies) and DARD (rural proofing).

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**PPS13: TRANSPORTATION AND LANDUSE**

PPS12 flow directly from the vision, spatial strategy and strategy planning guidelines contained in the RDS. The RDS sets out the transportation vision for the development of the region. That vision is:

"to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life" (4).

PPS13 is consistent with the strategic approach of New Targeting Social Need and includes provisions, such as the promotion of accessibility for all, which will contribute to tackling poverty, social exclusion and the regeneration of disadvantaged neighbourhoods. These provisions and subsequent actions will complement and reinforce actions directly aimed at promoting equality of opportunity (11).



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DoE (PEPG), DRD and OFMDFM (New Targeting Social Need Annual Report 2003, New TSN Unit).

**STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME**

**PPS21:SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

Some rural areas display symptoms of economic and social disadvantage. These areas may contain dispersed communities with a strong sense of identity. In the interests of promoting rural regeneration the Department has identified and designated a number of these communities as Dispersed Rural Communities (DRC) in development plans. In an effort to help sustain these particular rural communities, the Department will approve a suitable proposal for a small group of houses that build upon and consolidate identified focal points. Proposals for appropriate economic and social development will also be sympathetically considered (CTY2).

While planning policy resists groups of dwellings in the countryside, an exception may be made where a specific need for social and affordable housing has been established through a local housing needs assessment undertaken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and where the need has not been foreseen and provided for through the development plan process (CTY 5).



**CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

DoE (PEPG), DRD, DARD and NIHE.

# Department of Education

## Programme for Government 2011-15

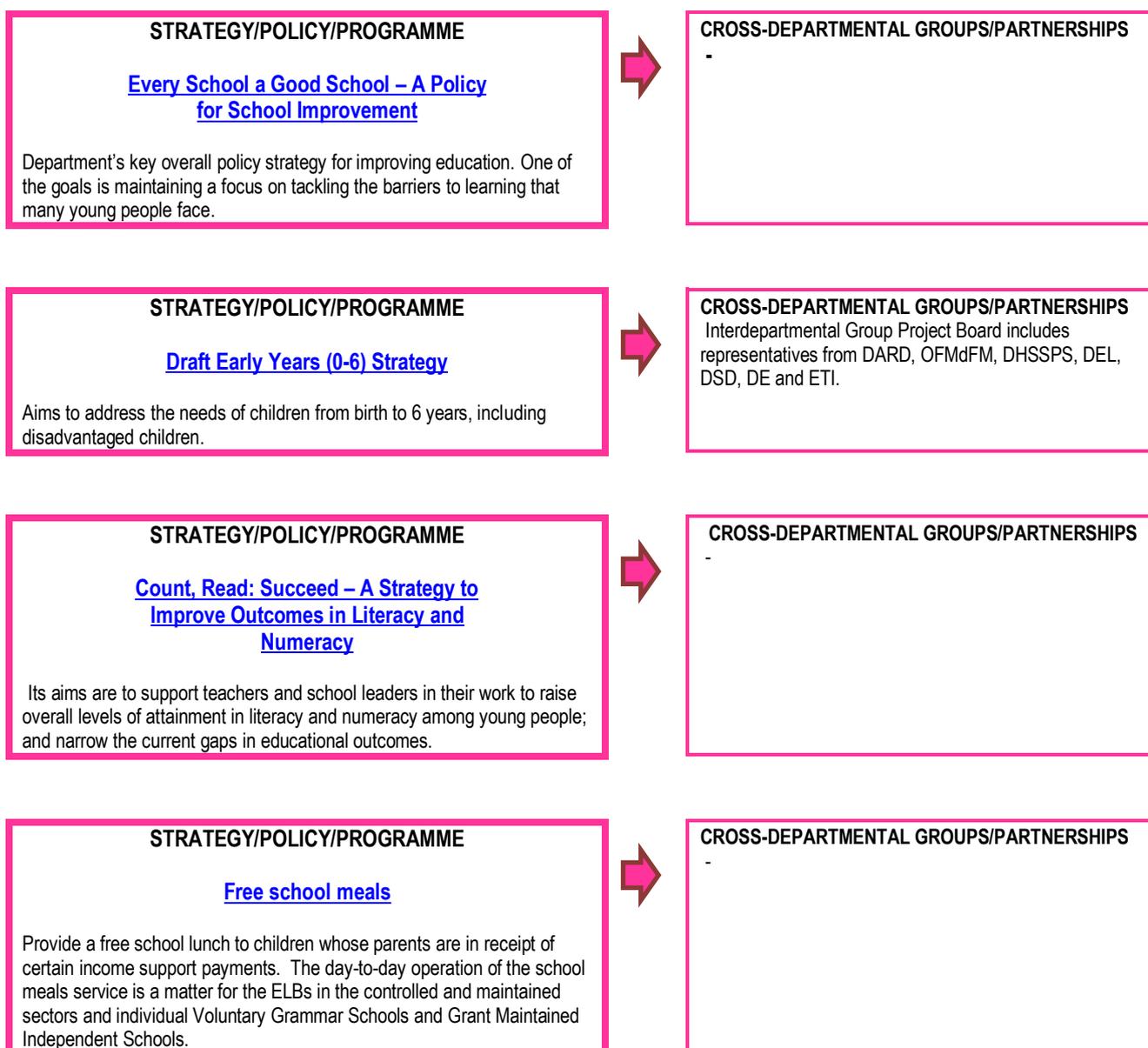
### Priority 1: Growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future

- Increase the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who achieve at least five GCSEs at A\*-C or equivalent including English and mathematics.

### Priority 2: Creating opportunities, tackling disadvantage and improving health and well-being

- Ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.
- Improve literacy and numeracy levels among all school leavers, with additional resources targeted at areas of educational underachievement.

Department of Education Strategies/Policies/Programmes relevant to the alleviation of social deprivation/poverty



### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### **Achieving Belfast and Achieving Derry - Bright Futures Programmes**

Aim to address underachievement in disadvantaged communities by putting into place evidence-based actions.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Working group to oversee progress included representatives from DHSSPS and DSD

### STRATEGY/POLICY/PROGRAMME

#### **Extended schools**

The Extended Schools (ES) programme aims to help improve educational outcomes, reduce barriers to learning and provide additional support to children and young people from deprived areas.

The Extended Schools programme aims to support learning and healthy lifestyles, raising school standards while engaging schools with their local community and connecting people with local services. The diverse menu of activities on offer includes breakfast or homework clubs, sport, art, drama, ICT and many other innovative programmes including those aimed at encouraging parental, family and community engagement.



### CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Many extended schools collaborate with health, housing and social services to offer additional help to children and young people, for example in addressing behavioural, emotional or health needs.

Extended schools are encouraged to work in partnership with neighbouring schools and local statutory, voluntary or community agencies or groups to provide more integrated support services.