
**CiNI Consultation Event
Draft Programme for Government
2011-15**

Thursday 19th January 2012

Context of Children's Lives

- Youth unemployment – up 155% since 2008
- Child Poverty – only part of the UK where child poverty has increased – up 2% to 26% in 09/10
- Childcare – Lack of childcare; extremely unevenly distributed/expensive.
- Mental Health – recession-unemployment-poor mental health-family stress
- Welfare Reform -
- Public expenditure – anecdotal evidence of impact on disabled children and families

General Comments

Welcome

- Recognition of need for collaboration
- Address inequality and unfairness ...supporting inclusion and equality of opportunity
- Recognition that tackling disadvantage is an important part of economic recovery
- Connection made between poverty, social progress, peace, fairness and prosperity
- **Follow through?**

General Comments

Concerns

- Sequencing – Budget/Spending Plans/Draft PfG/EQIA/**Delivery Plans**
- Commitments/milestones/outputs – high level/vague
- Little evidence of cross departmental working (no incentive/requirement)
- Absence of legislative programme – as a statement of intent
- Limited detail on delivery

Commitments to Children and Young People

- Implement a strategy for integrated and affordable childcare
- Fulfil our commitments under the Child Poverty Act to reduce child poverty
- Upskill the working age population by delivering over 200,000 qualifications
- Support people (with an emphasis on young people) into employment by providing skills and training
- Ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it
- Increase the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who achieve at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C or equivalent including GCSEs in Maths and English (from 43% in 12/13 to 49% in 14/15)

Commitments to Children and Young People

- Improve literacy and numeracy amongst all school leavers, with additional resources targeted at areas of educational underachievement.
- Establish a Ministerial advisory group to explore and bring forward recommendations to the Minister of education to advance shared education
- Ensure all children have the opportunity to participate in shared education programmes and substantially increase the number of schools sharing facilities

Other Commitments

- Establish the new 11 council model for local government by 2015 – community planning
- Make the new Education and Skills Authority operational in 2013
- Extend age discrimination legislation to the provision of goods, facilities and services
- Establish an advisory group to assist Ministers in alleviating hardship including any implications of the UK Government's Welfare Reform Programme
- Provide £40m to address dereliction and promote investment in the physical regeneration of deprived areas through the Social Investment Fund;
- Invest £40m to improve pathways to employment, tackle systemic issues linked to deprivation and increase community services through the Social Investment Fund

Other Commitments

- Deliver a range of measures to tackle poverty and social inclusion
- Finalise the CSI strategy to build a united community and improve community relations
- Use the SPF to help individuals and families facing hardship due to the current economic downturn
- Reform and modernise the delivery of Health and Social Care to improve the provision and quality of services
- Allocate an increasing percentage of the overall health budget to public health
- Invest £7.8m in programmes to tackle obesity
- Bring forward a £13m package to tackle rural poverty and isolation in the next 3 years

Enablers for Children and Young People

- Harness potential of children and young people
- Executive's 10 Year Strategy for Children and Young People 2006-16 and Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and People
- International human rights and children's rights obligations (ECHR-HRA/UNCRC/UNCRCRPD)
- Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership CYSP – mandate to deliver on PfG
- Early Intervention and Prevention

Delivery Framework

- Detailed Guidance on Delivery – Consultation?
 - Explicit – monitor/assess/evaluate ‘working together’
- Departmental Delivery Plans – CRITICAL
 - When will these be initiated?
 - How can the children’s sector support and inform?
 - Arrangements for consultation including consultation with children and young people

Equality Impact Assessment

- Restricted timeframe – 5 weeks
- Plans for consultation with children and young people – availability of child accessible versions of consultation materials
- Section 75 duty to promote equality of opportunity – imperative of mainstreaming equality from the outset and as early as possible