

**NEW TSN ANNUAL REPORT 2003**



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## Minister's Foreword

**Building on Progress**, which sets out our Priorities and Plans for 2003 – 2006 makes explicit our continued commitment through New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) to combat the problems of poverty and social exclusion. However, it also acknowledges the divisions existing in Northern Ireland society. Sadly, many communities continue to be characterised by poverty and unemployment.

As we have said in the past, there are no simple solutions to tackling poverty and the problems associated with it but this report outlines the large number of areas where we are continuing to make progress across Government departments.

In developing policies and programmes and in allocating the necessary resources we are continuing to focus on those people and areas in greatest social need. We are demonstrating that commitment by targeting those in greatest need through a range of policies, details of which are enclosed within the main body of the report. We will continue to ensure that measures to tackle poverty and other causes of social exclusion continue to form a key part of the Northern Ireland Government's work.

We remain determined to take our programme forward, towards our vision of a better, fairer society that supports the most vulnerable, focuses on the future and delivers a good quality of life for all. We want to build effective partnerships between all those with a role to play. In line with a commitment by the previous Executive, we have completed an evaluation of New TSN this year. Our aim was to assess the way in which the policy has been implemented so far and, to examine its impact. The outcome of the evaluation will inform the Government's thinking on future policy direction, on which we intend to consult.

We continue to recognise the enormity of the task before us in tackling poverty and disadvantage. However we know too that in tackling the problems of social exclusion we can meet our objective of making Northern Ireland a fairer, more inclusive society, where nobody is held back by disadvantage or lack of opportunity.

**JOHN SPELLAR**  
**MP, Minister of State**





# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Northern Ireland Government's Priorities and Plans document sets out its priorities for 2003–2006. It expresses the high priority commitment that Ministers have placed on combating the problems of poverty and social exclusion, and any related issues that emerge. There is also a clear emphasis on building a cohesive, just and inclusive society in which everyone can share the benefits.
- 1.2 New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) is the Government's main policy for tackling poverty, through which all Departments will use more of their available resources to benefit the most disadvantaged individuals, groups and areas. Any changes to future policy will also reflect the need to address these issues.
- 1.3 Unemployment has declined steadily over the last decade reflecting the strengthening of the Northern Ireland economy during that period. Long-term unemployment however continues to represent a key challenge with, for example, around half of unemployed males being without work for one year or more. Whilst unemployment is an important causal factor of poverty and social need, it is recognised that other factors are important, for example non-employment through sickness or disability and family structure, in particular single parent families. The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) has commissioned a number of key pieces of research designed to investigate the correlates and characteristics of those in poverty and social need and these will report during 2003 / 04. This research will assist the development of the New TSN policy and help departments in the development of better interventions towards targeting individuals and households in particular need.
- 1.4 This **New TSN Annual Report** is the third such report produced by the Executive. It details the main achievements in implementing New TSN across the Administration during the period ending March 2003

## 2 The Policy

- 2.1 The 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. The policy is being advanced through three complementary elements: tackling unemployment and increasing employability; tackling inequality in other policy areas such as health, housing and education; and Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI).
- 2.2 New TSN is unique in that it is not a programme with its own budget. Instead it is a policy running through all relevant existing spending programmes across all Northern Ireland Departments. Further background details of the New TSN policy can be found in the previous **New TSN Annual Reports** and in **Making it Work**, available on the New TSN website at [www.newtsnni.gov.uk](http://www.newtsnni.gov.uk).

### Driving New TSN forward within Departments

- 2.3 OFMDFM Ministers have responsibilities for the promotion of New TSN and review of progress across Northern Ireland Departments. Departmental Ministers are responsible for the delivery of New TSN within their respective areas. They 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**.
- 2.4 Every Department has produced a New TSN Action Plan showing how it will implement New TSN through existing and new programmes. These Plans identify the social needs, which Departments are tackling, and contain the actions and targets upon which Departments' delivery of New TSN can be judged.
- 2.5 Ministers keep a close watch on progress by their respective Departments and they have been actively involved in the development, consultation, review and publication of New TSN Action Plans. This report summarises progress made on Departmental Action Plans from 1 April 2002 – 31 March 2003. Further detail if required may be obtained from individual Departments. Each Department has thoroughly reviewed its New TSN Action Plan and updated it for the period 1 April 2003 – 31 March 2004 to take account of progress; building in new targets to follow those completed. These are provided at Annex 1.
- 2.6 Promotion of the Equality Agenda, including New TSN, across the Northern Ireland Administration is one of the key responsibilities of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). The U.K government is currently taking this forward.

- 2.7 The New TSN Unit has central co-ordination responsibility for the implementation of New TSN across Departments. On behalf of Ministers, it promotes and drives forward the policy, sets overall objectives; advises and, where necessary, challenges Departments; and reports progress. Research Branch provides professional research and statistical support on equality and social need. Economic Policy Unit works to integrate New TSN into policy at a strategic level across Government. These Branches work with all NI Departments and the NIO collectively through cross-Departmental groups as well as with individual Departments. The Equality and Social Needs Steering Group (ESNSG), chaired by OFMDFM, comprises senior officials from all Northern Ireland Departments and the NIO. It aims to promote a coordinated cross-Departmental approach to the further development and implementation of equality and social need policies.
- 2.8 Following the suspension of devolution on 14 October 2002, the responsibility for the governance of Northern Ireland passed to the Secretary of State. The Government continues to follow closely the example set by the Executive with regard to the approach to New TSN. This has included:
- Discussions with the inter-Departmental Drafting Group and Ministers on the development of the Draft **Programme for Government** (PfG) to ensure that New TSN policies are fully taken account of by ensuring that resources and efforts are targeted at those most in need
  - Ministers and their Departments working during the development of the PFG , Public Service Agreements and Service Delivery Agreements to ensure that priorities and sub-priorities are developed in a way consistent to New TSN.
  - Presentation of the Draft **Programme for Government** to the Minister and the social partners for consideration including the integration of New TSN in policies.
  - Undertaking a series of consultation exercises to obtain the views of our social partners on all aspects of the **Programme for Government**, including New TSN.
  - Undertaking quarterly, and annual monitoring of progress made, across all Departments, in delivering against all commitments in the **Programme for Government**.

- 2.9 The New TSN Unit has a role in relation to both the **Programme for Government** and the budget. As well as working to ensure that New TSN considerations are taken into account in all aspects of development of the **Programme for Government**, the New TSN Unit comments on bids to the budget and plays an active part in the evaluation of bids to Executive Programme Funds (EPFs). The guidance on the budget requires that full consideration is given in Departmental returns to the principles of the Executive's New TSN policy. The New TSN Unit is consulted and involved throughout the year in the key assessment stages for all budget and In-Year Monitoring bids, and in the development of related bid recommendations for Ministerial consideration.

Overall, the approach to the promotion of New TSN is one of mainstreaming – the aim is to facilitate total integration of New TSN into the policy and programme development of all Departments.

