

Northern Ireland Network for Youth

Summary of Responses to pre-consultation

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Outline of the pre-consultation

The pre-consultation phase ran from July – Sept 2007. Leaflets were circulated both electronically and in hard copy to a range of stakeholders, including MLAs, local councils, health and education bodies, youth services, NGOs, and groups of young people. The pre-consultation was also featured on several websites, including the Youth Council, NI Youth Forum, Children in N Ireland, and WIMPS.

- Twelve written responses were received. Added to these is the report of a consultation conference for 69 young people which was held by the NI Youth Forum in 2006 to explore initial ideas for NINFY.
- In total the responses constitute the views of approximately 160 young people and eight organizations which work with or for children and young people.
- A number of government bodies decided not to issue a response to the pre-consultation stage, but asked to be contacted when the full consultation document is produced.

The responses are available to view at www.ycni.org. The following paper provides a summary of the key points raised by responding groups and individuals.

Overview of responses

The responses showed a degree of commonality in terms of the **Vision** of NINFY, as a mechanism to allow children and young people to communicate directly with a range of government providers. Many suggested that NINFY should not simply be a means for government to consult on policies, but that it should also allow young people to bring their own issues and concerns to government, ie a mix of reactive and proactive.

Many respondents – particularly those from young people themselves – highlighted that NINFY must bring about real and beneficial change for young people. In order for this to happen, many noted the responsibility on the part of government providers to ensure views are genuinely listened to and acted upon.

Some respondents recorded concern about perceived gaps in the NINFY Terms of Reference, suggesting that the age group 4-25 unfairly excludes younger children; that NINFY must also relate to local government and should have a role in wider political contexts ie East / West, North/South.

There was a high degree of consensus on the **Values and Principles** which should underpin NINFY. Many respondents proposed that NINFY must reflect the relevant Articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ; that the underlying values should reflect those on the 10 year strategy for children and young people ; and that the values of inclusion and accessibility must be key features of NINFY.

Similarly there was considerable consensus on the perceived barriers to NINFY, such as:

Logistical barriers for young people (times, travel, incentives etc)
Need for adequate funding
Risk of a lack of government commitment to change
Lack of inclusion of the diverse range of ages and circumstances
Tokenism
Risk of an elite structure with no connections to local groups
Low profile or poor awareness-raising
Inflexibility
Duplicating or displacing existing groups

In terms of how NINFY would **Function** and how it would **Link to other Structures**, the responses revealed a wide range of opinions and contrasting ideas. Some responses – particularly those from young people – tended to focus on the structure of NINFY as an organization. These responses generally favoured a youth-led model, or one where young people have a key role in governance. The different ideas included :

- A Northern Ireland shadow youth assembly : based on the electoral model it was proposed that this would have 108 young members nominated or elected from NI electoral areas – either through shadow youth councils or local forums of young people.
- A regional youth-led body with either local branches or satellite offices. This would be open to all young people and would link with existing groups of young people.
- A ‘network of networks’ which would connect all existing structures of young people and act in a co-ordinating role to support these local and themed groups.

These responses reflected quite contrasting proposals for NINFY- for example whether it should be a formal and structured organization with a fixed number of young people to represent their peers, or whether it should be an open and facilitative body where all children and young people can get involved as individuals.

Other respondents placed greater focus on the system which should underpin NINFY. These responses largely asserted that there should be some form of youth-led body or panel, but suggested that NINFY needs to ensure a coherent system to support participation at all levels in N Ireland. Proposals included the need for a multi-layered approach, with a high-level strategic group to steer participation, a policy unit, training provision for both government providers and young people, research capacity, quality assurance role, signposting, funding etc. The need to ensure that there is coherence at local level, and clear links between local groups and any regional grouping was highlighted in many responses. Some also suggested that NINFY should be recognized in legislation, should have a formal role in the monitoring of the 10 year strategy for children and young people, and should be centrally funded by OFMDFM. There were also concerns that sufficient funding must be provided, and a suggestion that all government departments should financially contribute to NINFY.

What happens now?

Several respondents to the pre-consultation expressed concern about the Terms of Reference for NINFY in respect of age groups and remit.

The Department of Education has subsequently assented to **widen the Terms of Reference** in accordance with these comments. Therefore NINFY will operate for *all children and young people up to the age of 25*, and its remit will include communication with *local government* and in *East/West, North/South* contexts.

