

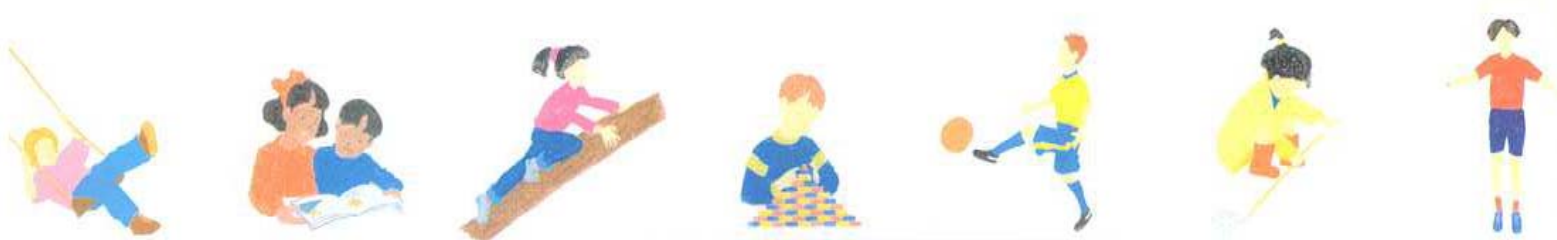


NORTHERN AREA CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

CONSULTATION ON THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2005-08

December 2004





In line with our Communicating Information Well Policy, the Northern Health and Social Services Board is committed to making information as accessible and equitable as possible and to promoting positive and meaningful dialogue with local people.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

In an effort to make information as accessible as possible the Consultation on the Children's Services Plan 2005-08 has been produced in large print.

The paper can also be made available in the following alternative formats:

- Large print (size as required)
- Computer disk
- Audio tape
- Translation

For an alternative format, please contact:

The Patient/Client Information Service

Telephone Number: 084 57 626428

Textphone: 028 25 662618

The Review can also be found on the Board's website at: www.nhssb.n-i.nhs.uk

ADDITIONAL COPIES can be obtained by contacting:

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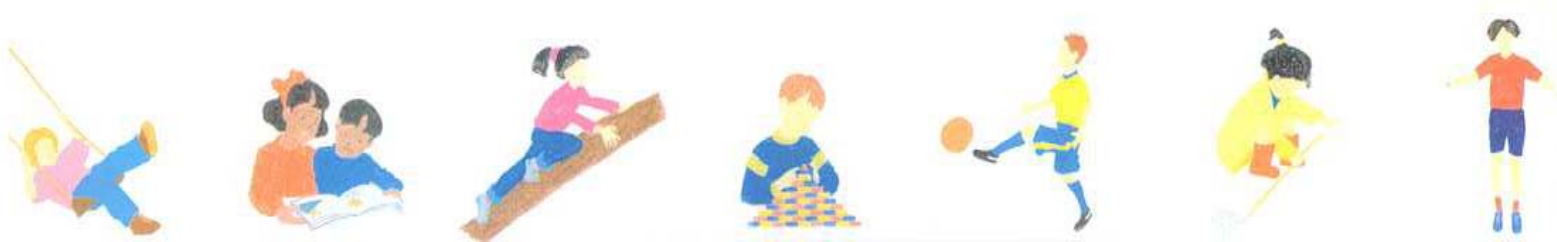
E-mail: anne.hardy@nhssb.n-i.nhs.uk





Every child and young person has the right to the best possible start in life: to be brought up in a safe, happy and secure environment; to be consulted, listened to and heard; to be supported as they develop into adulthood and maturity; and to be given every opportunity to achieve their full potential





PREFACE

This document has been prepared to help the Northern Area Children and Young People's Committee (NACYPC) consult widely about the Northern Area Children's Services Plan for 2005-08. The NACYPC is made up of statutory, voluntary and community organisations who are working to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people in this area.

A Children's Services Plan is a document which informs the provision of services for vulnerable children and young people over the three years. Plans are also a means of making better use of available resources.

A Children's Services Plan is produced every three years by each of the Area Children and Young People's Committees. This plan will be the third plan for the area.

What should be in the plan?

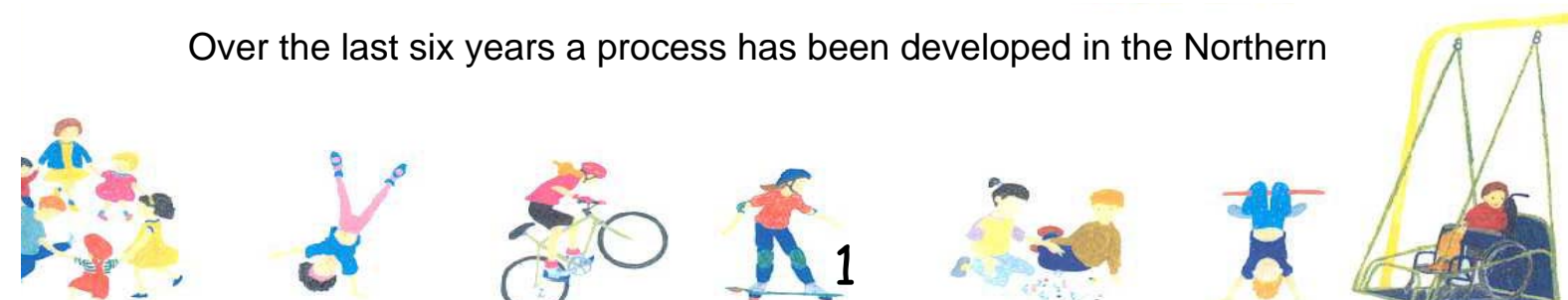
It is important that the plan is written within a process which collects information about

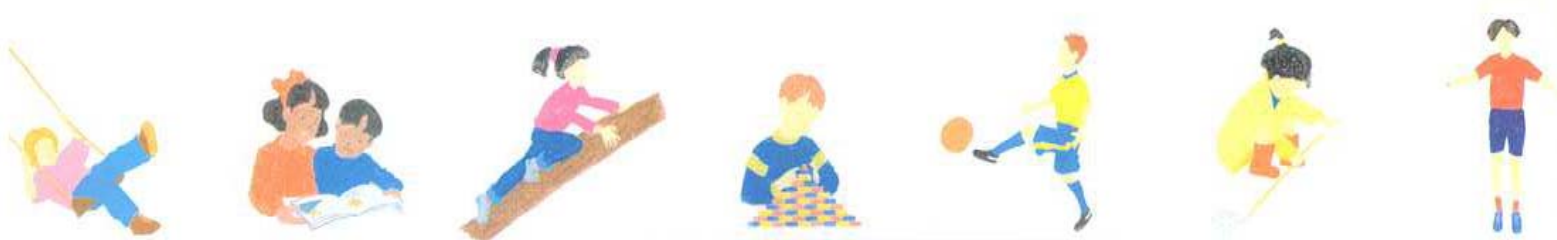
- the needs and rights of children and young people
- what services are in place
- what policy and guidelines say
- how well these services are meeting the needs and
- what services are not there.

Many people have the information required for this process, for example:-

- Children and young people
- Families
- Communities
- Staff in organisations providing services
- Staff in organisations who speak for children and young people

Over the last six years a process has been developed in the Northern





Area. A number of sub groups and locality groups have been set up to gather the information and to recommend what the priority areas should be for services. These groups have members from the different sectors and different organisations providing services. The involvement of children, young people and their families is central to the process and ways to make this happen have also been developed.

This document contains the priorities identified by the multi-agency Sub Groups based on the work they have been doing and the information they have gathered from children, young people and families. They have set out how they would ensure these priority areas will be met by listing what they plan to do over the three years.

The NACYPC is keen to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to influence this work. A number of ways have been identified. This consultation document will be sent out to a wide range of people. It will be made available in public places such as libraries, Health Centres and Doctors surgeries. It will be made available on websites. A children and young person's version will also be available. A number of consultation meetings and information sessions will be held during January.

How can you respond to this document?

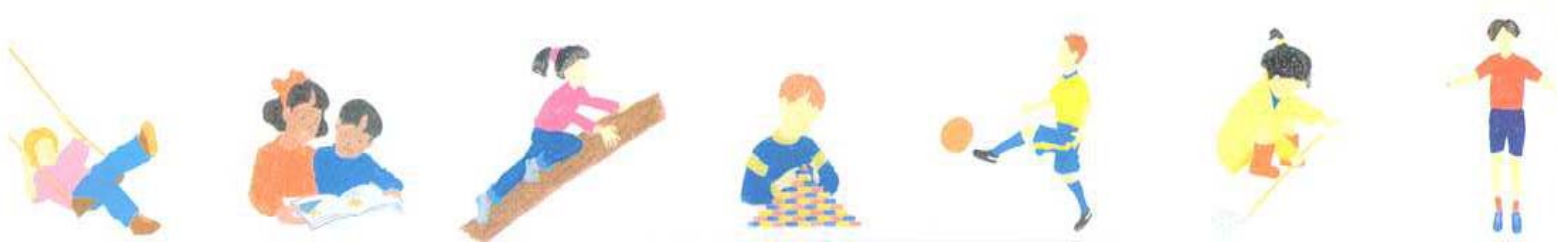
By 4th February 2005 please return the questionnaire included to:-

By post to: Anne Hardy
Children's Services Planning Project Manager
Social Services Department
NHSSB
County Hall
BALLYMENA
Co Antrim
BT42 1QB

By Fax 028 256 67674

By email anne.hardy@nhssb.n-i.nhs.uk





INTRODUCTION

There are four Children and Young People's Committees in Northern Ireland. These Committees bring together senior representatives from Statutory, Voluntary and Community organisations, so that they can plan services for vulnerable children and young people. In each area the work of the Committee is carried out by a range of sub groups, which are also made up of representatives from Statutory, Voluntary and Community Organisations. Each Sub Group works on a different aspect of children's lives, for example, disability, young people and crime, children in care.

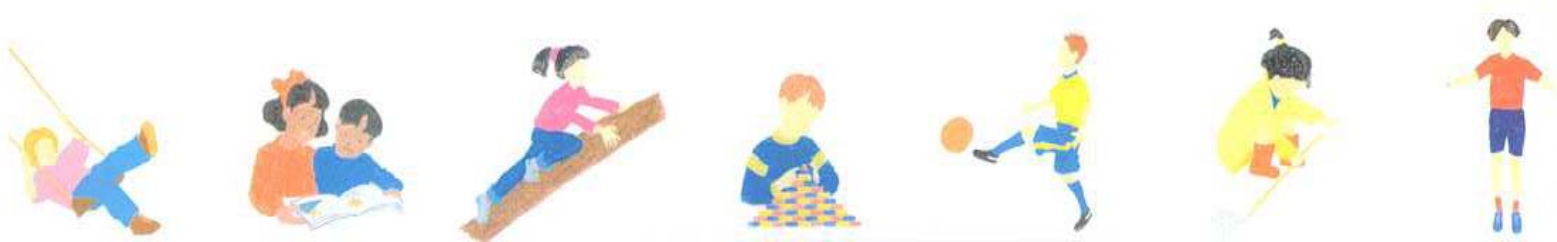
All four Committees are working together on the plans for 2005-08. This chapter, which has been written by all four Committees, describes how we will approach planning in the same way. The later chapters will reflect strategies and targets specific to Board areas.

The Committees having been involved in Children's Services Planning for six years, have learnt a great deal from their experience of multi-agency collaboration and are bringing this experience into each Board's Plan. Very importantly, each Plan is also based on children's rights, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). As a result of the previous work of the Committees, it has been decided to build the 2005-08 plans on three themes:-

- Outcomes based on needs and rights
- The "Whole Child"
- Supporting Families.

These three themes are described below.





OUTCOMES BASED ON NEEDS AND RIGHTS

The aim of the four Children's Services Plans 2005-08 is to improve the well being of vulnerable children and young people.

In order to help us to achieve this aim, the four Children and Young People's Committees have together draw up nine statements which describe the life we would like for all children in Northern Ireland. Everyone in Northern Ireland, from the Government to people in communities can play a part in helping to reach these goals.

Our thinking has been influenced by "Every Child Matters" the Green Paper (draft paper for proposed new law), setting out proposals for the re-organisation of services in Britain following the death of Victoria Climbié. The paper proposed that five broad objectives should drive services for children and young people.

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Economic Well-being

At the same time, we became aware of the results of work on outcome measurement undertaken in the USA – particularly in the State of Vermont. Both of these influences, together with a focus on the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, have resulted in the following set of proposals for outcome measures for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland.





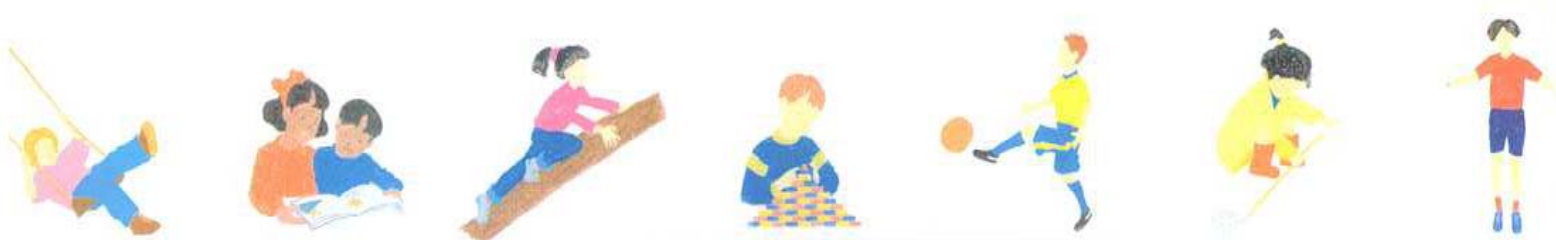
1. All children and young people have a stable upbringing
2. All children and families live in safe, supportive communities.
3. All children and young people live free from poverty.
4. All pregnant women, new parents and babies thrive.
5. All children are ready for learning and school.
6. All children and young people enjoy and succeed during school years.
7. All children and young people are involved in decisions that affect them.
8. All children and young people make a positive contribution that is valued.
9. All children and young people make a safe transition to adulthood.

