STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: IMPROVING CHILDREN'S LIVES

Overview

1. Outcome 12 in the draft Programme for Government commits us to Giving Our Children and Young People the Best Start in Life [also a theme within the Executive’s Making Life Better Public Health Framework]. This Outcome is owned by the Department of Education and is underpinned by a number of indicators one of which is to ‘Improve Support for Looked After Children’. The associated indicator Delivery Plan outlines the proposals to turn the curve which will in part be delivered through the implementation of a Looked After Children Strategy.

2. Currently there are around 3,000 children in care of Health and Social Care Trusts. The term ‘Looked After Children’ refers to a diverse group that varies in terms of age, ethnicity, the reason for being looked after, age of first entry into care and duration within care. However, whilst some young people in care go on to enjoy success, as a group, educational and other outcomes tend to fall significantly below those of the general population.

3. There are now more children in care than at any other time since the introduction of the Children Order in 1995. The number has been growing steadily year on year. Allied to the rise in numbers is the increasing complexity of need among children who come into care. Some children are engaging in behaviours associated with adolescence at a much younger age. We also have a growth in the number of young people entering care for the first time at an older age than previously. In addition some of the children entering care may have experienced trauma in their lives which has impacted on their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

4. Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together underscores the Programme for Government commitment to looked after children in which the former Health Minister stated that we will honour our corporate parenting responsibilities to the fullest extent and will be as ambitious for children in care as we are for our own children.

5. In addition the Children’s Services Co-operation Act (NI) 2015 requires government departments, relevant agencies and the voluntary and community sector to work together on the planning, resourcing and delivery of children’s services to improve the well-being of children and young people. Well-being is defined in terms of 8 outcomes/parameters. The draft Looked After Children Strategy is being brought forward in the context of the Executive’s draft Children and Young People Strategy and provides key messages and actions identified to address each of these 8 outcomes.

6. Section 7 of the draft Strategy includes a high level draft Implementation Plan which draws together actions from Programme for Government, Delivering Together, the Adoption and Children Bill...
consultation response, and a number of review exercises and project evaluations. Some actions will lead to improvements across more than one or all outcome areas.

7. The Strategy is being taken forward jointly by the Departments of Health and Education. The consultation draft has also been developed with significant input from key stakeholders across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. Children, young people and carers have also been involved in its development. In order to produce a succinct but comprehensive document we have had to distil comments.

8. Please note: The definition of ‘corporate parent’ was subject to consultation under the Adoption & Children Bill and any agreed definition arising from this will be included in the finalised Strategy.

TO ATTEND ANY OF THE CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS DETAILED BELOW, PLEASE FOLLOW THE RELEVANT LINK TO THE EVENTBRITE WEBSITE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SURVEY.

Some young people may be invited to workshops organised by voluntary organisations (VOYPIC, Fostering Network, MACs, Start360, Include Youth). If you are not invited to one of these but would like to come along to a workshop organised by both departments, please follow the link to the Eventbrite website.

Introduction

In completing the questionnaire you are asked to consider:

1. The 8 outcomes designed to measure wellbeing for Looked After Children and the key messages related to them;
2. The actions we have identified to deliver across the 8 outcomes. We have identified a number of actions which deliver across all outcomes as well as actions specific to each outcome;
3. The indicators or measurements we should consider in order to know if anyone is better off as a result of the actions being taken.

Please read the relevant section of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children before answering the questions.

Most questions require you to indicate if agree with the content of that section of the draft Strategy by selecting yes/no/no comment option.

If you do have comments please complete the box provided.

For the indicators you will be asked to select 3 which you consider to be the most important and/or suggest others we have not considered.
1 What is your name?
Name

2 What is your email address?
If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.
Email

3 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation
(Required)
Please select only one item
- Organisation - please go to Question 4
- Individual - please go to Question 5

4 What is your organisation?
Organisation
5 Are you responding as? (please choose one of the options below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Required)</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Looked after child/young person</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Looked after child/young person</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster carer</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive parent</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent of an adopted child, a child in care or a former child in care</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professional</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On behalf of an advocate organisation</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Professional</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of the general public</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR PLEDGE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN AND ON THE EDGE OF CARE AND THOSE LEAVING CARE

Section 4 (page 14) of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children sets out our pledge to children and young people in and on the edge of care and those leaving care.