Whilst the working group will consider all responses to the pre-consultation in greater detail, there is some concern that the pre-consultation exercise has not gained the views of some children and young people who are often under-represented in decision making. Therefore the working group has proposed to establish an **advisory panel of children and young people** reflecting a range of different experiences and backgrounds. The advisory panel will have a central role in supporting the production of the full consultation report which will be released for consultation in early Spring 2008. This process will be supported by the Big Deal, in partnership with the working group.

The remainder of this report provides a summary of the key points put forward by each respondent to the pre-consultation.

	VISION and FUNCTIONS
<p>NINFY youth Consultation 2006</p> <p>(69 young people plus Steering group of 16 yp. Participants from various groups plus unattached)</p>	<p>A youth-governed initiative, with staff in a support role.</p> <p>Four models were discussed at the consultation – no clear consensus among the options but recommendation that young people need more time to discuss.</p> <p>NINFY not simply a mechanism to respond to government – must have power for proactivity – could include campaigning when needed.</p> <p>Could have regional HQ and local branches. Should support young people to engage in local action as well as regional involvement. Should have a direct interface with government Ministers.</p> <p>Needs to use a variety of methods to engage with as many young people as possible. Use of existing structures to recruit to NINFY, but also needs to reach out to unattached. Some concern that an election-based model of NINFY would favour a type of young person. NINFY must be accessible to all, and easy for any young person to contact. NINFY should be high-profile and have effective PR.</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Youth Forum</p>	<p>A structure which is open to any young person who wants to take part. Participants should be in control of their own participation, and everyone should have the opportunity to have their say. The outcome of NINFY must be tangible change for the benefit of young people. It would also enable government to have an increased understanding of the issues which affect young people.</p> <p>Functions : young people should have a lead role in governance of NINFY. Functions would include enabling young people to respond to consultations and also enabling them to bring their concerns directly to government. There should be an equal balance within the functions between these reactive and proactive roles.</p> <p>Functions should also allow NINFY for issue-based work – for example if young people identified a certain issue of concern, they should have the capacity to work on the issue in partnership with other groups.</p>
<p>Belfast Council Youth Forum (subject to ratification by council)</p>	<p>A shadow NI Youth Assembly - a platform for young people to interface at Stormont. Constituted along the lines of Stormont, ie 108 young people, 6 elected from each of the 18 electoral areas. Age group of 13-18 – quarterly meetings. Within the 108, election of an Executive of 36 who would meet monthly. On-line voting - 2 year terms of office An additional Senate or Upper Chamber for 18-21 year olds. Membership could include 25% from youth political parties and 75% non politically linked.</p> <p>Functions would entail input into policies and strategies which relate to young people (examples given) and raising issues of concern on behalf of the constituent group – ie both reactive and proactive in terms of youth policy.</p>

	<p>List of methods provided to ensure the NIYA reaches out to all young people – school presentations, media coverage etc. Also list of methods of sustain the momentum among members.</p>
Members Of Belfast Boys Brigade	<p>A direct voice for young people, facilitating greater access to local government, regional government, UK government and Departments. A young people led network, vocalizing youth concerns, with a particular emphasis on promoting citizenship.</p> <p>Functions would include providing an educational programme to young people in Citizenship.; advising and challenging government ; providing support to youth organizations in terms of developing youth leadership.</p>
UK Youth Parliament	<p>An initiative which works with existing organizations/structures at local and regional level, rather than competing with them.</p> <p>Functions would include support and advice to organizations working in eg. training/education, young people’s rights, and youth participation.</p> <p>NINFY could provide supporting structures, eg panels for young people to participate in structures such as District Policing partnerships. NINFY would have a connecting and facilitating role in government consultations and between young people/politicians.</p>
Children In NI	<p>NINFY should be accessible to all children and young people aged 0-25 and its title should reflect this (concern that exclusion of 0-3 is contrary to UNCRC and 10 Year strategy). To be accessible to younger children NINFY should use innovative and flexible approaches. A ‘flexible, fluid, innovative and interactive concept’ – possibly with a core management structure of children and young people. Any child or young person across NI should be able to be a member of NINFY at any one time.</p> <p>To focus not simply on government <i>provision</i> (ie. the outworking of policy) but also to strengthen the input of children and young people in all stages of policy/ service development (eg. involving children and young people in identifying need, mapping need, planning and commissioning provision, and monitoring / reviewing the delivery of provision).</p> <p>NINFY should be placed on a statutory basis and hence have equal standing to other structures which are emerging post RPA. For example it should interface with the proposed Education Advisory Forum and other new structures.</p> <p>NINFY should be a mechanism to facilitate participation in government – the impact of this participation must be evidenced by government action.</p> <p>Key functions would include co-ordination and joining up of existing participative structures – a central point of access and/or signposting rather than duplicating what exists ; a role in demonstrating best practice and in influencing the development of new structures (eg school councils). Also a specific function to directly engage children and young people in reviewing the implementation of the 10 year CYP Strategy.</p>
Co-ordinator-	<p>A Northern Ireland Youth Assembly, consisting of 108 young people aged 13-</p>

