



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

---

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

---

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

# **A 10 YEAR STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL WORK IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2010 - 2020**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**JULY 2010**

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

You should respond to the Consultation on the draft social work strategy by email or letter, using this Consultation Questionnaire.

**Email:**        **aisling.magee@dhsspsni.gov.uk**

**Written:**    **Aisling Magee**  
                 **Personal Secretary**  
                 **Office of Social Services**  
                 **Room C3.6**  
                 **Castle Buildings**  
                 **Stormont**  
                 **BELFAST**  
                 **BT4 3SQ**

**Telephone:** (028) 9052 0728

**To be considered as part of the response to the consultation process, responses must be received by the DHSSPS by Friday, 15 October 2010.**

Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1, at the end of this questionnaire, about the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

I am responding:        as an individual        ☐        on behalf of an organisation        ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTRODUCTION

This is the first ever strategy for social work in Northern Ireland. It sets out proposals designed to strengthen frontline practice and professional management as well as promoting and improving public confidence and trust in the profession.

The strategy is **NOT** intended to be an exhaustive account of social work as a profession, but rather to explain and reflect the role and contribution of social work in the delivery of government policy and priorities for the welfare of the people of Northern Ireland.

There are 5 sections in the strategy. **Sections 1, 2 and 3** explain what social work is, how it is organised in Northern Ireland and the contribution social workers make in improving and protecting people's social well-being in line with government policy.

***Feedback is sought on the accuracy and content of Sections 1, 2 and 3.***

**Section 4** sets out 7 strategic priorities and key areas for development and identifies initial first steps for implementation. **This is the main focus of the consultation.**

***Views are sought on the appropriateness of the strategic priorities and areas for development and on the relevance of the first steps. You are also invited to identify any gaps in the priorities or actions.***

**Section 5** outlines the way forward and resourcing of the strategy. ***Comments on these proposals are welcome.***

Please use this questionnaire to make your response. Additional comments are welcome and there is an 'open' commentary box at the end of the questionnaire for this purpose.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

## **GENERAL**

**Q1** Do you agree there should be a strategy for social work in Northern Ireland?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

## **SECTION 1: SOCIAL WORK - THE PROFESSION**

**Q2** Please comment on the content and accuracy of Section 1. If relevant please outline any recommendations to improve the content?

Comment:

## **SECTION 2: SOCIAL WORK – IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

- Q3** Please comment on the content and accuracy of Section 2. If relevant please outline any recommendations to improve the content?

Comment:

## **SECTION 3: THE SOCIAL WORK ROLE – MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE’S LIVES**

- Q4** Please comment on the content and accuracy of Section 3. If relevant please outline any recommendations to improve the content?

Comment:

#### **SECTION 4: SOCIAL WORK - STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND PROFESSIONAL IMPERATIVES**

**Q5** Do you agree with the 7 strategic priorities?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**Q6** Are there other priorities that should also be included?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If 'yes' please state the new priority, provide a brief rationale and outline associated areas for development/action.

Comment:

**Q7. Strategic Priority 1: Valuing the workforce, building confidence**

**(a)** Do you agree with the strategic statement and key areas for development?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**(b)** Do you agree that the First Steps identified are appropriate and achievable?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**Q8. Strategic Priority 2: Leading the profession, managing practice**

**(a)** Do you agree with the strategic statement and key areas for development?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**(b)** Do you agree that the First Steps identified are appropriate and achievable?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:



**Q9. Strategic Priority 3: Building capacity, meeting demand**

**(a)** Do you agree with the strategic statement and key areas for development?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**(b)** Do you agree that the First Steps identified are appropriate and achievable?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**Q10. Strategic Priority 4: User-friendly services, flexible working**

**(a)** Do you agree with the strategic statement and key areas for development?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**(b)** Do you agree that the First Steps identified are appropriate and achievable?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**Q11. Strategic Priority 5: Adding value, delivering outcomes**

**(a)** Do you agree with the strategic statement and key areas for development?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**(b)** Do you agree that the First Steps identified are appropriate and achievable?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**Q.12 Strategic Priority 6: Promoting high standards, managing risk**

**(a)** Do you agree with the strategic statement and key areas for development?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**(b)** Do you agree that the First Steps identified are appropriate and achievable?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

**Q13. Strategic Priority 7: Promoting trust, fostering understanding**

**(a)** Do you agree with the strategic statement and key areas for development?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Comment:

**(b)** Do you agree that the First Steps identified are appropriate and achievable?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Comment:

## **SECTION 5: THE WAY FORWARD**

- 14.** Please make any comments on Section 5, including any additional suggestions for implementation.

Comment:

- 15.** Please use the space below to make any additional comments not covered by any of the questions above.

Comment:

**Please return your response questionnaire.  
Responses must be received no later than Friday, 15 October 2010.**

**Thank you for your comments.**

## **Appendix 1**

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see their web site at:

**<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>**