

# 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: JEDI (Joined in Equity, Diversity and Interdependence)**

### **Brief Description:**

The policy relates to all the activities associated with a partnership which brings together various parts of the Northern Ireland Youth Sector. The overarching vision is to increase the ability and confidence of youth organisations and young people to be at ease with difference, acknowledge one another as equals and promote improved relations between all. The work is directed by a Steering Group.

### **Policy Aim:**

To develop and implement sustainable models for embedding, monitoring and quality assuring the principles of Equity, Diversity and Interdependence throughout the youth sector in Northern Ireland.

**Who defines or defined the policy?**

The policy was developed by the JEDI Steering Group who worked with Council as the lead partner. Other organisations represented on the Group include each of the Education and Library Board Youth Service Departments, representatives of the voluntary youth sector, CRC and NICIE.

**Who implements the policy?**

The Council staff with responsibility for areas relevant to JEDI and JEDI staff in partnership with key individuals across the youth sector in NI.

**[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?**

All those who engage with the YCNJ and its work including strategic partners in the community and voluntary sectors, and young people who come into contact with the Youth Service.

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

Availability of Council resources to operationalise the policy; partners must also make available resources to support the operationisation of the policy and to implement the policy within their local context. Changes to the availability of these resources and/or the underpinning legislation which supports this area of work (i.e. Good Relations, Section 75 obligations, A Shared Future).

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

The Council operates according to a core value that places effective interagency and intersectoral working as a priority. Through funding and other forms of support the Council aspires to interact with a wide range of partners across the youth sector in delivering on the work of JEDI.

**Which other policies are related to this policy?**

All policies which have a bearing on the culture and ethos of the Council and/or our partner organisations.

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

Independent evaluation of the work of the partnership in delivering JEDI (2005).

Minutes of meetings among partners.

All organisations that have engaged with the EDI Policy Development Process have reports on this experience and the priorities that it has produced for them.

Wider policy debates and research in relation to Good Relations, Section 75 obligations, A Shared Future.

## 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:

JEDI deliberately endeavours to identify and encourage explicit actions to promote the inclusion of those groups that may have a lower participation across the youth service. As a result of work to embed EDI a number of new initiatives have been developed by the partner organisations which aim to engage young people with identities reflected in the nine Section 75 grounds.

**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:

We acknowledge and celebrate the differences between each Section 75 ground through our work and JEDI deliberately sets out to promote the inclusion of all groups.

**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:

JEDI deliberately sets out to have representation from relevant groups and organisations on their working groups, and these consultations highlighted universal support for the work of JEDI while acknowledging the challenges which this work would present for the partnership.

**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 is a core function of JEDI.

**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.**

This is a core function of JEDI.

**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 disable people and encourage their participation in public life.**

This is a core function of JEDI with a number of initiatives specifically addressing this policy area.

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

Reports and evaluations of the achievement of strategic aims that have been embedded in the operational plans of organizations engaged with JEDI.

**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**

**X**

**Please elaborate**

Screening of this policy has indicated that the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations is core to its implementation.