Council youth Forum	<p>18 nominated by local authorities via shadow youth councils. In electoral areas where there are no shadow youth councils , area youth fora could be asked to nominate young people. 18-25 year olds could be included as peer facilitators/mentors to NIYA members. 0-13 year olds could be involved in participation through the Play Quest team.</p> <p>NIYA would be the responsibility of OFMDFM, with a dedicated staff team. Could have an executive body of 36 young people to meet regularly and drive forward the agenda. These young people would be equivalent to junior ministers (2 from each electoral area). Each political party should nominate a youth champion who would meet regularly with the NIYA, as would the Minister for Youth and NICCY.</p> <p>Functions of a NYA would include providing a means for young people to raise issues with NI Assembly, providing a mechanism for government to consult with young people, and monitoring the outcomes of the 10 year strategy for children and young people.</p>
Banbridge council	<p>A network with ‘clout’ for young people to engage. Inclusive of the diversity of young people Reflective of the vision and aspirations of the 10 year CYP Strategy Should dovetail with existing structures and bodies Functions will depend on resources</p>
Youth Action NI	<p>An independent body – a ‘centre for excellence’ on youth participation. Should be a champion for young people across government, and should be recognized in legislation.</p> <p>Young people should help determine services to enhance their area/region – reflecting informal educational approaches.</p> <p>Functions would include :</p> <p>Information gathering / collecting evidence from young people and workers. To include an up to date map of models of youth participation, action research, accessing existing groups Commissioning research and initiatives to engage with marginalized groups and individuals. A mechanism to represent the voice of the diversity of young people to enable the ‘body’ to speak with authority on the views of young people Policy advice based on evidence and research – to target decision makers at departmental and local government level PR and communications : to enable linkages with diverse groups Networking with fora of young people’s decision making groups Championing effective models of youth participation across government</p>
NICCY	<p>NINFY would provide space and resources for all young people to have an opportunity to have their voices heard. This includes young people from schools, youth organizations, interest groups, shadow youth councils, those involved with youth justice, in care, disabled, minority ethnic, young carers etc.</p> <p>NINFY should be supported proactively by all government departments.</p> <p>There should be a clear process where all young people can discuss issues</p>

	<p>locally, to feed into one regional body, with representatives going onto UK and international forums</p> <p>Suggested functions include : Training and Development (Staff, and Young People) Funding provision, support of a youth panel/forum, mapping of current practice, Mainstreaming standards across NI – quality assurance, facilitating debate, developing a high level representative youth body, a dedicated Participation Unit, training government departments, involving young people in policy development, provision of a system to produce young person friendly documents, training young people in equality and recruitment, signposting, library resource.</p> <p>One proposed action is that NINFY endorse inclusion of UNCRC in the Bill of Rights</p>
Participation Network	<p>The name and vision for NINFY should extend to 0-25 year olds, and should relate to direct voice in all aspects of government.</p> <p>Inclusion of children/young people in the early stages of policy development</p> <p>NINFY should co-ordinate all the participative activities for children/young people – a driver for change</p> <p>NINFY should have multi-levels, led by a high level group with ministerial representation / accountability. There would be a number of branches, including support for practitioners. NINFY should involve representation from the child and youth sectors as well as informed by children and young people themselves.</p> <p>The vision is for a society where children and young people know their rights and have them respected, are valued, involved, listened to and understood, and have opportunities to participate as active citizens.</p> <p>Functions would reflect NINFY as an overarching and high level co-ordinating body – with branches to cover capacity building, co-ordination between sectors, mapping structures and producing action plans, monitoring role, and an accountability link between government and young people.</p>
Orana Family Services	<p>Similarity to Article 12 in Scotland. Functions to include volunteering, training, protection, equality of access, giving young people as voice, consultation on relevant issues, input to strategies when they are in design stage.</p>

