

New TSN

Annual Report 2001

In the period following devolution, we, and all Ministers, have demonstrated the commitment of the Northern Ireland Executive to tackle the problems of poverty and exclusion that so many people in our community face by making such issues central to the **Programme for Government** and all subsequent policies.

We have done so through the integration of New Targeting Social Need into all Departmental actions and the development of the Promoting Social Inclusion initiative, involving Departments working together and with their partners outside Government to improve and enhance the circumstances of those at risk of social exclusion.

A year ago, we published **Making It Work** which explained the New TSN policy and included Action Plans detailing how all Departments were driving the policy forward. This report provides an update on that work, highlighting key successes and outlining the work ahead. All Ministers in the Executive are committed to openness and transparency and to that end, Departments will also be publishing individual Action Plans covering the period to March 2003, enabling the people we serve to judge the achievements of the Executive for themselves.

We believe that people will find the progress the Executive has made to date positive and productive, however we believe that further progress can be made. We remain committed to building a more cohesive, just and inclusive society, and to tackling issues such as poverty and exclusion to enable all our people to benefit from the growing prosperity emerging in Northern Ireland.



**Rt Hon DAVID TRIMBLE MP, MLA
FIRST MINISTER**



1.1 The New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) policy aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources on people, groups and areas in greatest objective social need. It is a policy running through relevant spending programmes across all Northern Ireland Departments.

1.2 **Making it work: the New TSN Action Plans Report** published in March 2001, explained the Executive's New TSN policy and set out New TSN Action Plans showing how each Northern Ireland Department would implement New TSN within its own responsibilities over the period January 2000 to March 2003. The Northern Ireland Office also published a New TSN Action Plan.

1.3 Ministers promised that all Departments would review and update their New TSN Action Plans in 2001 and 2002; and that progress would be reported in New TSN Annual Reports.

1.4 In line with that commitment, each Northern Ireland Department has thoroughly reviewed its New TSN Action Plan, and updated it, taking account of progress and of new commitments arising from the **Programme for Government**.

1.5 This report, the **New TSN Annual Report 2001**, highlights progress to March 2001 on significant New TSN actions across the Devolved Administration.

1.6 At the same time, Departments are publishing their own detailed progress reports together with revised New TSN Action Plans for the period April 2001 to March 2003.

2.1 Poverty has for too long blighted the lives of individuals and whole communities, and the Executive is committed to tackling both its causes and its effects. The **Programme for Government** highlights New TSN as its major policy for combating social exclusion and poverty.

2.2 New TSN aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources within Departmental programmes towards people, groups and areas in greatest social need.

2.3 New TSN is a policy running through all relevant existing spending programmes across all Northern Ireland Departments, including some Next Steps Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies and North-South Implementation Bodies. It means Departments changing the way in which they target the money they have so that more of it can be used to benefit those who are most disadvantaged.

2.4 New TSN is not just about money; it is also about targeting efforts. This means changing the way things are done so that programmes and services are delivered in ways that are more helpful to disadvantaged people.

2.5 Those in greatest social need must be identified objectively and targeted fairly, regardless of attributes such as gender, religion or race. New TSN does not discriminate against any section of the community.

2.6 However, New TSN aims to contribute to the reduction of inequalities among different sections of society. For example, evidence collected over a number of years shows that, compared with Protestants, Catholics are over represented among the unemployed and that, consequently, they fare less well than

Protestants on some other socio-economic indicators such as income. By consistently addressing the problems of people who are objectively shown to be in greatest social need, New TSN should, over time, contribute to the erosion of these inequalities.

2.7 However, it will be necessary that objective measures of inequality are agreed by the Administration - as a matter of urgency - before any measurement is used to test the effectiveness of these policies.

2.8 New TSN comprises three complementary elements:

- it has a particular focus on tackling unemployment and increasing employability
- it aims to tackle inequalities in areas such as health, education and housing; and the problems of disadvantaged areas
- it includes Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) through which Departments work together and with partners outside Government to identify and tackle factors which contribute to social exclusion; and to undertake positive initiatives to improve and enhance the life and circumstances of the most deprived and marginalised people in our community.

2.9 Unemployment is the most profound cause of poverty. For most people of working age, a job with a decent wage is the best protection against poverty. New TSN is therefore particularly concerned with tackling the problems of unemployment and with increasing people's employability. This means creating the conditions for an increase in the number of jobs available. It also means helping disadvantaged people to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence - and removing barriers to employment so that people can make the most of the employment opportunities that are available.

2.10 Poverty tends to be associated with other types of need, such as poor health, low educational achievement and fewer choices in the housing market. Getting a job is not an option for everyone and increased employment does not address all the problems that disadvantaged people face. Departments must therefore make special efforts across the range of their programmes to address the needs of disadvantaged people.

2.11 Even when services are delivered on a universal basis, such as health and education, resources and efforts need to be directed towards those who are most disadvantaged so that inequalities can be reduced.

2.12 Some areas and communities are subject to higher than average levels of unemployment and are more deprived than others. New TSN recognises this and commits Departments, where appropriate to target such areas for special attention.

2.13 The factors that cause social exclusion do not always fit comfortably within the areas of responsibility of individual Government Departments. Furthermore, there are some groups within our community whose members are more at risk of exclusion than others and whose needs must be addressed by Departments and other agencies in a coherent way.

2.14 The **Promoting Social Inclusion** element of New TSN involves Departments working together and with partners outside Government to identify and tackle factors that can contribute to social exclusion. Promoting Social Inclusion addresses a series of issues, concentrating on a small number at any

one time. It emphasises prevention, co-ordination and evidence-based decision making.

3.1 Commitment

3.1.1 The First Minister and Deputy First Minister, jointly have direct responsibility for New TSN.

3.1.2 The Executive takes a close interest in all aspects of the implementation of New TSN and Departmental Ministers provided regular reports on progress made in implementing their respective Departmental New TSN Action Plans.

3.2 Building New TSN into the Executive's priorities

3.2.1 For New TSN to be effective, it is essential that it is built into plans and priorities at all levels. The Executive adopted the New TSN policy in June 2000 and made clear in its Agenda for Government its commitment to the policy and to delivering on the actions and targets in New TSN Action Plans. At the same time, it committed £200k to research on Equality, including New TSN.

3.2.2 The central principle of New TSN is the redirection of efforts and available resources within spending programmes towards objectively defined social need. During the year, in line with the Agreement, the Executive developed its first **Programme for Government** (PFG). Linked to the Executive's first budget, the PFG set out the Executive's priorities and plans for 3 years from 1 April 2001; with particular emphasis on 2001-2002.

3.2.3 At official level, OFMDFM's Economic Policy Unit (EPU) had a key role in assisting Ministers to draft the Programme. The New TSN Unit, EPU and all Departments worked to ensure that New TSN was fully integrated into the Programme. As a result, **Growing as a Community**, the first of the Executive's PFG commitments emphasised New TSN as the Executive's key policy to tackle poverty and social exclusion and reiterated the Executive's commitment to fulfil all the actions and targets in Department's New TSN Action Plans. New TSN principles were reflected in actions throughout the Programme.

3.2.4 The core New TSN policy involves redirecting resources within spending programmes towards those objectively defined as being in greatest social need. However the Executive has also decided that New TSN should be one of the important factors which it takes into account in making decisions about how it will allocate resources between spending programmes.

3.2.5 EPU and the New TSN Unit also worked to ensure that New TSN principles were taken into account in consideration of spending proposals. New TSN has been built into the public expenditure system, where New TSN criteria are used within the budgetary management system across all Northern Ireland Departments. All budget allocations are evaluated for their impact on New TSN.

3.2.6 An innovative feature of the first **Programme for Government** was the introduction of **Executive Programme Funds** (EPFs) through which the Executive could support the development of new policies and programmes, new improved services, and major infrastructure projects in line with its commitments as set out in the **Programme for Government**.

3.2.7 Allocations from EPFs are fully consistent with the Executive's priorities as set out in the [Programme for Government](#) and its commitments to Equality and New TSN. New TSN has been fully integrated into the criteria for assessing EPF bids. The New TSN Unit was directly involved in the assessment of bids.

3.2.8 Although bids to all of the Funds must demonstrate a consistency with the Executive's commitment to Equality and New TSN, New TSN was particularly relevant to three of the Funds:

- The Social Inclusion/Community Regeneration Fund which supports actions against poverty and social exclusion, promoting good relations between people of different religious beliefs or ethnic backgrounds, and the promotion of cultural diversity;
- The New Directions Fund which sought to encourage Departments to produce proposals that could deliver new and innovative policies; and,
- The Children's Fund which provided support for children in need and young people at risk.

3.2.9 The first rounds of EPF awards in April 2001 provided support to Students, Victims, Travellers, community regeneration projects, the development of a public health strategy, improving the provision of education to ethnic minorities, improving support for those children at risk, and improving reading capabilities amongst our children.

3.2.10 The New TSN Unit also provided advice to the Department of Finance and Personnel on how New TSN should be taken into account in conducting economic appraisals.

3.3 Driving New TSN forward within Departments

3.3.1 Ministers are responsible for the delivery of New TSN within their respective Departments. Ministers made clear their individual commitment to delivering on New TSN in prefaces of the Action Plans of their respective Departments published in [Making it Work](#).

3.3.2 Every Department has produced a New TSN Action Plan showing how it will implement New TSN through its existing programmes. These Plans identify the social needs which Departments are tackling, and contain the actions and targets that Departments' delivery of New TSN can be judged on.

3.3.3 Ministers keep a close watch on progress by their respective Departments, and the Executive receives regular reports on progress across the Administration. Ministers have been actively involved in the development, consultation, review and publication of New TSN Action Plans.

3.3.4 Each Department has thoroughly reviewed its New TSN Action Plan and updated it to take account of progress; building in new targets to follow those completed. The later chapters of this report summarise progress made on Departmental Action Plans. Further detail is included in the reports provided by the individual Departments.

3.4 Departments working together

3.4.1 Departments have to work together to ensure a consistent and cross-cutting approach to policy development and implementation. It is therefore

important to have in place mechanisms through which Departments work together to drive forward a co-ordinated approach to the further development and implementation of New TSN.

3.4.2 OFMDFM has a central role in relation to other Northern Ireland Departments. Within OFMDFM the New TSN Unit has central policy and executive responsibility for the development and implementation of New TSN policy across Departments. It promotes and drives forward the policy, setting overall objectives, advises, and, where necessary, challenges Departments, and reports on progress.

3.4.3 A major priority for the New TSN Unit during the first year of the policy was to ensure that Departments and other relevant organisations had the guidance and advice they needed to implement New TSN; and that appropriate arrangements were in place to enable Departments to effectively work together.

3.4.4 At Devolution, Departments set up central units which have responsibility for New TSN. Some Departments have established specific Equality Units. New TSN Unit supported the Departments through the change by developing and nurturing an understanding of each Department's responsibilities, undertaking bi-lateral meetings and assisting in the consideration of issues concerning the implementation of New TSN.

