

# 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

Living in a society which respects children's rights

1. Physical & mental health

2. Play & Leisure

3. Learning & achievement

4. Safety & stability

5. Economic & environment

6. A positive contribution

7. Equality & good relations

# Programme for Government 2016-21

## Children & Young People's Strategy & Action Plan

UNCRC & Concluding Observations 2016

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

Reporting: on delivery of UNCRC rights, Concluding Observations.

Around 2021

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

Reporting: on actions, progress, cooperation and outcomes.

June 2017, 2020

*Reports must inform next PFG*

Children's Services Co-operation Act 2015

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**



# 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



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# 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



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# 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



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# CHILDREN'S SERVICES CO-OPERATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2015

- 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



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# 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

## High Level Outcomes

10-15 succinct, accessible statements describing what we are trying to achieve.

## Key Indicators

Perhaps about 3 per outcome – in key areas indicating progress towards the outcome.  
Taken in the round, show direction of travel.

## Progress Measures

Providing information on how the actions are being delivered

## Key Actions (e.g. Children & Young People's Strategy)

Actions that will shift key indicators.  
Collaborative programme – subject to review in light of progress.



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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?



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# 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



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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.



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# 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)**



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# 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

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