These Outcome Statements are not written as statistical targets – but they are Statements of Common purpose, of aspiration and intent.

It is proposed that each Outcome will be informed by a cluster of Key Statistical Indicators ('Feeder' Indicators) which are drawn from all of the agencies whose work contributes to that Outcome. Thus, for example, the outcome statement that "All Children Enjoy and Succeed during school years" could draw on a range of feeder indicators which come from education, health, social services and youth justice.

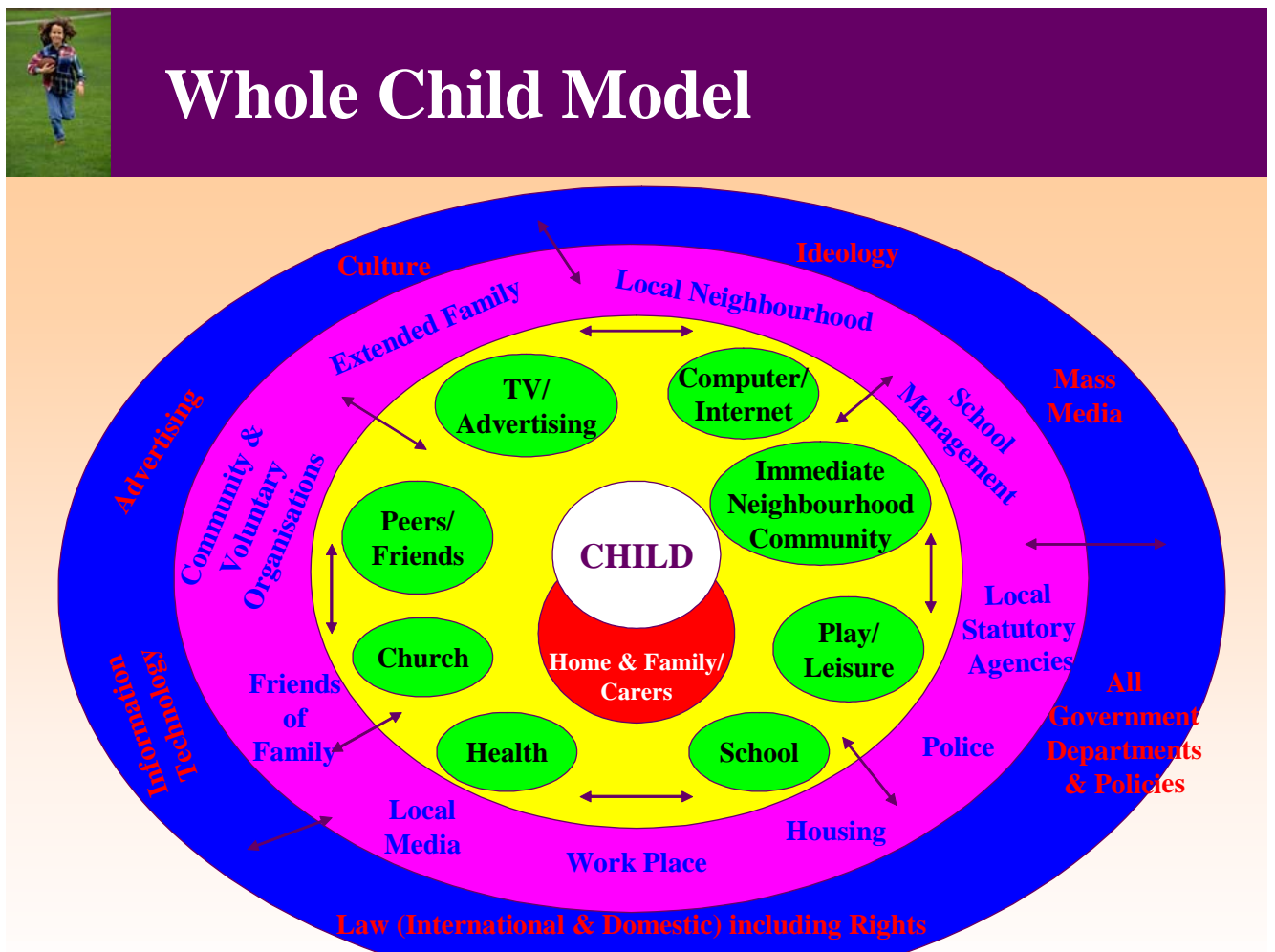
The overall objective is to maximise the co-ordination of different agencies and sectors by achieving agreement on common statements of purpose. In this way each agency can make its unique contribution to the statistical profile which describes the overall state of health and well being of children and young people. Agencies, rather than measuring only their own activity, will measure their activity as a contribution to the whole.

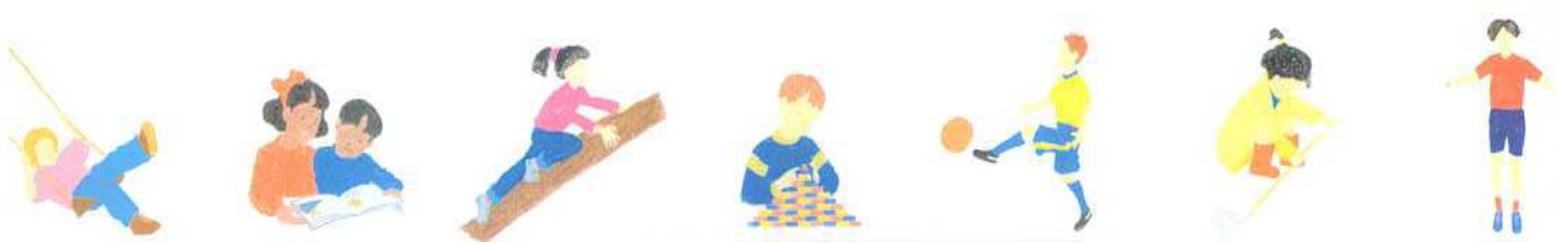




THE WHOLE CHILD

In order for everyone to see the role they have to play in achieving the above outcomes for children it is vital to have a way of understanding children's lives in the fullest possible way. The 'Whole Child' Model is an attempt to establish a common way of thinking which can be agreed between agencies, between sectors (voluntary, community and statutory) and between Departments of Governments – for understanding the way in which society can impact on children, and on how children can impact on society.





Children are not passive recipients, but are active participants, and the Model maps out the influences which must all be considered when attempting to connect with the world of any child. Understanding these influences is all the more important when it comes to designing services that will be relevant to children who have additional needs, where these services have to become part of the everyday world of the child.

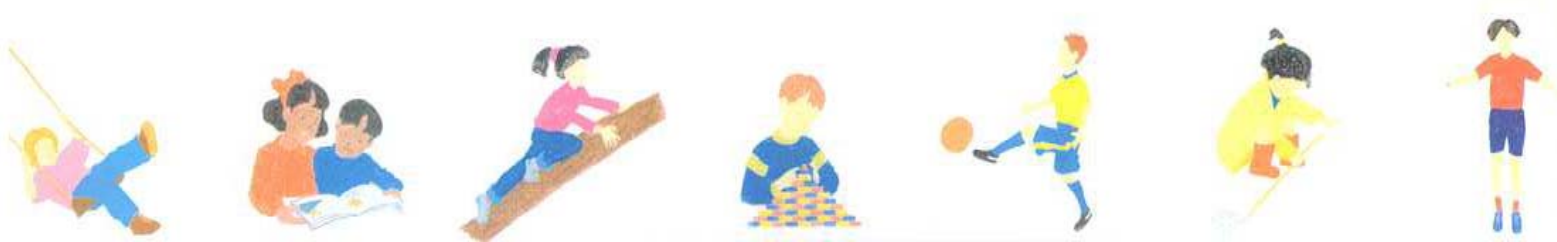
The Whole Child Model should be regarded as a core “map” for integrated planning. It helps agencies think through how they can both promote the rights and address the needs of children and young people.

This model is made up of:

- The child, at the centre – acted upon by, but also – critically, acting on, all the surrounding environments.
- The home and family/carers – bearing in mind that children grow and move on;
- The environments closest to the child, such as school, church, play and leisure – and including TV and the Internet
- The relationships between these close environments. This is the experience which is precious and unique to each child – it will typically feature a complex and sensitive “mix” of elements.
- Social settings that can affect the child, but in which the child does not participate directly. Some examples are local services such as health, housing, social services, community and voluntary playgroups etc;
- The culture and society in which the child lives. This affects the child through beliefs, attitudes and traditions. Sectarianism is an obvious example in the Northern Ireland context.

The United Nations’ Convention of Rights of the Child establishes children’s rights within the framework of participation, protection and provision. The model addresses these areas as follows:





Participation: The model points up the areas of the child's life in which children and young people must be involved in the planning of services;

Protection: this model maps all the relevant settings for a universal model of child protection, - for example, school, play area, Early Years Group, neighbourhood, friends, leisure activities – protection needs to permeate every aspect of the child's life;

Provision: The UNCRC sets out rights such as the right to education. However, in order to ensure that all children can exercise their rights, services need to be carefully planned. This is particularly important where services have to engage with children who have additional needs, and such services become part of their everyday experience. For example, the delivery of education to children whose experience has led them to reject school requires a different design from that offered in mainstream schools.

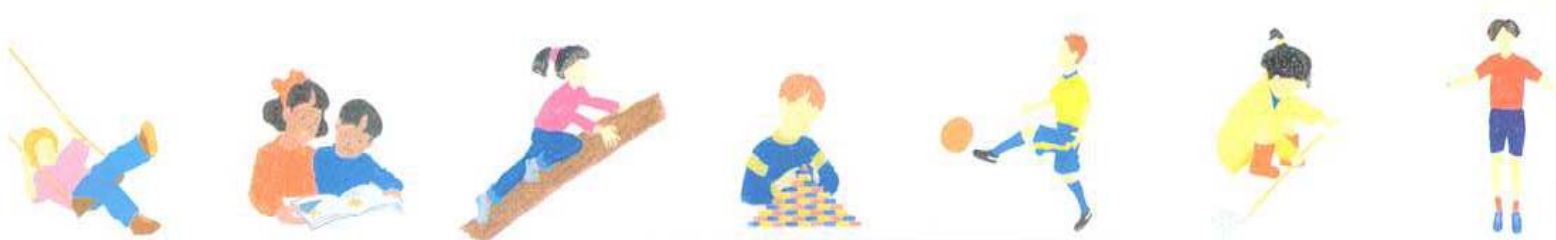
SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The previous paragraphs have talked about outcomes for children and young people, and the Whole Child Model. We now need to turn to the supports and services that are needed for the outcomes to be achieved. In order to achieve the outcomes for children we have to support families and carers, starting from a position of building on the strengths of children, families and communities.

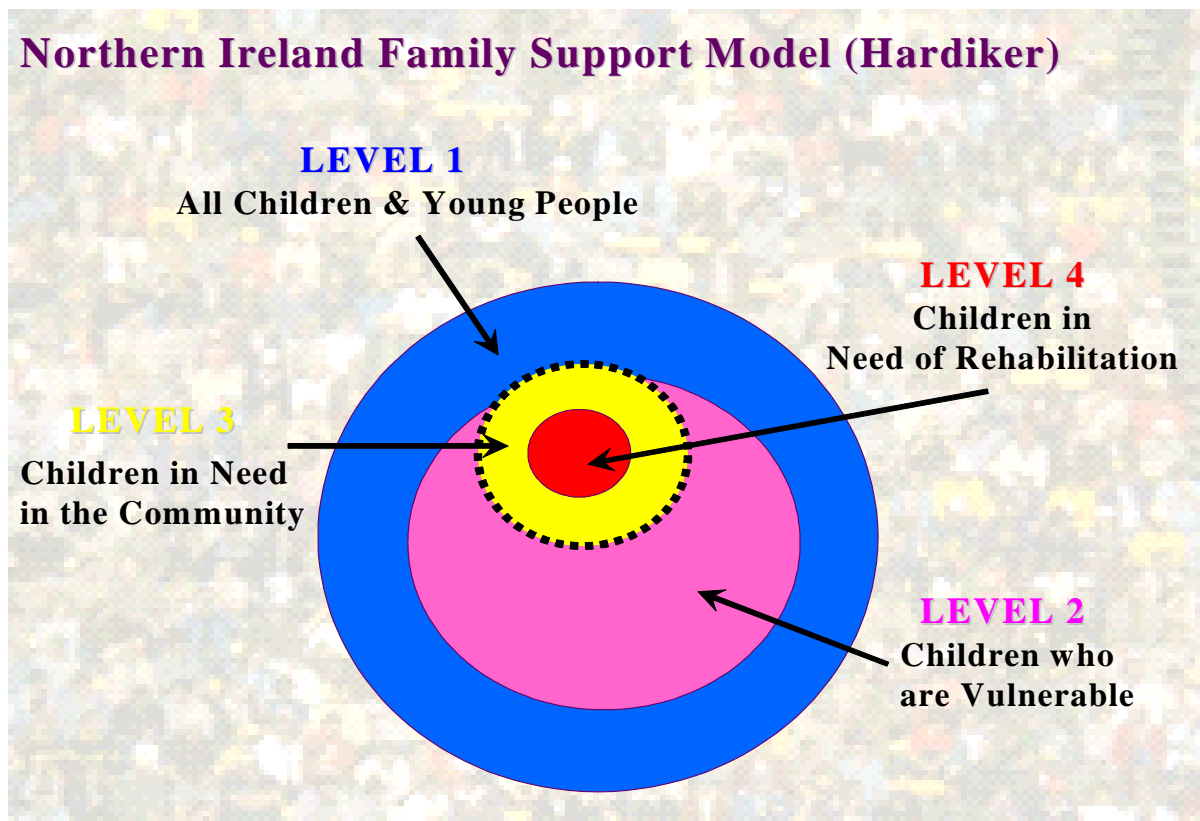
The Northern Ireland Family Support Model has been developed over the past few years, through Children's Services Planning.

This four-tier model underpins the 2005-2008 Children's Services Plans and continues to be the basic framework within which integrated strategies for Family Support will be developed. Making services available for vulnerable children cannot be done in isolation from planning services across the four levels.





