



Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland  
Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022

**Consultation Questionnaire**

## Overview

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) invites your views on our draft Strategic Plan 2018 -2022.

## Why we are consulting

This consultation seeks your views on our new strategic plan. This sets out the strategic direction and context of the work of the SBNI over the next four years to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

We welcome your responses to the questions contained in the questionnaire, see below.

If you have any additional comments relating to other safeguarding matters relating to children and young people, please contact us separately on 028 9536 1810 or at [SBNI.info@hscni.net](mailto:SBNI.info@hscni.net)

This strategic plan consultation aims to gather the views and suggestions from children and young people, their parents and carers and organisational stakeholders with an interest in safeguarding and the protection of children and young people on our draft mission, vision, values, strategic priorities and aims.

## How you can contribute to the consultation

- To give us your views on this plan, please complete the online questionnaire and email the questionnaire return to [SBNI.info@hscni.net](mailto:SBNI.info@hscni.net)
- You can also respond by writing to the SBNI, The Beeches, 12 Hampton Manor Drive, Belfast, BT7 3EN
- If you require this document in an alternative format (such as large print, Braille, disk, audio file, audio cassette, Easy Read or in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English), please contact [Michael.ohare@hscni.net](mailto:Michael.ohare@hscni.net)

- If you prefer to speak to us you can telephone us on 028 9536 1810, or contact us to meet us in person.

### **Closing date for submissions**

- The closing date for submitting completed responses is midnight on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Any submissions received after 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 will not be analysed.

### **How your feedback will be used**

- Your feedback and views will shape the development of the SBNI Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 for endorsement by the SBNI Board in April 2018
- To facilitate an open consultation process, we intend to treat all submissions received as public. Should you prefer us to treat your response as confidential – either by publishing as an anonymous response or by not publishing at all – please indicate accordingly
- Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

## Your details

By providing information about yourself or your organisation, we will be better able to understand the context of your answers that you provide to our consultation.

We also want to be sure that we have received responses from as many interested parties as possible. This information will therefore help us to accurately record who has responded to this consultation.

Your details will only be kept for this consultation and future work directly related to this.

### What is your name?

Julia Buchanan

### Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or representing a group or organisation

- Responding on behalf of an organisation or group

**If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or group, please tell us who you are responding on behalf of and include its type, (e.g. health and social care trust, voluntary organisation, parents group)**

Barnardo's Northern Ireland (voluntary organisation)

**If you selected other, please specify**

**What is your email address?**

[Julia.buchanan@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Julia.buchanan@barnardos.org.uk)

**Do you prefer us to treat your response as confidential?**

Yes  No

## SBNI Mission, Vision and Values

### SBNI Mission:

**Our mission is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people by working together in partnership to prevent and protect them from risk and harm.**

**Question 1:** Do you agree that our mission clearly states the purpose of the SBNI?

Yes  No

**Question 2:** If no, what would you have expected to see included?

(Limited to 150 words)

We agree and welcome the mission outlined.

In relation to this Strategic Plan more generally, we welcome the clear focus on ACEs. Barnardo's own ten year corporate strategy places significant emphasis on an ACEs perspective and trauma informed practice, and we welcome the synergy between SBNI and Barnardo's. The real commitment to partnership working is evident throughout the plan and we welcome that.

### SBNI Vision:

**Our vision is that all children and young people are seen, heard and protected in order that they grow up in safety, thrive and fulfil their potential**

**Question 3:** Do you agree that our vision clearly sets out what we are trying to achieve?

Yes  No

**Question 4:** If no, what would you have expected to see included?

(Limited to 150 words)

**SBNI Values:**

**We listen to children and young people, their wishes, feelings and experiences and place them at the heart of what we do.**

**We work in partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.**

**We develop, empower, respect and value those who work for us as we strive for excellence in what we do.**

**We are open, honest and transparent in our dealings with children and young people, our members, partners and staff and we respect diversity and promote equality in all that we do.**

**We are all accountable to one another and to those we safeguard and protect.**

**Question 5:** Do you agree that our values meet your expectation of a modern safeguarding public service for children and young people?

Yes  No

**Question 6:** If no, what would you have expected to see that is not reflected in our values?

(Limited to 150 words)

## Strategic Priorities

### Strategic Priority 1: To provide leadership and set direction in the safeguarding and protection of children and young people.

1.1 To disseminate and facilitate the embedding of the 2017 Regional Core Child Protection Policies and Procedures to protect and safeguard children and young people to ensure greater consistency and standardisation of practice.

1.2 To develop, disseminate and facilitate the embedding of the 2018 Regional Practice Guidance of the 2017 Regional Core Child Protection Policies and Procedures to ensure greater consistency and standardisation of practice in order to protect and safeguard children and young people.

1.3 To raise awareness of child protection and safeguarding issues by developing an engagement and communication strategy to ensure that children, young people, families and communities are more aware of these issues and how to get help if concerned.

1.4 To ensure the SBNI Safeguarding Panels engage with children and young people, parents and practitioners to hear their views on the child protection and safeguarding system in order to improve practice.

**Question 7:** Do you agree that Strategic Priority 1 and its aims are correct for the SBNI?

Yes  No

**Question 8:** If no, what changes to this priority and/or its aims would you make?

(Limited to 150 words)

We welcome the commitment to engage and include children, parents and families within this strategic priority and the others. This will require a focussed effort to ensure real engagement in implementation, with the strategy developed in partnership with those partners working directly with families and children.

