

**Department of Education**

**Equality and Human Rights Policy Screening**

**For**

**CHILDREN’S AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S STRATEGY**

Children’s and Young People’s Strategy Team

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Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in the Equality Commission publication [Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment](http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/PracticalGuidanceonEQIA2005.pdf)

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**1. POLICY SCOPING**

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| * 1. Title of Policy | | |
| Children’s and Young People’s Strategy | | |
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| * 1. Type of Policy Development | | |
| This is a New Policy | | |
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| * 1. Description of policy: | | |
| The Children’s Service Co-operation Act (the Act) received Royal Assent on 9th December 2015. The aim of the Act is to improve co-operation amongst Departments and Agencies as they deliver services aimed at improving the well-being of children and young people.  The Act requires the Executive to develop and adopt a strategy which sets the strategic direction with a view to achieving improvements in the well-being of children and young people in Northern Ireland.  The Act also requires the Executive to make arrangements to promote co-operation and places a duty on Children’s authorities (which, as defined by the Act, includes Northern Ireland Departments, Councils, Health and Social Care Trusts, the Regional Health and Social Care Board, the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being, the Education Authority, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland) and other children’s service providers to co-operate where appropriate.  The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy is being developed both in response to statutory requirement, and because the current ten year strategy for children and young people for the period 2006-2016 – Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge (<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/ten-year-strategy.pdf>) is coming to an end.  The aims/desired outcomes of the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy mirror 8 factors that have been identified as having an impact on the wellbeing of children and young people as set out in the Act:   1. Physical and mental health 2. The enjoyment of play and leisure 3. Learning and achievement 4. Living in safety and with stability 5. Economic and environmental well-being 6. The making by them of a positive contribution to society 7. Living in a society which respects their rights 8. Living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic (in this section, ‘relevant characteristic’ means a characteristic mentioned in any of the Paragraphs (a) to (d) of Section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.   The Programme for Government (PfG) Framework is the highest level strategic document of the Executive. It sets out the priorities that the Executive will pursue in the current Assembly mandate, and the most significant actions it will take to address them.  A key outcome in the draft PfG Framework for 2016-2021 (May 2016) that directly relates to the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy is No 14 – We Give our Children and Young People the Best Start in Life. | | |
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| * 1. What factors could contribute to, or detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy? (Please click on relevant boxes) | | |
| None | |  |
| Legislative | |  |
| Financial | |  |
| Others (please specify)  Click here to insert text. | | |
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| * 1. Main stakeholders affected (Please click on relevant boxes) | | |
| Pupils (Actual or Potential) | |  |
| Parents | |  |
| Teaching Staff | |  |
| Trade Unions or Professional Organisations | |  |
| Other Public Sector Organisations | |  |
| Departmental Staff | |  |
| Others (please specify)  The Executive, the NI Assembly, children and young people and their parents/guardians, children’s authorities (as described at section 1.3) and other children’s service providers. | | |
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| * 1. Who is responsible for? | | |
| (a) Devisingthe policy  The Department of Education, on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive.  (b) Implementing it  The Department of Education and other NI Departments, Children’s authorities and other children’s service providers.  (c) Explain the relationship?  The Department of Education is responsible for setting the strategic policy direction in respect of improving the well-being of children and young people in Northern Ireland on behalf of the NI Executive.  Children’s authorities (which, as defined by the Act, include Northern Ireland Departments, Councils, Health and Social Care Trusts, the Regional Health and Social Care Board, the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being, the Education Authority, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland) and other children’s service providers will comply with the new duties set out in the Act, and will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy where this falls within their remit. | | |
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| * 1. Other policies or objectives with a bearing on this policy | | |
| The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy is wide ranging and, as such, a range of policy instruments will have a bearing on it:  International: European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR); UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).  Wider Government: A range of other policies and objectives have a bearing on the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy including:  Children’s Services Co-operation Act (NI) 2015,  Human Rights Act 1998,  14-19 policy,  Childrens Order NI (2005),  draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021,  Social Framework,  Investment Framework,  Economic Framework,  Early Intervention Transformation Programme,  Delivering Social Change Framework (including children and young persons early actions document),  Child Poverty Strategy,  Disability Strategy,  Racial Equality Strategy,  Department of Education: Childcare Strategy, Sharing Works: A Policy for Shared Education, the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Act (NI) 2016, Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016,14-19 Policy, Play and Leisure Policy, and the range of strategies and policies under the ‘Every School A Good School’ policy. | | |
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| **2. EVIDENCE** | |
| **2.1 What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy in respect of each of the categories?** | |
| **Section 75 Category** | **Details of Evidence/Information** |
| Religious Belief | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive co-design process. As part of this process a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Political Opinion | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive co-design process. As part of this process a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Racial Group | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive engagement process. As part of this process a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Age | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive engagement process. As part of this process a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Marital Status | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive co-design process. As part of this process awide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted.  When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Sexual Orientation | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive co-design process. As part of this process a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Men And Women Generally | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive engagement process. As part of this process awide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Disability | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive engagement process. As part of this process a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |
| Dependants | The Children’s Services Co-operation Act stipulates that the Executive must develop and adopt a Strategy that sets out how it proposes to improve the well-being of children and young people. A key factor contributing to their well-being, according to the Act, is living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic. The term ‘relevant characteristic’ as used in the Act means a characteristic mentioned in any of the paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act. As such, the development of the Strategy is tied directly to Section 75 categories.  The strategy has been developed using an open and inclusive engagement process. As part of this process a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted to gauge their opinions, to identify the issues that matter to them and to suggest ways in which the Strategy could be developed to meet the needs of children and young people, and to improve their well-being. A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted.  A key Strategic outcome is a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. When policies are being developed/revised in light of the Strategy they will be subject to Equality screening and EQIA (if appropriate). Evidence on Section 75 data will be gathered to inform such policy development. |

