

Poverty and Social Inclusion Unit
OFMDFM
Room E3.15 Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast

BT4 3SR

31 March 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation on *Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People*

The NSPCC welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation and supports the Executive's vision to reduce child poverty and deliver improved outcomes to achieve *happy, healthy, safe and active* childhoods for all children and young people in Northern Ireland, *without exception*.

NSPCC is inspired by the belief that we can make a difference by aiming to end cruelty to all children and young people in the UK, our key priority is safeguarding and child protection and we achieve this by providing a broad range of services to children and families. Children and young people can experience a variety of adverse factors associated with poverty and disadvantage and this remains as a barrier to children in fulfilling their potential.

We are not producing a detailed response to the consultation though we do wish to highlight a number of points in relation to the draft Strategy.

Although the vision outlined is one which the NSPCC supports, we are not confident that the draft Strategy, in its current format, will deliver on this vision.

The document highlights a range of issues but we are not confident that important relationships between these issues have been fully analysed. With specific reference to the Delivering Social Change signature projects, it is not clear why these are selected.

It is not clear to us if the current Children's Strategy Outcomes are being replaced and we believe the strategy would benefit from redrafting to articulate the ambitions of the strategy with clear timescales and measurable outcomes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss our comments in further detail.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

National Head of Service - NI