3.4.5 With Departments, the New TSN Unit reviewed the existing cross-Departmental groups which had been established under Direct Rule. It concluded that, in the devolved context, a single New TSN Steering Group whose terms of reference amalgamated the responsibilities of the existing groups would ensure greater cohesion in delivering all aspects of work on New TSN. The New TSN Steering Group was established in September 2000.

3.4.6 Chaired by the Director of the OFMDFM Equality & Social Needs Division (Grade 3 level) the New TSN Steering Group comprises senior representatives (Grade 5s) from all Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office who have responsibility for driving forward New TSN within their respective Departments.

3.4.7 Throughout the development and implementation of New TSN Action Plans the New TSN Steering Group held monthly meetings to provide a forum for tackling issues or problems arising in relation to New TSN and which needed to be addressed cross-Departmentally. The Group has made particular progress for example:

- spearheading the monitoring and reporting of progress within and between Departments, and future review of New TSN Action Plans;
- co-ordinating and administering the Promoting Social Inclusion aspect of New TSN; and
- consideration and agreement of a number of papers including the Draft Evaluation Strategy for New TSN, Consultation on PSI Working Group Report on Travellers, Draft of New TSN Action Plans Report - Making it Work and Consultation on future PSI priorities.

3.4.8 This approach has proved successful as it provides the opportunity to promote and facilitate cross-departmental co-ordination and joint working on equality and New TSN relevant issues and facilitates the sharing of best practice. The New TSN Unit and Departments will keep the structure of the Group under

review to ensure that it continues to add value and promote integration of New TSN across Departments.

3.4.9 In addition, the New TSN Statistics Subgroup, a sub group of the New TSN Steering Group, was established to promote cross-Departmental collaboration and data sharing and the exchange of experience, expertise and methodologies. This Subgroup is chaired by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and includes professional statisticians from all Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office.

3.4.10 To ensure that New TSN is built into Departments organisational plans and culture, the New TSN Unit worked with the cross-Departmental Training and Development Forum to develop core training materials and provided seminars to guide Departmental trainers and policy makers on the use of the material. The content of the core training materials have been kept under review, and, amendments made where necessary.

3.4.11 Each Northern Ireland Department has worked very closely with relevant Non-Departmental Public Bodies and North-South Implementation Bodies to advance the implementation of New TSN. Departments, assisted by the New TSN Unit, have provided guidance and support to these Bodies, to enable them to develop their New TSN Action Plans.

3.5 Working with the UK Government

3.5.1 The United Kingdom Government and the Devolved Administrations share a common goal of eradicating poverty and promoting social inclusion and there are similarities in their strategic approaches. The Devolved Administrations are responsible for many of the policies which impact on poverty and exclusion and each Administration is responsible for developing its own strategy for tackling these problems. A Joint Ministerial Committee on Poverty, which includes Ministers from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the United Kingdom Government, has been set up to develop a joint policy and to learn from good practice as different approaches are developed for tackling similar problems.

3.5.2 Northern Ireland Departments contributed to two major United Kingdom reports on poverty and social exclusion. **Opportunity for All - Third Annual Anti-Poverty Report** details policies and measures being taken by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It reports on progress made and identifies New TSN as the Northern Ireland Executive's major policy to combat social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources on people, groups and areas in greatest objective social need.

3.5.3 In line with Council of Europe requirements the **UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion** reflects United Kingdom-wide strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion in the period 2001 - 2003. New TSN was highlighted as Northern Ireland's overarching policy in this area. The UK National Action Plan will set out objectives, timetable and monitoring arrangements for action against poverty by both the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations.

4.1 Redirecting Resources

4.1.1 New TSN is a theme running through a range of existing spending programmes across all Departments. It involves Departments, Agencies and Non-

Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) redirecting (or "skewing") the money they have for relevant existing programmes so that more of it can be used to benefit those who are in greatest social need. There are various ways in which Departments are taking this forward.

4.1.2 In some cases Departments use formulae to calculate the amounts of money they distribute. These formulae are generally based on population levels, with adjustments or "weightings" being added to take account of factors such as deprivation.

4.1.3 The Department of the Environment (DOE) provides financial support to District Councils through the General Exchequer Grant. The resources element of this grant provides additional support to those Councils whose rateable value per head of population falls below a standard determined annually by the Department. The existing formula used to calculate this element of the Grant is extremely complicated and takes no account of social needs factors.

4.1.4 In September 2000, DOE issued an initial consultation paper proposing a methodology for incorporating a deprivation factor into the formula for the calculation of the resources element of the General Exchequer Grant. Following the exercise, many of the comments put forward were taken on board and adjustments made to the preliminary proposals. A further consultation paper and equality impact assessment will be issued in September 2001.

4.1.5 Through OFMDFM's District Council Community Relations Programme, the Department provides funding to District Council activity to promote cross-community contact and co-operation, mutual understanding and to increase respect for cultural traditions. Work was undertaken to look at developing a formula to disburse funds to District Councils that would include a weighting for multiple deprivation. These factors will be considered in conjunction with the conclusions of the work commissioned by NISRA on an Indicator of Multiple Deprivation for Northern Ireland.

4.1.6 The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) is committed to ensuring that social need is reflected in a range of funding mechanisms for Health and Social Services Boards, the Acute Services programme of care and General Medical Services. It will also ensure that General Practitioner Health Promotion payments are more effectively targeted towards disadvantaged people.

4.1.7 DHSSPS's Capitation Formula is designed to allocate resources made available for health and personal social services across the populations of the four Health and Social Services Boards in as fair a way as possible, taking account of their different population structures, differential need within those populations and other relevant factors.

4.1.8 DHSSPS commissioned work to provide evidence of the comparative need for particular services across areas. In October 2000, the results were published for consultation in the **"Third Report of the Capitation Formula Review Group"**. The Report described how health and social care needs associated with age and gender are taken into account and how due regard is given to the impact of deprivation and other socio-economic factors on health and well-being. It also set out how the different costs of delivering care in rural and urban environments are taken into account.

4.1.9 As part of the Report, guidelines were produced to assist Health and Social Services (HSS) Boards in the equitable allocation of resources to HSS Trusts within their area. The HSS Boards take account of the Capitation Formula at local level in determining their investment strategies.

4.1.10 Similar approaches are currently being used or are under development for the allocation of elements of the primary care budget.

4.1.11 Another approach to skewing resources is to set aside a percentage or "Top Slice" an amount from a programme budget. The Department of Education (DE) already sets aside 5% of its schools budget for New TSN purposes, as one of its measures to tackle low achievements among disadvantaged pupils. DE is reviewing its Local Management of Schools scheme, with a view to developing a common funding formula. The proposed formula incorporates a New TSN factor designed to provide necessary additional funding. Consultation on the proposals planned to run from April 2001.

4.1.12 Other Departments aim to allocate at least a certain percentage of resources available within their programmes towards designated New TSN areas. For example, within Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's (DETI) New TSN Action Plan, the Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU) aims to direct a minimum of 50% of its resources towards businesses and individuals in disadvantaged areas. During 2000-2001, LEDU succeeded in allocating 58% of all support (some £10 million) to client companies in New TSN areas by giving them priority for business needs assessment. The Agency also directed a further £1.34 million to Local Enterprise Development initiatives in disadvantaged areas, 67% of the total assistance offered for these activities throughout Northern Ireland.

4.1.13 Departments are also using impact on disadvantage as a criterion for awarding grants, opening up greater access to services, and providing services at reduced rates or free of charge.

4.1.14 Departments have examined the opportunities to build New TSN into European funding mechanisms. The NI Community Support Framework agreed with the European Commission in December 2000 stressed the relevance of New TSN to both the NI Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity (formerly the Transitional Objective 1 Programme) and the Peace II Programme. New TSN is treated as a horizontal theme running through the programmes, and is considered a key criterion for applications to the Peace II Programme in particular.

4.1.15 In February 2000, the then Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment (now known as the Department for Employment and Learning) undertook a comprehensive review of its arrangements for student support, which included a comprehensive public consultation exercise. As a result of this work DEL announced a package of measures to increase access and targeted specifically at those from less well off backgrounds. These included the introduction of means-tested, non-repayable bursaries worth up to £1,500, the creation of 1,000 new higher education places, the abolition of tuition fees for a wide range of vocational courses in further education, and the introduction of a childcare grant for higher education students.

4.1.16 In addition, DEL provided funding to the Universities to assist students from lower income families enter third level education. Funding was also provided to develop the Further Education Access Initiative, which involves colleges

establishing a range of approaches to widen access for socially disadvantaged students.

4.1.17 Departments are committed to addressing the skewing of resources at source. Work is ongoing to build New TSN into the financial aspects of major policies. In February 2000, DFP commenced a review of Rating Policy, which will explore the full implications of altering the basis of future revaluations. The review will examine all aspects of the rating system, in particular how deprivation might be addressed. The work of the review will include full consultation and the target completion date for the review is May 2002.

4.1.18 The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) agreed with the European Commission a new scheme of support for farmers in the Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) of Northern Ireland to compensate them for the natural agricultural disadvantage that they face because of their location. In meeting the Commission's requirements, the Department was able to produce a scheme that is consistent with, and contributes to, New TSN objectives. The impact of the scheme is significant, with the budget being worth over £24 million in 2001, around 80% of this being allocated to Severely Disadvantaged Areas within the LFAs and the balance being allocated to Disadvantaged Areas.

4.2 Tackling Unemployment and Increasing Employability

4.2.1 New TSN has a particular focus on tackling the problems of unemployment and increasing employability. This means creating the conditions to increase the number of jobs available. It is also concerned with helping disadvantaged people to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence, and removing barriers to employment, so that people can make the most of the employment opportunities that are available.

4.2.2 This aspect of New TSN is particularly relevant to three Departments - DETI, DEL and DE. However, other Departments have a contribution to make.

4.2.3 The Minister for Education and Learning established a Taskforce on Employability and Long-Term Unemployment in March 2001. In light of the need for a multi-agency approach to dealing with unemployment, long-term unemployment and related social exclusion issues, the Taskforce is made up from officials across NI Departments, the Northern Ireland Office and the Equality Commission. Its terms of reference, amongst other things, include:

- analysing the factors which make individuals and groups employable and the obstacles faced by those who are economically inactive, especially the long-term unemployed;
- engaging with others who have a close interest in employability and long-term unemployment and seeking their views on how obstacles to employment might be overcome;
- preparing an Action Plan, which integrates actions across Government Departments and Agencies, by 31st March 2002.

4.2.4 Prior to the establishment of the Taskforce, an inter-Departmental Steering Group commissioned a scoping study undertaken by independent consultants. The Taskforce considered the findings of the study with the intention of publishing a discussion document for consultation in September 2001.