Northern Ireland Family Support Model (Hardiker)



The four Children and Young People's Committees agree that the Family Support Strategy should be developed through the work of all the Children's Services Planning sub groups, including Area Child Protection Committees and Childcare Partnerships, as well as universal services such as health and education. The role of the voluntary and community sector is critical.

The 2005-08 Children's Services Plans will use the Northern Ireland Family Support Model as the organising model for the development of all services.

NEXT STEPS.

The Shape of the Children's Services Plan

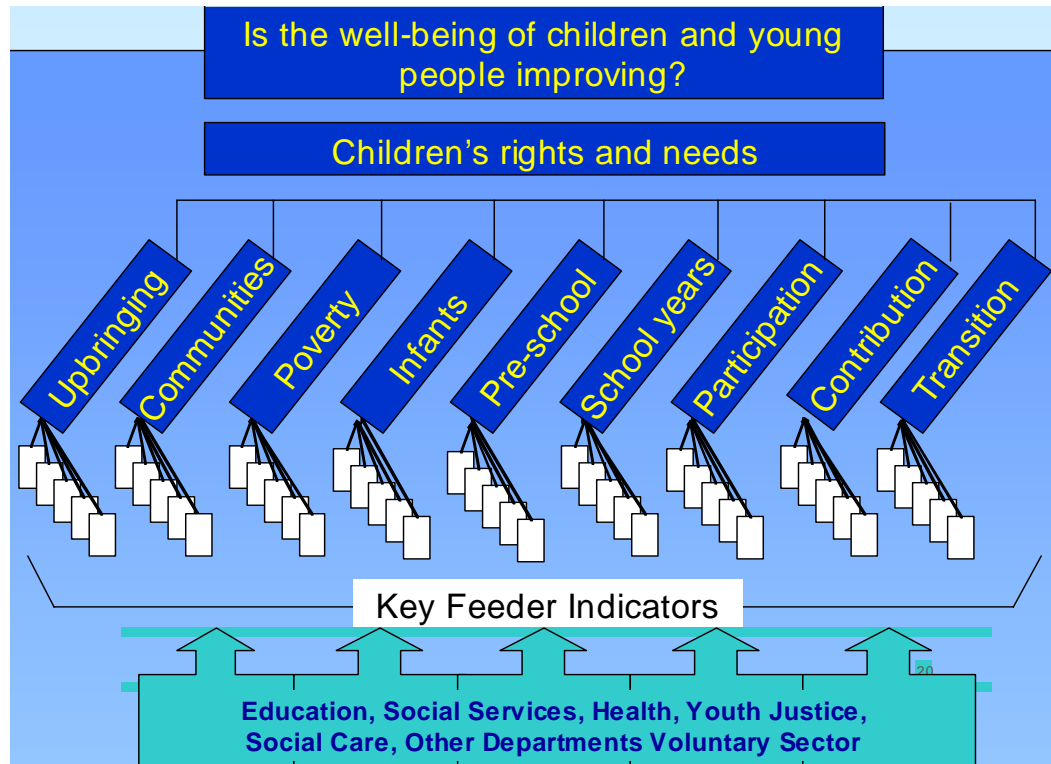
We want to use the Children's Services Planning process to achieve outcomes for children and young people, to address their rights and





needs, by making sure that supports and services are available, across the four levels of Family Support.

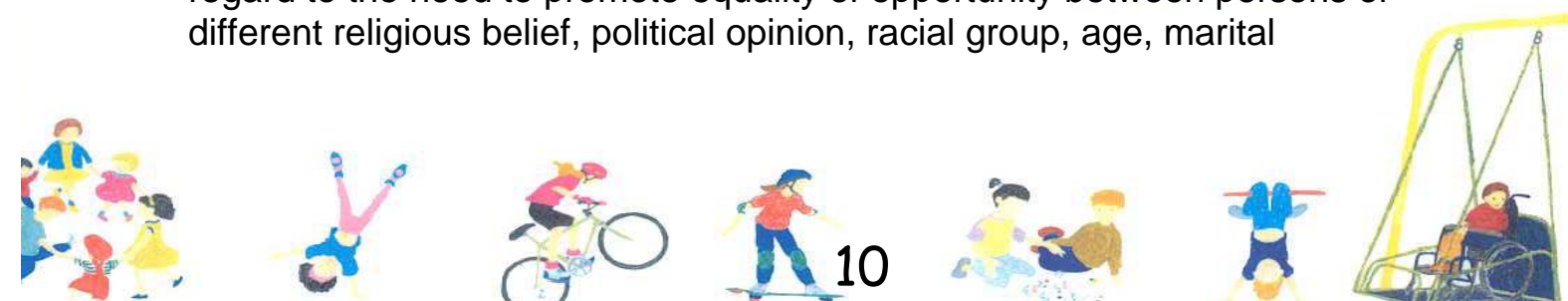
So, the new process would look like this:

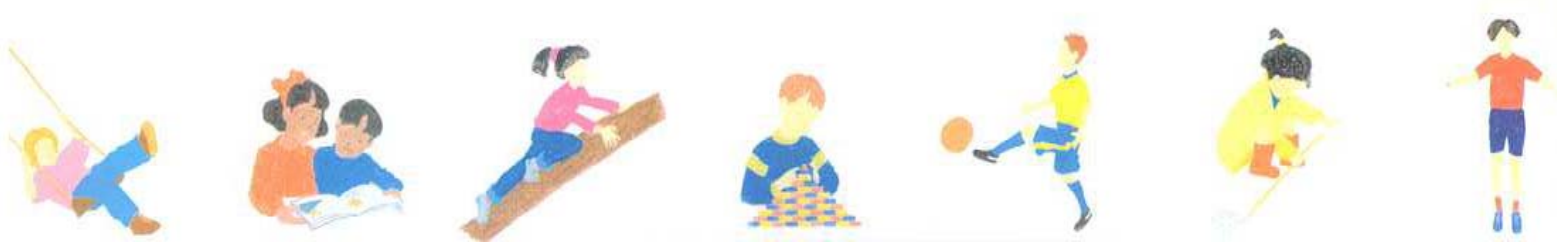


Equality and Human Rights

Such a set of outcomes apply to ALL children and young people, but some young people will need specific assistance to reach these outcomes. For instance, for black and minority ethnic children and young people to enjoy and achieve during school years, they must, for example, be free from racial bullying and have sufficient support to address their language and identity needs.

Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital





status, or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependants and persons without. The information gathered to measure the outcomes will need to be broken down into these categories. This will allow the measurement of levels of social inclusion under each outcome.

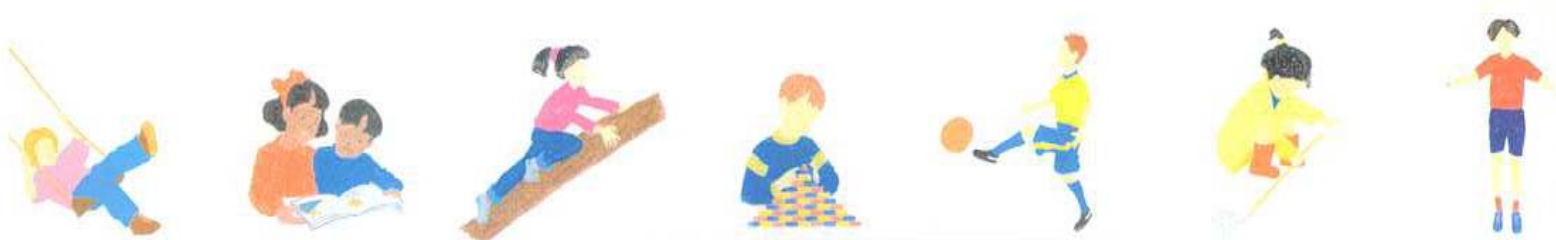
A valuable aspect of such an approach is that it shows how all children and young people are doing, including those with additional needs. This is likely to help us address the needs of children and young people with additional needs, such as disabled children and young people, *alongside and not separately from* the development of mainstream services.

The process of developing an outcome-based approach will take a number of years to fully develop and will build on and better integrate the current work of the Children's Services Planning sub groups. A number of stages have been identified:

Next steps;-

- **Widespread agreement on high level outcome indicators, based on rights and needs.**
- **Agreement on first phase of core 'feeder' indicators**
- **Base-line measurements established by core 'feeder' indicators**
- **Trends in core indicators tracked, evaluated and fed back into all agencies and local communities.**
- **Putting in place actions and strategies to achieve improvement, through Children's Services Planning sub groups and other inter-agency planning**

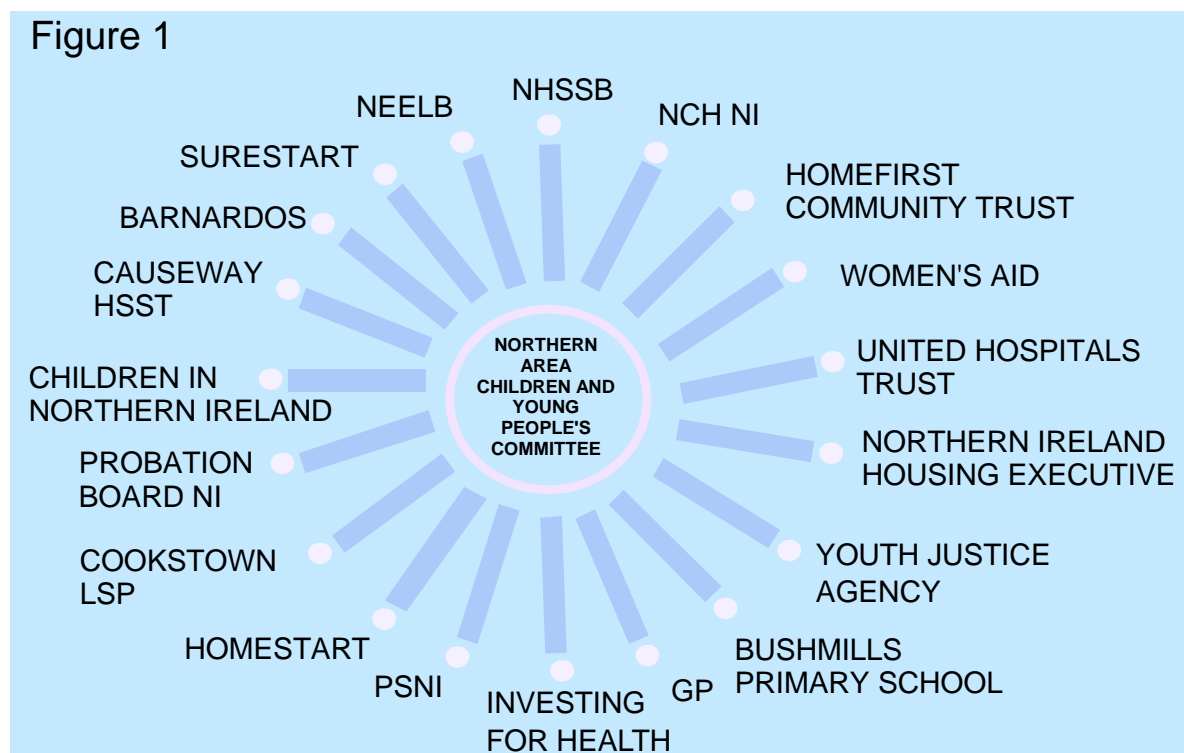




NORTHERN AREA CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

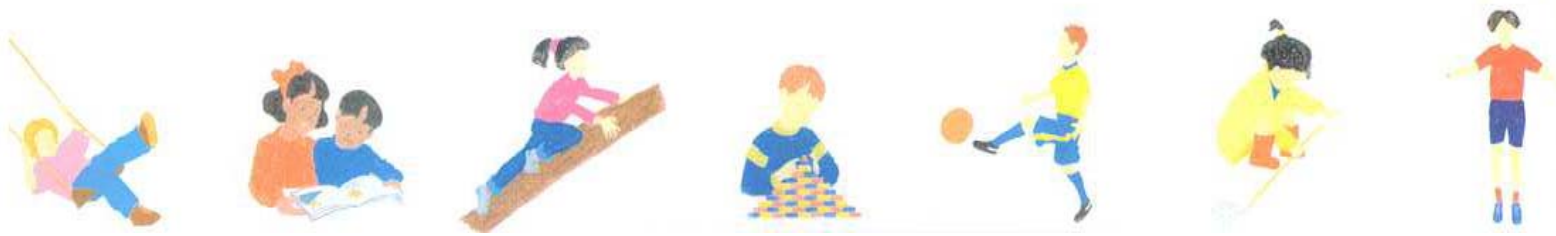
The Northern Area Children and Young People's Committee has 28 members from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community sector organisations listed in Figure 1.

Figure 1

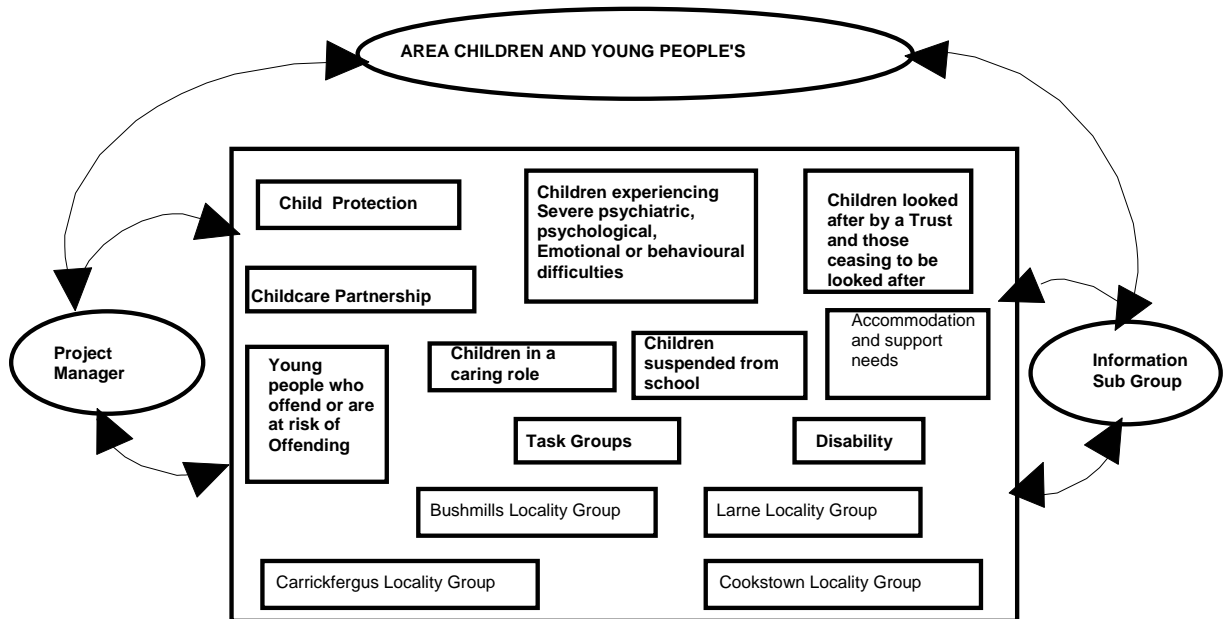


The work of the Committee is taken forward by Sub Groups and Locality Groups. The chairs of these groups also are Committee members. The Sub Groups are detailed in the following diagram.