6 Do you agree that the Department’s pledge for pre-care covers all the aspects that should be considered?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No Comment

If not, please tell us what we are missing?


7 Do you agree that the Department's pledge for in-care covers all the aspects that should be considered?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, please tell us what we are missing?


8 Do you agree that the Department's pledge for after-care covers all aspects that should be considered?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No Comment

If not, please tell us what we are missing?


OUTCOME 1 LIVING IN A SOCIETY WHICH RESPECTS THEIR RIGHTS

Section 6, Pages 21 - 22 (Paragraphs 6.3 - 6.9) sets out the direction and key messages related to ensuring the delivery of Outcome 1


9 Do you consider that we have captured all key messages related to this outcome?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No Comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

OUTCOME 2 LIVING IN A SOCIETY IN WHICH EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND GOOD RELATIONS ARE PROMOTED

Section 6, Page 24 (Paragraphs 6.10 and 6.11) sets out the direction and key messages related to ensuring the delivery of Outcome 2

Do you consider that we have captured all key messages related to Outcome 2?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

OUTCOME 3 PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Section 6 Pages 29-31 (Paragraphs 6.12 - 6.25) sets out the direction and key messages related to ensuring the delivery of Outcome 3

11 Do you consider that we have captured all the key messages related to Outcome 3
(Required)

Please select only one item

Yes  No  No comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

OUTCOME 4 LIVING IN SAFETY AND WITH STABILITY

Section 6 Pages 36-38 (Paragraphs 6.26 - 6.27) sets out the direction and key messages related to ensuring the delivery of Outcome 4

12 Do you consider that we have captured all the key messages related to Outcome 4?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

OUTCOME 5 LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

Section 6 Pages 41-44 (Paragraphs 6.28 - 6.40) sets out the direction and key messages related to ensuring the delivery of Outcome 5

13 Do you consider that we have captured all the key messages related to Outcome 5?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

OUTCOME 6 PLAY AND LEISURE

Section 6 Pages 45-47 (Paragraphs 6.41 - 6.47) sets out the direction and key messages related to ensuring the delivery of Outcome 6

14 Do you consider that we have captured all the key messages related to Outcome 6?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

OUTCOME 7 ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

Section 6 Pages 49-52 (Paragraphs 6.48 - 6.59) sets out the direction and key messages related to ensuring the delivery of Outcome 7

Do you consider that we have captured all the key messages related to
Outcome 7?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

OUTCOME 8 CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO COMMUNITY AND
SOCIETY

Section 6 Pages 54-54 (Paragraphs 6.60 - 6.66) sets out the direction and key messages related to
ensuring the delivery of Outcome 8

https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doh-looked-after-children-adoption-policy-unit/strategy-for-
looked-after-children-improving-child/user_uploads/looked-after-children-strategy---version-
v-3.0-dated-30-april-2018.pdf#page=54 <user_uploads/looked-after-children-strategy---version-
v-3.0-dated-30-april-2018.pdf#page=54>
16 Do you consider that we have captured all the key messages related to Outcome 8?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what other key messages should be considered?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER ACROSS ALL 8 OUTCOMES

Section 7 pages 3 - 4 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver across all 8 Outcomes (A1 - A8)

17 Do you consider that these actions will help deliver across all Outcomes?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No Comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver across all outcomes and why?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER OUTCOME 1 - LIVING IN A SOCIETY WHICH RESPECTS THEIR RIGHTS

Section 7 pages 4 - 5 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver across Outcome 1 (R1 - R4)

18 Do you consider that these actions will help deliver on Outcome 1?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver on Outcome 1 and why?

Implementations plan actions which will deliver outcome 2 - Living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted

This outcome is intrinsically linked to the other 7 outcomes and consequently, no separate actions are outlined.