4.2.5 In addition to the Taskforce DEL have advanced work on a number of fronts. A Basic Skills Unit was established in response to the findings of an International Adult Literacy Survey, which concluded that almost one in four adults in Northern Ireland has a serious deficit in literacy and numeracy skills. In November 2000 the Basic Skills Unit, as part of its work towards DEL's Lifelong Learning agenda, published **Raising Our Sights**, a strategic framework for improving adult literacy. Some progress has already been made. The Basic Skills Resource Centre has already been opened in Belfast, and a workplace basic skills team has been put in place with representatives of employers, trade unions and DEL officials. Using the Basic Skills Innovation Fund, which can contribute up to £5,000 towards projects that deliver community-based adult basic skills - 17 projects are already being supported.

4.2.6 DEL in conjunction with the University for Industry, has established a network of 27 local learning centres across Northern Ireland, many of which are in socially deprived areas, to improve accessibility of learning. By March 2001, 1,698 learners had registered with the programme to undertake 3,286 courses of study. Further assistance has been put in place. Individual learning Accounts (ILAs) were launched in September 2000 to provide financial assistance and help meet the costs of a broad range of part-time courses and encourage people from low income backgrounds to take up development opportunities. 20,300 ILAs were opened with applicants receiving discount vouchers to use towards the costs of part-time courses, and 7,500 accounts were in use by 31 March 2001.

4.2.7 In addition to providing basic skills and development opportunities, DEL has introduced a number of measures designed to increase disadvantaged people's access to further and higher education. Through the Further Education Access Initiative 15 Further Education colleges have been funded to pilot approaches that will open up access and encourage the up take of courses by people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The University of Ulster's "Step Up" initiative and the "Tasters" initiative at Queens University have been established with the aim of improving progression to higher education for pupils with academic potential, but relatively low attainment levels, from schools from disadvantaged areas and with traditionally low levels of higher education participation. These schemes provided summer schools in July and August 2000, and are effectively tackling the marginalisation and exclusion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Work has also started on the building of the Community Outreach Centre, which is part of the first phase of the New Springvale Education Village.

4.2.8 DEL has also implemented programmes designed to help people into work, these include the New Deals, Worktrack and Bridge to Employment schemes. These interventions have contributed to a decrease in the numbers of long-term unemployed, reducing the number of people unemployed for 18 months or more by over 50% in the last two years. In the year ended 31 March 2001 DEL assisted a total of 13,489 people secure employment.

4.2.9 DE has worked to tackle low educational achievement, low personal and social skills and poor employability experience by disadvantaged pupils. This has included the expansion of summer literacy and numeracy schemes (from 61 in 1999 to 131 in 2001). These schemes operate by providing pupils with the opportunity to improve their literacy and numeracy skills in a relaxed and informal setting during the summer holidays and priority is given to schools serving areas of social and economic deprivation.

4.2.10 DE also supports the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) in promoting its out of school hours learning activities, by helping to create awareness in schools,

monitoring progress and providing advice to NOF as necessary. The range of learning activities supported by NOF is wide: projects may include homework clubs, study clubs, help with key skills, sports, creative arts, adventures etc. Funding is targeted at schools serving in areas of social disadvantage.

4.2.11 Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is also committed to increasing the training and development opportunities which the arts and minority languages can offer and in particular, to encourage increased economic activity in disadvantaged areas. In May 2000, DCAL commissioned the development of an Action Plan for a two-year Irish language TV and film production pilot scheme, which is nearly complete and will be put into effect shortly. It is expected that initially the training will provide up to 15 places in the media industry.

4.2.12 Work has also been taken forward by DCAL to increase the accessibility of Library Services. Two Centres of Excellence were established by March 2001, one in the Western Education and Library Board area and the other in the Southern Board. 96 Public Service Points have been established in Public Libraries, providing computerised services, and 55 of them have internet access for the public - increasing the provision of services to those in disadvantaged areas. In addition, access to libraries and library facilities for those with physical disabilities or people who are visually impaired has been and continues to be developed. For example, through the provision of Braille keyboards and software adaptations to computers, information will be translated into Braille or speech.

4.2.13 Other Departments have made significant contributions to ensuring that conditions are favourable to increasing both employment and employability. For example, in the Department for Social Development (DSD), the Social Security Agency (SSA) has helped 3,296 lone parents to take up the New Deal for Lone Parents scheme. The SSA has also continued to work increasingly closely with the Training and Employment Agency and is finalising preparations to launch a pilot of the ONE project whereby people seeking information and access to Government services can do so at a single location.

4.2.14 Departments and related agencies have made progress in delivering programmes which will increase employability through the development of basic skills and by linking education and training provision more closely to regional and local skill needs. Work has also been undertaken to help secure a competitive economy, attract inward investment and stimulate the conditions which can generate job opportunities.

4.2.15 DETI's Industrial Development Board (IDB) aims to improve the base of world-class companies in Northern Ireland - companies that will generate greater economic added value, higher profitability and sustainable employment. A priority in this area of work is to encourage foreign direct investment to locate in areas of greatest social need.

4.2.16 In the year ending March 2001, IDB attracted 16 new inward investment projects to Northern Ireland. Fourteen of these projects were located in New TSN areas and they brought with them 2,715 new jobs. In addition, IDB attracted 91 first time visits to Northern Ireland by potential investors, of which 75 (82%) considered opportunities in New TSN areas.

4.2.17 IDB, the Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU), the Industrial Research and Technology Unit (IRTU) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) have all revised their financial assistance packages to companies. Offers of

assistance now contain a new clause which encourages companies to recruit from the unemployed, utilising DEL programmes such as New Deal and Bridge to Employment, where appropriate.

4.2.18 The NITB together with representatives of the DOE, DARD and DCAL, have been working towards a framework for the development of tourism in disadvantaged areas. The draft framework is in an advanced stage of development and plans are in place to issue the draft framework for consultation in July 2001.

4.2.19 Following a number of independent evaluations of urban regeneration policy, which concluded, among other things, that physical and economic initiatives had often taken precedence over social inclusion issues, DSD has developed an Urban Regeneration Strategy focusing on Neighbourhood Renewal, which will be published for public consultation in the summer 2001. The aim of the strategy is to promote and implement a comprehensive approach to tackling social, economic and physical regeneration and to redress disadvantage in cities, towns and villages. This will have a positive impact on employment opportunities in those areas.

4.2.20 The Executive Committee has given its approval to DFP to undertake a strategic review of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) accommodation needs, supported by a policy on the location of civil service jobs, taking account of cost and wider policy imperatives including New TSN, Statutory Equality obligations and the Regional Development Strategy.

4.3 Tackling Social Need in Other Policy Areas

4.3.1 New TSN recognises that poverty can manifest itself in many ways, and people who are poor are likely to experience other types of social need. For example, disadvantaged people are more likely to have poor health; achieve lower levels of attainment in education; live in poor housing or in areas with high crime rates or areas that have been badly affected by the Troubles; and they are less likely to be able to access the services for which their need is greatest.

4.3.2 In this respect every Department has an important contribution to make, helping to address the many inequalities that poor people experience.

4.3.3 Within the area of health there are many inequalities, for example:

- The most affluent 20% of our people live on average over five years longer than the least affluent 20%
- Among men under 65, unskilled workers are three times more likely to die than professionals
- Travellers' life expectancy is almost 20 years less than that of the settled community

4.3.4 DHSSPS launched a consultation paper on 30 November 2000 to inform the development of a public health strategy, **Investing for Health**, which will target particularly health inequalities in areas of social need. It sets out the Executive's proposals for an innovative new approach to improving health status, which focuses specifically on the sources of good health and on inequalities in health.

4.3.5 The Community Development and Health Network undertook to manage the community consultation process on behalf of the Ministerial Group on Public

Health, and in doing so organised a number of events to improve the consultation process. The consultation period has been extended until 31 May 2001, due to the impact of foot and mouth disease on public meetings.

4.3.6 The use of tobacco is widely recognised as a major contributor to ill-health. DHSSPS has established an inter-agency Working Group on Tobacco and work is ongoing to develop an Action Plan which will include targeting adult smokers - especially the most disadvantaged. In addition, the DHSSPS's Ministerial Group on Drugs has developed and issued for consultation a joint implementation model for drugs and alcohol. This work will contribute to the action being taken by relevant Departments to ensure a co-ordinated approach to tackling drug misuse.

4.3.7 On 29 March 2001 DHSSPS announced proposals for new legislation to help support young people who leave care. The proposals are contained in a document, '[Proposals for Children Leaving Care Bill](#)', which will be subject to a consultation period of two months, ending on 1 June 2001. The proposals aim to improve the life chances of young people preparing to leave care and those who have left care.

4.3.8 During the period of this report, DHSSPS has continued to work with DE, DEL and Childcare Partnerships to implement the childcare strategy "[Children First](#)", targeting those who have objectively been defined as in greatest need. Following recommendations from the Childcare Partnerships, a further eight Sure Start projects from areas of high disadvantage not already covered by the initial fifteen projects have been approved, and will commence in April 2001.

4.3.9 DE is working to address inequalities in education. As part of the inter-Departmental NI Childcare Strategy DE have targeted the expansion of pre-school education, providing tomorrow's generations with a sound start to their education. At the start of 2001 places were available for nearly 75% of children in their final pre-school year.

4.3.10 To help meet in a practical way young people's needs after school, DE initiated a pilot scheme enabling post-primary schools to disapply aspects of the statutory curriculum at Key Stage 4 in order to introduce work-related learning programmes. Thirty-three applications were approved during the first phase which commenced in September 2000. The pilot will be evaluated by the Education and Training Inspectorate and will inform the review of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

4.3.11 New TSN recognises that obtaining a job is not an option for everyone. The SSA has engaged in consultation to improve service provision to disabled people, older people, people in isolated/deprived areas, minority ethnic communities, people affected by the Troubles and people with literacy problems. In this respect, a number of recommendations were implemented during 2000-2001 to improve the standard of customer services. Further work will be taken forward as part of the SSA's Customer Service Review Action Plan.

4.3.12 As part of its New TSN programme, the SSA works closely with those groups representing pensioner interests on a range of measures to actively encourage the uptake of the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). MIG is an income supplement to people over sixty to ensure that they have sufficient income on which to live. This approach to benefit take-up has been successful - at the end of March 2001, the MIG campaign resulted in just over 4,000 successful claims at an average of £23 per week.

4.3.13 People on low incomes, living in badly insulated housing, are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty and as a consequence may suffer from cold-related illnesses and social exclusion. To tackle these problems DSD has introduced the "Warm Homes" scheme, providing a comprehensive package of energy efficient insulation measures for private sector householders in receipt of certain income or disability-based benefits. This scheme will create warmer, healthier homes for older people, disabled people and people on low incomes and aims to help 20,000 householders by 2004.

4.3.14 As mentioned earlier, DSD has been developing an Urban Regeneration Strategy which will target social need in the most deprived areas. The strategy will, among other things, look to empower communities to shape and drive regeneration in their own areas. In line with this, DSD developed an Active Community Initiative (ACI) Action Plan, which was published on 30 March 2001. As part of its development DSD consulted with representatives from across the voluntary and community, private and public sectors. The aim of the ACI is to encourage people to become more actively involved in their communities, particularly people from groups currently under-represented in volunteering and community activity. A funding package of £1.8 million over the next three years has been made available and work has already begun on a small number of demonstration and research projects, which will focus on identifying and reducing the barriers to involvement for groups under-represented in the volunteering population. This includes minority ethnic communities and the disabled.

