

Screening of Policies Update – June 2007

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) is a designated public authority. As such the YCNI has a statutory duty to ensure that all its new and adopted policies have been screened to identify any potential adverse impacts in relation to one or more of the following nine categories - gender, marital status, religious belief, political opinion, age, sexual orientation, disability, dependency and race / ethnic origin. In line with its statutory obligations, both the YCNI's Strategic Plan 2004-7 and the YCNI's existing Funding Policy 1998 - 2006 have been screened for potential adverse impact.

As an outcome of screening, it was felt that operation of the Strategic Plan would help to promote equality of opportunity and good relations and no significant adverse impacts were identified. With regard to the Funding Policy 1998 - 2006 significant issues were raised regarding the existing allocation of resources across the sector and hence it was decided to abandon the adopted policy and instead to move towards a new policy that will accommodate Section 75 considerations more effectively.

Between 30th March and 25th May 2007 over 210 organisations were invited to view and offer comment on the outcome of this exercise. The YCNI wishes to thank those organisations who took time to formally record feedback.

During the interim period and before the new policy is operational, measures will be taken to ensure that funding arrangements are in place to facilitate the effective delivery of youth services in line with our mission and values. Stakeholders will continue to be consulted extensively during this process of policy development, and through to the screening of the new policy prior to its implementation.