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| **2.2 Taking into account the evidence gathered at 2.1 what are the needs, experiences and priorities of each category in relation to this particular policy?** | |
| **Section 75 category** | **Needs/Experiences/Uptake/Priorities** |
| Religious Belief | This is a Strategy for the benefit of all children and young people, not one defined by reference to a particular Section 75 category. The Strategy itself is not a ‘policy’ in the strictest sense. It is a framework for policy actions to improve the well-being of children and young people generally. It contains specific recommendations and headline actions, and anticipated outputs. These will be implemented by Government Departments and their agencies and other Strategic partners where appropriate. Detailed impact assessments will be appropriate when policy actions arising from the Strategy are being developed/revised. |
| Political Opinion | As above. |
| Racial Group | As above. |
| Age | As above. |
| Marital Status | As above. |
| Sexual Orientation | As above. |
| Men And Women Generally | As above. |
| Disability | As above. |
| Dependants | As above. |

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| **3. Screening questions:** | | |
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| **3.1 What is the likely impact of this policy on equality of opportunity**  **for each of the Section 75 equality categories?** | | |
| **Section 75 category** | **Level of Impact?** | **Details of policy impact** |
| Religious belief | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Political opinion | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Racial group | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Age | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Marital status | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Sexual Orientation | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Men and Women generally | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Disability | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |
| Dependants | MINOR | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity is promoted. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.  It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. However, policies being developed/revised in light of the Strategy will be subject to screening and, if appropriate EQIA to ensure that this is the case. |

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| **3.2** **Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?** | | |
| **Section 75 category** | **YES/NO** | **Provide Details** |
| Religious belief | YES | The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy recognizes that, to improve the well-being of children and young people in Northern Ireland it is necessary to take action to ensure that they are treated fairly and equally (across all Section 75 categories), and have improved attitudes towards children and young people from different community backgrounds. It sets out the strategic direction for children’s Departments and their agencies, and other Strategic partners to follow when developing/revising their policies. A key aspect of this work will involve promoting equality of opportunity where appropriate. |
| Political opinion | YES | As above. |
| Racial group | YES | As above |
| Age | YES | As above |
| Marital status | YES | As above |
| Sexual Orientation | YES | As above |
| Men and Women generally | YES | As above |
| Disability | YES | As above |
| Dependants | YES | As above |