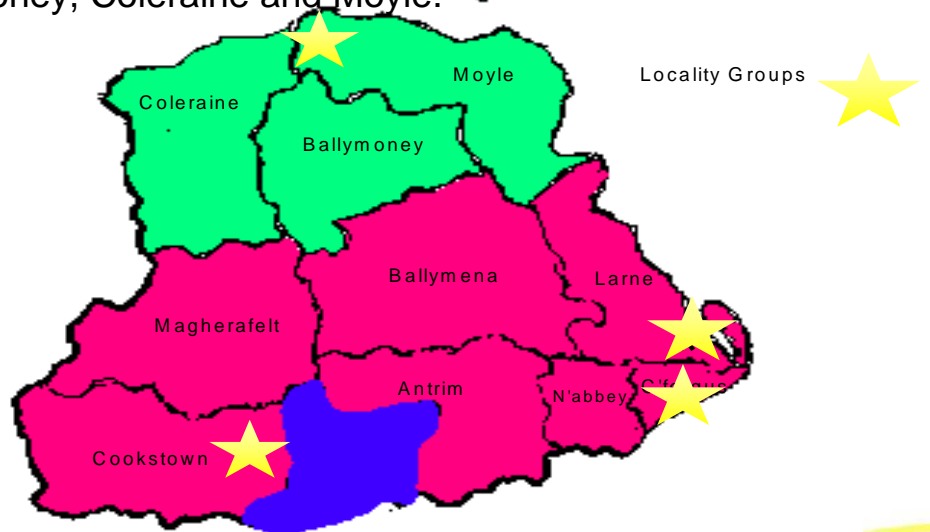


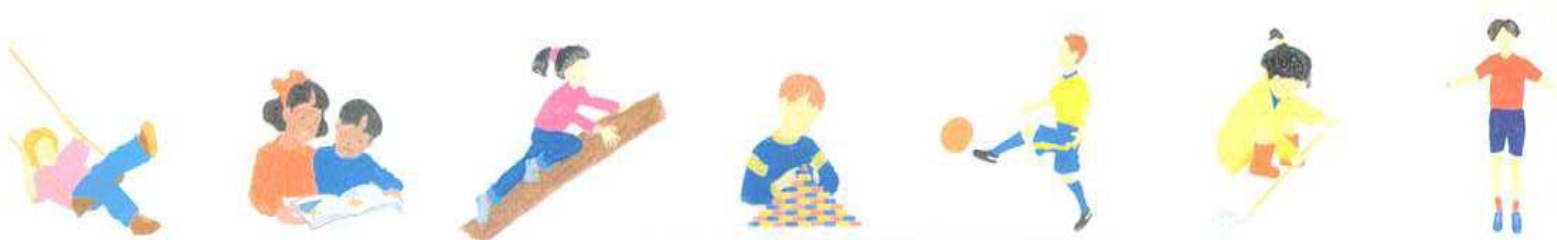
Children's Services Planning Structure



The NACYPC is committed to improving the life chances of children who are vulnerable to social exclusion by supporting children in the community in areas of greatest need. Four Locality Groups have been initiated in Bushmills, Larne, Carrickfergus and Cookstown.

The NACYPC covers the ten District and Borough Council areas of Antrim, Ballymena, Magherafelt, Cookstown, Larne, Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Moyle.





UNDERPINNING BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES

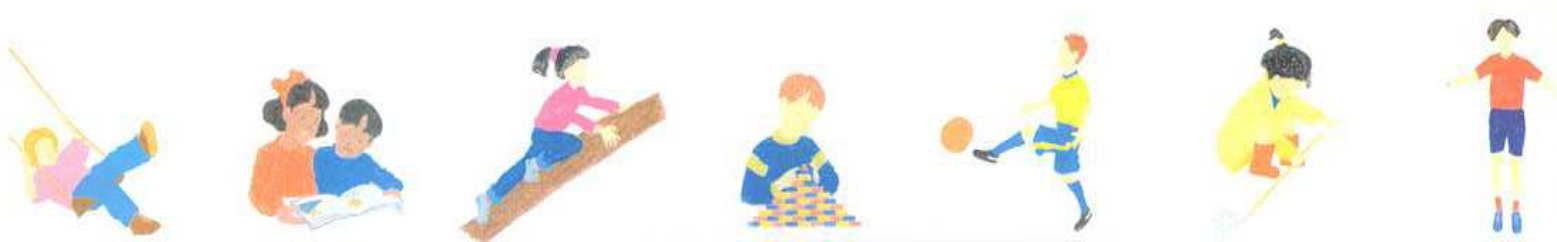
Children and families have a right to know what to expect from the Children's Services Plan. It is important therefore to have a set of agreed principles so that all engaged in Children's Services Planning have a shared understanding as to what the beliefs and principles represent.

Each agency has a particular focus for the services it provides and for statutory agencies that is directed by legislation. Based on the principles contained within the Children (NI) Order 1995, the Education (NI) Order 1996 and other legislation affecting children, the following set of beliefs and principles have guided the development of the second Children's Services Plan. These principles also reflect the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children and young people:

- must have their basic needs for shelter, food, warmth and affection met;
- must be protected from danger, abuse and violence from whatever source;
- should be brought up in their own families and communities - unless this is harmful;
- should have an opportunity to play and enjoy leisure;
- should have access to an education which meets their spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical needs;
- have a right to dignity, privacy and respect for their race, religion, language, culture and abilities;
- should be encouraged to respect the rights and freedoms of others;





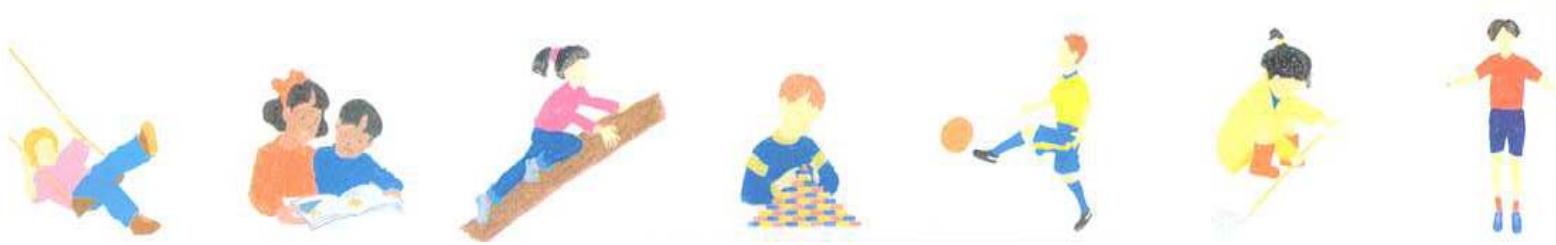
- should receive services that are appropriate to their age and needs;
- should be able to develop self esteem and achieve their full potential;
- should have access to opportunities, responsibilities and experiences which prepare them for adult life;
- with disability should be identified early so that services and support can be offered which will maximise their potential;
- should be encouraged to be law-abiding and to contribute positively to society;
- will be listened to and their views sought, in a manner in keeping with their age, level of understanding, language, race and culture, when plans and decisions are being made for them and when the Children's Services Plan is being developed;
- need help to recognise the boundaries of appropriate behaviour.

Parents, carers and other significant adults:

- are key to the process of children growing up.
- should be encouraged and supported to fulfil their responsibilities.
Good quality parenting and care is valuable for all children.

In producing this Plan, the NACYPC is aware that it will be read by many different Groups and individuals, including service users, the general public and staff of participating agencies. We have tried to provide information in a clear format and hope that a wide range of people and organisations will find it informative.

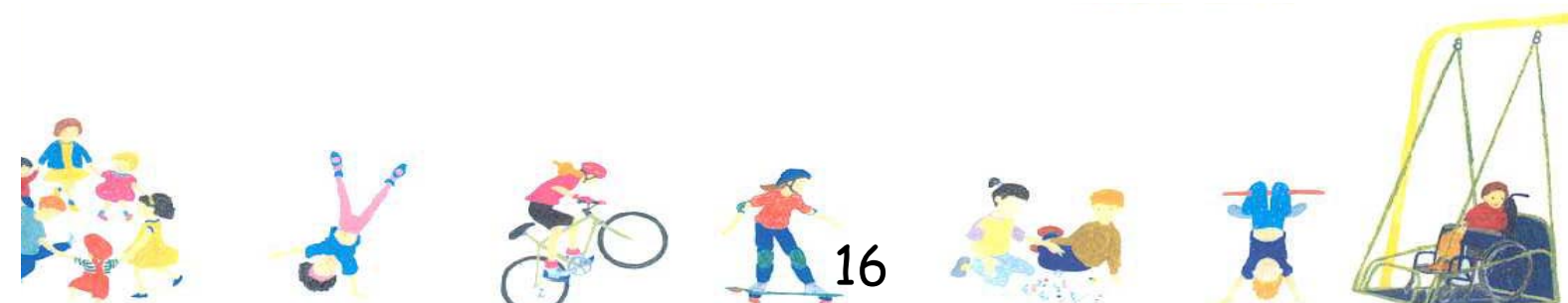


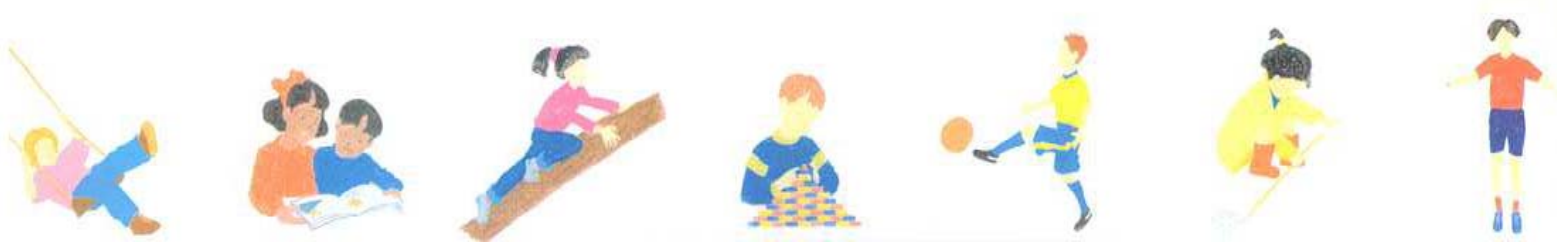


**SUB GROUP AND
LOCALITY GROUP**

ACHIEVEMENTS

**AND PRIORITIES
FOR 2005-08**





FAMILY SUPPORT STRATEGY

The overall aim of the Family Support Strategy is to provide a coherent approach to the planning and commissioning of family support services to children in need, vulnerable children and their families, taking account of all strategic initiatives so that family support can be developed and pursued at all levels.

The Family Support Strategy Task Group has carried out extensive consultation with children, young people, parents and providers of services over the past year. Surveys, questionnaires, focus groups and a workshop were used to gather information around the themes

- Staying safe
- Being healthy
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution

The needs identified during this process have informed the priority setting of all Sub Groups in Children's Services Planning.

The work has identified four priority areas:-

- ❖ Practical Support tailored to parents at critical stages in the family or child's life
- ❖ Support for the mental health and resilience of family members
- ❖ Help families/carers to keep children safe
- ❖ Support families reuniting following a crisis where a family member has been away from home for a significant period.