	VALUES AND PRINCIPLES
NINFY youth Consultation 2006	Based on positive values towards young people Recognises and rewards young people's input into NINFY Equal treatment – inclusivity Young people as representatives of peers Relevant to young people
Northern Ireland Youth Forum	People before money – Sharing of resources and information Integrity / genuine Meaningful participation Inclusive and accessible Should not be unduly bureaucratic – as few layers as possible
Belfast Council Youth Forum (subject to ratification by council)	Representative (of 13-21 year olds) Supported by political parties Challenges stereotypes of young people - values young people as 'citizens of today'
Members Of Belfast BB	Based on an understanding of the values and beliefs of all communities Inclusive of vulnerable / marginalized
Children In NI	The guiding principles and provisions of UNCRC – in particular the values reflected in Articles 2, 3, and 12 Values of the 10 year Strategy for Children and Young People, in particular the core values that all children and young people have rights as individuals, are unique individuals with a valuable and diverse contribution to make to society, and are active participants in society.
Co-ordinator-Council youth Forum	Values and principles of the 10 year strategy for children and young people ; youth work strategy, and Programme for Government
Banbridge council	Values and principles within the 10 year Strategy for Children and Young People Inclusive Open and accountable
Youth Action NI	Inclusion – engage with those on the boundaries of youth sector and formal education Creativity – not solely replicating adult oriented models of participation Innovation – using modern technologies and mechanisms for young people to really challenge and influence government Effective – sufficient time, planning and resources to ensure meaningful processes and results and to ensure wide communication. Young people should be recognized for their contributions eg through Award schemes.
NICCY	Articles of the UNCRC : Article 2 – non discrimination – all rights must be respected regardless of colour, race, sex, ethnic origin, status etc; Article 3 – best interests must be primary consideration; Article 4 – State Parties shall take all necessary steps to

	<p>make rights available to all children; Article 12 – right to express views freely – due weight in accordance with age and maturity ; Article 13 – right to freedom of expression, freedom to seek, receive and impart information Article 17 – right to access information</p> <p>Participation should be built into planning, implementation and delivery</p> <p>Meaningful participation – adults must adjust working practices</p> <p>Partnership working between NINFY and statutory/voluntary organizations to ensure joined up thinking</p> <p>Respect, honesty, trust</p>
Participation Network	<p>The underpinning values of the 10 year Strategy for Children and Young People : recognition of young peoples rights, individuality, diversity, active participation.</p> <p>Principles should relate to UNCRC – especially Articles 2 and 12.</p> <p>Partnership and collaboration with existing structures.</p>
Orana Family Services	<p>Inclusive</p> <p>Respect</p>

	LINK WITH EXISTING STRUCTURES
NINFY youth Consultation 2006	Needs to be accessible to unattached young people as well as those in existing structures No single method of recruitment, eg not solely from youth councils Needs to have strong relationships with youth organizations and other structures Capacity building needs to take place at a local level by local workers– not simply by NINFY staff Potential role of schools to promote the Network – the work of NINFY could make citizenship classes more relevant.
Northern Ireland Youth Forum	NINFY would be a membership-based organisation – connecting existing groups. Important that it does not become solely Belfast-based but has satellite bureaux.
Belfast Council Youth Forum (subject to ratification by council)	Liaise with Dail na nOg Use of youth organizations and schools in recruitment of candidates Awareness raising should include presentations in schools. Needs channels of communication with existing organizations, schools, technical colleges Use of media for promotion
Members Of Belfast Boys Brigade	Would strengthen links with existing forums, and strengthen the voice of existing youth bodies. Engagement with charitable like-minded organizations.
UK Youth Parliament	Would act as a facilitator / supporter / connector for existing participative structures to engage in policy / initiatives, rather than competing with these.
Children In NI	NINFY should be an integral and essential component of a coherent participation system – therefore must be complementary to other relevant participation initiatives. NINFY would be a regional mechanism to join all existing structures – to connect local to regional. NINFY should support existing structures rather than supplant them.
Co-ordinator-Council youth Forum	The Participation Hub would be responsible for promoting the NIYA and local shadow youth councils, and could be involved in the recruitment and selection processes to NIYA. The hub could provide the driving force behind NIYA. The Play Quest team could ensure parallel participation of younger children – 13 and relay the issues of this age group to NIYA. There would be formal lines of communication between NIYA and political parties / political posts and NICCY. The network of youth participation workers employed by local authorities