We also welcome the trauma-informed approach being taken, aligned to and inclusive of early intervention, resilience building and strength-based work, and recommend that the Board considers engagement with schools to broaden awareness of child protection and safeguarding issues, particularly in the ACEs context.

**Strategic Priority 2: To provide a voice to children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse.**

2.1 To work with government departments and their agencies to prevent domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA) from occurring and to tackle child sexual exploitation.

2.2 To work with partners engaged in the DSVA arena to raise awareness among parents/carers and professionals of the effect of DSVA on children and young people.

2.3 To work with partners engaged in the DSVA arena to promote training for children and young people in how to recognise, respond and seek help in relation to DSVA.

**Question 9:** Do you agree that Strategic Priority 2 and its aims are correct for the SBNI?

Yes  No

**Question 10:** If no, what changes to this priority and/or its aims would you make?

(Limited to 150 words)

We welcome this Strategic Priority. However, we believe there is scope to expand point 2.2, to explicitly demonstrate a commitment to raising awareness of the effect on all children and young people, including vulnerable or under-reported groups such as boys or disabled children.

Point 2.3 could also be expanded to reflect the need to promote training in how to recognise and respond to DSVA for groups other than children and young people, for example adults working in the night time economy, through programmes such as Barnardo's *Nightwatch*. In addition, we question whether 'training' is the appropriate term to use in relation to children and young people, and suggest language reflecting an 'awareness raising' ethos, such as that used below for point 3.4, would be more appropriate in this context.



**Strategic Priority 3: To improve outcomes for children and young people affected or potentially affected by neglect through promoting the early recognition and improvement of agency responses.**

3.1 To promote early intervention with the aim of preventing children and young people experiencing neglect.

3.2 To increase awareness of neglect with children and young people, their parents/carers and staff.

3.3 Through the Safeguarding Panels ensure the views of children and young people, parents/carers and staff inform practice in relation to neglect.

3.4 To work with partner agencies to provide training in how to improve the recognition, assessment, and responses to children, young people and families experiencing neglect.

**Question 11:** Do you agree that Strategic Priority 3 and its aims are correct for the SBNI?

Yes  No

**Question 12:** If no, what changes to this priority and/or its aims would you make?

(Limited to 150 words)

We welcome the emphasis on early intervention and prevention evident throughout this strategy and particularly within this priority. Again, we welcome the commitment to engage and include children, parents and families, and note that this will require a focussed effort to ensure real and meaningful engagement in implementation. We also again wish to raise the specific and critical role of schools within this point, and the need for schools to be ACEs aware as a vehicle to understand and identify neglect and its impact.

**Strategic Priority 4: To provide a voice to children and young people affected by mental health issues.**

4.1 To work with government departments and agencies to reduce the incidence of those affected by mental health issues.

4.2 To work with partners to raise awareness among parents/carers and professionals of the effect of poor mental health on children and young people.

4.3 To work with partners to promote awareness for children and young people in how to recognise, respond and seek help in relation to mental health.

4.4 To work with partners to promote training in how to improve the recognition, assessment, and responses to children, young people and families experiencing the impact of mental health issues.

**Question 13:** Do you agree that Strategic Priority 4 and its aims are correct for the SBNI?

Yes  No

**Question 14:** If no, what changes to this priority and/or its aims would you make?

(Limited to 150 words)

Whilst we welcome the recognition of mental health as a serious issue impacting the lives of children and young people, we recommend that the wording of this priority is expanded to include 'wellbeing', to reflect the broader range of emotional issues that can have negative impacts on outcomes for children and young people. We also again welcome the commitment to working with parents to raise awareness, and recommend that the language of this priority recognises that both child and parental mental health can impact the outcomes for the child.

We welcome the commitment to working with partners to raise awareness of the effect of poor mental health and how to identify and respond to it; as part of that, we believe there is scope to work with new partners to communicate to a broad range of society how poor child mental health can have significant impacts within the education system, justice system, etc.

We welcome the implied emphasis on early intervention and prevention within the language of this strategic priority and suggest that could be made more explicit.

**Question 15:** Are there any other strategic priorities and/or aims that the SBNI should adopt?

(Limited to 150 words)

We welcome the strategic priorities outlined and the specific focus on domestic and sexual violence, child and parental mental health, and neglect. However, it is of course important that these explicit references do not mean that other ACEs and forms of neglect, including 'hidden harm' such as parental substance misuse, are overlooked in the incoming strategic plan period.

We also welcome the ongoing commitment to previous strategic objectives, and wish to note that Barnardo's also has an organisational contribution to make in relation to FGM and the CSE of boys and young men.

**Other:**

**Question 16:** Is our draft strategic plan easy to understand?

Yes  No

**Question 17:** If no, what can be done to make it easier to understand?

(Limited to 150 words)

**Question 18:** Do you think that there is anything missing from our plan?

Yes  No

**Question 19:** If Yes, please state what you think is missing.

(Limited to 150 words)

We are pleased to see the actions committed under each strategic priority and are keen to participate and contribute further as these are developed.

## **Appendix 1**

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The SBNI will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The SBNI can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the SBNI in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The SBNI cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the SBNI should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided
- the SBNI should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature
- acceptance by the SBNI of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at:

<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>)