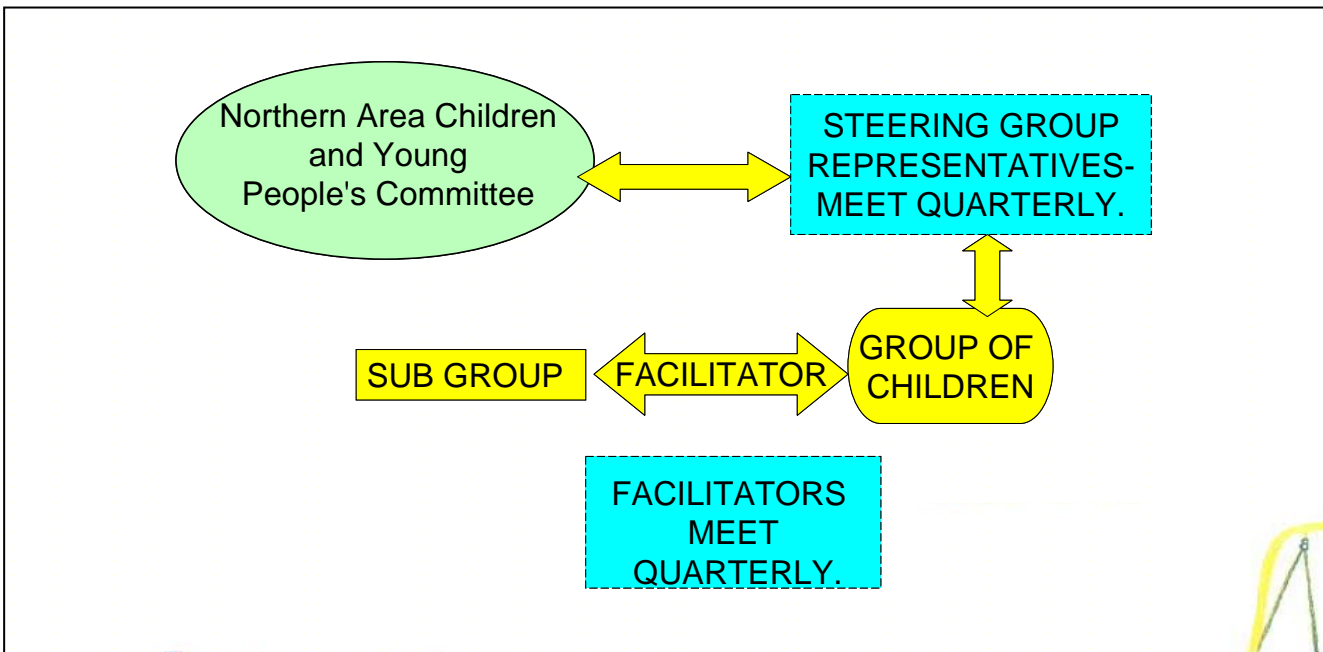


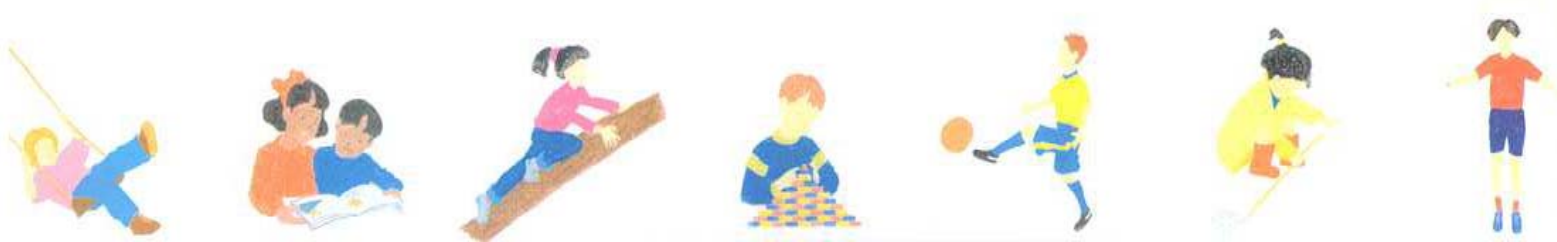
INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

The involvement of children and young people and their families is central to the Children’s Services Planning process. The NACYPC is keen to ensure that they have a voice in shaping services to meet their needs.

This work is being taken forward by the Sub Groups who identify ways in which young people can be supported and facilitated to become involved in the planning process. This could take the form of young people being members of a committee or committees receiving feedback from an existing group through a facilitator.

To date a number of initiatives have been put in place. VOYPIC (Voices of Young People in Care) act as facilitators for the Looked After Children Sub Group. In Bushmills a group of young people are members of the management committee overseeing the project they identified the need for and have helped get off the ground. Include Youth Young Voices project will facilitate the involvement of young people affected by crime.





CHILDREN SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL

Vision Statement

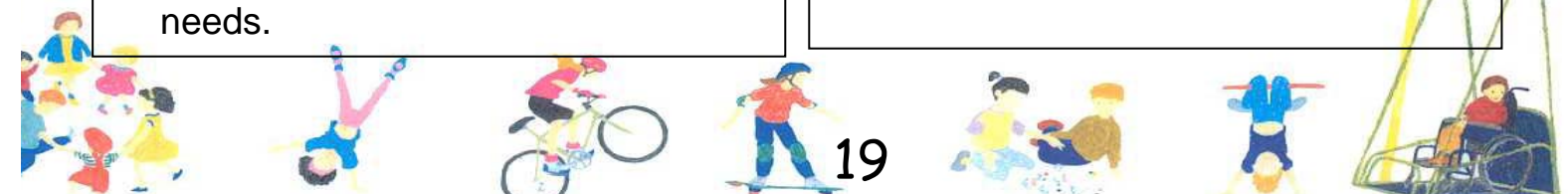
To ensure that children of compulsory school age in the categories identified are receiving an education best suited to their needs. To ensure that, for children whose formal education is interrupted, a system is in place to identify, assess and secure appropriate provision.

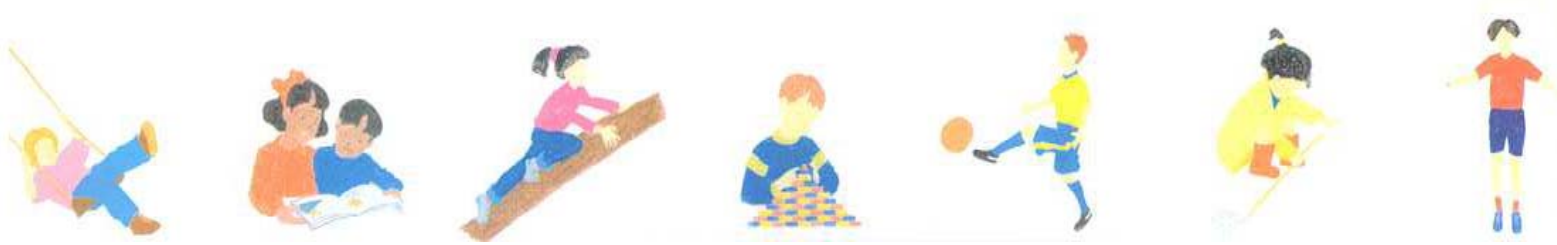
What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Information about the numbers of children expelled or suspended from school have been refined and are now being analysed annually.
- ✓ The numbers of children who do not attend school all the time has been incorporated into the inter-agency data-base.
- ✓ The chair of this group is a member of the Regional Group on Expulsions.
- ✓ The group has informed the NACYPC about the implementation of School Based Care Teams.
- ✓ A multi-agency task group has been established to take forward a needs assessment of the Traveller Communities in the area and facilitated an assessment of health needs.

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Consultation with pupils on school policies will be established in post primary schools.
- School based care teams will be set up in post primary schools.
- One education action zone will be actioned in the area.
- The information gathered will be incorporated into the "Needs Indicator Profile".
- Services targeted to those families whose children regularly have unauthorised absence from school will be incorporated into the services database.
- The task group assessing the needs of Traveller community will extend the needs assessment to education and social needs.





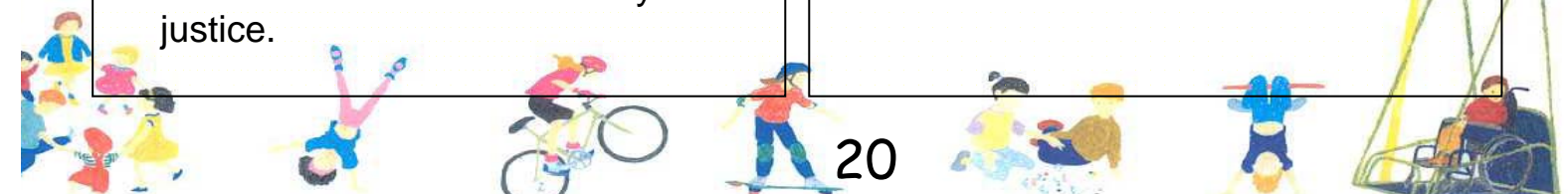
CHILDREN FOR WHOM OFFENDING AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THEIR LIVES AND THOSE AT SERIOUS RISK OF OFFENDING

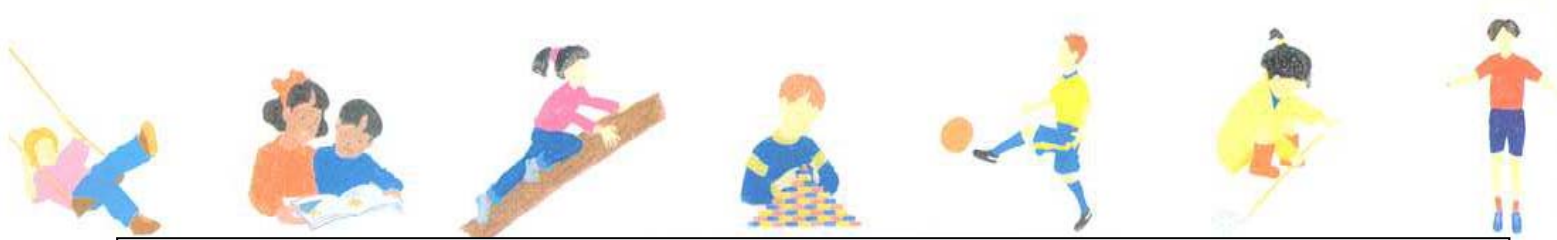
Vision Statement

To reduce the need to bring criminal proceedings against young people and encourage them not to commit offences or re-offend by providing opportunities and choices for children and young people, thus reducing crime and its impact on the community.

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ The group carried out a needs assessment looking at the needs of children and families in contact with the juvenile justice system. This work has underpinned the planning of services and initiated service development in relation to the prevention of offending.
- ✓ One of two community based models of intervention has been implemented. The group has supported the implementation of the NIACRO led Parent and Child Support project. This project provides support for families when a parent is in prison.
- ✓ An audit has been initiated to examine the needs of children in residential care in relation to youth justice.
- ✓ The group has provided the NACYPC with advice regarding policy developments such as:-
 - Anti-social behaviour orders
 - Review of Criminal Justice Children (NI) Order
 - Detentioning and questioning of young people
- ✓ The group has acted as a reference group with regard to custody care orders for 10-13 year olds.
- ✓ Include Youth Young Voices have agreed to facilitate the involvement in the planning process of young people in the area who are affected by offending.



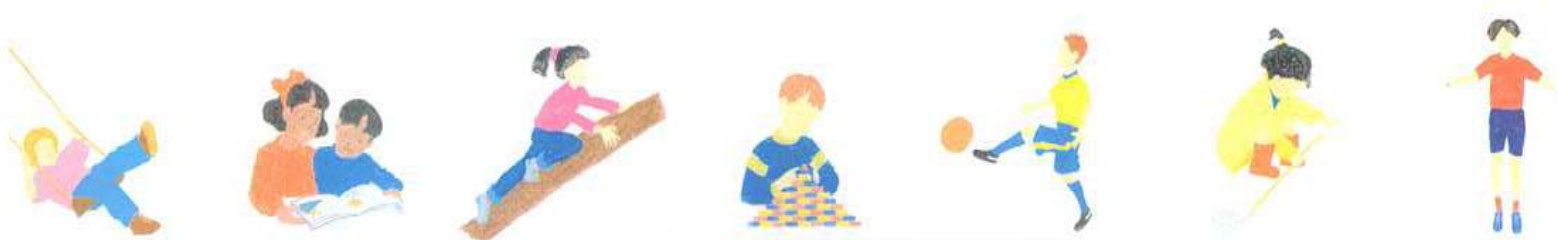


CHILDREN FOR WHOM OFFENDING AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THEIR LIVES AND THOSE AT SERIOUS RISK OF OFFENDING

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Facilitate the involvement of young people in the planning process by supporting the Include Youth Young Voices project in the Northern area and by exploring other opportunities to support young people to have a voice in planning services
- Carry out an audit in the local area of children in residential care and their involvement in the youth justice system.
- Contribute to the regional research "Pathways into Custody" which addresses the issue of children in residential care being received into custody.
- Monitor the implementation of anti-social behaviour orders.
- Continue to act as a reference group with regard to the issue of custody care orders and accommodation for 10-13 year olds.
- Provide support to the Parent and Child Support Project.
- Carry out an evaluation in conjunction with the Bushmills Group of the way in which young people have become involved in the planning process.
- Contribute to the debate on the way forward for youth justice being led by the Youth Justice Agency.
- Monitor the implementation of the inclusion of 17 year olds in youth court.
- Provide advice and guidance regarding any new research, reports, and consultation documents.
- Monitor the situation regarding under 18 year olds male and female in the Young Offenders Centre





CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, LONG TERM ILLNESS OR TERMINAL ILLNESS WHO REQUIRE SERVICES

Vision Statement

All children with disabilities, long term illness or terminal illness and their carers should have their needs identified at an early stage so that they may receive comprehensive co-ordinated and appropriate support.

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Two major needs assessment projects which have shaped service provision:-

- * Audit of Summer Scheme Provision for Children with a Disability and
- * Survey of the needs of children with a life limiting or terminal illness and their families.

- ✓ A series of presentations and workshops has been arranged to inform the planning process.

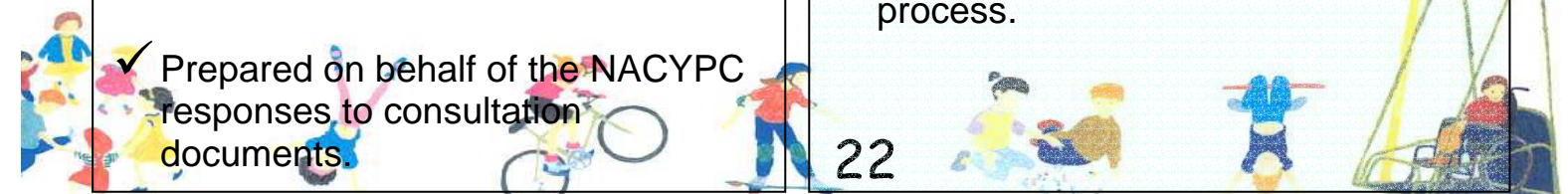
- ✓ The group contributed to the SSI Inspection of children with a disability in community settings.

- ✓ Contribution to the NHSSB learning Disability Strategy and the public consultation.

- ✓ Prepared on behalf of the NACYPC responses to consultation documents.

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Review the mental health and well being needs of children with a physical disability and with the Sub Group "Children Experiencing Severe Psychiatric, Psychological, Emotional or Behavioural Difficulties" review the mental Health Needs of Children with a Learning Disability
- Explore possibilities to develop leisure opportunities.
- Monitor the transition needs of Children and Young People.
- Monitor the implementation of the Register for Children with a Disability
- Monitor the number of direct payments and carers assessments.
- Ensure that children and young people with a disability and their families have a voice in the planning process.