4.3.15 On a more strategic front, DRD is currently drawing up a Regional Development Strategy which will offer a strategic and long-term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland. The Strategy will influence the distribution of activities throughout the region recognising that policies for physical development have a strong bearing on matters such as a spatially based economy, a healthy living environment and an inclusive society which tackles inequalities relating to health, education and living standards. The Strategy will have several functions:

- to provide a strategic planning framework for strengthening the regional economy and tackling social disadvantage;
- to protect and enhance the physical, natural and man-made assets of the region;
- to provide a spatial framework for transport, air and water quality, energy and waste strategies, and for infrastructure providers and public service providers; and
- to provide an overarching framework for Development Plans, and to guide public and private investment decisions relating to land use.

4.3.16 Provision and access to transport is another key aspect of work being taken forward by DRD. Transport enables people to avail of employment opportunities and to access the services they need. The Department has made progress in increasing the provision of local transport. 16 rural community transport partnerships have been established providing local bus services in rural areas, reducing the impact of geographical location on social disadvantage. In addition, DRD has secured funding to ensure that from October 1 2001, everyone over 65 is able to access free public transport.

4.4 Promoting Social Inclusion

4.4.1 The Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) element of New TSN involves Departments working together and with partners outside Government to:

- a. identify and tackle factors which can contribute to social exclusion;
- b. undertake positive initiatives to improve and enhance the life and circumstances of the most deprived and marginalised people in our community.

4.4.2 This element of New TSN addresses a series of issues, usually requiring a multi-agency approach, and concentrating on a small number at any one time. It emphasises prevention, co-ordination and evidence-based decision making.

4.4.3 PSI was originally developed under Direct Rule. In June 1999, following consultation, Direct Rule Ministers initiated work on four priority areas:

- a. the problems faced by Travellers;
- b. the problems of teenage parenthood;
- c. the position of ethnic minority people; and
- d. ways of making Government information more accessible to excluded groups.

4.4.4 The inter-Departmental New TSN Steering Group established PSI Working Groups to take the work forward.

4.4.5 Travellers

4.4.6 Following the establishment of a multi-sectoral PSI Working group on Travellers, which had originally been led by the DOE and subsequently DSD, the Working Group undertook to identify, research and analyse Traveller issues. The PSI Working Group's report was submitted to OFMDFM. The report examined the situation of Travellers in Northern Ireland and set out 33 detailed recommendations on important issues like Traveller accommodation, health, education, training and employment.

4.4.7 The Report, '**Consultation on the Final Report of the PSI Working Group on Travellers**', was published in December 2000 and distributed by OFMDFM for public consultation. The Executive plans to publish its strategic response by March 2002.

4.4.8 In the past, a major criticism has been that Travellers themselves were never asked for their views on issues which had a direct effect on them. A meeting was organised with Travellers and Traveller representatives to discuss and agree a strategy for consulting with the Travelling Community. It was important that the consultation with Travellers was carried out in a culturally appropriate manner and that all sections of the Traveller Community had an opportunity to express their views. It was agreed that the task of organising and carrying out the Travellers consultation should be contracted out to a body with past experience of working with Travellers. A tender exercise will be carried out in April with a view to consulting Travellers in the summer 2001.

4.4.9 Teenage Parenthood

4.4.10 Another priority area to be addressed through PSI concerned the need to address the adverse consequences of teenage pregnancy and early motherhood. DHSSPS took lead responsibility for this area of work, establishing a multi-sectoral Working Group to develop a co-ordinated strategy to:

- Contribute to a 10% reduction in the number of births to teenage mothers by 2002;
- Address the difficulties which young parents and their families face during pregnancy and after birth, so as to prevent young parents or their children from being socially excluded in either the immediate or longer term. In doing so it will be concerned with issues relating to young fathers as well as young mothers.

4.4.11 The Working Group used existing research and other evidence, together with advice from experts to analyse the issues, understand the problems and their causes. Consideration was also given to the roles and responsibilities of Departments, agencies and relevant organisations, including the effectiveness of existing policies, programmes and structures. In November 2000, DHSSPS launched a consultation document '**Myths and Reality**' which aims to help facilitate a reduction in the number of unplanned births to teenage parents. The document, based on analysis of the underlying issues, details a series of recommendations aimed at improving communication, promoting educational opportunity, investing in health, entering employment, addressing housing needs and building on existing good practice.

4.4.12 Consultation on the proposals ended in March 2001 and DHSSPS is aiming to produce a cross-Departmental Action Plan by March 2002.

4.4.13 Race

4.4.14 OFMDFM led a multi-sectoral PSI Working Group on the Position of People from Minority Ethnic backgrounds. Members included representatives from Departments, statutory bodies and minority ethnic voluntary agencies.

4.4.15 The Working Group considered available research and evidence, with the intention of developing an integrated strategy of action to be taken across Departments, to reduce the risk of minority ethnic people becoming socially excluded. OFMDFM Ministers considered and agreed an outline on proposed policy developed by the Working Group, and the Executive signalled in the **Programme for Government** its commitment to publish a strategy.

4.4.16 In February 2001, OFMDFM established a Race Equality Unit to complete the strategy and to drive forward work on race equality across the Administration. The Unit will promote awareness and support initiatives in relation to race and minority ethnic issues. It also has responsibility for the development of a cross-Departmental policy and strategy to tackle racial inequality.

4.4.17 A major issue considered by the Working Group concerned improving cross-community relations. OFMDFM successfully bid in the Spending Review for £300k to support ethnic minority groups and projects. This included £250k for core funding and £50k to support innovative projects in line with the Executive's priorities. Details of the scheme were published in draft in February 2001, and minority ethnic voluntary organisations were invited to comment on the scheme and to nominate members of the committee responsible for the evaluation of bids. Arrangements were made so that awards could be made as early as possible in 2001-2002 financial year.

4.4.18 Better Services - Communication

4.4.19 The New TSN Unit, OFMDFM, took lead responsibility to advance this area of work. The work is concerned with the way in which service providers

communicate with the public and the difficulties people experience in obtaining, interpreting and responding to communications. This includes for example the communication of information to promote better health or about entitlement to services; the forms through which agencies gather information from service users and the letters they write to members of the public.

4.4.20 The review includes considering the effects of the use of technology on communication between service providers and the public. It also involves examining the extent to which the contents, presentation and distribution of information can be improved to make it more accessible. The aim being to identify better ways of communicating and to promote their implementation by the public sector and more widely.

4.4.21 Particular emphasis has been placed on the problems experienced by people in greatest social need and those with additional communication needs - for example because they have difficulty communicating in English, or with reading, writing or understanding text.

4.4.22 An audit of NI Departments' current communication systems was conducted in March 2001, to ascertain the current provision of information to socially excluded groups. The findings will be analysed, and inform the development of guidance on making information more accessible. The Unit plan to consult on the proposed guidance in the Autumn.

4.4.23 Future PSI Priorities

4.4.24 The Executive set out in the **Programme for Government** their commitment to consult on future priorities to be tackled through PSI. Work has commenced to ensure that community and voluntary sector representation is involved in the process. Plans are in place to consult on future priorities during Summer 2001.

4.5 Improving the Information Base

4.5.1 **Making it Work** makes explicit the need for high quality information to ensure the effective implementation of New TSN. The importance of this was emphasised in consultation responses, in particular the need for accurate and timely information to assess current levels of disadvantage and the rate of future progress.

4.5.2 It is widely recognised that Departments need accurate information to establish baselines in relation to particular policies or programmes, set objectives and targets for change, track progress and measure outcomes.

4.5.3 OFMDFM's Research Branch and NISRA undertook a series of bilateral meetings with Departments to identify data sources, monitoring systems and evaluation needs. The exercise helped Departments identify information gaps in relation to their New TSN Action Plans. In addition, work was undertaken to develop a New TSN evaluation strategy, to deliver an objective and systematic evaluation of New TSN. Plans are in place to publish a draft evaluation strategy for consultation in early 2002.

4.5.4 Cross-Departmental collaboration to improve the quality and access to information is ongoing. The sharing of data, the exchange of experience, expertise and methodologies are promoted through an inter-Departmental New

TSN Statistical Group. The Group is chaired by NISRA with support from the OFMDFM Research Branch, and comprises professional statisticians from all Departments. It has assisted in the development of the draft New TSN evaluation strategy.

4.5.5 In October 2000, OFMDFM's Research Branch began commissioning a programme of research focusing on central New TSN themes - poverty and socio-economic need, targeting resources, employment and employability, and promoting social inclusion. Full details of this programme of research were published on the Department's website. (www.nisra.gov.uk) The outcomes of all the research undertaken will be of value across all of the Devolved Administration. Research Branch plan to disseminate the outcomes commencing Autumn 2001.

4.5.6 A major piece of research was undertaken to assist all Departments. In July 2000 the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at Oxford University was commissioned by NISRA to review and update the 1994 'Robson Measures' of Relative Deprivation.

4.5.7 It is expected that this research will influence and inform policies and programmes across Government, and beyond, in the immediate and medium-term future. It will assist in the analysis of patterns of social conditions across Northern Ireland and in monitoring the impact of Government policies. The new measures will replace previous measures of deprivation, which were based on census of population information, and which were used to allocate resources in programmes designed to tackle urban and rural deprivation throughout Northern Ireland.

4.5.8 The work involved extensive consultation, and following further quality assurance work, NISRA expect the new measures of deprivation to be published in July 2001. It is likely that the new measures will identify seven types of deprivation which can effect people: income; employment; education; health; access to services; housing and social environment. A measure of multiple deprivation, combining the seven types of deprivation will be developed for each of Northern Ireland's 566 Electoral Wards.

4.5.9 The proposed structure of the new measures will enable them to be used flexibly to identify and target deprivation at various levels of geography and, using the individual types of measures, to target areas of particular sectoral disadvantage (eg education and health).

4.5.10 Another extensive piece of research is being taken forward by DARD. This involves a major social survey of farmers, in the course of which around 10% of farm households in Northern Ireland were to be interviewed. However, due to the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak work on this survey was halted at the beginning of March 2001. By that time just over half of the interviews had been completed. It is hoped to continue the interviews when the Foot and Mouth Disease situation allows.

Annex 1: Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

1 **The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister** was created at devolution to support the institutions established under the **Belfast Agreement**. The Department supports the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and has a central role in relation to other NI Departments.

2 The Department's work focuses on three key areas: promoting equality, human rights and community relations; developing and implementing a coherent **Programme for Government**; and co-ordinating the business of Government.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

3 The OFMDFM New TSN Action Plan contained 19 objectives covering all aspects of the Department's business and was designed to offer support and guidance within OFMDFM and across Departments. Substantial progress has been reported on all fronts, and the Action Plan as a whole has been revised and updated where necessary, taking into account progress to date and commitments in the Programme for Government.