- 2.10 Northern Ireland Departments have worked very closely with relevant Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and, where necessary, North-South Implementation Bodies to advance the implementation of New TSN. Departments, assisted by the New TSN Unit where appropriate, have provided guidance and support to these Bodies, to enable them to develop their New TSN Action Plans. Some examples are noted below.
- 2.11 Health and Social Services Trusts Action Plans demonstrate a high level of commitment to making New TSN integral to the Trusts' operations and contain a wide range of initiatives to achieve the objectives of New TSN. These plans follow the high level objectives adopted by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and HSS Boards and complement and extend the range of actions and targets.
- 2.12 The Department of Education (DE) has put in place a Working Group, which acts as a focus for the exchange of information, advice and material and where appropriate allows members to agree a common approach to New TSN issues. The working group meets quarterly and consists of members of the Education and Library Boards, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and The Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

### 3 Working Together

- 3.1 **Building on Progress, Priorities and Plans** reiterates Ministers' continuing commitment to the formation of policymaking alliances between Departments. It also advocates stronger and more meaningful partnerships with the voluntary and community sectors
- 3.2 Departments' New TSN Action Plans for 2002/03 identify various initiatives in which a particular Department takes the lead responsibility but which involve the active co-operation of other Departments, Agencies or NDPBs. The following examples illustrate how New TSN is being mainstreamed into key policy developments across the Administration by means of such alliances.
- 3.3 When the Executive published its draft Programme for Government and draft Budget for 2003/04 (subsequently Priorities and Plans) in September, it made it clear that during the 8 week consultation process it wanted to hear the views of as wide a range of interests as possible, including the social partners in business, the trade unions, the voluntary and community sector, local government and the wider public sector, as well as individuals. A series of consultation events were held throughout Northern Ireland and the views expressed at these events, as well as more than one hundred written submissions, were considered prior to finalisation of the document.

The views expressed during the consultation process confirmed that the Executives five priority areas of Growing as a Community; Working for a Healthier People; Investing in Education and Skills; securing a Competitive Economy and Developing Relations North/South, East/West and Internationally remained relevant. The twin track approach of reinvestment and reform, set out in the document provided a clear focus on the work of the Executive, building on the five priorities set out above. The reinvestment and reform approach reinforced the Governments effort to tackle poverty, promote social inclusion and regenerate communities.

- 3.4 The Policy Framework for Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in Northern Ireland has now been published and will apply unless and until an amended policy is adopted under a restored Northern Ireland Executive. The framework sets out guidelines for the future scope and application of PPP in the procurement of public services in Northern Ireland and is consistent with the Reinvestment Reform Initiative (RRI). The paper addresses the issues raised in consultation including how the government will ensure that equality considerations are taken into account in relation to PPPs.
- 3.5 Consultants, Deloitte and Touche, were appointed on 25 May 2001 to undertake a strategic review of the Government Office Estate. A Project Board oversaw the assignment and an Interim Report, for consultation

purposes was produced, in January 2002 and the Final Report was received in March 2003. The recommendations are to be put to Departments and Ministers soon with a view to the preparation of an implementation plan to take forward the new strategy, which will cover a period of at least 5 years. The strategy 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.

- 3.6 The Economic Development Forum (EDF) was established in 1999 to provide a formal mechanism through which a wide range of key organisations could advise Ministers in the Northern Ireland Administration on issues relating to the development and future competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. The Forum is a partnership body whose members represent Government, local Government, business representative organisations, trade unions, the further and higher education sectors, the voluntary and community sector and the agriculture sector.

In June 2002, the Forum published *Working Together for a Stronger Economy* providing a clear and agreed statement of the priorities to be addressed if the Northern Ireland economy is to be significantly strengthened during the period to the year 2010. Seven key priority areas were identified, one of which was the need for all sectors to provide equality of opportunity and social inclusion. The Forum set an objective to maximise and support the integration of disadvantaged individuals/groups into mainstream economic activity. The Forum established an underlying series of key indicators, targets, supporting actions and identified key contributors.

In March 2003, the Forum published a more detailed Action Plan identifying specific actions to be taken by key contributors in order to achieve the targets set. In relation to equality of opportunity/social inclusion, the Action Plan identified three key outcomes:

- An effective contribution to the Northern Ireland economy from the social economy sector;
- An improvement in the employability of disadvantaged groups; and
- An increase in start-up activities within minority groups and in disadvantaged areas.

For further information on the Economic Development Forum visit [www.edfni.com](http://www.edfni.com).

- 3.7 The Department for Social Development aims to launch “People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal” in June 2003. It will provide a framework for efforts to tackle deprivation in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and will complement other strategies to

tackle poverty and disadvantage more generally in Northern Ireland over the next seven to ten years. The primary objective is to narrow the gap between the top 10% deprived wards in Northern Ireland and the remainder. The strategy will envisage a partnership approach, working with local communities, the full range of statutory agencies, the private sector and the voluntary and community sectors in an integrated way in pursuit of:

- Community Renewal – to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived neighbourhoods;
- Economic Renewal – to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to wider urban economy;
- Social Renewal – to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments; and
- Physical Renewal – to help create attractive, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods

The strategy will hopefully ensure that these issues are tackled in an integrated manner and ensure that real improvements are made over a sustained period of time. The Government, through the ongoing work of the Community Action Group, and the North Belfast Community Unit will continue to forward specific initiatives to build capacity and leadership in disadvantaged and divided communities.

- 3.8 The Taskforce on Employability and Long-Term Unemployment maintains its position at the forefront of the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) strategy to promote social inclusion. In December 2002, the Minister launched its report, which included consideration of the many barriers to employment, which exist in today's society. An Inter-Departmental Implementation Group has been established with responsibility for taking forward the forty recommendations and twelve action points included in the Report.

One of the most immediate outcomes of the report for DEL is the proposal to create a number of Targeted Initiatives in a small number of areas of lowest employment and high social deprivation. Targeted Initiatives will establish an approach that integrates the various actions set out in the report. Some £14m, available over the next 3 years, will allow Targeted Initiatives to be piloted in 4 areas – West Belfast, Greater Shankill, Londonderry (both Foyle and Waterside) and Strabane.

- 3.9 The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) and the Department for Social Development (DSD) remain committed to the Welfare Reforms and Modernisation programme. Throughout the year the Jobs and

Benefits rollout programme gathered pace. This service, which is a partnership between the Social Security Agency (SSA) and DEL, delivers an integrated work focused service to Jobseekers. By the end of the reporting period, eleven Jobs and Benefits Offices were fully operational. Feedback on the new service from customers and staff has been very positive. It is also worth noting the significant impact this service has had in reducing the jobseekers register in these offices. To March 2003 there has been a reduction on average of 25% in the jobseekers register.

- 3.10 The social economy is a wide and diverse sector, which has been operating and developing over a long number of years with a strong tradition of supporting local communities. It is estimated that the sector may employ at a minimum 30,000 people in Northern Ireland.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) is taking the lead on work across NI Departments to develop a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to the development of the sector to maximise its contribution to NI social and economic activity. It is planned to consult on this approach in early 2004. Some important initial steps have already been taken. As part of the Government's drive to work in partnership with the sector, the Social Economy Agency (SEA) was asked to facilitate the establishment of a Social Economy Network (SEN) in Northern Ireland, funded for a four year period by DETI and DSD. The aim of the Network is to provide an opportunity for all organisations within the sector to work more closely together, share best practice and promote the benefits of the social economy.

