

Health Development Policy Branch
DHSSPS
Room C4.22
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

30 October 2012.

To whom it may concern

Fit and Well – Changing Lives: A 10 Year Public Health Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland

As many children and young people across Northern Ireland continue to experience significant and persistent inequalities in health and wellbeing I welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

Please find enclosed a copy of NICCY's recent October 2012 submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on children and young people's right to health. This draws on my January 2012 paper to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child who are developing a General Comment which will provide further guidance on the implementation of the right to health for children under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I would request that the Department ensures that the new strategic framework fully reflects the concerns outlined in NICCY's submission on children's right to health and takes account of the recommendations in relation to measures for the implementation of the right to health.

NICCY welcomes the recognition in the draft strategic framework of: the need for a holistic understanding of health and wellbeing which takes account of the wider determinants of health; the importance of a whole government approach to public health; and the need to ensure there is 'proportionate universalism' to effectively address health inequalities. However, NICCY would ask that particular attention is given to the following areas: ensuring a rights based approach underpins the framework; maintaining a clear outcomes focus throughout the development, implementation and evaluation of the strategy; incorporating experiences of childhood



adversity as a significant factor in the determination of health and health inequalities; and ensuring the life course approach to health includes a specific section focused on the needs of adolescents and that this encompasses young people up to 18 years of age.

Do not hesitate to contact my office if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "P Lewsley-Mooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner for Children and Young People

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