4 The New TSN Unit organised the publication and launch of the New TSN Action Plans Report **Making it Work** and established a New TSN Website.

5 In the field of **Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI)** consultation on future PSI priorities was initiated and, following consultation, a funding scheme in support of ethnic minorities was launched [OFMDFM 6]. A consultation methodology was agreed with Travellers and Traveller representatives [OFMDFM 7]. A Race Equality Branch was established and action was commenced on a **Better Services** initiative.

Cross Departmental Activity

6 Promotion of the Equality Agenda including New TSN across the NI Administration is one of OFMDFM's key central roles. Commitment to ensuring equality and tackling social disadvantage has also underpinned and informed the Programme for Government and shaped Departments' priorities. Through the New TSN Unit, the Department has central policy and executive responsibility for the development & implementation of New TSN across all NI Departments, their relevant First Step Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies. It promotes and drives forward the policy, sets overall objectives, advises and, where necessary, challenges Departments, and reports progress.

7 The Economic Policy Unit has ensured that the Programme for Government includes priorities and actions which reflect New TSN policy and objectives. The Unit is now using their involvement in areas like public health and the Belfast Metropolitan Plan to emphasise the need for New TSN objectives to underpin policy development.

8 New targeted **Executive Programme Funds (EPFs)** were created to support programmes or projects which are of major importance to the Executive. EPFs have regard to and are fully consistent with the Executive's priorities as set out in the Programme for Government and its commitments to Equality and New TSN. New TSN officials were closely involved in the first round of EPF allocations.

Progress in Collecting Information

9 Research Branch continues to provide a professional statistics and research service to inform, support and assist in the development of policy. The branch has continued to manage a range of research projects relating to New TSN, Equality and Community Relations issues. The branch is currently developing an evaluation strategy for New TSN, given the commitment in the Programme for Government for an evaluation of New TSN to be completed by December 2002 [OFMDFM 11].

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

10 The New TSN Unit has been particularly effective in delivering advice and guidance to Departments, Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) on many aspects of New TSN including finalising their New TSN Action Plans. New TSN staff also organised and took part in seminars/workshops with all NI Departments, NDPBs and North-South Bodies to assist in the production of their New TSN Action Plans [OFMDFM 2].

11 Unit officials have also delivered training to key Departmental staff and policy makers. In particular they tutored Departmental training staff involved in the delivery of New TSN training within their parent Departments [OFMDFM 1].

Annex 2: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

1 The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is totally committed to the implementation of New TSN, particularly in locally driven policy areas. The Department's Action Plan targets 19 objectives across the various areas of business within the Department.

2 Whilst the Foot and Mouth outbreak has severely affected the Department's capacity to progress in all fronts significant progress has nevertheless been made, in a wide range of Departmental business areas and in the NDPB's which DARD sponsor.

3 Most important, perhaps, is the Social Survey, the data from which will, in due course, be vital in allowing the Department accurately to assess the impact of its policies across many of its groups of customers.

4 It is regrettable that the essential fieldwork was interrupted by the Foot and Mouth restrictions, and that the findings will now be delayed until 2002. There are nevertheless indications from the very high response rate to the pilot survey in the autumn of 2000 that the survey proper will indeed prove to be an invaluable source of important information.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

5 The Department's commitment to New TSN continues to ensure that resources are directed where they are most needed and that consideration of New TSN issues features prominently in the decision-making process.

6 A New TSN weighting has been applied to the scoring criteria for ranking applications under the Countryside Management Scheme and will be utilised in respect of those applications received in the next tranche of applications later this summer [DARD 7].

7 During the past year, the Department agreed with the European Commission a new scheme of support for farmers in the Less Favoured Areas (LFA) of Northern Ireland to compensate them for the natural agricultural disadvantage which they face because of their location. In meeting the Commission's requirements, the Department was able to produce a scheme which is consistent with, and contributes to, New TSN objectives. The impact of the scheme is significant, with the budget being worth over £24 million in 2001, around 80% of this being allocated to Severely Disadvantaged Areas within the LFA and the balance being allocated to Disadvantaged Areas [DARD 6].

8 In the Forest Service's annual programme to acquire land for afforestation, measures of deprivation, currently acquired through the Robson Indicators, have been formally built into the Service's appraisal and acquisition methodology. Of the 76.2 hectares of land acquired in the year ended 31 March 2001, 70% fell into the most deprived quartile area and 30% into the second most deprived quartile area [DARD 12].

Cross Departmental Activity

9 The Rural Development Steering Group (RDSG) is an inter-Departmental forum chaired by DARD to co-ordinate activities of Departments and Statutory Agencies in their application to rural communities, particularly those living in disadvantaged areas in the context of New TSN.

10 RDSG has agreed that the National Rural Resource Tourism Measure under the PEACE II Programme should be managed on a co-ordinated inter-Departmental basis. A sub group comprising DARD, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, the Environment and Heritage Service and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has been established to oversee the development of the initiative. Preliminary work on the implementation of the initiative has been completed. [DARD 16]

Progress in Collecting Information

11 A major social survey of farmers has been undertaken, involving around 10% of farm households in Northern Ireland. The survey includes a range of social and economic questions covering areas such as dependence on agriculture for household income, the education levels and training needs of farmers and their families and the incidence of industrial accidents on farms. The information gathered through this survey will enable DARD to scope its Statutory Equality obligations. Due to the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak, work on conducting the survey was halted at the beginning of March 2001, at which point just over half of the interviews had been completed. Preliminary results on key issues, based on the first 1,800 interviews, should be available by the end of July and it is hoped to continue the interviews and produce a final report when the FMD situation allows [DARD 18].

12 The Forest Service commissioned consultants to examine the use of forests by the public for recreational and educational purposes. Through these studies useful baseline data was acquired to assist the Service, through its current review of forestry policy, in its development of facilities and services aimed at meeting the needs of those under-represented or disadvantaged groupings, including the disabled [DARD 14].

13 A New TSN mapping exercise using MapInfo software was carried out by Farm Survey Unit. Agri-Food Development Service (AFDS) external customer/client

names and postcodes were used as the baseline data to determine how the provision of services and utilisation of resources within the Service complies with New TSN principles and priorities as outlined in the DARD Action Plan. Mapping was undertaken for AFDS Business Programmes. Client data for 1999-2000 was used for this New TSN mapping exercise as this represented the most recent complete year.

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

14 In line with the commitment to introduce New TSN considerations in NDPB's business planning, awareness training was provided in September 2000 to the Chairpersons and Chief Executives of the Loughs Agency, the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority and the Rural Development Council. In addition, these NDPBs have drawn up New TSN Action Plans for 2001-2002 [DARD 1].

15 An AFDS Working Group met on seven occasions during the period of this report. The Group has drawn up a detailed training plan which will be implemented during 2001.

Annex 3: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

1 The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure identified 15 objectives in its New TSN Action Plan covering a wide range of issues within the Department's responsibilities.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

2 The UK Government has ratified the Council of Europe Charter specifying Irish for Part III. An inter-Departmental Standing Charter Group, chaired by DCAL, is developing guidance on the use of Irish in official business. An Action Plan for a two-year Irish language TV and film production pilot scheme has been agreed and will be put into effect shortly. DCAL has commissioned independent academic research on the geographical distribution of Ulster-Scots and on attitudes and perceptions. The Department will work closely with the Ulster-Scots Agency to ensure that research needs for Ulster-Scots language are identified, prioritised and addressed in a coherent manner [DCAL 9].

3 DCAL has initiated discussions with representatives of minority ethnic and sign language communities as a first step in developing and addressing key concerns [DCAL 10].

4 The establishment of a Centre of Excellence in each Board represented a major step forward in implementing the People's Network in Northern Ireland. The opening of these centres has extended the role of the library as a lifelong learning centre and as an access to information for everyone. Adaptive technology for people with physical disabilities and for people who are visually impaired has been provided in the Centres to enable access to the Internet. To date 96 Public Service Points have been computerised, with 55 providing internet access for the public. Reading groups have been formed to support literacy and adult learning along with early learning, including the Bookstart Scheme, and homework support [DCAL 6].

Cross Departmental Activity

5 DCAL continues to liaise with representatives of DETI, and DARD to establish a

framework for the development of community based tourism and to enhance the rural economic base through the development of Angling in disadvantaged areas and proposes to launch a new EU funded Angling Development Programme later in the year.

6 DCAL in conjunction with DE, DETI and DEL launched a document '**Unlocking Creativity**': A Strategy for Development. This strategy, along with the inter-Departmental Creative Industries Research Exercise, is aimed at inter alia reducing barriers to participation through the development of creativity.

Progress in Collecting Information

7 Indicators of social disadvantage in the context of inland waterways and angling development have still to be identified by Policy Development and Research Branch. The Angling Development Programme will be launched later in the year. Both Inland Waterways and Inland Fisheries have included targets in the DCAL Action Plan to ensure a significant proportion (60%) of expenditure or investment related to the provision of public water recreation facilities and the development of angling is committed to disadvantaged areas by April 2002 [DCAL 12].

8 The Department have engaged consultants to undertake the research required to identify indicators of social disadvantage and indicators for measuring the impact of New TSN in the sporting context. Our partner in the process, the Sports Council for NI, has drawn up its own draft Action Plan based upon the relevant targets within the Department's Draft Action Plan. This draft has been approved by the Minister and has been put out to consultation. The consultation period ended on 31 March 2001.

9 Officers from the Sports Council have also recently met to develop an agreed set of more detailed and specific performance indicators which best reflect the particular contribution sport could make in areas of social disadvantage. A report is expected shortly reflecting Sports Council's inputs; following examination of this report and analysis of the responses from consultees, an implementation plan will be presented to the June meeting of the Council.

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

10 New TSN requirements have been written into both the Department's Business Plans and those produced by the Department's agencies and NDPBs. All staff have been invited to attend awareness training and in-depth training is being provided for those staff involved in policy formulation. New TSN awareness has been included in all Departmental induction training.

Annex 4 : Department of Education

1 The Department of Education has 24 New TSN objectives distributed throughout its core business areas.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

2 Considerable progress has been made towards the achievement of the Department's objectives, however, all of the objectives and related timescales will be fully reviewed in the revised and updated Action Plan for the period April 2001 to March 2003.

3 The Department has now reviewed the arrangements for targeting New TSN funds to schools and arrangements for schools to indicate how funds have been utilised. A consultation document containing proposals was published and widely distributed on 5 April 2001 [DE 7]. It is intended that the new arrangements for New TSN will be introduced as an integral part of a Common LMS Formula which will come into operation in April 2002.

4 In recognition that pre-school education is particularly beneficial for children from socially disadvantaged circumstances, the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PSEEP) is an important element both of the Department of Education's strategy for tackling low and under-achievement and of the Childcare Strategy "**Children First**". The programme is creating over 9,000 new free pre-school places over a 4-year period (of which around 4,000 will be in the statutory nursery sector and 5,200 in the voluntary and private sectors) in order to provide funded places for all children, whose parents wish it, in their immediate pre-school year by March 2003.