In addition a Social Economy Forum (SEF), chaired by the DETI Minister, will meet bi-annually with members drawn from Departments and the sector, to consider policy issues impacting on the sector and agree a forward work programme; and £55 million of Peace II funding has been allocated to Local Strategy Partnerships to develop the social economy within their own areas. In November 2002, DETI launched a major review of the current regulatory system for Credit Unions and Industrial and Provident Societies. One of the motivating factors behind this review is to identify areas where these organisations could contribute to community regeneration in the future. This work underlines the Department's commitment to meet the needs of the social economy sector with flexibility and creativity. Consultation on policy proposals will be carried out later in 2003.

- 3.11 In May 2001, Executive Ministers Sir Reg Empey (DETI) and Maurice Morrow (DSD) announced the establishment of two Task Forces to address and report on the major socio-economic problems in West Belfast and the Greater Shankill.

The two Task Forces, comprising representatives from the business, education, training and community sectors, working with officials from central and local government reported in February 2002. The report



contained a series of wide ranging recommendations aimed at improving employment prospects and reducing the widespread poverty and deprivation in those areas of the city. The Executive provided an interim response to key recommendations in June 2002 and Ian Pearson followed up with a more detailed Government response in December 2002.

Since then, there has been considerable progress in a number of areas, including DEL's announcement of a Targeted Initiative aimed at addressing the major employability problems in West Belfast and the Greater Shankill as part of its Task Force Report on Employability and Long-Term Unemployment. This Report addressed many of the employability issues raised in the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Task Forces' Report, including the establishment of a locally managed Employment Services Board, new Job Assist Centres and a Transitional Employment Programme.

In addition, discussions have been progressed with Invest NI about driving forward the redevelopment of the former Mackies site into a modern mixed-use business park and the introduction of a reinvigorated enterprise campaign for the Task Forces' areas. A local Employers' Forum, supported by the private sector, is also being developed. In an announcement on 28 March 2003, DETI Minister, Ian Pearson outlined a number of areas, including West Belfast and the Greater Shankill, which had a strong case as priorities to benefit from a new Integrated Development Fund of £50m. Discussions are planned with Task Force representatives to explore a new joint working arrangement, between the communities and government, aimed at accessing this Fund.

- 3.12 The Rural Development Steering Group (RDSG) is an interdepartmental forum chaired by the Deputy Secretary in DARD. Its main aim is to oversee and co-ordinate activities of Departmental and Statutory agencies in their application of New TSN within the context of rural communities. The Steering Group meets twice a year and New TSN maintains its position on the agenda as an important area for consideration. One principal objective is to identify areas where a number of co-ordinated actions can be established.
- 3.13 There are currently a number of areas where inter-Agency co-operation is evident. The Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative (NRRTI) incorporates input from the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), DCAL and Local Strategy Programmes. The aim of this initiative and innovative measure under the Peace II Programme is not only to regenerate and create employment opportunities in tourism but also to utilise existing cultural and natural resources, which previously have gone unnoticed. This is an Initiative which as well as addressing the primary objectives of Peace II Programme, provides support for the development and implementation of sustainable projects in the tourism sector that utilise the natural resources

of Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas. The principal aim is for strategies and projects emerging from the initiative to regenerate local community life within these areas by providing jobs and income for local people in addition to providing attractive and useful amenities for tourists. This initiative fits within the broader context of schemes for rural communities and especially the Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity (BSP). The existing Partnerships comprising Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, South Armagh Tourism Initiative, Mourne Heritage Trust, Sperrins Tourisms Ltd and Fermanagh Local Strategy Partnership are making significant contributions to their local communities and will have positive impacts on the economies of these areas.

- 3.14 Examples of successful rural projects include Loughgiel Millennium Centre in North Antrim, which has provided workspaces for small businesses in the area. Causeway Cheese Company is only one such company, which has benefited from this arrangement. The locally owned business produces hexagonally shaped cheeses. This is a classic example of combining traditional practices with the natural resources, which exist in the area. The result of this successful merger is an effective rural-based tourism product.

Over the decades, rural communities have suffered considerably at the hands of the troubles and more recently as a result of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. Local Strategy Partnerships (LSP's) have the potential to help reverse this situation and to breathe life into previously weary, excluded communities.

- 3.15 The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), the Rural Community Network (RCN), the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland International Fund for Ireland are members of the Rural Community Estates Partnership that provides strategic leadership for the Rural Community Housing Estates Programme (RHEP). Within the past year the Department approved funding of £1.38m to the Rural Community Estates Programme. The programme, which is due to be launched in June 2003, is directly managed by the RCN. It will involve participation from local communities in selected rural housing estates where there is poor infrastructure. The primary aim of the initiative is to build towards a brighter future characterised by equality of opportunity and more accessible resources and services for local residents.
- 3.16 In addressing weak community infrastructure the Department for Social Development working actively with a range of other Departments, Agencies and NDPBs is taking the lead in a number of initiatives aimed at developing greater local capacity and building confidence in working class communities. The £3 million Local Community Fund is specifically targeted at areas where community capacity is weakest. The cross cutting nature of the Fund seeks to address local issues with the active

participation of local people while providing practical opportunities for these people to develop leadership skills and acquire greater confidence. In addition the Outreach Programme, valued at £2.9 million, has created the opportunity and financial assistance to public sector organizations across a wide range of sectors to help them change their policies, working methods and public consultation arrangements in order to increase community involvement in the delivery of public services.

- 3.17 All Departments and public sector bodies have a contribution to make to *Investing for Health*, the public health strategy launched in March 2002, and the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and its associated bodies have taken the lead role in its implementation. It contains a framework for action, based on partnership working amongst Departments, public bodies, local communities, voluntary bodies, District Councils and the social partners. At HSS Board level, cross-sectoral *Investing for Health* partnerships have been established which have developed local Health Improvement Plans in line with local priorities and the objectives of *Investing for Health*.

Objectives have been set which concern the wider determinants of health and which aim to, for example, provide people with the opportunity to live and work within a healthy environment and also enable all people but young people in particular to develop the capacity to reach their full potential and make healthy choices. The main focus of the strategy is on the most disadvantaged in society.

Community involvement and effective partnership working are critical to the success of *Investing for Health*, and an *Investing for Health* Partnership has been established in each of the four HSS Board areas. These comprise the key statutory, community and voluntary sector interests as well as social partners with a role to play. The Partnerships have been working with and building on existing partnerships and networks and have each developed long-term Health Improvement Plans to address the identified health and well-being needs of people in their areas.

Resulting from *Investing for Health*, cross-departmental strategies and action plans have been and are being produced in a range of areas.

The cross-Departmental Strategy and Action Plan on Teenage Parenthood was published in December 2002 and funding has been granted to 30 projects in line with its aims and objectives. The draft Tobacco Strategy and Action Plan was published for consultation in August 2002 and, taking account of the responses, was launched as "A Five Year Tobacco Action Plan" by the Chief Medical Officer of the DHSSPS. In addition, the Promoting Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan was published in January 2003.

Significant progress was achieved under the Drug and Alcohol Strategies.

Forty-one successful applications for funding were announced in September 2002 and a further fifteen projects acquired funding in December 2002, making a total of fifty-six new projects taking forward activities in the Local Action Plans.

