Workshop 5
Economic and Environmental wellbeing
The outcome

‘economic and environmental wellbeing’

(Section 1 (2)(e) of the Children’s Services Co-operation Act (NI) 2015)
The outcome

‘economic and environmental wellbeing’

Income
poverty

?
Economic Well-being: Relevant provisions of UNCRC

Art 4: ‘…With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources…’
Economic Well-being:
Relevant provisions of UNCRC

Art 26:
1. States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law.

2. The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.
Economic Well-being:
Relevant provisions of UNCRC

Art 27:
1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

2. The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.

3. States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing…
Economic Well-being: Con Obs 2008

Standard of living: comments

• Welcomed commitment to end child poverty
• Recognised reduction – but
• Very concerned at level of problem – especially in NI, severe poverty and Traveller children
• Highlighted that adequate standard of living is essential
Economic Well-being: Con Obs 2008

Standard of living: recommendations

• Adapt and implement legislation to meet 2020 target
• Prioritise children in most need
• Intensify efforts to provide material assistance and support programmes
• Reintroduce statutory duty to provide safe and adequate sites for Travellers
Key issues: Economic wellbeing

- More than 100,000 C&YP living in poverty in NI
- Food and fuel poverty
- Little change since stats first gathered
- Predicted to rise significantly over next 5 years
- Impacts on health, education outcomes, play opportunities
- Welfare reform – and Welfare and Work Act
- Child poverty strategy:
  ‘Families experience economic well-being’
‘Your Voice Matters’: Economic wellbeing

- Financial implications, including benefit cuts
- Impact of poverty on young people in education
- Impact on family life
- Provision of services
- Impact on communities
- Housing and homelessness
- Employment issues
- Impact on childcare
- Support for yp leaving care or living independently
Environmental Well-being:

1. Family environment?

Most mentions of ‘environment’ in UNCRC refer to family environment.

Preamble: ‘Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding’
Environmental Well-being:

2. Living environment, ie home and community?

**Article 27**
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3. States Parties… shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and **housing**.
3. The natural environment?
Art 29: ‘The education of the child shall be directed to … the development of respect for the natural environment
Originally included in the Strategy in response to children and young people, who apparently meant it in relation to environmental protection.
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?
Workshop

Economic and Environmental wellbeing