

YCNi POLICY SCREENING FORM

Background

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNi) is required 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.

Without prejudice to the obligations set out above, the Council is also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Screening

The screening procedure should lead to one of two conclusions:

- The policy being screened does not have a significant impact on equality of opportunity and therefore does not require an EQIA
- The policy being screened has (or is likely to have) a significant impact on equality of opportunity and may require an EQIA.

Scoping the Policy

Title of Policy: Child Protection Policy

Brief Description:

The policy describes the mechanisms that the Council has in place for ensuring that all organisations in receipt of grant aid have in place child protection policies that effectively safeguard children and young people participating in their services and that conform to current best practice.

The YCNi Child Protection Procedures, 'Working Together to Protect Children and Young People' (1998) specify procedures under the Children (NI) Order 1995 that will be applied to relevant organisations. These include the requirement each organisation in receipt of funding MUST have a senior member of staff with specific responsibility for coordinating child protection within the organisation and for liaising with other agencies about suspected or actual cases of child abuse. Issues such as confidentiality, record keeping, staffing and training are also covered by these procedures.

Policy Aim:

To ensure that all services for children and young people which are supported by Council funding are delivered in a manner which effectively safeguards participants.

Who defines or defined the policy?

The policy has been developed by the Council, guided by legislation and current best practice.

Who implements the policy?

The Council's staff who have responsibility for grant aid budgets ensure that only organisations with appropriate Child Protection Policies may receive Council grants.

[Answer only if applicable] Is the policy applied uniformly throughout the organisation? If NO, what are the consequences?

Yes.

Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy?

YCNI, youth organisations in receipt of grant aid, children and young people.

What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the aim or implementation of the policy?

No.

How does the Council interface with other bodies in relation to implementation of this policy?

All organisations in receipt of grant aid must fully comply with this policy, and must send a copy of relevant policies to the Council before grant aid is released.

Which other policies are related to this policy?

No.

What data are currently available to facilitate the screening of this policy?

Register of all groups in receipt of grant aid, together with all relevant documentation. This includes the YCNI Child Protection Procedures, 'Working Together to Protect Children and Young People'.

Screening the Policy

Answering the Four Screening Questions

The four questions ask for evidence in relation to the Section 75 dimensions. You should not think of the “don’t know” column in the form as the easy option to respond to any of the questions. In cases where you don’t know and you don’t have data, you will need to make a judgement based on experience as to whether the policy you are screening may have an impact on any of the nine dimensions. If your judgement is that the policy may have a differential adverse impact in relation to any of the Section 75 dimensions (i.e. it affects some groups differently and less favourably than other groups), you should seek to obtain evidence. You should note that evidence can be qualitative – i.e. drawn from the experience of individuals from their perspective - as well as quantitative. Officers must give consideration to steps that they could reasonably be expected to take to obtain evidence and thereby inform their decision-making. Such steps could include meeting with a representative group or selective consultation.

Where there is little or no evidence, and common sense indicates that a differential impact may be expected, you should discuss this with the Equality Officer.

1. Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?

	Yes	No	Not known
Religious belief		X	
Political opinion		X	
Racial group		X	
Age		X	
Marital status		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender		X	
Disability		X	
Dependency		X	

Please comment:

This policy applies uniformly to all applicant organisations.

2. Do different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?

	Yes	No	Not known
Religious belief		x	
Political opinion		x	
Racial group		x	
Age	x		
Marital status		x	
Sexual orientation		x	
Gender		x	
Disability		x	
Dependency		x	

Please comment:

By its nature the policy applies to children and young people.

3. Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that policies of this type create problems that are specific to them?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		x
Political opinion		x
Racial group		x
Age		x
Marital status		x
Sexual orientation		x
Gender		x
Disability		x
Dependency		x

Please comment:

There would be regular consultations with organisations around eligibility for funding which have confirmed that this policy does not create difficulties for groups. In addition, guidance has been produced to help organisations develop appropriate policies and guide them in their application.

4. In relation to implementing this policy, is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations by altering the policy or by working with others in Government or in the larger community?

Yes No

Please elaborate: This policy is applied uniformly.

5a. With reference to Questions 1 to 4 please summarise how you believe the policy may impact on the Council's obligation to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity.

The policy supports the Council's commitment to further equality of opportunity through its engagement with youth organisations.

5b. With reference to Questions 1 to 4 please summarise how you believe the policy may impact on the Council's obligation to have due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage their participation in public life.

Not relevant as the policy is applied uniformly.

6. What data do you believe will be required to ensure effective monitoring of the policy following implementation?

Organisations that apply for Council grant aid must provide evidence of a current Child Protection Policy which conforms to Council guidelines.

7. In the context of Question 3 are there any relevant groups which you believe should be consulted at this time? Please specify

No.

8. Any other comments on the policy and/or screening exercise?

No.

9. On the basis of answers to Questions 1 to 4 above (and in particular positive answers), do you recommend that the policy should be subjected to a full impact assessment?

Yes

No

Please elaborate

The policy has operated effectively for almost 10 years and the Council is confident that it continues to be fit for purpose.