The grants programme, “Investing for Healthier Communities” was designed to enable local communities to identify and meet local needs, The programme attracted a great deal of interest and as a result there are presently 81 initiatives receiving funding. Twenty-seven demonstration grants totalling over £1.8 million have been distributed while fifty-four once-off awards totalling over £400,000 have been given to various communities.

## 4 Targeting Resources

- 4.1 Fiscal, and economic-related policies, which impact upon income, fall within the remit of the United Kingdom Government. Departments are allocated programme budgets which are used to fund services, projects and other measures to fulfil their responsibilities. The Executive, before it was suspended decided that New TSN should be one of the important factors to be taken into account when making decisions regarding the allocation of resources. The Government, through the publication of its **Priorities and Plans** has reiterated the high degree of importance with which New TSN considerations should be attributed when making budgetary decisions. Ascribing such influence to New TSN helps it to become the lifeblood of the individual Departments and enables resources to be targeted towards those individuals, groups and areas that are in greatest objective social need.
- 4.2 OFMDFM, the New TSN Unit and Economic Policy Unit continue to work with the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) to ensure that New TSN principles are taken into account in the 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.
- 4.3 DFP has produced guidance on appraisal and evaluation of New TSN to assist Departments in targeting resources towards New TSN relevant policies. The guidance is published on the DFP Economics Website at [www.dfpni.gov.uk/economics\\_division/](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/economics_division/). This guidance has also been incorporated into a revised version of the Northern Ireland Preface to the Green Book, DFP's *General Guide to Economic Appraisal and Evaluation*, which is due to be published in the autumn of 2003.
- 4.4 An important feature of the **Priorities and Plans** is Executive Programme Funds (EPFs) through which the Executive supports the development of new policies and programmes, new improved services, and major infrastructure projects in line with its commitments as set out in the body of the document. These funds were also established to enable Departments to break away from patterns of spending that applied under direct rule, so that local solutions could be applied to agreed priority localised problems.
- 4.5 Allocations from EPFs are fully consistent with the Executive's priorities as set out in the **Priorities and Plans** and its commitments to Equality and New TSN. For each of the project assessment stages, which have been completed for the range of EPF rounds to date, the New TSN Unit has been actively involved in ensuring that both the criteria for eligibility under the respective Funds, the scrutiny of bids against these criteria, and the recommendations for EPF support took account of New TSN policy and principles.

- 4.6 During the past year substantial allocations have been made from EPFs. Two significant groups, which have benefited from such allocations, include those from the community and voluntary sector, and young people. The Executive decided in October 2002 to make £6 million available to help address a serious threat to the continuation of a number of services provided by the community and voluntary sector. Following this, 28 February 2003 saw the Minister announce a proposed allocation of almost £7 million to 154 such service provider groups across Northern Ireland. The extra resources came from the Social Inclusion and Community Regeneration Fund and were further evidence of the Executive's commitment to tackle the problem of social exclusion. The additional finance enabled organisations to continue to deliver a range of community based services.

Young people became important beneficiaries through £17 million made available through the Children's Fund. The purpose of this money is to support 102 successful projects designed to improve life for some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people within our society. The projects are far-reaching in respect of both objectives and age range of the young people. The allocation of these resources was especially significant due to the manner in which it was calculated. The assessment of bids had been looked at from the perspective of the partnership approach, which led to greater participation on a more local level.

- 4.7 Allocations have already provided support to Students, Victims, Travellers, community regeneration projects, implementation of aspects of a public health strategy, improving the provision of education to minority ethnic groups, improving support for those children at risk, and improving reading capabilities amongst our children.
- 4.8 DE has had a range of projects funded under the Social Inclusion/Community Regeneration Fund such as reading recovery, new provision for Autism which is a joint project with the Department of Education and Science in Dublin, together with Youth Service projects for social inclusion and outreach measures in areas of high social need.
- 4.9 New TSN involves Departments, Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), giving greater priority to the needs of disadvantaged people within a programme's objectives so that a greater proportion of the available funding can be channelled towards people and areas in greatest social need. The poorest must be identified objectively using measures of deprivation, fairly and consistently applied within programmes.
- 4.10 The method of targeting will depend on a number of factors – notably the level at which the programme is delivered. Where programmes are delivered to individuals, Departments must identify the people who are least well off and who need the particular service. Improving the take up, for example of income-related benefits, by identifying and targeting

particular groups and individuals, by removing or reducing barriers such as difficulties with language, poor literacy, little knowledge of entitlement or a fear of claiming. Proactive initiatives (often in partnership with others including the voluntary advice giving sector) is one model that has proved successful.

- 4.11 Some areas and communities are subject to higher than average rates of unemployment and are more deprived than others. New TSN recognises this and commits Departments, where possible, to target such **geographic areas** for special attention. Programmes such as the proposed Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, the Rural Development Programme and other area-based interventions are particularly relevant in this regard. Indicators of multiple deprivation are an effective means of identifying the most disadvantaged areas when programmes attempt to address a range of different needs.
- 4.12 The Noble Multiple Deprivation Measures assist with area based targeting. They rank electoral wards according to how deprived they are relative to each other. As well as an overall measure of multiple deprivation they include sector specific measures of deprivation covering employment, income, health, etc which can be applied where appropriate.
- 4.13 During 2002/03 the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) completed the processing of the census results and embarked upon the release of results. The new population estimates from the census were released in September 2002, followed in December by the Key Statistics Report, which provided summary statistics for individual census questions. Thus, for example, Key Statistics included the first definitive estimates of the numbers of the minority ethnic communities in Northern Ireland. Standard tables, which cross-tabulated the responses to census questions, were published in March 2003; these included, for example, information on the characteristics of the minority ethnic populations and enabled statistical comparisons with the white population. NISRA plan to release small-area statistics from the census during the summer 2003.
- 4.14 In July 2001 NISRA launched a website to provide easy access to a range of statistical information about small geographic areas, or neighbourhoods. A subsequent bid for Executive Programme Funds has enabled NISRA to develop this pilot during 2002/03 and a new version of the Neighbourhood Statistics website is due to be launched in July 2003, coinciding with the release of small-area statistics from the Census.
- 4.15 Since the publication of the Noble report, briefing and advice have been provided on the application of the measures. Presentations have also been made to a number of Departments, committees and other bodies. These indices are now being used by some Departments to effectively target resources towards those areas in greatest social need.

- 4.16 Another consideration in targeting resources on an area basis is that the areas to which one type of programme is appropriate, for example, urban regeneration, may not be appropriate to other types of programme, such as rural development or forestry. The need for the particular service must also be taken into account. While areas may have similar overall levels of deprivation, their need for a particular service may differ.
- 4.17 The following paragraphs provide examples of ways in which Departments are targeting their resources towards those in greatest social need. 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 including deprivation.
- 4.18 The Department of the Environment (DOE) provides financial support to district councils through the resources element of General Grant. A new statutory formula for distribution of the resources element of the Grant was introduced with effect from 1 April 2003. Incorporated in the formula are factors, which take account of deprivation throughout district councils. The data, which is fixed for a 3-year period, will be reviewed annually, to ensure that the formula continues to address socio-economic disadvantage.
- 4.19 During the year DARD carried out a review of the Less Favoured Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme (LFACAS), which was worth over £23 million to Northern Ireland farmers in 2002, to verify the difference in the rates payable on the most disadvantaged areas compared to less disadvantaged areas. The scheme review commenced during April 2002 and the findings were put to public consultation during September to November 2002. Analysis of the payment data over a 2-year period indicated that approximately 6% of the budget was transferred from Disadvantaged Areas (DA) to Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDA). The available data confirms that farmers in Severely Disadvantaged Areas and Disadvantaged Areas face both social and agricultural disadvantage.

