Workshop 2

Enjoyment of play and leisure
The outcome

‘the enjoyment of play and leisure’

(Section 1 (2)(b) of the Children’s Services Co-operation Act (NI) 2015)
Relevant provisions of UNCRC

Article 31:
‘right of the child to **rest** and **leisure**, to engage in **play** and **recreational activities** appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in **cultural life** and the **arts**’

‘shall respect and promote’ ... ‘shall encourage’
General Comment 17

‘rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts’

‘together they describe the conditions necessary to protect the unique and evolving nature of childhood’
General Comment 17

- Importance of play, rest, leisure, arts, cultural life
- For all children 0-17
- Non-discrimination
- Factors for an optimal environment
- Challenges to be overcome
Concluding Obs 2008

‘The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to guarantee the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. The State party should pay particular attention to provide children, including those with disabilities, with adequate and accessible playground spaces to exercise their play and leisure activities.’
Some issues

• Negative stereotyping / discrimination, being told to ‘move on’
• Little provision for teenagers
• Worry about risk
• Little time for rest and leisure
• Less access to play and recreation for some groups
Workshop questions

1. What are the issues affecting children generally that should be addressed under this outcome?

2. Are there specific issues affecting particular groups of children?

3. Where are the gaps in our knowledge?

4. What do children and young people think about this issue?

5. Who needs to be involved in addressing this outcome?

6. What other work is currently being taken forward in relation to this outcome?

7. Is it possible to focus down on a few initial priority areas for this outcome?