Statutory Duty Team
Equality Commission
Equality House
7 – 9 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DP

24th July 2007

Dear Colleague

Re: Lets Talk Lets Listen Consultation

Barnardo’s NI works with over 11,000 children and their families in groups and communities across Northern Ireland each year. We provide a wide range of services for children, young people and their families. These range from services for very young children through to support for disabled children and for young people who are in care, at risk of offending or are teenage parents. We also provide a broad range of family support services.

In its work Barnardo’s recognises the importance of ensuring the full participation of children and young people and have developed mechanisms to ensure their inclusion. We have a full time participation worker and a Refer to Us group. This is a group of young people which works within Barnardo’s to promote participation.

The participation worker has reviewed the Lets Talk Lets Listen document and Barnardo’s as an organisation would like to welcome the document which we see as a welcome step forward in enabling public authorities to consult with children and young people.

In particular we would welcome Section 4 of the Document: Effective Consultation with Children and Young People: Barriers and Solutions. This chapter provides an excellent guide for public authorities and those wishing to engage with children and young people in a meaningful way. It highlights the barriers to effective consultation and provides clear solutions.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.
Yours faithfully

Margaret Kelly

Assistant Director – Policy
Barnardo’s NI