The Noble Measures of Deprivation indicate that a higher proportion of SDA farms are in the most deprived quartile (23% compared to 17%). The DARD Social Survey of Farmers indicates that a higher proportion of SDA farmers is in receipt of either Working Families Tax Credit or Income Support (8% compared to 4%). The review of the Scheme revealed that the key objective of sustaining the viability of farming activity in Less Favoured Areas has been partly successful. Findings indicate that the predominant activity of cattle rearing has come under increased threat, while extensive sheep rearing has been supported disproportionately.

The available evidence suggests that the differential in the payment rates in favour of the SDA makes a significant contribution to New TSN by targeting funds to the most disadvantaged agricultural areas, and that it should be maintained at the current 2:1 ratio.



- 4.20 Within DHSSPS an update of the Regional Capitation Formula, (used to distribute resources to each of the four HSS Boards, taking account of the relative level of need for health and social care in their areas) has taken place. This update has incorporated the results of the 2001 Census, which confirmed marked population shifts between HSS Boards. As a result, Board target shares have been significantly revised, and this means that the timescale for achieving equity in allocations between Boards will have to be revised to meet the new target shares. The Department currently uses a weighted capitation approach to allocate its recurrent budget of around £1.75 billion to the four Boards. In 2003/04, following the 2001 Census update, there was a gross redistribution of around £62m amongst the Boards. This is calculated through the combination of £56m redistributed because of age/gender related need and £52m redistributed because of deprivation related need. However, because Boards are a mixture of affluent and deprived areas, this masks the true impact of the formula. The latest estimate of the small area impact of the formula, which predates the Census update, shows that there is a gross redistribution of around £182m between electoral wards because of age/gender differences while £236m gross is similarly redistributed from affluent to disadvantaged electoral wards. DHSSPS intends to publish for consultation a further set of recommended improvements to the Regional Formula in March 2004 based on an extensive research programme, which it has taken forward over the last number of years. These recommendations will further improve the sensitivity of the formula to need. In addition, the introduction of the new UK-wide GP Contract in 2004/05 will introduce a significant needs based element to GP remuneration. DHSSPS is currently equality testing this formula with a view to recommending further enhancements based on evidence of Northern Ireland population need.
- 4.21 Another approach to skewing resources is to set aside a percentage or "Top Slice" an amount from a programme budget. DE targets social need in a range of ways. Since 1993 – 1994 DE has top sliced 5% of the annual schools budget for allocation through the Targeting Social Need factor in the Local Management of Schools formulae.
- 4.22 In addition, DE has continued to implement a number of initiatives designed to address low-achievements in schools. The School Support Programme (SSP) continues to take a central place in the Department's policy against under-achieving schools. The aim is to provide a period of intensive professional support to schools that tend to be underachievers. Schools remain in the programme normally for a period of 3 years but, exceptionally, up to 5 years with the aim of making them self-sufficient in taking forward their own improvement. Since SSP was established in 1998 some 116 schools have received support and 69 schools have successfully graduated to become self-sustaining in improvement. Within the year 2002/03, 47 schools continued to benefit from the support of the programme.

- 4.23 Other Departments aim to allocate at least a certain percentage of resources available within relevant programmes towards designated New TSN areas. For example, within DETI's New TSN Action Plan, Invest NI aimed to direct a minimum of 60% of its support for small businesses towards companies in New TSN areas, which cover approximately 30% of the population in Northern Ireland. During 2002/03 48% of financial support was provided to small companies in these areas. Invest NI also aims to direct not less than 60% of their resource allocation to Local Economic Development (LED) activity towards disadvantaged individuals and areas. During 2002/03 77% of Invest NI's LED resources was committed to New TSN areas.
- 4.24 DCAL has worked with The Arts Council to identify within its Five Year Strategic Plan actions to be taken to remove barriers that prevent people from taking part in the arts, especially children and young people, people with disabilities and people from ethnic minority groups.
- 4.25 The Arts Council Lottery has established performance indicators relating to social disadvantage. The previous target of aiming awards towards children and young people has now been amalgamated with an additional target, which impacts on social and economic deprivation reduction. £798,326 has been awarded in the past year. Of this nearly a third (£258,528) was awarded to projects within the top 25 ranked wards of the Noble child poverty measure.
- 4.26 The Arts Council has a Research Plan as an annex to its 3-year Corporate Plan. The research will establish baseline data on levels of access to and participation in the arts amongst the young, people with disabilities and the socially deprived.
- 4.27 DEL continues to encourage greater participation from groups under represented in higher and further education. The Department highlights its commitment to broaden access to education and training in its Priorities and Plans for 2003-2006 as part of a vigorous pursuit of a more socially inclusive and economically developed environment for such marginalized groups. The Higher and Further Education Institutions maintain their status as key players in the drive to achieve fuller participation. A departmental working group carried out a review of the provision of further education and training for 16 to 19 year olds, and its findings are now being considered by the Department's Board.

The Department again set a target of widening access to higher education by aiming to allocate a minimum of 250 additional places. This objective was fulfilled beyond expectations by the allocation, in 2002/03, of some 500 additional places to the sector.

2002 saw the completion of the network of **learndirect** learning centres, now expanded to 34, with a mobile facility covering any gap areas. During the year, over 12,300 learners availed of 23,100 learning opportunities,

mainly in the area of ICT, although an increasing number are involved in Essential Skills Programmes.

Two pilots involving **learndirect** were undertaken during the year. A number of learndirect centres piloted the use of ICT as a means of engaging Essential Skills Learners.

The Belfast based call centre of the **learndirect** National Learning Advice Line provided local information about learning opportunities to 8,500 callers from Northern Ireland.

Other measures undertaken by DEL throughout the year include:

- The continued provision of FE bursaries. A total of 415 students were assisted by an FE bursary, at a total cost of £398,005.
- Increased funding under the Access Initiative to a total of £963,840 during 2002 – 03. Priorities for the application of this funding were to help disadvantaged people increase their knowledge and skills so they could get into work; and also to help improve life in disadvantaged communities.
- Support from DEL for the non -statutory FE sector in the provision of programmes for additional learners and achievement of a target of increasing enrolments in Adult Literacy programmes by 1,000.

4.28 DEL has also provided funding to the Universities to improve the representation of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- From September 2002, Access bursaries for higher education students were introduced and all those eligible were assessed and received first and second instalments of their bursary.
- Under Special Initiative funding, introduced to develop partnerships between the universities and schools with traditionally low levels of participation in Higher Education, a total of £189,057 was spent during 2002 – 03.
- Additional funding of £1,140,000 aimed at widening participation has been added to the teaching funding for universities in 2002 – 2003. This is to enhance the recruitment and retention of students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Allocating £815k to the Higher Education Reach-Out to Business and the Community (HEROBC) programme. The aim of this programme is to 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.