5 The School Support Programme continues to provide intensive support to low- and under-achieving schools. At June 2000, 11 schools had made sufficient progress to enable them to leave the programme and, in the 2000-2001 school year, 75 schools continued with support. Also in 2000, a set of exceptional provisions were put in place to provide additional support to five schools identified as dealing with significant levels of disadvantage [DE 9].

Also continuing in 2000/01 were:

- a programme of literacy and numeracy training to improve the quality of teaching in schools, including schools with disadvantaged pupils [DE 11];
- the expansion of summer literacy and numeracy schemes (from 61 in 1999 to 106 in 2000) [DE 12]; and
- an initiative for the development and promulgation of best practice in schools, including the sharing of best practice at a conference involving service providers held in February 2001.

A 'Communities in Schools' pilot project commenced in November 2000 involving 6 post-primary schools in Belfast.

6 To help meet, in a practical way, young people's needs after school, a pilot scheme was initiated enabling post-primary schools to disapply aspects of the statutory curriculum at Key Stage 4 in order to introduce work-related learning programmes. Thirty-three applications were approved during the first phase which commenced in September 2000. The pilot will be evaluated by the Education and Training Inspectorate and will inform the Review of the Northern Ireland Curriculum [DE12].

7 A bid for resources from the Executive Programme Children's Fund to implement a regional programme of support for school age mothers and pregnant school girls was successful. This programme will be managed by a partnership comprising representatives of the education, social services and voluntary sectors [DE 14].

8 The Department has two objectives in the 'Community Relations' business area of the New TSN Action Plan. The first, "To increase participation of socially disadvantaged young people in the Schools Community Relations Programme (SCRIP) and the Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme (YSCRSS)" [DE 23], has been addressed by instigating a review of both schemes to ensure

that they are effectively meeting their objectives, including this one. The findings of the YSCRSS review are under active consideration. The SCRIP review is still at an early stage, but its findings will be similarly considered when available. The second objective, "to raise participation in Community Relations Programmes in schools with a significant proportion of disadvantaged pupils" [DE24], has been taken account of by the inclusion of a New TSN criterion in the Guidelines for Applicants to the Community Relations Core Funding Scheme 2001-2004. Monitoring of the scheme has confirmed that the inclusion of this criterion has impacted positively, with a majority of the programmes targeting young people from disadvantaged areas.

Cross Departmental Activity

9 As a first step towards the objective of raising the quality of early learning for socially disadvantaged children and young people, the Department is seeking to mount a joint research project with DHSSPS to audit existing provision, identify existing coverage and identify those schemes/projects which seem to be offering best effectiveness and value for money for 0-2 year olds.

Progress in Collecting Information

10 Work has been progressing with our statisticians and economists to help determine the impact and effectiveness of New TSN activities. A report paying particular attention to the following is imminent: -

- a. the participation rates in education by children of pre-school age and by young people of post-compulsory school age;
- b. the academic achievements of school leavers; and
- c. outcomes for school leavers in terms of their first destination on leaving school.

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

11 Within the Youth Service considerable success has been achieved in embedding the principles of New TSN within the culture of the sector. In February 2001 the Department brought together all of the senior staff across the statutory and voluntary sectors to begin to shape a comprehensive strategy for effectively carrying out the policy of New TSN across the Youth Service.

Annex 5: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

1 The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) is responsible for providing an appropriate framework for strengthening economic development in Northern Ireland. Throughout the delivery of its programmes and services, the Department is fully committed to promoting equality of opportunity, with a particular emphasis on those areas of Northern Ireland which have been designated as having the greatest social and economic disadvantage.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

2 DETI's New TSN Action Plan contains 29 objectives. During the first year of the Plan, the Department made good progress against these objectives, taking forward a broad range of activity aimed at targeting efforts and resources towards disadvantaged areas and tackling unemployment. The main achievements are briefly listed below. Further information on progress made, and

full details on any amendments or additions made to the objectives in light of developments, are set out in DETI's New TSN Action Plan Report for the period April 2001 to March 2003.

3 During 2000-2001, the Industrial Development Board (IDB) attracted 16 new inward investment projects to Northern Ireland, 14 of which located in New TSN areas (88% of the total against an annual target of 75%) with 2,715 associated new jobs [DETI 10]. Seven tradeable services projects were attracted to locations outside Belfast against a target of nine for the 3-year period covered by the Plan [DETI 11].

4 The Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU) ensured that support of £10 million went to client companies in New TSN areas (58% of all support) by giving them priority for business need assessment. A further £1.34 million was allocated to Local Economic Development initiatives in disadvantaged areas, representing 67% of the total assistance offered for these activities throughout Northern Ireland [DETI 15].

5 One of the Industrial Research and Technology Unit's (IRTU) key programmes aimed at addressing the problem of low levels of private sector investment in Research and Development in Northern Ireland is the Start Programme. Over the past year, IRTU succeeded in attracting 60% of applications for Start assistance from New TSN areas against a target of 50%. This resulted in a total of £760,000 being awarded to companies in disadvantaged areas [DETI 21].

6 IDB, LEDU, IRTU and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) all sought to increase the impact of DETI support on disadvantaged people by incorporating a new clause in offers of financial assistance. The new clause encourages companies to recruit from the unemployed, utilising DEL programmes such as New Deal and Bridge to Employment, where appropriate [DETI 12]. The impact of this activity on the labour market is being closely monitored (see paragraph 9 below).

7 LEDU also worked closely with the local Councils to draw together a second Business Start Programme (BSP II), which is aimed at supporting entrepreneurs and creating new employment opportunities. BSP II will commence in Autumn 2001 [DETI 18].

Cross Departmental Activity

8 In order to exploit the tourism potential in disadvantaged areas more fully, NITB has been liaising with representatives of DOE, DARD and DCAL to establish a framework for the development of natural resource and rural tourism. Agreement was reached on a draft programme which will issue for consultation in July 2001 with responses due back by September 2001. The initiative will be implemented following consideration of all responses received [DETI 24].

Progress in Collecting Information

9 The DETI economic development agencies have begun to collect detailed data on the direct and indirect impact of its job creation programmes. A new monitoring system has been put into place which will provide information on the number of new jobs being created in supported projects which are directly taken up by unemployed people. As employment build-up in supported projects can take some time, the new monitoring system has produced only limited data to

date. It is expected, however, that DETI will be in a position to publish the initial findings of the new monitoring system in early 2002 [DETI 4].

10 DETI has also commissioned work aimed at helping the Department to identify the indirect impact of its programmes, i.e. where new jobs in supported projects have been filled by people moving from another job but whose previous positions have provided opportunities for the unemployed. A report on the findings of this research will be published by early 2002 [DETI 4].

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

11 To underline DETI's commitment to Targeting Social Need, New TSN has been incorporated into the Department's new operating plans and is included in all induction and general management training courses. Action is now being taken to extend New TSN training to all relevant staff throughout the Department in 2001-2002.

Key Challenges Ahead

12 In the year ahead, DETI will continue to develop and implement New TSN activity across a wide range of areas, building on the progress made to date. Particular focus will be placed upon studying the report "**Measures of Deprivation in Northern Ireland**" which will be published in July 2001. The Department will be giving careful consideration as to how this research should influence the delivery of DETI programmes.

13 DETI will also be giving detailed thought to the establishment in 2002 of the new Economic Development Agency, Invest Northern Ireland, which will draw together the existing activities of IDB, LEDU, IRTU, Business Support Division (formerly part of T&EA) and the business support activities of the NITB. Invest Northern Ireland aims to bring a new dynamic and a strong customer focus to the promotion and facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship in the economy. Invest Northern Ireland's Corporate and Operating Plans will include a central commitment to New TSN policy and careful consideration will be given as to how the new agency might deliver this commitment most effectively.

Annex 6: Department for Employment and Learning (formerly known as Department for Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment)

1 The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) has inherited a strong tradition of integrating TSN into its business planning and is committed to making an effective contribution to New TSN.

2 DEL's Action Plan concentrates on the aims of improving peoples' employability and reducing unemployment. The central focus of the Action Plan has been on individuals: for example the T&EA's labour market interventions such as the New Deals and Jobskills Access have been tailored to suit the specific needs of participants while higher and further education policies are primarily about meeting the needs and aspirations of individuals.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

Redirection of resources

3 The Department has undertaken a comprehensive review of its arrangements for student support and a number of measures have been announced. These include the introduction of higher and further education access bursaries worth up to £1,500 for students from low income families; the creation of 1,000 new higher education places, the abolition of tuition fees for a wide range of vocational courses in further education; an increase in the support funds available in the FE colleges to alleviate student hardship; and the introduction of a childcare grant scheme for higher education students on low incomes [DEL 3].

4 The Department has also provided funding to the Universities to improve the representation of students from disadvantaged backgrounds namely:

- Special Initiative funding to develop partnerships between the universities and schools with traditionally low levels of participation in Higher Education: total funding of £760k will be allocated during the lifetime of the projects.
- Additional funding of £684k aimed at widening participation has been added to the teaching funding for universities in 2000-2001. This is to enhance the recruitment and retention of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- A new funding programme, Higher Education Reach-Out to Business and the Community (HEROBC) was introduced with a funding allocation of £615k. This programme will ensure that Higher Education is responsive to the needs of business and industry with a focus on co-ordinating outreach activities and work experience for students to enhance their employability.
- During 2000-2001 work commenced on the building of the Community Outreach Centre, part of the first phase of the Springvale Education Village [DEL 4].

5 Funding was provided to develop the Further Education Access Initiative which is designed to encourage the sector to explore a range of approaches to widening access for socially disadvantaged students. In the year ended 31 March a total of £1million was provided which allowed 15 colleges to take forward pilot projects [DEL 4].

Reducing unemployment and increasing employability

6 In addressing the low levels of qualifications and basic skills among socially disadvantaged people DEL, in conjunction with the University for Industry (Ufi), has established a network of 27 local learning centres to improve accessibility of learning. Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs) designed to help meet the costs of a wide range of part-time courses were launched in September 2000. 20,300 such accounts were opened and 7,500 in use by 31 March 2001 [DEL 7].

7 Although there has been a steady improvement in the unemployment figures over the last decade the level of long-term unemployment has remained high. DEL, through its various labour market interventions, particularly the New Deals, contributed to a decrease of over 50% in the last two years of those unemployed for 18 months or more. In the year ended 31 March 2001 DEL assisted a total of 13,489 secure employment.

Cross Departmental Activity

8 DEL has continued to work in partnership with the Social Security Agency to implement the Welfare Reforms and Modernisation programme. In August 2000 Carrickfergus became the third area where the JobCentre and Social Security

Office co-located to offer a one-stop-shop for jobseekers. Plans have been developed for the roll-out of joint-working to all other areas, and for the introduction of a ONE pilot to assist a wider range of benefit recipients with jobsearch.