	<p>should continue to meet, with logistical support from the Participation Network.</p> <p>NIYF could become part of the administration behind NIYA – NIYF would also continue as a valuable wider network of young people. Potential role for NIYF in also providing mentors for NIYA members.</p> <p>Oversight role of NICCY and/or formal meetings between NICCY and NIYA</p> <p>Developments by NIYA should become regular agenda items for all the implementation and working groups attached to the 10 year strategy for children and young people.</p>
Banbridge council	<p>Use of IT for communication</p> <p>Local government keen to establish Youth Councils</p>
Youth Action NI	<p>Need an initial audit of existing structures</p> <p>Refer to Youth Service Liaison Forum Participation sub group</p> <p>Not creation of another structure or group – use of existing groups. Also need to reach those young people not attached to groups. Hence a variety of methodologies needed rather than one model. Move from the notion of traditional forums and committees to more creative methods.</p> <p>Youth work approaches important</p> <p>Linkages with existing bodies such as Youth Service Liaison Forum. Significant potential role of voluntary sector</p> <p>Strategic links to Youth Work Strategy</p> <p>Links to be supported with the formal education sector eg school councils.</p>
NICCY	<p>Use of models of participation and Hear by Right framework</p> <p>New structures to ensure a conduit for young people to participate from local to regional and beyond</p> <p>Partnerships where appropriate</p> <p>Clear communication to other organizations working with young people</p>
Participation Network	<p>An overarching co-ordination role. NINFY must be complementary to other relevant participation initiatives – NINFY would be a regional mechanism to join together all existing structures.</p> <p>Must not displace existing work, and must seek buy-in from current structures at the development stage.</p> <p>Participation Network is one of the support structures in terms of providing training for government officials.</p>
Orana Family Services	<p>A Forum in each Board area</p>

	RELEVANT MODELS
Belfast Council YouthForum (subject to ratification by council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dail na nOg • Funky Dragon • Scottish Youth Parliament
Northern Ireland Youth Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On line communities – Bebo and Facebook (but IT should not replace face to face work)
Members of Belfast Boys Brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funky Dragon • European Youth Council • NI Youth Forum
UK Youth Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Youth Parliament
Children In NI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dail na nOg • Wales • New Zealand • Australia • USA
Co-ordinator- Council youth Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dail na nOg, Funky Dragon, SYP, UKYP • Models of local government youth councils such as Belfast, Donegal, Easington
Banbridge council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Friendly Cities Initiatives
Youth Action NI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer research models • Shadow councils • Thematic groups • Groups within youth sector (Young farmers, Big Deal, rural, uniformed) • Scottish Youth Parliament • Dail na nOg • National Youth Council
NICCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Columbia Ministry for Children and Families youth participation strategy • Ann Arbor Youth Senate • San Francisco Youth Commission • Wales Participation consortium • Wales Assembly group Participation Unit • New Zealand Ministry of Youth Development – YD Strategy Aotearoa • Government of South Australia Active8 programme • Office for Children and Youth, Western Australia
Participation Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dail na nOg • Findings of ‘Turning up the Sound’ • Wales Assembly • Use of term ‘civic participation’ in USA
Orana Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 12 • NICCY

	BARRIERS
NINFY youth Consultation 2006	<p>Lack of feedback from government - lack of change</p> <p>Tokenism</p> <p>Not relevant / accessible to all</p> <p>Poor promotion / lack of awareness</p> <p>Boring / unenjoyable</p> <p>Staff shouldn't manipulate or 'take over'</p> <p>A Belfast base could be remote – NINFY also needs a local presence.</p> <p>Insufficient variety of methods to engage different young people</p> <p>Insufficient time / space to allow young people to contribute</p>
Northern Ireland Youth Forum	<p>Concerned about the idea of a representative model – a small number of young people would have limited ability to represent the views of such a diverse population.</p>
Belfast Council Youth Forum (subject to ratification by council)	<p>Logistical, eg. Travel to meetings, timing of meetings</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Channels of communication</p> <p>Adult underestimation of youth capabilities</p> <p>Time commitment from young people</p> <p>Young peoples confidence</p> <p>Impatience for immediate results</p>
Members Of Belfast Boys Brigade	<p>Apathy, non participation</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Exclusivity of members</p> <p>Lack of government support / tokenism</p> <p>Poor marketing</p>
UK Youth Parliament	<p>Under-representation from rural areas as these tend to have fewer participative bodies</p> <p>Transport – unfair to centre meetings in Belfast (use of residential)</p> <p>Lack of support to set up and maintain local structures</p> <p>At UK and EU level, NI will always find itself in a minority due to relatively small population.</p> <p>Duplication of work with local organizations</p> <p>Exclusion of minority and vulnerable groups – need to ensure unattached young people are included (has implications for elections)</p>
Children In NI	<p>Absence of high level commitment (Ministerial and cross-governmental) – hence crucial to involve all government departments in the development process of NINFY. There should be sponsoring Ministers</p> <p>Lack of appropriate investment – finances, human and time investment</p> <p>Needs to be a capacity building for children and young people, via existing initiatives</p> <p>Failure to involve and engage children and young people throughout the entire</p>