- The work of the NI Student Mentoring Project continues in campuses across Northern Ireland. The aim of the project is to nurture an environment of diversity and social inclusion. The long-term effects of such a support network is crucial to the socio-economic vitality of Northern Ireland.
- October 2002 saw the launch of The Essential Skills for Living Strategy and Action Plan. This initiative was launched in the wake of a period of consultation with key stakeholders between April and June 2002. An Essential Skills Committee comprising key stakeholders from Government Departments, business and industry, the further education sector and the voluntary and community sectors was established to drive forward the Strategy. The target of engaging 6,500 Essential Skills learners was successfully achieved.

- 4.29 These measures are designed to make a real and meaningful difference to the lives of students and their families and are targeted at those specifically from less affluent backgrounds. They will open up access to more people who would not previously have considered participating in further or higher education.
- 4.30 Departments are committed to effectively skewing other resources at the source. Work is ongoing to build New TSN into the financial aspects of other major policies.
- 4.31 In the past year, following the Review of Rating Policy, Rating Policy Division has commenced New TSN reports on Reform of the Domestic Rating System. These assess the options of a capital valuation system, either banded or using individual assessments, in terms of their impact on areas of social need.

These reports are likely to be published alongside the Domestic Rating Reform Policy Paper, which is due to be issued later this year. Rating Policy Division has also published New TSN reports on the Removal of Industrial De-rating and the introduction of the Rating of Vacant Non Domestic Properties. These were published in a policy paper alongside Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) and Regulatory Impact Assessments.

The Valuation and Lands Agency (VLA) is currently working towards having new valuations available to support new arrangements during 2006. The objective is to create a more equitable system of collecting rates.

- 4.32 In October 2002, DETI announced the results of a major review of its approach to Targeting Social Need, publishing updated New TSN area maps based upon the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measures. DETI designated the six most disadvantaged Council areas in Northern Ireland (Strabane, Derry, Omagh, Moyle, Cookstown and Newry & Mourne),

together with the 28 most disadvantaged wards within Belfast, for priority action.

In recognition of the topical economic difficulties facing a number of areas not awarded “core” New TSN status under Noble, DETI also awarded “special status” to a further four Council areas (Carrickfergus, Larne, Fermanagh and Limavady) who had all experienced an annual unemployment rate at least 20% above the Northern Ireland average. While the “core” New TSN areas remain the main focus for activities detailed in DETI’s New TSN Action Plan, Invest NI has been tasked with giving careful consideration to actions, which might contribute to employment creation in “special status” areas in view of their particular unemployment difficulties.

The revised maps were implemented with effect from 1 January 2003.

## **5 Reducing Unemployment and Increasing Employability**

- 5.1 Unemployment is seen as one of the most profound causes 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. This aspect of New TSN is particularly relevant to four Departments – DETI, DEL, DE and DSD. However, other Departments have a significant contribution to make.
- 5.2 Inequality in society is closely linked to deprivation. While progress has been made on reducing unemployment and increasing employability, it is clear that there is a differential experience of unemployment within specific social groupings. There are differences in unemployment rates and earnings across gender and religious groups and also in relation to race and disability. New TSN aims to contribute to the reduction of inequalities among different sections of society and, alongside other initiatives, helps to combat unemployment and differentials in unemployment rates.
- 5.3 In a major drive to tackle these issues and at the same time improve service delivery the SSA and DEL are rolling out a new Jobs and Benefits service for customers of working age receiving Jobseekers Allowance. This new Jobs and Benefits service is at the forefront of the Government's policy on "Welfare to Work" and is not just about the payment of social security benefits but also focuses on tackling the issues surrounding poverty and unemployment. Together, the two departments aim to deliver a range of services in a more customer-centric way through the co-location of Jobcentre and SSA staff, as well as the integration of business processes and supporting IT systems. Six such new Jobs and Benefits offices were opened throughout Northern Ireland during 2002/03. One of the largest of these, Falls Road in Belfast, which caters for almost 10,000 customers, was officially opened in February 2003 at a cost of £1.7m. This element of the Welfare Reform and Modernisation programme will create a more dynamic welfare system.
- The ONE pilot service in Dungannon, which was established to introduce a work-focused service for a wider benefit claiming customer group, was successfully completed and formally closed at the end of the year. The recommendations from these evaluation reports have been taken in to account in an enhanced Jobs and Benefits Service from June 2003.
- 5.4 The principles of Welfare Reform also underlie many of DEL's Labour Market measures. Welfare Reform is an integral part of the fight against unemployment. At its heart lies the quest for social and financial inclusion

by encouraging people of working age into employment. It aims to tackle barriers to employment and provides support for those who cannot work. The Employment Service, equipped with new Internet technology, now places particular emphasis on assisting unemployed jobseekers, while programmes such as Focus for Work and New Deal are specifically designed to prepare unemployed people for their transition to work. All of these activities are underpinned by an effective all age information, advisory and guidance service delivered by, for example, New Deal Personal Advisers and Careers Officers.

- 5.5 In addressing the low levels of qualifications and basic skills among socially disadvantaged people DEL, in conjunction with the University for Industry (Ufi), has increased the network of local learning centres to 3, with a mobile facility covering any gap areas.
- 5.6 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 in the number of those unemployed for 18 months or more. The Department for Employment and Learning Annual Report 2002/03 provided valuable statistics, which gave a significant insight into the effect had by such interventions. In the year ended 31 March 2003 DEL assisted a total of 17,734 people move from welfare to work. At March 2003, 1,736 New Deal 18 – 24 participants and 1,567 New Deal 25+ participants had been helped into work. Through the Training for Work programme, 1,018 opportunities were provided for those not eligible to take part in any of the New Deal options. The Worktrack programme also provided 2,257 temporary employment opportunities for those not eligible to take part in any of the New Deal options. During 2002 – 03, 75.25% of those who successfully completed a Bridge to Employment course moved into employment and 6 Jobwise courses, intended to facilitate greater participation on the Bridge to Employment project, were run in local communities.
- 5.7 Through its Disablement Advisory Service (DAS) the Department assisted 1,470 people with disabilities to gain or retain employment including 756 moving from welfare to work. A further 95 placements into work were achieved by New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) job brokers. DEL also continued to provide paid productive employment for more than 70 severely disabled people throughout 2002 – 03.
- 5.8 Research has shown that 90% of lone parents want to work. Through a specially tailored New Deal programme, lone parents continued to have the opportunity to learn new skills, enhance their employability prospects and secure work. During 2002/03, over 6,500 lone parents participated in the programme against a target of 4,000. An evaluation of New Deal for Lone Parents was also completed during the year and an action plan developed to take forward the recommendations.

In June 2002, a self-employment option was successfully implemented. In conjunction with Gingerbread, the SSA also launched the second edition of the successful magazine for lone parents "Choice 2".