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| **3.3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between: people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?** | | | | |
| **Good relations category** | **Impact** | | **Details of policy impact** | |
| Religious belief | MINOR | | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which good relations are promoted, as this will in turn serve to improve their well-being. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements where appropriate.  This being the case, it is anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. | |
| Political opinion | MINOR | | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which good relations are promoted, as this will in turn serve to improve their well-being. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements where appropriate.  This being the case, it is anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. | |
| Racial group | MINOR | | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which good relations are promoted, as this will in turn serve to improve their well-being. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements where appropriate.  This being the case, it is anticipated that the impact of the Strategy (realized through subsequent policies/programmes etc) will be positive. | |
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| **3.4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?** | | | | |
| **Good relations category** | | **YES/NO\*** | | **Provide Details** |
| Religious belief | | YES | | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which good relations are promoted, as this will in turn serve to improve their well-being. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements where appropriate. |
| Political opinion | | YES | | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which good relations are promoted, as this will in turn serve to improve their well-being. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements where appropriate. |
| Racial group | | YES | | One of the key outcomes the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to achieve is that children and young people live in a society in which good relations are promoted, as this will in turn serve to improve their well-being. The Strategy sets the direction of travel for policy makers, Programme developers and service providers to achieve improvements where appropriate. |

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| **3.5 Additional considerations - Multiple identities**  Please provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities and specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned. |
| The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy applies to all children and young people across the Section 75 categories. As such, it encompasses those individuals with multiple identities. |

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| **4. SCREENING DECISION** |
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| Not to conduct an equality impact assessment; although there is a minor impact, on one or more of the equality of opportunities and/or good relations categories but mitigation/alternative of policies will offset the minor adverse impact(s). |
|  |
| **Details which support the screening decision**  Choose an item.  In accordance with the requirements of the Children’s Services Co-operation Act 2015, the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy has been developed in cognisance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).  The Strategy is also mindful of the UK State Party Fifth Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and alternative reports to the UN, prepared by the Children’s Commissioners, Non-governmental organizations, NI Human Rights Commission and children and young people themselves. The concluding observations from the most recent UN examination have also been considered in drafting the Strategy.  These various sources of information highlight the ongoing barriers to well-being and rights that our children and young people face. The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy sets the strategic direction with a view to improving the well-being of children and young people, and, in part, seeks to help address the barriers and inequalities children and young people face.  Two of the 8 key desired Strategic outcomes relate specifically to Human Rights and Equality:  ‘Living in a society which respects their rights’ and  ‘Living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share that characteristic’.  The Strategy sets the strategic direction for improvements in the well-being of all children and young people, and will not serve in any way to impact adversely on equality of opportunity or human rights.  As the aim of the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy is to provide strategic direction and to steer policies to ensure that they are geared to improving the well-being of children and young people where appropriate, new or revised policies will be individually assessed by the responsible department/public authority in relation to their Section 75 obligations.  In other words, any potential impact of individual projects, programmes, policies or services undertaken in support of the implementation of the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy will be assessed on a case by case basis. |

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| **5. Timetabling and prioritising** | |
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| **5.1 NOT APPLICABLE AS POLICY SCREENED OUT** | |
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| **Criterion** | **Priority Rating** |
| Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations | NA |
| Social need | NA |
| Effect on people’s daily lives | NA |
| Relevance to a public authority’s functions | NA |
| **Total** | **NA** |
|  | |
| **5.2 If the policy is affected by timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities please provide details** | |
| **N/A** | |
| **Note:** Details of the Department’s Equality Impact Assessment Timetable will be included in a Quarterly Screening Report. | |

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| **6. MITIGATION** |
| If you conclude that the likely impact is **‘minor’** and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you should consider: mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations. |
|  |
| **Why and how will the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?** |
| The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy provides the strategic direction for children’s authorities and other children’s service providers, their policy-makers, programme developers and service delivery partners to deliver improvements in the well-being of children and young people in Northern Ireland. The intent of the Strategy is clearly one whose aims in relation to equality of opportunity and good relations are intended to be positive.  However, where appropriate, Equality Screening (and if deemed appropriate) EQIAs will be carried out when policies are being developed/revised in response to the Strategy. |

1. **MONITORING**

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

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| Please detail what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy on any of Section 75 equality categories |
| The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy seeks to deliver tangible outcomes relating to equality of opportunity and the realization of the rights of children and young people.  The Strategy will be monitored throughout its lifetime to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.  As highlighted previously, the Strategy is not a policy in the strictest sense. Rather, it provides the strategic direction for policy makers. It will be for those developing/revising policy in light of the Strategy to ensure that effective monitoring processes are in place to identify any future adverse effects arising from any policies they develop/revise in light of the Strategy. |

