



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

GENERIC STANDARDS FOR SERVICE FRAMEWORKS

CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

June 2012

CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

You can respond to the consultation on generic standards for Service Frameworks by e-mail or letter.

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.

Responses should be sent to:

E-mail: serviceframeworks@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Written: Service Frameworks Delivery Unit
DHSSPS
Room D1
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast, BT4 3SQ

Telephone: (028) 90522351

Responses must be received no later than 5pm on Monday 6 August 2012

I am responding: as an individual
on behalf of an organisation
(please tick a box)

Name:	_____
Job Title:	_____
Organisation:	_____
Address:	_____ _____ _____
Tel:	_____
Fax:	_____
e-mail:	_____

Q1. These standards have been chosen for inclusion in all current and new Service Frameworks as we believe they reflect a range of general priorities in health and social care. Do you agree that these standards cover areas that are important service users and service providers today?

Yes

No

If your answer is no, please explain why not.

Q2. There are new standards covering the issues of independent advocacy; carers; safeguarding; and patient-centred care and community development. Do you agree that these are priorities for health and social care today?

Yes

No

If your answer is no, please explain why not.

Equality implications

Q3. Are the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document likely to have an adverse impact on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?

Yes No

If yes, please state the group or groups and provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated in the proposals.

Q4. Are you aware of any indication or evidence – qualitative or quantitative – that the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations?

Yes No

If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact.

Q5. Is there an opportunity for the draft standards to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations?

Yes

No

Please outline the reasons for your answer.

Q6. Are there any aspects of the actions/proposals where potential human rights violations may occur?

Yes

No

If yes, please outline the reasons for your answer.

Further Comments

Please use the box below to insert any further comments, recommendations or suggestions you would like to make in relation to these draft standards.

**Please return your response questionnaire.
Responses must be received no later than 5pm on Monday 6 August 2012.
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;
- 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 web site at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).

Appendix 2

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Department 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 Department is also required to “have regard” to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

In keeping with the above statutory obligations and in accordance with guidance produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, the Department has carried out a preliminary equality screening exercise to determine if the draft standards are likely to have a significant impact on equality of opportunity and should therefore be subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). The Department has concluded that an EQIA is not appropriate for a number of reasons including:

- The preliminary screening and engagement/consultation with key stakeholders to date has showed no evidence of any adverse impact on the different groups;
- The draft standards are intended to set a transparent and consistent regional benchmark for the quality of these services, which will benefit all those who use and provide these services.

Produced by:

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