- 5.9 Many young people in Northern Ireland have grown up with social disadvantage. For example, some 40% of children aged under 16 live in families that claim basic means tested benefits. DE has central responsibility for policy and planning for schools, youth and community relations activities for children and young people.
- 5.10 According to data from 2001/02 provided by the Department of Education, Department of Education and Skills and the National Assembly for Wales, pupils in NI continue to perform better than their counterparts in England and Wales at the higher qualification levels. The statistics show that 57% of Year 12 pupils achieve 5 or more GCSEs at A\*–C (compared to 52% in England and 50% in Wales) and 95% of final year pupils gain 2 or more A levels at grades A to E (compared with 82% in England and 94% in Wales). The percentage of Year 12 pupils in NI in 2001/02 achieving no GCSEs was 4% and this remains slightly lower than England (5%) and Wales (5%). Nevertheless, there continue to be too many schools where substantial proportions of pupils leave without GCSEs and there remains a significant problem of poorly qualified school leavers. There are also specific groups of disadvantaged young people, such as young people in care, school-age mothers, those from minority ethnic or Traveller backgrounds and those with disabilities who need specific, targeted measures to help them achieve their potential.
- 5.11 To address the above matters, the Department of Education has committed expenditure of some £95m, from 2001/02 and up to 2005, on the School Improvement Programme, which is aimed at raising standards in schools. The programme includes initiatives on literacy and numeracy, (including summer literacy and numeracy schemes, a major programme of in-service support and training for teachers and an early intervention programme is Reading Recovery for pupils struggling with reading), discipline and behaviour and school self-improvement through self-evaluation, development planning and target-setting. The programme continues to have a positive effect on schools in socially disadvantaged areas.
- 5.12 The Department of Education, in conjunction with the Education and Library Boards (ELB's) and the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS) has carried out reviews of both the Supporting Schools Programme and the literacy and numeracy strategy. These reviews were aimed at improving and strengthening both elements of the programme. Emerging from the reviews is a call for a more co-ordinated approach with regard not only to the literacy and numeracy strategy but also in respect of the School Support Programme, curriculum and assessment arrangements and educational technology. A Planning for Improvement in the Classroom Strategy Group, comprising all the educational partners



has been established in a bid to act upon the findings of the review in a coherent and integrated way. The new approach will continue to recognise the needs of the weakest schools and will take direct action for the benefit of schools serving areas suffering from social deprivation.

- 5.13 A range of other initiatives, will also impact in particular on pupils in disadvantaged areas or suffering personal disadvantage, and so promote social inclusion. These include:
- the Development and Dissemination of Good Practice Initiative;
  - Pre-School Education Expansion Programme. This programme has been growing in strength within the past year and is an important strategy in combating high levels of deprivation in socially disadvantaged areas. The Department pledged to invest £38m in Pre-School Education and have created just over 10,000 new funded places since 1998;
  - Making a Good Start (which funds classroom assistants and additional materials for P1 classes);
  - Multi-cultural resources and other support for teachers of Traveller children;
  - Projects to support “at risk” pupils and the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.
- 5.14 The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure maintains a keen focus upon ensuring access to information by disadvantaged people, with a view to improving employability and increasing social and economic participation. The continued development of public libraries as central hubs of freely available information is vital to this aim. The Public Library Service makes a major contribution through the employment of learning development officers and support assistants. Sterling work is underway by Belfast Education and Library Board through the delivery of the Gateways project, which involves twenty ICT classes per week. These classes are held primarily for the benefit of disadvantaged individuals and communities in pursuit of greater personal development and a more integrated way of life for them. Similar projects have been taking place in the Western Board. A partnership between the Board, the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education, the Strabane Community Education Forum and local community groups has proved to be effective, resulting in the “Libraries Without Walls” project. This scheme provided introductory IT skills in libraries and community centres in Strabane, enabling local people from disadvantaged areas to become more acquainted with computer skills.

A public library provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range of resources and services and is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality,

age, gender, language, disability, economic and employment status and educational attainment. One service, which is operated by all five boards, is Bookstart, which aims to develop literacy and give children a good start to schooling by introducing them to books and library membership from the earliest age.. At the heart of the project lies the desire to integrate reading into child development. In some areas this has been extended to other ages and categories within the Surestart areas, all of which are involved in newly established partnerships. A separate budget has been created and stock purchased with the needs of people who speak minority languages in mind. The provision of support for library and reading services to sight and hearing impaired people and to those with physical and learning disabilities has been maintained, in addition to help for hospitals and residential homes.

- 5.15 The Electronic Libraries Project (ELP) is a crucial supplement to the Public Library Service. Not only does it widen access to information but it also extends many opportunities for lifelong learning to disadvantaged sections of society. Many traditional libraries will also benefit from the scheme by gaining the opportunity to update their systems electronically. By virtue of the project, which has provided computers with internet access in all public libraries (the People's Network), the library service is helping to bridge the digital divide and thus reduce the gap between the information rich and information poor. Adaptive measures have also been implemented in terms of the technology used in order to meet the needs of an ageing population that encounters sight and dexterity problems, as well as people with disabilities. The plan is for the People's Network to be extended to mobile libraries by the end of 2003.
- 5.16 In spite of Northern Ireland's recent economic improvement, too many people of working age are either unemployed or economically inactive. This problem varies greatly across geographical areas, and between gender, community background, age and disability groups. People with disabilities, the working poor and lone parents are examples of some of the groups that find themselves within the particularly vulnerable category. There is therefore a need to focus on the factors that make people employable: not just knowledge, skills and motivation, but also considerations such as childcare and readiness or ability to travel to find work. To fully address all barriers to employment there is a need to foster a new way of working, for example by increasing cross-Departmental working.
- 5.17 The Inter-Departmental Taskforce on Employability and Long-Term Unemployment continues to play a leading role in the fight against the economic inactivity within many Northern Ireland communities.
- 5.18 December 2002 saw the launch of the Taskforce's Report. The document gives consideration to many of the barriers to employment existing within society. These include benefits issues, childcare provision, educational matters, transport and essential skills. The Report gives forty

recommendations and twelve action points, which affect most Government Departments.

- 5.19 The Department for Employment and Learning has carried out a review of the New Deal for 18 to 24 year olds. This resulted in the introduction of a number of enhancements to the programme. These include working more closely with employers, providing more support for clients who face complex and multiple barriers to employment, and better tailoring of provision to meet individual needs. Linked to this review, enhancements have also been made to the New Deal 25+ programme. These changes have resulted in closer alignment of provision within the two main New Deals and a greater degree of flexibility, which places emphasis on moving participants closer to the labour market.
- 5.20 Departments and related agencies have made progress in delivering programmes that 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.
- 5.21 During 2002/03 the Central Procurement Directorate (DFP) on behalf of the Procurement Board issued guidance to assist contracting authorities in implementing the policy of creating opportunities to facilitate the unemployed into work through public sector contracts.

The Procurement Board approved a pilot scheme to encourage employers to recruit and train unemployed people, who have been unemployed for at least three months, to work on significant contracts with Government Departments, Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and Public Corporations.

Departments were invited to nominate projects to the pilot with values above £3.86m for construction and £0.5m for services in line with EC procurement thresholds. As the number of projects in this category is less than anticipated the Board has reduced the values to £1m and £0.25m for construction and services respectively. It is hoped that this will produce a comprehensive sample to examine the feasibility and effect of facilitating the unemployed into work through public sector contracts.

- 5.22 DETI has taken steps to address the fact that Northern Ireland has one of the lowest business start-up rates of any UK region. The new Community Business Start-Up Programme, launched in June 2002, aided by funding from DEL and the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation aims to help launch 50 new community businesses over a three-year period. By the end March 2003, the programme had already received 64 outline applications.