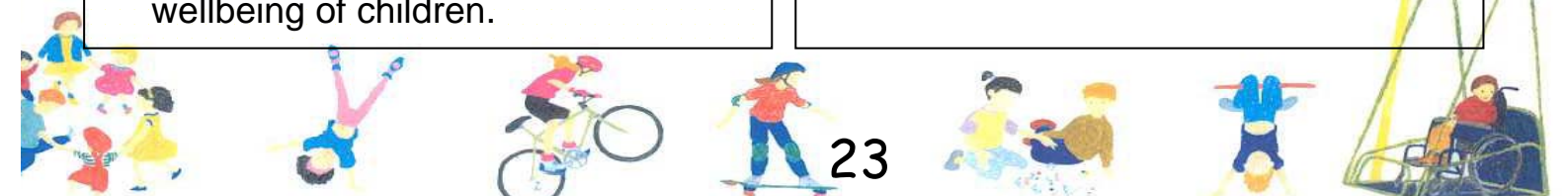
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING SEVERE PSYCHIATRIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES

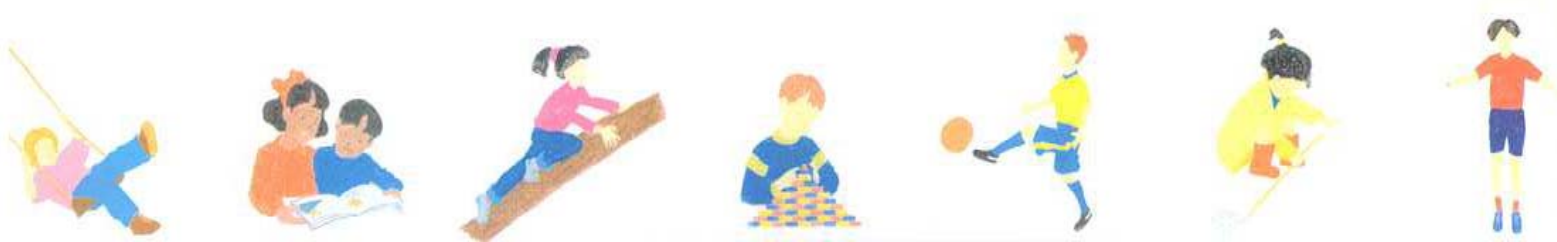
Vision Statement

To ensure early identification of the indicators of risk to the mental well-being of children and young people and to secure a range of services, including advice, family support and specialist services, which are responsive to children, young people and their families.

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ A Substance Misuse Strategy has been devised and is being implemented by the Northern Drug and Alcohol Coordinating Team.
 - ✓ A position paper outlining definitions, prevalence and models of interventions has been circulated for use by all Sub Groups.
 - ✓ The Sub Group contributed to the Family Support Strategy through membership and the mapping of services.
 - ✓ A group has been set up with membership from this group and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Implementation Group and NEELB to develop a strategy for the promotion of the mental health and wellbeing of children.
- ✓ A task group has been set up in conjunction with the Disability Group to examine the mental health needs of children with a learning disability.



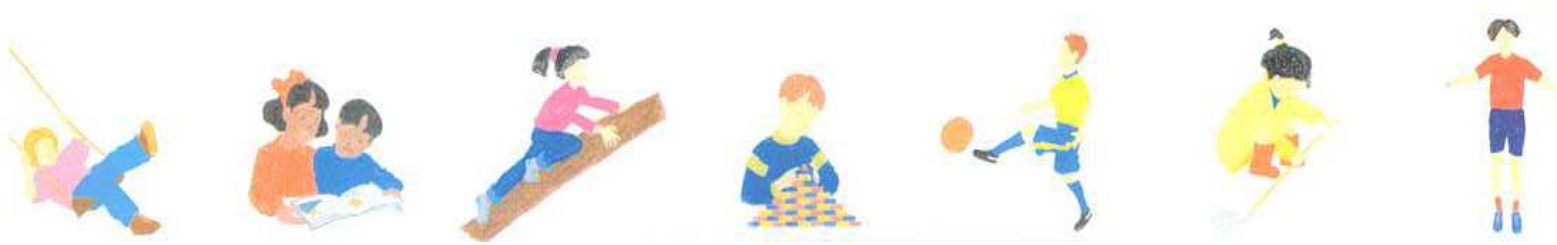


CHILDREN EXPERIENCING SEVERE PSYCHIATRIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Oversee the implementation of the Drugs misuse Strategy
- Contribute to the development of the Family Support Strategy within the Northern Board area through membership of the Family Support Strategy group
- Continue to raise awareness of the need to promote the mental health and well-being of children and their families
- In conjunction with the Northern Health and Social Services Board Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Implementation and North Eastern Education and Library Board group develop a strategy for the promotion of mental health and well-being of children in the Northern Board area
- Undertake a review of the mental health needs of at least one specific group of children in need for example
 - children with learning disability
 - those who have experienced trauma or the impact of domestic violence
 - self harm/suicide
 - homeless young men
 - young carers
 - looked after children





CHILDREN BEING LOOKED AFTER BY A TRUST AND THOSE CEASING TO BE LOOKED AFTER

Vision Statement

All children and young people will be provided with the opportunity to achieve maximum emotional, educational and social well-being and to experience safe and caring environments.

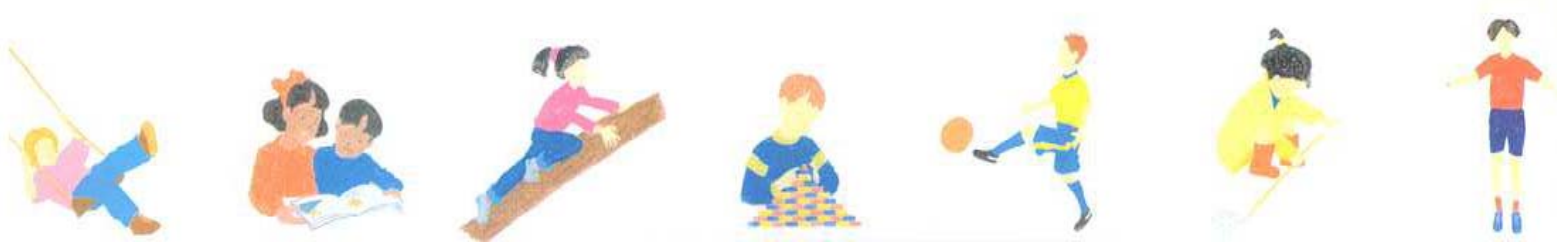
What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ A number of innovative schemes to support the education of looked after children have been developed.
- ✓ Homefirst Community Trust and Causeway HSS Trust's preparation for the forthcoming leaving care legislation has been supported.
- ✓ A number of new children's homes have opened in the Board's area.
- ✓ Local adoption services have been supported and developed.
- ✓ Group members have contributed to a number of national developments.

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Enhance and develop fostering services.
- Ensure children and young people requiring residential care are able to access appropriate places.
- Ensure the education of looked after children continues to be addressed in an effective interagency basis
- Ensure post adoptive support services are effectively targeted.
- Review Trust Corporate Parenting Returns
- Looked After Children reviews adopt a more child centred and child friendly approach
- To continue to support Trust arrangements for implementing leaving care legislation





ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Vision Statement

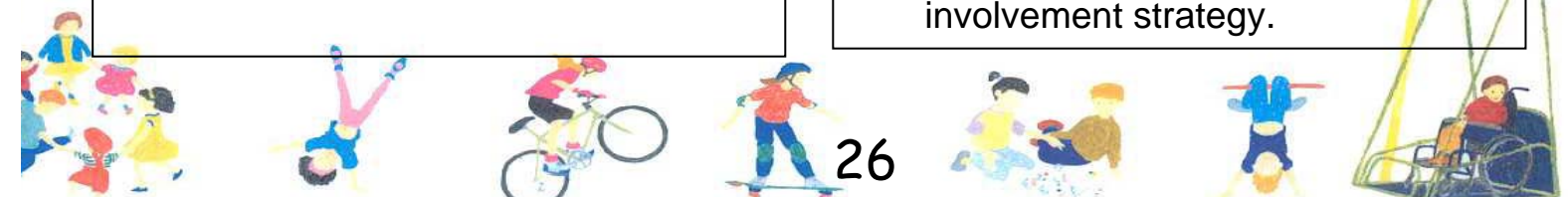
To assess the accommodation and support needs of children and young people with specific needs and to put in place a range of accommodation and other services to meet their needs.

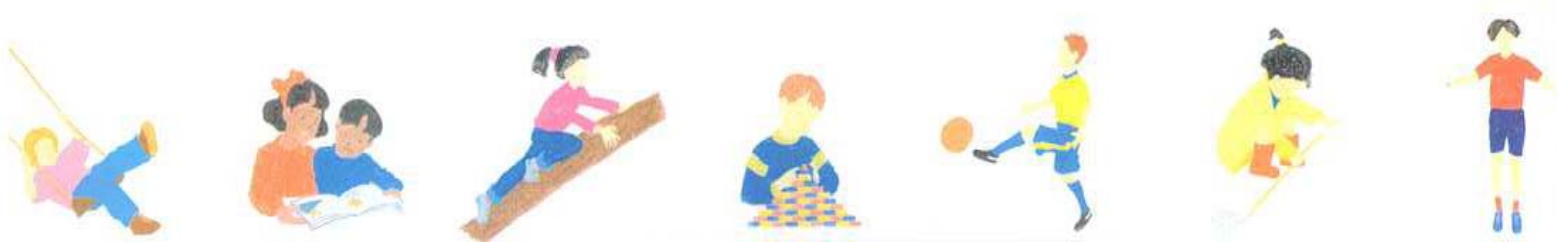
What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has increased the number of directly managed hostels in the area.
- ✓ Links through membership have been made with the Northern Area Supporting People Partnership and contributions made with regard to the need for Floating Support scheme for care leavers.
- ✓ An accommodation and support strategy has been developed
- ✓ The group has reviewed its remit and membership to reflect a more strategic direction in relation to the accommodation and support needs of all young people.

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Links with all other Sub Groups will be made to ensure all the information required for planning is collected.
- Assess the accommodation and support needs of children and young people. Areas to be addressed will be prioritised.
- Continue as member of the Northern Area Supporting People Partnership.
- Provide advice and guidance in relation to the accommodation and support needs of young people.
- Respond to needs of specific client groups identified in the NIHE North Eastern Homelessness strategy
- Contribution will be made to the involvement strategy.





CHILDREN WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN A CARING ROLE

Vision Statement

All agencies will identify children and young people who are living in situations where they are being required to provide care which places a level of responsibility and demand which is not in keeping with their rights as children. Appropriate supports will be provided for children in this situation and all relevant agencies will work together, at a level which ensures that these children enjoy the same life chances as all other children.


What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Interagency Policy on young carers and a Checklist of indicators which may show if a child is caring and in need has been developed and distributed.
- ✓ Training materials have been progressed with funding for a video having been secured.
- ✓ The School Aged Mothers programme has been expanded and development workers have been appointed in the Northern area.
- ✓ A study and literature review of the educational needs of young carers has been carried out.

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Evaluate the impact of the interagency policy and checklist through consultation with key stakeholders including children and families.
- Monitor the needs of young pregnant women and young mothers under 18.
- Support the School Age Mothers project.
- Follow up the recommendations from the study of educational needs of young carers.
- Work with the information sub group to find more accurate statistics about how many young people have caring duties.





CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION ASSESSMENT, INCLUDING THOSE AT RISK OF FAMILY BREAKDOWN LIKELY TO LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT HARM

Vision Statement

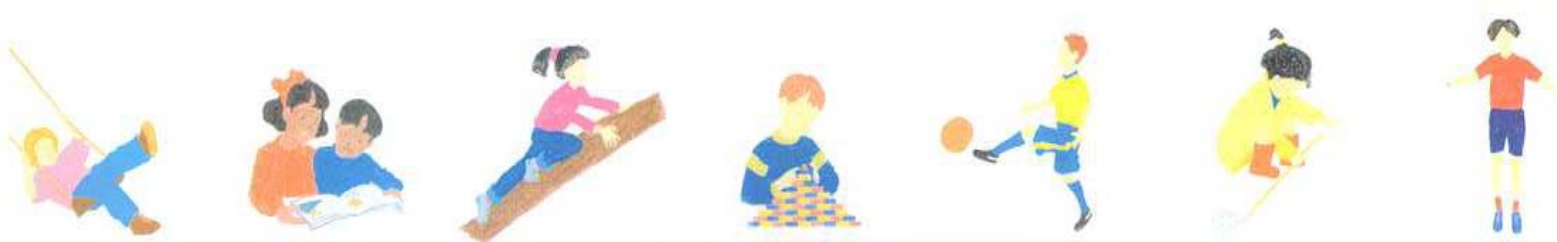
To protect from harm children living in the Northern Health and Social Services Board area by securing family support services and by seeking to safeguard the protection of children from abuse and neglect through multi-disciplinary and inter-agency co-operation by:

- developing a needs-led approach to promotional and safeguarding services;
- consolidating and further developing the 'working together' approach between agencies;
- promoting high quality services;
- enhancing public awareness of child protection issues;
- promoting and encouraging relevant research into abuse and neglect and methods for its prevention and amelioration.

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ A booklet "Encouraging Better Behaviour" has been widely distributed to all professionals involved in promoting better parenting.
- ✓ A four ACPC communication strategy has been finalised. A programme of media initiatives has been drawn up. ACPC Chairs have all received media training.
- ✓ Leaflets giving advice on internet safety have been produced.

- ✓ Conferences were held to promote professional awareness of the extent of sexual exploitation of children and the nature and extent of issues surrounding illegal and harmful use of the internet.
- ✓ An information and monitoring strategy has been drawn up in conjunction with the Information Sub Group.
- ✓ A multi-agency / multi-disciplinary training programme was published and implemented.



CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION ASSESSMENT, INCLUDING THOSE AT RISK OF FAMILY BREAKDOWN LIKELY TO LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT HARM

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

Raise awareness within the wider community of the need to safeguard children by:-

- ❖ Developing a communication schedule
- ❖ Identifying and communicating key issues/messages.
- ❖ Responding to media enquiries.
- ❖ Promoting ACPC events and initiatives in local press.
- ❖ Providing adults with information to protect children.
- ❖ Communicating to services and professional groups their responsibilities for child protection issues.

Develop effective working relationships between services, professionals and community groups to promote the welfare of children who are at risk of significant harm.

Bring about child protection service improvements by:-

- ❖ Reviewing and disseminating findings from inquiry reports and Case Management Reviews.
- ❖ Putting in place arrangements implement recommendations from Case Management Reviews and child protection inspection.

Monitor and audit on a regular basis Produce regular reports on child protection activity.

- ❖ Publish annual report.
- ❖ In conjunction with Child Protection Panels draw up and implement a programme of monitoring and audit.

Develop and review Policies and Procedures.

Develop and implement a strategy for multi-disciplinary/inter-agency training.





NORTHERN CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP

Vision Statement

To ensure high quality, affordable and accessible childcare for children aged 0 -14 in every neighbourhood in the Partnership area.

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Encouraged the development of child care in isolated rural areas with the introduction of a mobile toy and book library in Dalriada Sure Start.
- ✓ A development worker has been appointed and is setup up a forum in the Mid-Ulster area. A network of parent groups has been established.
- ✓ A programme of training is being delivered on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ Northern Childcare Partnership website has been launched.
- ✓ A newsletter is published regularly
- ✓ A booklet for parents "Choices in Childcare" has been distributed.
- ✓ The funding guide has been updated and distributed.

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Further develop locality based consultation arrangements with parent groups and others
- Roll out training programme funded through Tranche III of Peace II
- Continue to monitor and support local Surestart projects
- Support early years groups in addressing sustainability issues as short-term funding streams cease.
- Continue to promote good practice within the early years sector.

The Northern Childcare Partnership will undertake a consultation in respect of its objectives for 2005/06.





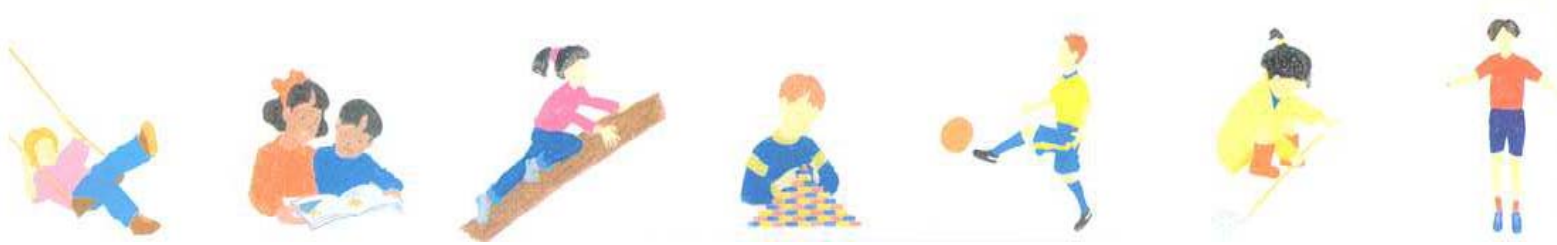
LARNE LOCALITY GROUP

"Our aim is to raise the educational, health and social development of our children in the Larne area and the environment they live in by:

- listening to them to find their views and needs;
 - building on existing social partnerships;
 - developing stronger community ownership; and
- providing a needs-led range of leisure, social, health, educational and housing services in locally agreed and accessible locations."

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Interagency steering group meeting monthly.
 - ✓ An audit of the needs in the area has been carried out and is used for planning purposes.
 - ✓ Larne Parental Support Project managed by NCH NI has provided additional family support services to over 650 families. Services provided include additional health visiting, additional speech and language, family support services and early years services.
 - ✓ Over 38 children aged between 5 and 7 have been able to access Pyramid Plus Clubs originally a pilot with funding from NHSSB later funded by Executive Programme Fund Children Fund following an application led by Barnardos.
- ✓ 15 young people have completed a programme funded by Northern Drug and Alcohol Co-ordinating Team. The programme was designed to enable them to become peer educators in their own communities. They are now being supported in raising awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Funding for a further 2 years will enable another 30 young people to take part and be supported in this work.
 - ✓ Young people have worked with adults in the community on an intergenerational project made possible by funding from Homefirst Community Trust.



LARNE LOCALITY GROUP

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

Review and extend the audit of need from the original three ward areas to include all of Larne District Council.

Develop family support services in accordance with the audit of need:-

- **0-4 year olds** - extend the Parental Support Project.
- **5-11 year olds** – develop family support services including Pyramid Plus.
- **12-18 year olds** – support the Peer Education Project and the Intergenerational Project. Explore other areas for development in diversionary services.
- **Fathers** – assess the need for services
- **Young Carers** – monitor the needs in the area.

Develop programmes to address the mental health and well being of children and young people.

Develop programmes to address the sexual health awareness needs of young people.

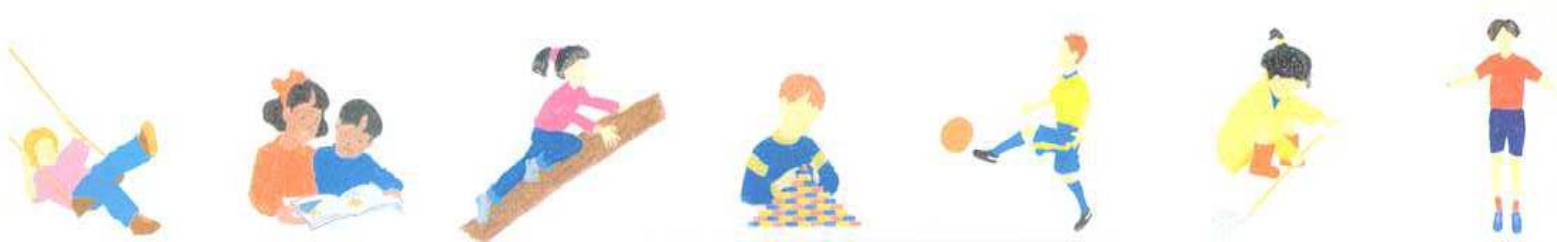
Raise awareness of the parenting programmes in the area

Continue to work with other partnerships in the area – Community Safety Partnership, Larne LSP

Contribute to the community development initiatives in the area

Ensure the involvement of children, young people and their families in the planning process.





BUSHMILLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE PLANNING GROUP

“Our aim is to raise the educational, health and social development of our children in the Bushmills area and the environment they live in by:

- listening to them to find their views and needs;
- building on existing social partnerships;
- developing stronger community ownership; and
- providing a needs led range of leisure, social, health, educational and housing services in locally agreed and accessible locations.”

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Interagency steering group meeting monthly.
- ✓ An audit of the needs in the area has been carried out and is used for planning purposes.
- ✓ A close working relationship has been established with Dalriada Surestart including some members acting as Directors of Surestart.
- ✓ Children aged 5-7 have been able to access Pyramid Plus Clubs.
- ✓ Parents and children have been able to use the Out of School club developed by the Group.
- ✓ Young people have been supported in developing their own Drop In Centre “The Den” funded by Moyle LSP, NEELB and the National Lottery
- ✓ Primary school children received training in peer mediation
- ✓ Over 40 young people in the area attended a fun outward bound event organised by the group and Bushmills Education Centre. All 40 young people completed a questionnaire which enabled them to tell us about their needs.
- ✓ Young people have worked with the adults in the community on an intergenerational project





BUSHMILLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE PLANNING GROUP

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

Support the development of the following existing services:-

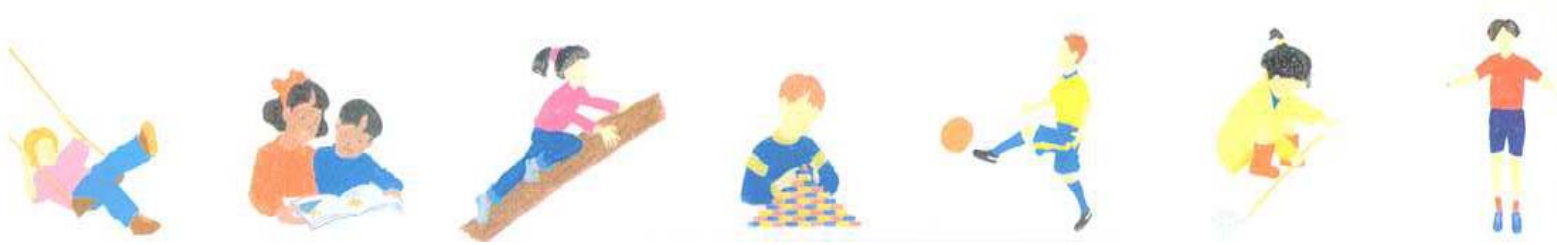
- **Pyramid Plus** - more children in the area to have access to the clubs.
- **Out of School Club** – continued awareness raising of the facility and aim for financial independence.
- **The Den** – young people will be supported in opening the Den at least four nights a week including at least one weekend night.
- **Intergenerational projects** – an intergenerational arts group will be established and will produce at least one performance or presentation a year.

Continue to work with Surestart and other partnerships in the area – Community Safety Partnership, Moyle LSP, Moyle and District Youth Council

Work with the Education Centre – More young people from the area having the opportunity to take part in the events made available by Centre staff during the annual open day.

Raise awareness of the group's activities in the area.



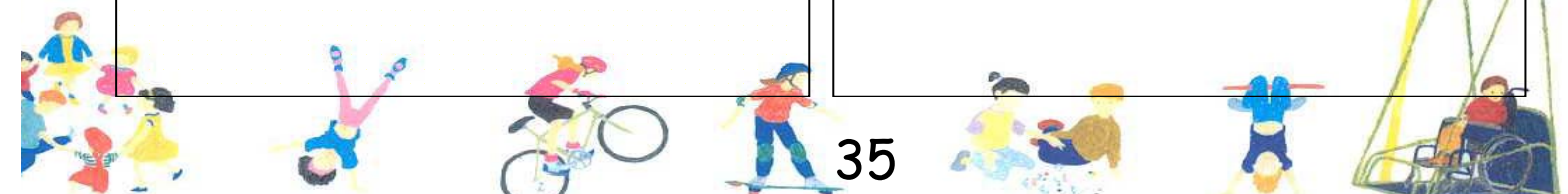


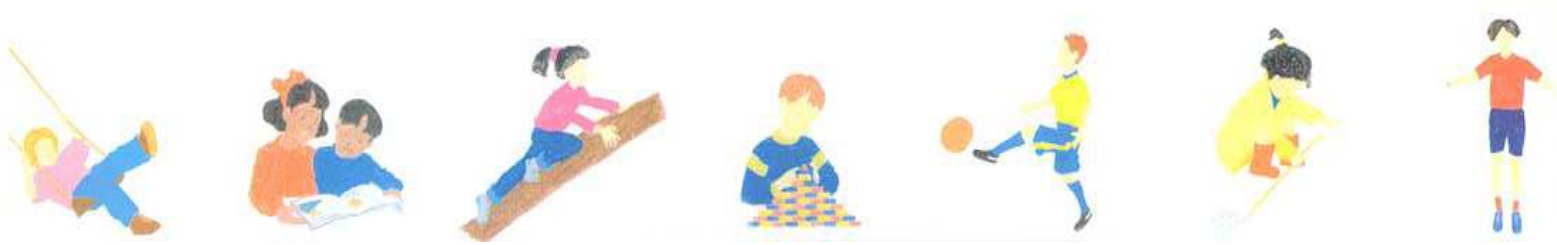
CARRICKFERGUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STEERING GROUP

Our aim is to raise and support the social, health and educational development of our children, young people and their families in the Borough of Carrickfergus and the environment they live in by:-
Listening to them to find - their views and needs;
Building on existing social partnerships;
Developing stronger community ownership and;
Responding by providing a needs led range of leisure, social, health, educational and housing services in locally agreed and accessible locations.

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Interagency steering group meets monthly to identify and prioritise areas of need and to build social partnerships.
- ✓ A bid to Carrickfergus Local Strategy Partnership led by YMCA for a project worker was successful.
- ✓ The project worker has been making contacts in the area and has completed an audit of need and a service directory.
- ✓ Links have been made with the YMCA Catalyst project which is examining the needs of 13-25 year olds.
- ✓ Group members make connections with other partnerships in the area to ensure children's needs are represented.
- ✓ By providing a forum for providers of children's services connections and interface areas are identified helping to make sure services provided to children and their families are as seamless as possible.





CARRICKFERGUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STEERING GROUP

What we plan to do during the next three years 2005-08:-

- ❖ Services will be developed in the following areas:-
 - 0-4 year olds and their families – increased family support
 - Afterschool provision for 5-10 year olds
 - Support for children in the transition from primary to secondary school
 - Signposting services to make sure children and young people are aware of the services that are there
 - Support for fathers
 - Awareness raising for parenting programmes in the area
- ❖ A review of the mental health and well being needs of the children and young people in the area will be undertaken and proposals put forward.
- ❖ The group will support the YMCA Catalyst Project as they work to meeting the needs of 13-25 year olds. This project also ensures that young people in this age range have a say in how services are planned.
- ❖ A review of summer schemes will be carried out.
- ❖ We will also work towards the inclusion of children and parents to enable them to have a say in planning services.





