

CONSULTATION ON A TEN YEAR BREASTFEEDING STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESPONSE DOCUMENT

SECTION 1 – RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

The consultation on the ten year Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland will run from **31 May 2012** and the closing date for comments is **28 September 2012**.

Responses received after this date will only be considered in extreme circumstances and with prior agreement from the Department.

Before you submit your response please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail or post. Responses should be sent to:

E-Mail: phdadmin@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Post: June Hamilton
Health Improvement Policy Branch
Room C.4.22
Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Please address any queries you may have regarding this consultation to June

Hamilton: By e-mail: June.Hamilton@dhsspsni.gov.uk

By phone: 028 90520526

Responses must be received no later than 5pm Friday 28th September 2012.

IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION
TEN YEAR BREASTFEEDING STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Please tick

I am responding as an individual:

Or on behalf of an organization:

Name (Print): _____

Job: _____

Title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Date: _____

SECTION 2 – INTRODUCTION

Background

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is committed to promoting breastfeeding and improving breastfeeding rates in Northern Ireland. A new ten-year Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland has been developed to build on the progress made in implementing the first regional Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland (1999). The draft Breastfeeding Strategy 2012 – 2022 proposes further action in relation to breastfeeding and aims to protect, promote, support and normalise breastfeeding within the population of Northern Ireland.

Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland

The vision for the Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2022 is that in Northern Ireland breastfeeding is valued as both the social and biological norm; most infants are fed exclusively with breast milk for the first six months of life; and thereafter are fed complementary foods with continued breastfeeding.

It is recognized that it will take time for this vision to become reality. The Strategy therefore sets out the approach over the next ten years, including actions in support of the Strategy's aim.

The strategic outcomes of the draft Breastfeeding Strategy are:

- (i) Supportive environments for breastfeeding exist throughout Northern Ireland;
- (ii) Health and Social Care (HSC) provides the necessary knowledge, skills and leadership to protect, promote, support and normalise breastfeeding; and
- (iii) Relevant data and information on breastfeeding is collected, analysed and used to inform delivery of the Strategy.

SECTION 3 – CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

General

Q1: Do you consider that the vision for breastfeeding is reasonable?

Please tick

Yes

No

Comments

Q2: Do you consider that the Strategy's aim, values, scope and targets are reasonable and realistic? Please tick

Yes

No

Comments

Q3:

(i) Do you agree with the proposed strategic actions to provide supportive environments for breastfeeding throughout Northern Ireland? Please tick

Yes

No

(ii) Are there other actions you consider should be included to provide supportive environments for breastfeeding? Please detail below:

Comments:

Q4:

(i) Do you agree with the proposed strategic actions for HSC to provide the necessary knowledge, skills and leadership to protect, promote, support and normalise breastfeeding? Please tick

Yes

No

(ii) Are there other actions you consider should be included for HSC to provide the necessary knowledge, skills and leadership to protect, promote, support and normalise breastfeeding? Please detail below:

Comments:

Q5:

(i) Do you agree with the proposed strategic actions to collect, analyse and use relevant data and information on breastfeeding to inform delivery of the Strategy? Please tick

Yes **No**

(ii) Are there other actions you consider should be included for the collection, analysis and use of relevant data and information on breastfeeding to inform delivery of the Strategy? Please detail below:

Comments:

Q6: Are there other strategic outcomes you consider should be included in the Strategy? Please tick

Yes

No

Please detail below:

Comments:

Q7: At the present time, Northern Ireland does not have a culture where mothers breastfeed their children as the norm. Do you support the introduction of legislation to support and protect breastfeeding infants and their mothers in public places? Please tick

Yes

No

Please detail any comments below:

Comments:

Q8: Are there any issues which you consider have not and should have been addressed in the Breastfeeding Strategy? Please tick

Yes

No

Please detail below:

Comments:

SECTION 4 - HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires Departments in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland 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.

In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, Departments should also, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have due regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. Departments also have a statutory duty to ensure that their decisions and actions are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights and to act in accordance with these rights.

The Department has carried out an Equality Impact Screening exercise on this Strategy and has determined that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not necessary. The Department is inviting responses to the following questions:

Equality Impact Assessment Questions

Q9: Are any of the proposals which are set out in the Strategy likely to have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?

Please tick

Yes

No

If you answered yes, please state which group(s) and the reasons why:

Q10: Are you aware of any indication or evidence that the proposals in the Strategy may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or good relations? Please tick

Yes

No

If you answered "yes", please state the reasons why and suggest how these might be mitigated:

Q11: Does the proposed Strategy afford an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? Please tick

Yes


No

Please outline your reasons:

Q12: Are there any aspects of the Strategy where you consider potential human rights violations may occur?

Please detail your response below:

Any Further Comments



Please return your response questionnaire.

Responses must be received no later than 5pm 28th September 2012

Thank you for your comments.

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. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response.

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 Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs' 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 Northern Ireland

51 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8FE

Tel: 028 9026 9380

Fax: 028 9026 9388

Email: ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk

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