19 Do you agree with this approach?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No Comment
20 If not, what approach should be taken?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER OUTCOME 3 - PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Section 7, page 6 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver on Outcome 3 (H1 - H4)


21 Do you consider that these actions will help deliver on Outcome 3?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver on Outcome 3 and why?
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER OUTCOME 4 - LIVING IN SAFETY AND WITH STABILITY

Section 7, page 7 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver on Outcome 4 (S1 - S3)


22 Do you consider that these actions will help deliver on Outcome 4?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver on Outcome 4 and why?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER OUTCOME 5 - LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

Section 7, pages 7 - 8 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver on Outcome 5 (L1 - L7)

Do you consider that these actions will help deliver on Outcome 5?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver on Outcome 5 and why?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER OUTCOME 6 - PLAY AND LEISURE

Section 7, page 9 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver on Outcome 6 (P1 - P2)

24 Do you consider that these actions will help deliver on Outcome 6?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver on Outcome 6 and why?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER OUTCOME 7 - ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

Section 7, pages 9 - 10 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver on Outcome 7 (EE1 - EE3)

25 Do you consider that these actions will help deliver on Outcome 7?
(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver on Outcome 7 and why?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIONS WHICH WILL DELIVER OUTCOME 8 - CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

Section 7, pages 10 - 11 of the draft Strategy for Looked After Children provides the detail of the actions we consider will deliver on Outcome 8 (CS1 - CS2)

26 Do you consider that these actions will help deliver on Outcome 8?
(Required)

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- No comment

If not, what further action should be considered to deliver on Outcome 8 and why?

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 1 - LIVING IN A SOCIETY WHICH RESPECTS THEIR RIGHTS - REPORT CARD

In order to know if we are achieving Outcome 1 we need to know if anyone is better off. We have identified a number of indicators which will allow us to assess this, Implementation Plan Page 13

27 Please select the 3 indicators which you feel best demonstrate delivery of Outcome 1?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>An increase in the level who feel that life story work helped</th>
<th>Preference 1</th>
<th>Preference 2</th>
<th>Preference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Looked After Children understand their identify</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level of Looked After Children who feel they have a chance to give their views about the issues that affect them</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level of i) under 12s ii) 13-16 who agree that the care plan process made them feel empowered</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level of over 16s who agree that the pathway plan process made them feel empowered</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are there any other indicators that you feel should be considered?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please provide the detail of the proposed indicator
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 2 - LIVING IN A SOCIETY IN WHICH EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND GOOD RELATIONS ARE PROMOTED - REPORT CARD

PERFORMANCE FOR ALL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY OUTCOMES WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IS BEING ACHIEVED THEREFORE NO SELECTION OF PREFERRED OPTIONS REQUIRED

28 Do you agree with this approach?
(Required)

*Please select only one item*

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No comment

29 If not, what approach should be taken?
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 3 - PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH - REPORT CARD

In order to know if we are achieving Outcome 3 we need to know if anyone is better off. We have identified a number of indicators which will allow us to assess this. Implementation Plan Page 14

30 Please select the 3 indicators which you feel best demonstrate delivery of Outcome 3?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preference 1</th>
<th>Preference 2</th>
<th>Preference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level with improved GHQ score after CAMHS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level expressing satisfaction with their health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level expressing satisfaction with volume and quality of short break services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level with improved emotional health and wellbeing following engagement Education Counselling Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of school children expressing satisfaction with their emotional health and well-being by age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are there any other indicators that you feel should be considered?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please provide the details of the proposed Indicator
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 4 - LIVING IN SAFETY AND WITH STABILITY - REPORT CARD

In order to know if we are achieving Outcome 4 we need to know if anyone is better off. We have identified a number of indicators which will allow us to assess this, Implementation Plan Page 14

31 Please select the 3 indicators which you feel best demonstrate delivery of Outcome 4?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Preference 1</th>
<th>Preference 2</th>
<th>Preference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of weeks for care order proceedings to conclude.</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level consulted and made aware of, decisions in their care plans and pathway plans.</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level of satisfaction of relationships with social worker, foster carer, personal advisor, residential care staff.</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level who accepted intervention who did not have a substance abuse problem the following year.</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with the support, information and advice available to them – for children &amp; young people; and foster carers (by type).</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Care leaver’s satisfaction as to how to access relevant services and support.</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
<td>☐️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(Required) Preference 1 Preference 2 Preference 3
Level of children & young people who feel safe/protected
*Please select only one item*

Are there any other Indicators that you feel should be considered?