COOKSTOWN LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

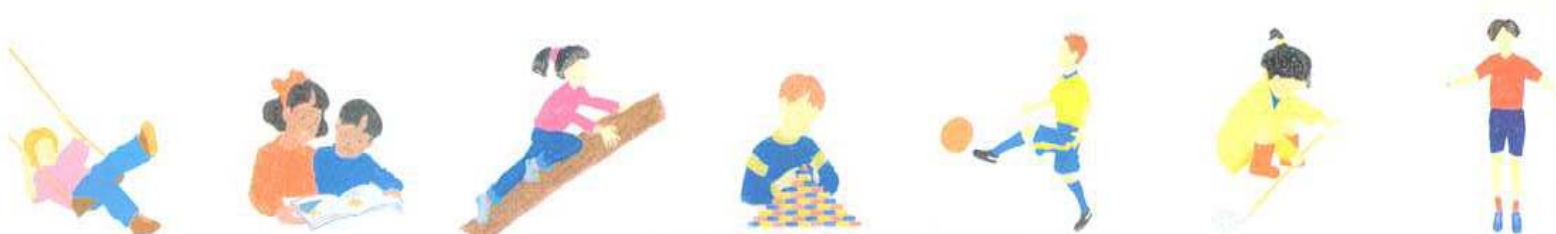
What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ A project worker has been appointed following a successful application to Cookstown LSP led by the Rural Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
- ✓ An office has been secured in Cookstown which will be used as a base for the project.
- ✓ The project worker has been contacting service providers in the area to build up a network and to begin to identify their needs in the area.
- ✓ Links have been made with other project workers to ensure services are "joined up".
- ✓ A profile of the children in the area has been started using statistics gathered by the Information Group.

What we plan to do during the next three years 2005-08:-

- ✓ An interagency steering group will be set up to include all Statutory, Voluntary and Community sector children's services providers in the area.
- ✓ An audit of need and services will be carried out in consultation with key stakeholders in the area. This will inform the planning process and the development of services in the area.
- ✓ The Project worker will provide a networking facility building partnerships in the area.
- ✓ The project worker will also ensure children, young people and their families are involved in the planning process.
- ✓ Links will be made with the Children's Services Planning process.





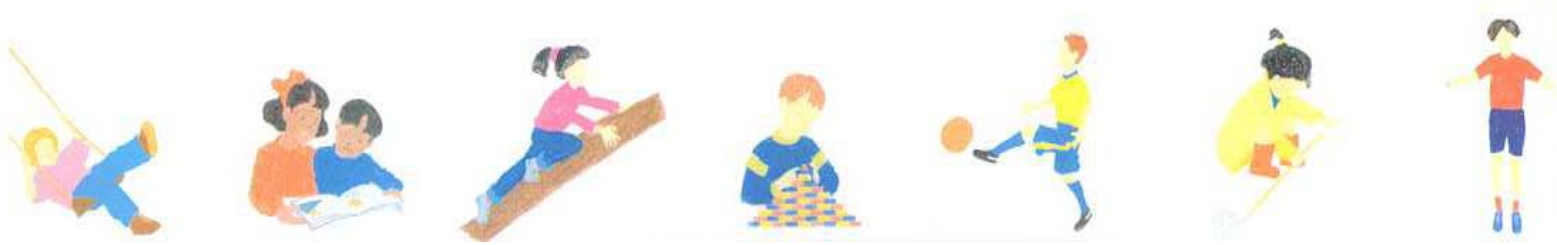
INFORMATION SUB-GROUP

The Information Sub-group plays a key role in the children's services planning process. Systems have been developed to ensure Sub Groups have the information they require for planning.

What we have achieved to date:-

- ✓ Statistics have been collected which describe the children in the Northern area. For example – how many children are there, how many have been referred to social services, how many do not go to school all the time, how many have been expelled, how many children receive disability living allowance, how many are on the child protection register and various measures of deprivation and poverty.
 - ✓ All the statistics gathered have been published in a report called the "Needs Indicator Profile". This has been published on paper and on CD.
 - ✓ Information has been collected about the services that are available.
 - ✓ Each sub-group has an information representative who assists the group to identify the statistics they need for planning.
- ✓ A Web-site has been designed.
 - ✓ A regional group has been set up to share developments and make sure the same information is collected across Northern Ireland.
 - ✓ The Outcomes or statements of purpose need to have measures attached to them so we can see if things are improving or getting worse for our children. Members of the Information Group will help to work out how what information would provide the best measurements.



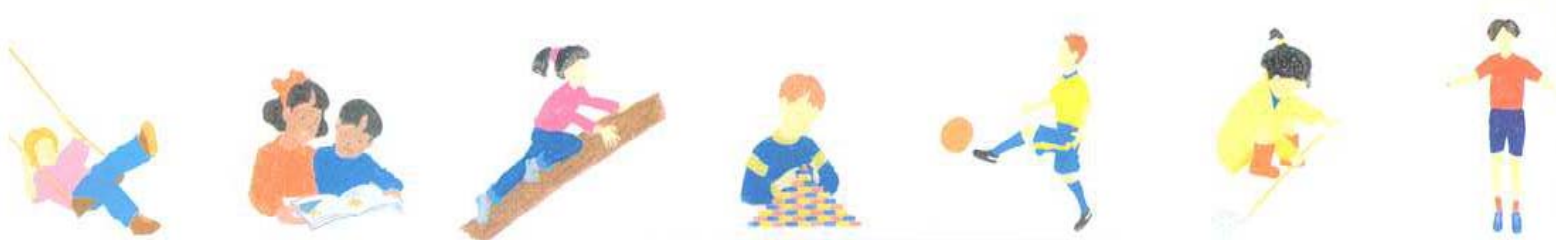


INFORMATION SUB-GROUP

What we plan to do during 2005-08:-

- Membership of the Sub-group will be developed to make sure all agencies are represented.
- The information collected will be added to and new methods of presentation and analysis will be explored.
- The information collected will be made widely available to the other Sub-Groups and to the public. Version 2 of the Needs Indicator Profile will be published in a number of different ways including CD and using the website.
- The website will be developed and the address will be advertised.
- Measurements will be identified for the outcome statements. The information will be collected and presented to help the Committee and the other Sub Groups plan services.
- Each of the other Sub-Groups will have an information representative who will help to identify and analyse the information needed for planning.
- New developments in technology and information gathering will be monitored and put to use where possible.
- Group members will be involved in the development of the Register of Children with a Disability.
- Members will keep in touch with the implementation of the new community system PCIS.





DRAFT CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2005-08

FEEDBACK FORM

This form has been designed to help us incorporate your comments into the final Children's Services Plan 2005-08

The views of as many people as possible are being collected to make sure the work of the Northern Area Children and Young People's Committee, its Sub Groups and Locality Groups reflects the priority needs of vulnerable children and young people and their families in the Northern area.

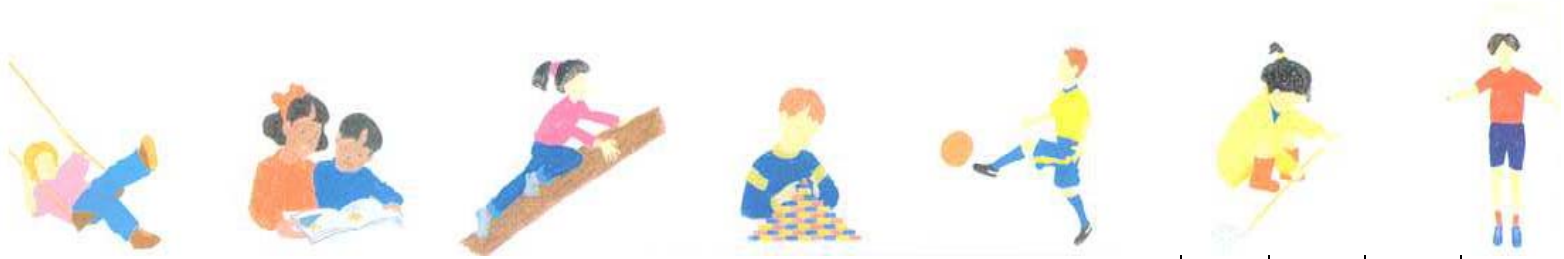
Is the plan set out in a way that is easy to read and understand? YES NO

If no can you suggest ways to improve.

Do you agree that the plan addresses the rights and needs of children and young people? YES NO

If no please tell us why





Do you agree that the outcome statements are the right ones for children in the Northern area?

YES NO

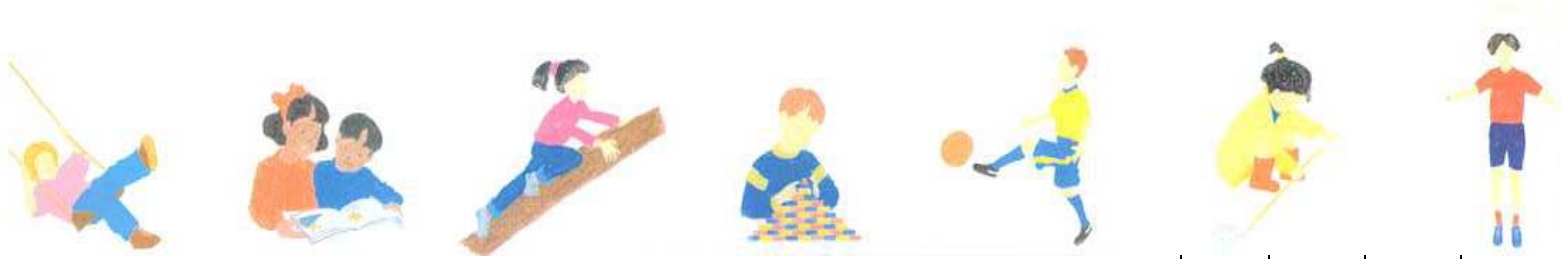
If no please explain

Do you agree that the objectives from the Sub Groups and Locality Groups will achieve progress towards reaching the outcomes?

YES NO

If no please explain





Does the plan reflect the key issues for children and families?

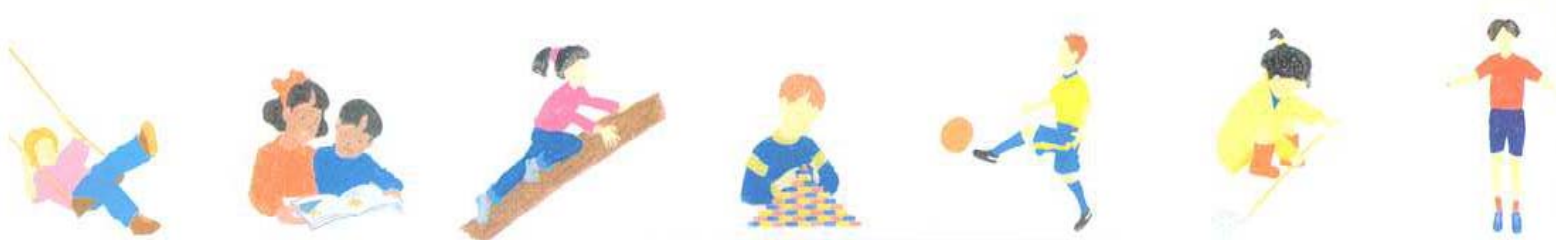
YES

NO

If no what would you like to see included?

How best can the voices of parents/families be heard?





How best can the voices of children and young people be heard?

Do you think the plan will have a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children and young people in the Northern area?

YES NO

Please use the space below to comment.

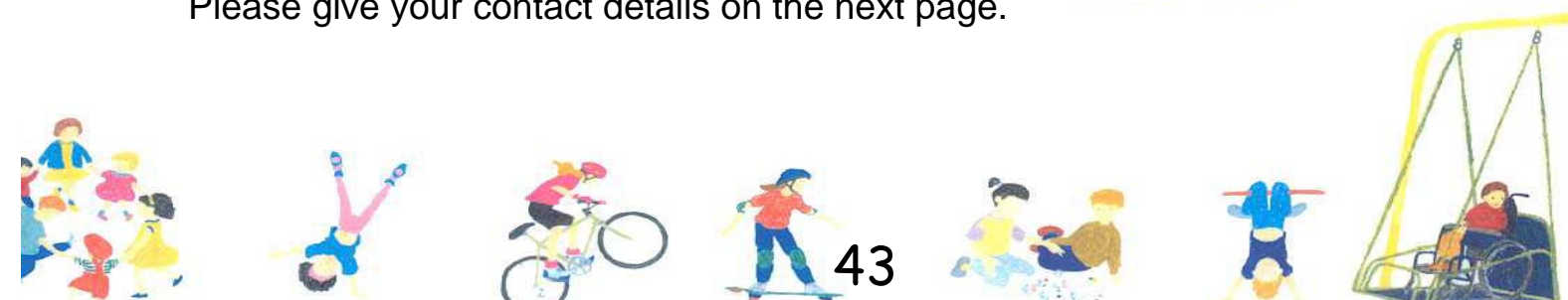
Would you like to receive updates on how the work is progressing over the three year period.?

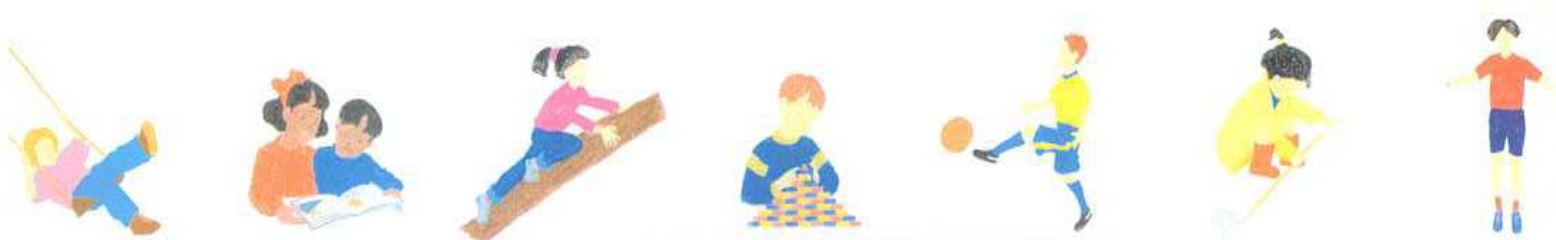
YES NO

Would you like to become involved in the planning process?

YES NO

Please give your contact details on the next page.





Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Your views will be fed into the overall consultation returns and incorporated into the final plan.

If you would like further information about the Children's Services Planning process please contact the Project Manager – details below.

TITLE _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____
TELEPHONE _____
FAX _____
EMAIL _____

The form can be returned by post to:

Mrs Anne Hardy
Project Manger
Children's Services Planning
Social Services Department
NHSSB
County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1QB
Tel: 028 256 67643

Or by fax to 028 256 67674
Or email to anne.hardy@nhssb.n-i.nhs.uk