**8. DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

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| 8.1 Please state if the policy/decision in any way discourages persons with disabilities from participating in public life or fails to promote positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities. |
| The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy will in no way discourage persons with disabilities from participating in public life or fail to promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities. In fact, the Strategy seeks to achieve improvements in the well-being of children and young people in Northern Ireland and to address barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential. |
| **8.2 Please state if there is an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities or encourage participation in public life by making changes to the policy/decision or introducing additional measures.** |
| Development of the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy has been informed through a co-design process that has seen officials from the Department actively engaging with a large number of stakeholders to gauge their concerns and opinions about issues that affect children and young people, and their suggestions as to how the Strategy could be used to effect improvements in their well-being. |
| * 1. Please detail what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy with reference to the disability duties. |
| The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy is not a policy in the strictest sense of the word. The Strategy provides the strategic direction through which policies can be developed/revised to better meet the needs of children and young people. It will be for those Departments under whose remit individual policies fall to ensure that data is collected to monitor the effects of their own policies with reference to the disability duties. |

**9 CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

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| --- | --- |
| 9.1 How does the policy/decision affect anyone’s Human Rights? | |
| [The Human Rights Act (1998)](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/ukpga_19980042_en_1) | Positive Impact |
| [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_understanding.html) *(UNCRC)* | Positive Impact |
| [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml) *(UNCRPD)* | Positive Impact |
| [The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm) | Positive Impact |
| Other,(please state here) | Choose |
|  | |
| **9.2 If you have identified a negative impact who is affected and how?** | |
| N/A | |

|  |
| --- |
| 9.3 Outline any actions which could be taken to promote or raise awareness of human rights or to ensure compliance with the legislation in relation to the policy/decision. |
| The Children’s Services Co-operation Act (2015) brings into domestic legislation a requirement to have regard to the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child when determining the meaning of the term ‘well-being’ as it relates to children and young people. It also states that one of the factors contributing to well-being of children and young people is living in a society which respects their rights.  Improving the rights of children is therefore a key driver behind the Children’s and Young People’s Strategy – in fact a key outcome anticipated through implementation of the Strategy is that ‘all children and young people are aware of their rights and feel that they are respected’.  The Children’s and Young People’s Strategy will, in turn, seek to encourage strategic partners to promote human rights awareness with the aim of ensuring that all children and young people are aware of their rights and feel that they are respected. Appropriate indicators and measures will be developed to ensure that this aspect of the Strategy is being appropriately implemented and can be monitored effectively. |

1. **CONSIDERATION OF RURAL IMPACTS**

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| --- | --- |
|  | |
| ***Guidance on Rural Impact Assessment can be found in:***  [**Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing**](https://www.dardni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/guide-to-rural-proofing.pdf) |  |
| **10.1 Is there potentially a direct, or indirect, impact on rural areas?** | **NO** |
|  |  |
| 10.2 If YES please attach a DARD Rural Issues Statement Pro-forma  (The Pro-forma can be found in TRIM Document DE1/14/117152) | |

1. Approval and authorisation

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Screened by:** | **Position** | | | | **Date** |
| **Andrea Kelly** | **Staff Officer, CYPST** | | | | **14/09/2016** |
| **Approved by:** | **Position** | | | | **Date** |
| **June Wilkinson** | Head of Children’s and Young People’s Strategy Team | | | | **31/10/2016** |
| . | | | | | |
| **FOR COMPLETION BY Equality TEAM** | | | | | |
| Screening Decision | | **Agreed** | | | |
| Quality Assured by: | | **Richard Magowan** | | **10/11/2016** | |
| Click here to enter comments. | | | | | |
| Date Directorate/Team Informed: | | 10/11/2016 | | | |
|  |  | |  | | |
| **FOR COMPLETION BY POLICY TEAM** | | | | | |
| TRIM Ref No. | | | Click here to enter TRIM Ref No.  **Note**: You must store this completed screening form on TRIM and finalise it. **Use the record naming convention “Completed Screening form of……”**  . | | |
| Date screening form placed on Internet by policy team | | | Click here to select date. **Note** As soon as possible, following quality assurance, you must publish a copy of the screening form on the Department’s website, with a link on the [“Policy Screening" page](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/85-about-the-dept/85-about-the-department-equality-pg/85-about-the-department-equality-policies-screened-out-pg.htm) | | |
| Date email sent to S75 Consultees by policy team | | | Click here to select date. | | |