9 DEL has continued to work with other Departments and other agencies to take forward the Northern Ireland Childcare Strategy. Since June 2000 DEL has chaired the Inter-Departmental Group on Early Years (IDGEY) and the Children First Advisory Forum which brings together the IDGEY Departments, the four Childcare Partnerships and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

10 See [paragraph 4.2.3](#), above, for details of the Inter-Departmental Employability Taskforce.

Progress in Collecting Information

11 DEL is currently undertaking a large-scale quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the New Deal 18-24 and 25+ strands. Draft final reports have been received and are being considered. The existing evaluation and review work has already had a significant input to the design of the enhanced New Deal 25+ which was introduced on 9 April 2001.

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

12 New TSN is an integral part of the Department's planning processes and the Department's commitment to tackling poverty and social disadvantage is one of the underpinning principles of the Department's Strategy for 2001 - 2004, its Business Plan 2001-2002 and its Public Service Agreement. In these planning documents the Department identifies social inclusion as a key issue and clearly indicates links with New TSN. All staff in the Department receive personal copies of the Strategy and the Business Plan.

13 In January 2000, the first full month of devolved government, DEL held seminars for all managers at Deputy Principal grade and above in the Department to raise awareness of New TSN and the statutory equality duties. The Department has also used its staff magazine to raise awareness of New TSN.

Annex 7: Department of the Environment

1 The Department of the Environment's responsibilities are diverse and largely regulatory in nature. The Department's Action Plan comprises 12 objectives linked to planning, local government, the environment and corporate services.

Progress Against Key Objectives / Targets

2 The Department is committed to ensuring that issues of social need and exclusion are at the forefront of policies and programmes. Overall, in the first year, good progress has been made towards the achievement of the Action Plan objectives. Full details of any alterations and additions to objectives made in light of experience so far are set out in the Department's revised and updated action plan for the period April 2001 to March 2003.

3 The Planning Service objectives are designed to encourage development in areas of disadvantage to alleviate social, economic and environmental need. The current work to identify and build New TSN relevant criteria into the development plan processes, which is nearing completion, should influence future development

in a positive way by allowing planning policies to be skewed to address deprivation. The assessment of the capacity of housing sites in the urban area has been completed and is monitored on a year by year basis and as this information is a key component of the Planning Service Geographical Information System (GIS), this will help with the promotion and monitoring of urban capacity.

4 Work is progressing on the Local Government Division objective to incorporate into the formula for the calculation of the resources element of the General Exchequer Grant to District Councils factors which will take account of relative socio-economic disadvantage. An initial consultation paper on the proposed formula was issued in September 2000. Work is in hand to complete the review of the formula through further consultation in the coming year [DOE 6].

5 In seeking to ensure that disadvantaged people are afforded opportunities to enjoy and appreciate the environment, the Department has compiled a database of schools with a high level of disadvantage among pupils and has started to monitor their participation in educational programmes. A draft Action Plan is being prepared to include specific measures to target schools with a significant number of pupils from disadvantaged households [DOE 8].

6 The Department does not have responsibility for any non-Departmental public bodies which have to produce Action Plans. However, the Action Plan does contain a commitment to make District Councils more acutely aware of New TSN and its objectives and to encourage them to skew resources towards those in greatest need [DOE 7]. The Department is overseeing the development and publication of a number of circulars designed to increase awareness of the importance of New TSN.

Cross Departmental Activity

7 The regulatory nature of DOE's activities and the absence of large programme expenditure limits the scope for the Department to collaborate with others in joint projects. DOE however does liaise, as appropriate, with other Departments and is represented on a number of inter-Departmental groupings.

8 These inter-Departmental forums include a sub group of the Rural Development Steering Group (RDSG), chaired by DARD and comprising representatives from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Environment and Heritage Service and DCAL which was established to oversee and develop the National Resource Tourism Measure initiative, set up under the Peace II Programme.

9 The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has been liaising with representatives from DOE, DARD, and DCAL in an effort to create a framework for the development of community tourism.

10 Close links are maintained between DOE Planning Service and the Department for Regional Development (DRD) which has prepared the Regional Development Strategy (RDS). The RDS will be implemented through the Planning Service development plan programme and should complement the DOE's efforts to influence development in a positive way.

Progress in Collecting Information

11 Work has been proceeding with our statisticians and economists to help determine the impact and effectiveness of New TSN activities. A by-product of the

analysis of information at District Council level for the review of the resources element of the General Exchequer Grant formula is the creation of a useful information repository giving details of sparsity, tourism, rating valuations, unemployment and household data. This will have widespread application in the fields of New TSN and equality of opportunity. New TSN data forms an important component of the Planning Service Geographical Information System (GIS) and will be used for baseline monitoring of urban capacity. In addition, baseline monitoring information has been compiled by the Environment and Heritage Service for disadvantaged schools, based on the percentage of primary school pupils receiving free school meals. Every effort is being made to ensure that the Department is in a position to evaluate fully the impact of New TSN initiatives [DOE 11].

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

12 Since November 1999 significant progress has been made in embedding New TSN in the culture of the Department and ensuring that it is considered in all the Department's activities: legislation, policies, procedures, plans and publications. In addition, New TSN is a consideration in public expenditure reviews, including bids for extra resources.

13 A training programme covering management staff has reached the halfway mark with over 350 staff trained [DOE 9]. A further 350 staff will receive training by March 2002. New TSN principles and activities underpin the Department and agency Corporate and Business Plans for 2001-2002, and Action Plan progress is regularly reviewed by the Department's management groups.

Annex 8: Department of Finance and Personnel

1 The Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and its Agencies are responsible for the strategic oversight of expenditure managed by the Northern Ireland Departments, the corporate personnel management of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) and a wide variety of services, many of which are carried out centrally on behalf of the NICS as a whole.

Progress Against Key Objectives

2 DFP's main contribution to New TSN has been, and will continue to be, through the corporate services it provides to other Departments in the following areas:

- Public Expenditure Process;
- Office Accommodation (including the policy on the location of Civil Service Jobs); and
- Statistics and Research.

3 The Department can report progress towards achieving the objectives in its New TSN Action Plan as follows:

Public Expenditure Process

4 Several of the action points involve the management of public expenditure and the revenue raising capacity of the Executive which are the responsibility of Central Finance Group.

5 Good progress has been made on these action points. Interim guidance on integrating New TSN values into appraisals has been circulated to all Departments and work on revisions is closely aligned with the development of new 'Green Book', (to conducting economic appraisals), guidance which has a stronger social dimension than before [DFP 4].

6 An extensive exercise is in progress with the help of a consultant jointly appointed with OFMDFM to classify public expenditure in terms of its New TSN dimension. Guidance on taking account of New TSN in presenting bids has been developed and promulgated for all of the resource allocation exercises conducted by the Executive, including the annual Budget, allocations from the Executive Programme Funds and in-year monitoring rounds.

7 Finally, DFP's commitment to consider the New TSN aspects of different valuation methods for the Regional Rate is being pursued through a wide ranging review of rating policy [DFP 7].

[Office Accommodation \(including the policy on the location of Civil Service jobs\)](#)

8 Work began in August 2000 to provide an update on the baseline condition of the Government Office Estate; the findings of the review were presented to the Department in January 2001. The Executive agreed in February to commission consultants to undertake a strategic review of the Government Office Estate. The new strategy will cover a period of at least 5 years and will cover a number of key issues, including the future use of the Stormont Estate, the scope for office relocation, service delivery and funding implications [DFP 8].

[Statistics and Research : Review of deprivation measures \[DFP 2\]](#)

9 The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency commissioned the Centre for Social Disadvantage at the University of Oxford to undertake a major review of the geographical distribution of relative deprivation in Northern Ireland. The review commenced in July 2000 and is expected to be completed in Summer 2001.

10 The research team consulted widely with the academic, statutory and voluntary and community sectors to ensure that the new measures of deprivation reflected the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland. The work was facilitated by the development by NISRA of improved population estimates at electoral ward level.

11 It is planned to finalise and publish the new measures of deprivation in the summer. The new measures, which will be available at District Council, Electoral Ward and Enumeration District levels, will inform the targeting and allocation of resources across a wide range of programmes.

[British Household Panel Study \(BHPS\) \[DFP 3\]](#)

12 The BHPS is a survey which tracks the socio-economic circumstances of the same households over a number of years. The BHPS, sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), has been running in Great Britain for over 10 years and has been an invaluable source of data on the dynamics of socio-economic disadvantage and the effectiveness of policies targeted at reducing it. NISRA has been negotiating, with the ESRC and Government Departments, the extension of the Survey to Northern Ireland. The ESRC have now agreed to provide part-finance for the establishment of a Northern Ireland Household Panel

Study (equivalent to the GB BHPS), initially for a period of three years, ie 2001-2002 to 2003-2004. NISRA has also been successful with a bid on the HMT Evidence-Based Policy Fund to assist in the establishment of the Survey. In addition, Northern Ireland Government Departments will contribute to the costs of the survey over the same period.

Special European Union Programmes Body New TSN Action Plan

13 DFP is not responsible for any Executive non-Departmental public bodies. However, in the course of the reporting period the Department's Action Plan was amended to include an additional objective which reflects the guidance the Department is providing to the Special European Union Programmes Body (a North-South Implementation Body) to produce its own New TSN Action Plan. The draft plan will issue for consultation in April 2001 with a view to having it in place by mid-June 2001 [DFP 9].

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

14 The Department has prepared a 3 year strategy for the delivery of Equity training incorporating New TSN. During the first year 143 staff have received awareness training with a number of other staff having received more specific training relevant to their needs. Training will be cascaded to all staff by the Equity Co-ordinators in each of the Agencies and Directorates within the Department over the next two years. Equity issues will also be included in Induction and Management training on an ongoing basis.

Annex 9: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

1 The Department and its associated bodies are committed to promoting and improving the health, social wellbeing and safety of all the people of Northern Ireland.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

2 The Department's New TSN Action Plan contains nearly 60 targets/actions covering a wide range of issues which represent a formidable agenda for action across the Department.

3 Substantial progress has been made in implementing targets within a number of key areas. On improving the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged people, major consultation documents have been issued widely to inform the development of a public health strategy, **Investing for Health** and to help reduce the number of unplanned births to teenage parents, **Myths and Reality**. Health Action Zones have been established in areas of greatest social need to tackle persistent health and social problems. The central concept of Health Action Zones is that of seeking improvements in health and social well-being, in areas of deprivation, through multi-agency and partnership working. A further two Health Action Zones have been approved in the Northern and Western Health and Social Services Board areas [DHSSPS 3].

4 On improving access to good quality childcare and family support, following recommendations from the Childcare Partnerships, 23 projects have been approved under the Sure Start Programme from areas of high disadvantage. Sure Start aims to work with parents and children aged 0-3 to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of pre-school children, particularly those who are disadvantaged [DHSSPS 4].