	process of developing, establishing and running NINFY.
Co-ordinator-Council youth Forum	<p>Travel difficulties given the need for young people from such a wide geographical area to meet (use of IT)</p> <p>Lack of resources</p> <p>Duplication and tokenism</p> <p>Young peoples time and confidence, adult preconceptions of young people</p> <p>Diversity within age group 0-25</p> <p>Communication between young people and elected members</p> <p>Lack of information flow</p> <p>Expectation of quick results (need for feedback to young people)</p>
Banbridge council	Stretching beyond the capacity of its resources (both human and financial)
Youth Action NI	<p>Tokenistic and jargonistic forums</p> <p>Logistics (place, time, venue, facilitation)</p> <p>Lack of resources – need long term investment</p> <p>Not demonstrating results, progress or outcomes, lack of clear benchmarks</p> <p>Using only existing structures of youth participation – need for proactive and innovative methods</p> <p>Youth sector not being fully involved in driving the initiative</p> <p>Being unrepresentative of all young people – the ‘usual suspects’ – inequality and lack of diversity</p> <p>Lack of response by government</p> <p>Consultation fatigue</p>
NICCY	<p>Lack of will at Government high level or resistance from departments</p> <p>Financial and human resources</p> <p>Need to have ‘teeth’ to influence and to censure government</p> <p>Lack of a route map</p> <p>Time commitment and alignment of business timeframes with young people’s needs</p> <p>Availability of a wide range of young people – demands on time</p> <p>Unrepresentative of all children and young people and sections of society that speak on behalf of them</p> <p>Insufficient joining-up or partnerships</p>
Participation Network	<p>Lack of support structures</p> <p>Need to engage with organizations at the early development stages of NINFY</p> <p>Resources and support from top-level officials, especially Minister for children and Minister for Education.</p> <p>Lack of flexibility ; failure to reflect diversity and self determination of children and young people, leading to tokenism</p>
Orana Family Services	<p>Jargon</p> <p>Wrong attitudes by adults</p> <p>Poor partnership working</p>

	OTHER COMMENTS
NINFY youth Consultation 2006	Young people must be centrally involved in the design of NINFY. Four potential models included in the report – analysis of pros and cons (consultation did not find a preferred option)
Northern Ireland Youth Forum	Need to explore the lower age range for meaningful participation in NINFY – possibly 12 or 8 years. Promotion will be a key aspect – young people need to be aware of NINFY and of how they can get in touch. Needs a multi-targeted promotion strategy. NINFY must have sufficient resources to ensure it can deliver.
UK Youth Parliament	UKYP currently reviewing how to replicate its structure more effectively in NI, Scotland and Wales
Children In NI	All government provision should be considered as relevant, including excepted matters such as taxation, immigration etc and reserved matters such as policing and justice.
Co-ordinator-Council youth Forum	Participative structures could be funded directly by CYPU of OFMDFM to promote a more co-ordinated approach. Given the remit of NINFY, all government departments should contribute to its funding. A full model could cost iro £1M.
Banbridge council	Young people themselves are best placed to comment on the potential functions
NICCY	Recommendation that children and young people have greater representation on the working group DE will need to conduct a full Children’s Rights Impact Assessment on the NINFY options <i>Other questions posed by NICCY:</i> What are the Terms of Reference for NINFY Young people should sit on the Board/steering group How would it be constituted How will RPA affect any youth body Is there a role for parents/advocates for 0-3 year olds How would government ensure it is representative Will there be a link between NINFY and Participation Network
Participation Network	Need for an agreed definition of participation
Playranger	1. How will NINFY avoid duplication of other organizations roles? 2. What level of funding would be needed to ensure sufficient support for this initiative? 3. To ensure that the network is not a tokenistic “talking shop” what should be the operational and strategic remit, role, level of influence and authority of the forum? 4. What systems will be needed to ensure horizontal, vertical and mutual accountability? 5. What measures will be put in place to ensure government departments are prepared, supported and accountable to respond positively and transparently to the role of the network remit?

