Children and Young People’s Strategy
Consultation Document

Easy Read
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The Children and Young People’s Strategy is the Executive’s plan for making life better for children and young people in Northern Ireland.

There are 8 main things that we want to do.

This document explains the main things the Strategy wants to do, and how people can work together to make them happen.
What do you think?

We want to know what you think of these plans.

Please tell us by:

- Completing our online survey or the Consultation Response booklet at: https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/children-and-young-peoples-strategy-2017-2027
- Emailing us at: cyps.consultation@education-ni.gov.uk
- Writing to us at:
  Children and Young People’s Strategy Team
  Department of Education
  Room 6.14
  Rathgael House
  Balloo Road
  Rathgill
  Bangor BT19 7PR
1. Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy

We want to make sure that every child and young person has the best possible physical and mental health.

We also want to make sure that children and young people get the right health care services when they need them.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI Government Departments will make the physical and mental health of children and young people a priority.

- We will make sure that children and young people get the help they need at an early stage.
Those who provide services for children and young people should look at how they can help to make the health of each child or young person better.

Parents and carers should think about the health of their children and young people and how they can help them learn healthy habits.

Children and young people should be able to talk to family and friends about health worries and ask them for help.
2. Children and young people enjoy play and leisure

We want to make sure that children and young people have the time and space to enjoy rest and fun activities.

We want to make sure that children and young people are able to play, enjoy their free time and take part in culture and the arts.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI Government Departments will make sure everyone knows that children and young people have the right to play – and how important play is.

- We will make sure that money is put into play and that there are new opportunities for play and leisure services – especially for those who need it most.
● Those who provide services for children and young people should make sure that children and young people have the chance to play, and welcome children and young people to play in public spaces.

● They should make sure that local spaces should be designed to meet the needs of children and young people.

● Parents and carers should encourage play, and make sure that children and young people have free time to enjoy play and fun activities.

● Children and young people should be helped to learn how to play and encouraged to explore new, fun activities.
3. Children and young people can learn and achieve

We want to make sure that all children and young people have an education that will help them to learn to do as much as they, do what they are good at, and be themselves.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI government Departments will make sure we have the best system for childcare and early childhood education.

- We will make sure that we have a world class education system that does everything to help children and young people to be themselves, do what they are good at, and learn to do as much as they can.
• We will make sure that there is particular help for those who need it.

• Those who provide services for children and young people should make sure that the education of all children and young people is valued and based on their needs and dreams, through the very best teaching.

• Parents and carers should help their children do well at school and make their home a good place to learn.

• Children and young people should be at the centre of education.

• Children and young people should get the best education and be ready for life when they leave school.
4. Children and young people are kept safe and secure

We want to make sure that all children and young people are protected from being harmed in any way.

This includes being hurt, badly treated, neglected or taken advantage of.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI Government Departments will work to make sure that all children and young people live in safety, that people obey the law, and that people at risk have protection.

- Those who provide services for children and young people should make sure they deal with things that upset children and young people.
● Parents and carers should do everything they can to create a safe and secure home for children and young people.

● Children and young people should expect to have a safe and stable place to call home.

● When things are difficult, children and young people should know who to turn to.
5. Children and young people live in a good environment and have enough money to live on

We want to make sure that all children and young people have enough money to live on, so that they get what they need to grow in every way.

We want to make sure that children and young people live in a good environment.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI Government Departments will work to reduce poverty and make our economy strong.

- We will protect the environment and make sure people know how important a good environment is.
Those who provide services for children and young people should think about how they can help the poorest people here in Northern Ireland. They should help the Executive and NI Government Departments to deal with the things that make people poor, and protect children and young people from poverty.

Parents and carers should be able to make full use of the opportunities they get, so that their children and young people have what they need and there is a good family environment in the home.

Children and young people should be protected from poverty and be given the skills they need to get jobs when they are adults.

They should be given chances to learn about the environment and teach adults how important it is.
6. Children and young people have the chance to make a difference to society

We want to make sure that all children and young people are able to say what they think and feel about things that will affect them, and their views are listened to.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI Government Departments will actively listen to the views of children and young people and will give them a chance to have their say and make a difference to society.

- Those who provide services for children and young people should think about how things can be made better by listening to the voices of children and young people.
• Parents and carers should listen to what children and young people have to say, and encourage them to volunteer and find ways of making a difference to society.

• Children and young people should be given the chance, and the help they need, to be part of making important decisions that affect them.

• They should have the confidence to say what they think, and know that they will be heard and get an answer.
7. Children and young people understand their rights and everyone in Northern Ireland respects their rights

We want to make sure that all children and young people are told about their rights.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI Government Departments will respect the rights of all children and young people and make sure that people know about children’s rights.

- Those who provide services for children and young people should know about children’s rights and make sure that what they do protects and improves those rights.
• Parents and carers should be the main people to stand up for their children’s rights.

• Children and young people should know their rights and should be able to know when their rights are being ignored.

• Children and young people should have the confidence to challenge those who ignore their rights.
8. Children and young people live in a place where everyone gets an equal chance, and where everyone can get along well together

We want to make sure that all children and young people are treated equally.

It does not matter what their race, language or religion is, or who their family are. Children and young people should not be treated badly because they are a male or female, because of what they are able or unable to do, or for any other reason.

To help make this happen:

- The Executive and NI Government Departments will make sure that people in Northern Ireland are treated fairly and that we share things together.
• We will make sure that being different is seen as a good thing.

• Those who provide services for children and young people should stand up for children and young people who are not being treated fairly.

• They should make sure that children and young people are made to feel welcome to play and live without being treated badly.

• Parents and carers should learn from their children and listen to them when they say it is OK to be different and how important it is to treat everyone fairly.

• Children and young people should be examples for all of us when they say it is OK to be different and how important it is to treat everyone fairly.
For more information

If you need more information please contact us by

Emailing us at:

cyps.consultation@education-ni.gov.uk

Telephoning us at:

(028) 91 858026

Writing to us at:

Children and Young People’s Strategy Team
Department of Education
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