5 DHSSPS has also begun increasing residential care places for children, opening 13 new places by March 2001. Work continues to increase the accommodation available by 52 places by the end of 2002-2003 [DHSSPS 4].

6 The Department commissioned an extensive programme of work to provide evidence as to the comparative need for particular services across areas. The results of this work were published for consultation in the **Third Report of the Capitation Formula Review Group**. The primary purpose of this work was to inform the equitable allocation of resources to HSS Boards. However, guidelines were also produced to assist HSS Boards in the equitable allocation of resources to individual HSS Trusts within their area. Similar approaches are currently being used or are under development for informing the allocation of elements of the primary care budget. At service level, HSS Boards take account of the impact of the Capitation Formula at local level in determining their investment strategies [DHSSPS 8].

Cross Departmental Activity

7 On monitoring and evaluating public health strategies, work is underway to establish Working Groups to take forward the development and implementation of the Action Plan on Smoking Cessation which includes targeting adult smokers - especially the most disadvantaged; and to prepare an implementation plan for promoting mental health and social wellbeing. A Drugs Strategy Co-ordinator has been appointed to monitor and co-ordinate action across all Departments, agencies and sectors. This will include the monitoring of over £4.5 million which has been allocated to 36 projects aimed at delivering the objectives of the Drugs Strategy, launched in August 1999. The Alcohol Strategy was published in September 2000 and a joint implementation model to take forward both Strategies has been issued for consultation by the Ministerial Group on Drugs. The Central Co-ordinating Group for Action Against Drugs (CCGAAD), which comprises senior officials from relevant Departments, continues to meet regularly to monitor progress and ensure a co-ordinated approach to tackling drug misuse. [DHSSPS 6]

Progress in Collecting Information

8 Wherever possible, the Department uses relevant information or research to allocate resources. Where specific evidence is not yet available, use is made of more general deprivation indicators in order to rank areas and identify the most needy.

9 Work is progressing on the preparation of a 'State of the Region Report' based on the Health and Social Wellbeing Survey.

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

10 The Department's **Corporate Strategic Plan 2001-2002 - 2003-2004** and Priorities for Action 2001/02 reflect the commitment to implement the DHSSPS New TSN Action Plan, report progress, publish updated plans annually and ensure that New TSN becomes an integral part of the culture of the HPSS. One of the aims of the Corporate Strategic Plan is: "Reducing preventable disease, ill-health and health inequalities". This aim is underpinned by a number of Corporate Objectives which indicate the actions to be taken to implement New TSN and ensure that the policy becomes embedded in the Department's culture.

11 New TSN awareness training is being delivered to key Departmental staff. In addition, New TSN information is cascaded to all other staff in the Department through Team briefings.

Annex 10: Department for Regional Development

1 The Department for Regional Development is strongly committed to the incorporation of New TSN into its activities and to ensure that it is fully embraced by the Department's management culture. The Department's Action Plan identifies 13 objectives across the various business areas within DRD.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

2 DRD has made considerable progress in addressing a range of preliminary actions which should lay the foundation for future development and application of New TSN policy across the Department's functions.

3 The Department's internal procedures for considering financial allocations and priorities have been revised to ensure that New TSN implications are taken into account. Roads Service's appraisal methodology for major roads schemes now incorporates New TSN considerations [DRD 10].

4 Substantial progress has also been made in applying New TSN to the formulation of the Department's long-term regional planning and transportation strategies which will provide a framework for consideration of a range of proposals to address social disadvantage. The potential transportation solutions and strategies emerging in the 10-year Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) will be assessed against the objective of promoting economic activity and accessibility to jobs, services and facilities. Implementation of the 25-year Regional Development Strategy (RDS) will include appropriate indicators to assess impact on accessibility to jobs, housing, transport, social amenities and a quality environment for those living in socially disadvantaged communities [DRD 2 and 3].

5 The Department's New TSN activity over the past 15 months has been a combination of both real-time and forward-looking activities. In particular, the Department can point to progress in two schemes providing tangible benefit to disadvantaged individuals and communities: -

- 16 new Rural Community Transport Partnerships have been established under the auspices of the Rural Transport Fund. The provision of local bus services, which would otherwise not operate, significantly improves access to training and employment opportunities for people in those rural areas serviced by the partnerships [DRD 6];
- the Department's decision to increase the Reasonable Cost Allowance for water connections has facilitated the provision of public water supply to private households, mainly in isolated rural locations, previously not connected to the mains. This has resulted in a very real enhancement in the quality of life of those affected. [DRD 9]

6 The Water Service has also set up a pilot scheme to investigate the number of properties in the province liable to remain dependent on private water supplies and to consider how best to provide assistance for improving the quality of these supplies. A sampling exercise was carried out in Omagh Council area for this

purpose, leading to the production of a Rural Supplies Pilot Study in February 2001. It is likely that this pilot will be widened over the next year [DRD 9].

Progress in Collecting Information

7 The Department has successfully completed the task of refining the data collection process on times on the Key Strategic Route Network allowing journey times to be recorded and reported on in future Roads Service Annual Reports [DRD 5].

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Department's Culture

8 A key task has been to raise the profile and understanding of New TSN amongst key managers. A start has been made on the roll out of training courses which will be tailored to the needs of the various business areas [DRD 11]. Training has also been delivered to key managers in the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company who will be tasked with producing an Action Plan covering the public transport operators - Ulsterbus, Citybus and Northern Ireland Railways [DRD 7].

Annex 11: Department for Social Development

1 The Department for Social Development (DSD) plays an important role in taking forward New TSN. The work that DSD has been engaged in over the past year has had a very significant influence on the lives of everyone in Northern Ireland, through social welfare, housing, urban regeneration and community development. In an effort to establish DSD as one of the foremost New TSN Departments, the Department has attempted to ensure that New TSN permeates all of its programmes and actions.

Progress Against Key Objectives/Targets

2 The "Warm Homes" scheme to tackle fuel poverty across Northern Ireland was launched in March 2001, and targets those in receipt of income and disability-based benefits. Over 1,000 low-income householders have already benefited through the pilot energy efficiency schemes in Belfast and in Londonderry, and it is intended that the Department targets some 2,500 householders under these pilot schemes over the next year [DSD 17].

3 Consultation and communication with interested parties has been important for DSD. In an effort to encourage the sharing of information, the Child Support Agency (CSA) has participated in consultation events with local communities. Additionally, service-level agreements have been developed to provide a joined-up delivery of services to CSA clients [DSD 20].

4 The Social Security Agency (SSA) has also engaged in consultation to improve service provision to people with disabilities, older people, people in isolated/deprived areas, minority ethnic communities, people affected by the Troubles and people with literacy problems. In this respect, a number of recommendations were implemented during 2000-2001, the balance of which will be taken forward as part of the Customer Service Review Action Plan. As part of its New TSN programme, the SSA is working closely with those groups representing pensioner interests on a range of measures to actively encourage the uptake of the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). For instance, at the end of March 2001, the MIG campaign resulted in just over 4,000 successful claims at an average of £23 per week [DSD 19].

5 In developing an Active Community Initiative Action Plan, which was published on 30 March 2001, the Department consulted with representatives from across the Voluntary and Community, private and public sectors. The aim of the Active Community Initiative is to target disadvantaged groups and ensure that more people from these groups are able to become more actively involved in their communities. A funding package of £1.8 million over the next three years has been made available and work has already begun on a small number of demonstration and research projects, which will focus on identifying and reducing the barriers to involvement for groups under-represented in the volunteering population. This includes minority ethnic communities and the disabled, and with the aim being to tackle weak community infrastructure, in both urban and rural settings [DSD 9].

Cross Departmental Activity

6 Although the Department is not directly involved in preparing people for employment, it facilitates such preparation and provides the basis for general economic development. For example, against an end of year target of 2,281, the SSA achieved a total of 3,296 lone parents participating in the New Deal for Lone Parents scheme. The SSA has also continued to work increasingly closely with the Training and Employment Agency and is finalising preparations to launch a pilot of the ONE project whereby people seeking benefits can access the Government services they need at a single location [DSD 19].

Progress in Collecting Information

7 The Department welcomes the work currently being carried out by the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of Oxford under the direction of Professor Mike Noble, to develop a new Index of Deprivation. Where appropriate, DSD will supplement this Index with data drawn from other sources to enhance the targeting of interventions on groups or individuals within the areas identified.

8 As detailed previously, the Department and its agencies have engaged in a number of consultations with various client groups in order to ensure that customers' needs are taken into consideration in the development of policy and services.

Progress in Incorporating New TSN into the Culture of the Department

9 New TSN has been successfully incorporated into the Department's Corporate and Strategic Business Plan for the period 2000-2003 and now forms an integral part of the Department's corporate planning process. A New TSN training package has been developed and will be delivered to all relevant staff.

Annex 12: Further Information about New TSN

This report can be accessed on the Internet at www.newtsn.gov.uk. It is also available in alternative formats from the New TSN Unit in large print, audio cassette and on disc or e-mail in Word.

Summaries of the New TSN policy, in Chinese, English, Hindi, Irish, Urdu and Ulster Scots, can be obtained from the New TSN Unit or on the OFMDFM website.

If the report is not available in a format which is helpful to you, or if you would like to know more about New TSN, please contact Colette Murphy in the New TSN Unit. You can contact her by:

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Annex 13: Abbreviations

ACI	Active Community Initiative
AFDS	Agri-Food Development Service
BHPS	British Household Panel Study
BSP	Business Start Programme
BSU	Basic Skills Unit
CCGAAD	Central Co-ordinating Group for Action Against Drugs
CSA	Child Support Agency
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Regional Development
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DE	Department of Education
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
DEL	Department for Employment and Learning (Formerly DHFETE)
DHFETE	Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment (Now known as DEL)
DHSSPS	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
DOE	Department of the Environment
DRD	Department for Regional Development
DSD	Department for Social Development
ED	Enumeration District
EPD	Early Professional Development
EPFs	Executive Programme Funds
EPU	Economic Policy Unit
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GB	Great Britain
GIS	Geographical Information Service
HEROBC	Higher Education Reach-Out to Business and the Community
HSS	Health and Social Services

IDB	Industrial Development Board
IDGEY	Inter-Departmental Group on Early Years
ILA	Individual Learning Account
INI	Invest Northern Ireland
IRTU	Industrial Research and Technology Unity
LEDU	Local Enterprise Development Unit
LFA	Less Favoured Area
LGD	Local Government District
LMS	Local Management of Schools
MIG	Minimum Income Guarantee
NDPB	Non Departmental Public Body
NI	Northern Ireland
NICS	Northern Ireland Civil Service
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NOF	New Opportunities Fund
OFMDFM	Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
PSEEP	Pre-School Education Expansion Programme
PSI	Promoting Social Inclusion
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
RDSG	Rural Development Steering Group
RTS	Regional Transport Strategy
SCRIP	Schools Community Relations Programme
SSA	Social Security Agency
T&EA	Training and Employment Agency
Ufi	University for Industry
UK	United Kingdom
YSCRSS	Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme

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