The development of the Children and Young People’s Strategy

Clayton Hotel, Belfast.
4 May 2016
Welcome and introduction to the day

Mairéad McCafferty
NICCY Chief Executive
The Children’s Strategy and Children’s Services Cooperation Act 2015

Koulla Yiasouma

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
“If government as a whole and at all levels is to promote and respect the rights of the child, it needs to work on the basis and unifying, comprehensive and rights-based action plan, rooted on the convention”
Programme for Government 2016-21

Children & Young People’s Strategy & Action Plan

Requires:
- National action plan for children
- Implementation of rights
- Concluding Observations implemented

UNCRC & Concluding Observations 2016

Reporting: on delivery of UNCRC rights, Concluding Observations.

Around 2021

Children’s Services Co-operation Act 2015

Reports must inform next PFG

Requires:
- Strategy laid Dec 2016
- 8 outcomes
- Stat agencies cooperate
- Permits pooled budgets

June 2017, 2020

1. Physical & mental health
2. Play & Leisure
3. Learning & achievement
4. Safety & stability
5. Economic & environment
6. A positive contribution
7. Society respects rights
8. Equality & good relations
Process for development of Children and Young People’s Strategy

June Wilkinson

Children and Young People’s Unit, OFMDFM
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S STRATEGY

Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th May
Aims of the Strategy

• A Strategy to improve the well-being of all our children and young people, building upon previous work. To focus on better outcomes, better co-operation and better delivery.

• We want it to be.....
  – outcomes focussed
  – rights based
  – evidence informed
  – child informed
  – designed with stakeholders
Work to date

• Review of previous Strategy
• Analysis of UNCRC Alternative Reports / List of Issues
• Kick off meeting – September 2015
• CiNi workshop – November 2015
• UNCRC ‘List of Issues’ workshop – December 2015
• Over 40 one to one meetings – Since October
• Meetings with CYPSP Outcome Groups
• Meetings with Departmental policy leads
• Establishment of Programme Board (Depts / NICCY)
• Establishment of Outcomes Group (Project team - QUB, CYPSP, NCB)
• Newsletters, web presence, social media
Bigger Picture

• Children’s Services Co-operation Act (8 well-being parameters)

• UNCRC (Concluding Observations – June 2016)

• NI Executive - Programme for Government

• NI Executive - Children & Young People’s Strategy
Within the Act the term ‘well-being’ is defined through using 8 general parameters that could be used to demonstrate or indicate ‘well-being’.

- Physical and mental health
- Enjoyment of play and leisure
- Learning and achieving
- Living in safety and stability
- Economic and environmental well being
- Positive contribution to society
- Respect of their rights
- Promotion of good relations
Requirements under the Act

• The Strategy must
  – Set out what outcomes the Executive intends to be achieved s3(2)(a)
  – Detail actions to be taken by Departments s3(2)(b)
  – Explain how success or failure will be measured and determined. s3(2)(c)
  – Be for a set period of time s3(3)
  – Be developed with children and young people, parents and guardians s3(4)
## PfG Framework Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>High Level Outcomes</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-15 succinct, accessible statements describing what we are trying to achieve.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Key Indicators</strong></th>
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<td>Perhaps about 3 per outcome – in key areas indicating progress towards the outcome. Taken in the round, show direction of travel.</td>
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<th><strong>Progress Measures</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Providing information on how the actions are being delivered</td>
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<th><strong>Key Actions (e.g. Children &amp; Young People’s Strategy)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Actions that will shift key indicators. Collaborative programme – subject to review in light of progress.</td>
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High level approach for the Strategy

• **Better Outcomes**
  – What conditions for Children and Young People do we want?
  – How will we measure success?
  – What does the existing data / research say?
  – Who are the key stakeholders?
  – What actions can we take?

• **Better Co-operation**
  – How can Government work together?
  – What arrangements / structures are needed?
  – Where would the pooling budgets / data sharing / shared resources be most effective?

• **Better Delivery**
  – How can we monitor progress?
  – How do we keep sector reps and CYP involved?
  – Where can we make revisions / improvements?
  – What new data do we need to improve delivery?
**Next Steps**

- Testing emerging thinking
- Questionnaire to young people / organisations
- Analysis of the strategic outcomes
  - Outcomes Based Approach
  - Collation of data
- Improving co-operation
  - What arrangements are required?
- Ongoing co-design
- Formal Consultation on draft Strategy
- Executive Agreement
Plenary discussion:
Mechanisms for co-operation and delivery

Koulla Yiasouma
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
Children’s Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

• Well-being of children and young persons – a “purpose clause” used to define what is meant by well-being and what is intended by the Act.

• Co-operation to improve well-being – a duty on the Executive to make arrangements for co-operation to improve well-being.

• Children and young persons strategy – a duty on the Executive to bring forward a strategy to outline the priority outcomes for children’s well being.

• Sharing of resources and pooling of funds – an enabling power to allow Departments and agencies to pool resources (should they choose) to deliver children’s services.

• Report on the operation of this Act – a duty on the Executive to report on the delivery of the strategy and how the lives of children and young people have improved.

• Programme for Govt – a requirement that the PfG consider issues raised in the report on the operation of this Act.

• Guidance – a clause which details that OFMDFM may bring forward guidance on the implementation of this Act.

• Regulations relating to clause 4 – a clause which gives DFP the power to introduce regulations which would outline how Departments should act in the pooling of budgets.
Duty to Co-operate

“Every children’s authority must, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its children functions (functions which may contribute to the well-being of children and young persons), co-operate with other children’s authorities and with other children’s service providers in the exercise of those functions”

“The Executive must make arrangements to promote co-operation”

Children’s authorities include;
- NI Departments (and agencies)
- District Councils
- A Health and Social Care Trust
- The Regional Health and Social Care Board
- The Public Health Agency
- The Education Authority
- The Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- The Police Service of Northern Ireland
- The Probation Board for Northern Ireland
Reporting requirements under the Act

• **The Report must**
  
  – Detail the actions taken by the Executive and Departments to achieve the set outcomes **s5(3)(a)**
  – Detail the progress made towards achieving these outcomes **s5(3)(b)**
  – Comment on the co-operation between children’s authorities. **s5(3)(c)**
  – Provide information on pooled budgets **s5(3)(d)**
  – Detail how well-being has improved **s5(3)(e)**
  – Identify further opportunities for co-operation **s5(4)(a)**
  – First be laid within 18 months of the publication of the first strategy and then at intervals of 3 years **s5(5)(a)**
Pooling of budgets

• Children’s authorities may-
  – Provide staff, goods, services accommodation or other resources to other children’s authorities \((s4(2)(a))\);
  – Make contributions to a fund out of which relevant payments may be made. \((s4(2)(b))\)

• The intention of the shared resources or pooled budgets would be to improve the well-being of CYP.

• DFP may bring forward regulations to support the management of such budgets.
Issues to consider

• Co-operation
  – What does ‘co-operation’ mean?
  – What arrangements should the Executive make?
  – What are the structures and who is involved?

• Reporting
  – How do we ensure better delivery?
  – Ongoing scrutiny / review / revision.
  – Getting the data we need.

• Budgets
  – Where would pooled budgets be beneficial?
  – How might they operate?
Overview

Better outcomes
- Health
- Play
- Learning and achieving
- Safety and stability
- Economic well-being
- Positive contributions
- Respecting rights
- Good relations

Better co-operation
- Executive promoting co-operation across children’s authorities
- Input and support from stakeholders
- Engagement and participation of children and young people

Better delivery
- Monitoring of progress
- Sharing information
- Pooling budgets
- Reviewing and revising plans
- Reporting process