**CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**CONSULTATION ON SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS**

**Background**

The aim of the consultation is to seek views on proposed consequential amendments to Regulations 6 and 10 of the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005, (the 2005 Regulations). As these proposals were not included in the 2017 consultation on the Adoption and Children Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, we are now seeking your views on whether to proceed to include such provision in the 2005 Regulations, at the same time as we make the necessary consequential amendments when the relevant provisions of the Act are commenced.

**Questionnaire**

The questionnaire can be completed by a member of the public or it can be completed on behalf of a group or organisation.

Please indicate your answer to the questions by placing an **X** by your selection. You can also provide further comments in the free text field.

**The deadline for consultation responses is 5pm on 19th January 2023.**

**Respondents’ details**

I am responding: as an individual

on behalf of an organisation (please tick box)

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Tel: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 5pm on 19 January 2023.**

**In writing to: Family and Children’s Policy Directorate**

**Department of Health**

**Room A3.3, Castle Buildings**

**BELFAST**

**BT4 3SQ**

**Tel: (028) 90522169**

**Or by email to**: [**adoption@health-ni.gov.uk**](mailto:adoption@health-ni.gov.uk)

**Consultation questions**

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**4. Assessment of needs: children who are victims of trafficking or are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (pages 9 - 11).**

Q1. Do you agree that we should amend regulation 6 of the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 to place a duty on an authority, when carrying out an assessment of needs in respect of an eligible or relevant child, to take into account any needs the child may have as a result of being:

* a victim, or suspected victim, of trafficking in human beings; or
* an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child who has applied, or intends to apply, for asylum and has not been granted indefinite leave to remain.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  | No |  |  | Undecided |  |

If not, please explain.

**Comments**

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**5. Suitable accommodation: matters to be considered (pages 12 - 13)**

Q2. Do you agree that we should amend regulation 10 of the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 to include a list of matters that a Trust must take into account when considering whether accommodation is suitable?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  | No |  |  | Undecided |  |

Do you consider that the list of matters set out in paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 of the consultation document is sufficient or are there any other matters that should be included?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  | No |  |  | Undecided |  |

**Comments**

**Equality Implications**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Department to “have due regard” to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependants and persons without.  The Department is also required to “have regard” to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of a different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group.

The Department has also embarked on an equality screening exercise to determine if any of these recommendations are likely to have a differential impact on equality of opportunity for any of the section 75 groups. We invite you to consider the recommendations from a section 75 perspective by considering and answering the questions below. Answering these questions will contribute to the completion of the Department's Screening template and the screening outcome.

**Q3. Are there any considerations and evidence that you think the Department should take into account when assessing the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 or The Human Rights Act 1998 arising as a result of the proposed changes?**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  | No |  |

**Comments:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rural Impact**

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 became operational on the 1st June 2017 and places a duty on public authorities, including government departments, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services.

**Q4. Are the proposed changes likely to have an adverse impact on rural areas? If yes, please provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  | No |  |

**Comments:**