(Required)
*Please select only one item*

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes please provide detail of the proposed indicator.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 5 - LEARNING AND ACHIEVING - REPORT CARD

In order to know if we are achieving Outcome 5 we need to know if anyone is better off. We have identified a number of indicators which will allow us to assess this, Implementation Plan Page 15

32 Please select the 3 indicators which you feel best demonstrate delivery of Outcome 5?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Required)</th>
<th>Preference 1</th>
<th>Preference 2</th>
<th>Preference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level who have achieved their predefined objectives in PEPs (and PLPs where relevant)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A decrease in the level of difference between Looked After Children and the general school population attaining A* - C in English and Maths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level attaining 5 or more A* - C or equivalent GCSEs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A decrease in the level of difference between attainment at Key Stage 1, 2 and 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement re outcomes relating to Looked After Children factor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement re Outcomes from nurture units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are there any other Indicators that you feel should be considered?

(Required)

Please select only one item

○ Yes  ○ No
If yes please provide details of the proposed Indicator.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 6 - PLAY AND LEISURE - REPORT CARD

In order to know if we are achieving Outcome 6 we need to know if anyone is better off. We have identified a number of indicators which will allow us to assess this, Implementation Plan Page 15

33 Please select the 3 indicators which you feel best demonstrate delivery of Outcome 6?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Required)</th>
<th>Preference 1</th>
<th>Preference 2</th>
<th>Preference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with approved Schemes</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with access to play and leisure</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with the support and access to after school and out of school activities</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are there any other Indicators that you feel should be considered?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes please provide details of the proposed Indicator.
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 7 - ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING - REPORT CARD

In order to know if we are achieving Outcome 7 we need to know if anyone is better off. We have identified a number of indicators which will allow us to assess this. Implementation Plan Page 16

Please select the 3 indicators which you feel best demonstrate delivery of Outcome 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Required)</th>
<th>Preference 1</th>
<th>Preference 2</th>
<th>Preference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level attaining 5 or more A* - C or equivalent GCSEs</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level attending Higher/Further education</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level in Education, Employment and Training by age and category including Higher/Further Education</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in the level completing apprenticeships</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of difference between young parents who are care leavers and the general population (by age)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are there any other Indicators that you feel should be considered?

(Required)

Please select only one item

○ Yes  ○ No

If yes, please provide details of the proposed Indicator.
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: OUTCOME 8 - CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY - REPORT CARD

In order to know if we are achieving Outcome 8 we need to know if anyone is better off. We have identified a number of indicators which will allow us to assess this, Implementation Plan Page 16

35 Please select the 3 indicators which you feel best demonstrate delivery of Outcome 8.

(Required) | Preference 1 | Preference 2 | Preference 3
--- | --- | --- | ---
An increase in the level of children & young people in Education, Employment and Training at age 19 by category including HE/FE  
*Please select only one item*

An increase in the level of children & young people participating in voluntary and community work  
*Please select only one item*

An increase in the level that feel they are contributing positively to their community or neighbourhood  
*Please select only one item*

A decrease in the level of over 10s not cautioned or convicted of an offence  
*Please select only one item*

An increase in the level of i) 10 - 16s, and ii) over 16s who do not have a substance misuse problem  
*Please select only one item*

Are there any other indicators that you feel should be considered?

(Required)  
*Please select only one item*

○ Yes  ○ No
If yes please provide details of the proposed Indicator.
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Department of Health [DoH] and Department of Education [DE] will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. DoH and DE can refuse to disclose information only in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely the DoH and DE in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The DoH and DE cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to them in response to a consultation. However, they do have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances.

The Lord Chancellor’s Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

- the Departments should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Departments’ functions and it would not otherwise be provided;

- the Departments should not agree to hold information received from third parties ‘in confidence’ which is not confidential in nature;

- acceptance by the Departments of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office at:

Information Commissioner’s Office – Northern Ireland

3rd Floor

14 Cromac Place

Belfast BT7 2JB

Tel.: (028) 90278757 / 0303 123 1114

Email: ni@ico.org.uk

Website: https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/northern-ireland-office/
<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/northern-ireland-office/>
36 Are you content for a copy of your response to be made available, if requested? Please note that if you ask for your response to be kept confidential this will only be possible if it is consistent with our obligations under Freedom of Information Act 2000.

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

37 Are the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document likely to have an adverse impact on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please state the group or groups and provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated in the proposals.
38 Are you aware of any research or evidence – qualitative or quantitative – that the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact.

39 Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations?

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please give details as to how.
40 Are any of the proposals likely to interfere with or limit the rights of looked after children and young people?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes  - No

If so, please explain how?

41 Does the policy in any way promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and/or encourage their participation in public life?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes  - No

Please explain your response?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
If you have any additional comments to make, please include these in the text box below:

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