Invest NI also made significant progress in taking forward Accelerating Entrepreneurship, a draft strategy that aims to transform Northern Ireland into an exemplar location for starting and growing a successful business. The draft strategy, issued for consultation in January 2003 set out a range of innovative measures designed to stimulate, encourage and support risk takers. Proposals also include special measures to promote entrepreneurship within New TSN areas and plans to set targets to increase entrepreneurship amongst under-represented groups such as young people, women, people with disabilities and minority ethnic groups.

- 5.23 During 2002/03, Invest NI made arrangements for 75 first time visits to Northern Ireland by potential investors. 65 of these visits (87%) were made to New TSN locations. These statistics are illustrative of an encouraging improvement from last year. In total, ten new inward investment projects were secured, including eight in New TSN areas spanning Belfast, Enniskillen, Newry, Londonderry and Cookstown. It is anticipated that these projects will lead to the creation of approximately 700 new employment opportunities.
- 5.24 DCAL has been working to support minority languages with a view to increasing employment and social inclusion. Following the first phase of a pilot training programme, an independent evaluation was commissioned and consideration is now being given to running the second phase. Working with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Northern Ireland Office (NIO), the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), DCAL is in the lead on the proposed establishment of a fund for financial support for Irish language film and television production. It is envisaged that the proposed fund will sustain development of this sector and create further employment opportunities. A business case to identify options for the way forward is nearing completion.
- 5.25 The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has made contact with eight schools and community groups in disadvantaged areas to determine their needs in relation to archives. The development of a learning resource for use in schools is being developed and will be piloted in a number of schools in areas of social disadvantage. This will be the first element in the provision of archive resources for schools.
- 5.26 The Department for Regional Development (DRD) is also making concerted efforts to skew its resources towards the implementation of New TSN. On 3 July 2002, the Northern Ireland Assembly endorsed the underlying principles of the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland. Initiatives within the RTS will complement the aims of New TSN by providing improved transport for those socially excluded people within society. These schemes will have a far-reaching effect on the employability opportunities of such individuals by providing access to employment, training and other services, thereby facilitating their inclusion in society and increasing their employability.

## 6 Tackling Other Aspects of Poverty

- 6.1 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, they 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 scarred by the Troubles; and they are less likely to be able to access the services for which their need is greatest.
- 6.2 In this respect every Department has an important contribution to make, helping to address the many inequalities that poor people experience.

### Improving Lives

- 6.3 Through a significant number of interventions, DSD provides a range of assistance to reduce disadvantage and improve the daily lives of many people in Northern Ireland.

The Social Security Agency provides essential help to many people through its Jobs and Benefits Service, Pensions Service and Disability and Carers Service. For example, by the end of March 2003 –

- Over 8000 additional pensioners were receiving Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) at an average of £23.42 a week;
- The use of Pension Advisors, who work with local communities to promote benefit uptake, was successfully piloted in 2 offices. (This service has now been put in place across the whole of Northern Ireland)
- Much work was undertaken to prepare for the introduction of the State Pension Credit from October 2003, including the promotion of local services and the development of take-up;
- Work was completed in preparation for the introduction of new Child Tax Credit and Working Families Tax Credit aimed at tackling poverty and making work pay;
- To improve understanding of the problems facing people with disabilities, staff were seconded to various voluntary bodies such as the Blind Centre for Northern Ireland and Macmillan Cancer Relief;
- A rolling programme of action plans to improve the delivery of social security services for people with disabilities, older people, people with literacy problems, people in isolated areas, people affected by the Troubles and minority ethnic groups; and
- Some 30 benefit take-up road shows were held in shopping centres and

various community venues throughout the Province to increase people's awareness of the benefits available to them.

- 6.4 Concerted efforts to improve the lives of children continue to be made by the Child Support Agency (CSA). In 2002/03 the CSA collected in the region of £18.9m in child maintenance for children in Northern Ireland. Not only did this mark an increase of £1m on the previous year's figures but it also far exceeded the Agency's case and cash compliance and accuracy targets.

In preparation for the reformed child support scheme, the CSA joined with voluntary and community organisations to keep them up to date with developments. Informative stakeholder packs were produced and seminars were held to help voluntary and community groups support their clients regarding CSA issues. Such measures tied in with the ethos of the scheme by making child support much more understandable, transparent and accessible. Despite a delay in the introduction of the new system, it was finally brought into being on 3 March 2003.

- 6.5 With the needs of the homeless members of our communities in mind, DSD continued to provide funding under the new build programme. During the year 2002/03 the Department facilitated the provision of 900 new homes and gave assistance to 801 applications from people on low incomes, thus enabling them to purchase a home through the Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association's co-ownership scheme. Recognising the crucial role housing has to play in the broader spectrum of social need, the Department is making marked progress towards eradicating exclusion in local housing.

DSD has also maintained its interest in the housing needs of travellers. The Department is currently funding 4 pilot group-housing schemes, one of which is in Castledawson. This particular initiative involved the completion of five detached group bungalows for a travelling family on the former temporary travellers' site. The Castledawson scheme will be followed in 2003/04 by a similar initiative at the Glen Road in Belfast. Plans are also in place for similar development for Monagh Road in the city. These schemes are extremely important in addressing the housing needs of travellers who continue to experience multiple deprivation and social exclusion. The Department also worked with Northern Ireland Housing Executive to develop a Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. The report from this assessment was published in February 2003.

- 6.6 The Department for Social Development is committed to providing the opportunity for vulnerable persons to live independent lives in the community. However this can only be achieved by providing an appropriate level of support to assist vulnerable people in this regard. In order to facilitate this, legislation was introduced in January 2003 to bring into operation from April 2003, the new system for funding housing

support costs. The new system replaces a myriad of different funding streams operated by various Departments and Agencies into a single fund to be operated by the Housing Executive. The new arrangements also include improved methods for determining the need for housing support services and allocating resources in a more focused way. As a result of this new system, significant improvements will be made to the lives of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Maintaining property causes much financial distress to those on low incomes in the private sector, where unfitness and disrepair is most prevalent. This is particularly relevant in rural areas. Resources are therefore focused on mandatory grants to help remedy unfitness and a “means test” ensures that resources go to those on low incomes. In order to more effectively target resources, provision was included in the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (which was made on 27 February 2003) to provide a largely discretionary grants regime from 1 December 2003. During 2002/03 funding was provided so that 8,889 homes in the private sector were brought up to a habitable standard and a further 1,565 were adapted to suit the needs of disabled occupants allowing them to have a more independent lifestyle and to continue to be part of their local community. In the social rented sector, considerable resources are provided to ensure that houses are maintained to acceptable standards. During 2002/03 funding was also provided so that more than 10,700 homes could be adapted to meet the specific needs of elderly or disabled occupants, 1,417 kitchens were replaced and a further 16,632 homes underwent external improvement.

- 6.7 The Department for Social Development continues to place great emphasis on addressing the problems of fuel poverty. By December 2004, the Department aims to have removed more than 20,000 homes from a situation where people spend more than 10% of their income on fuel. Many of these homes are occupied by the elderly and in 2002/03, by means of the Warm Homes Scheme, 6,719 particularly vulnerable households were assisted through insulation work or installation of better heating systems. This brings the total number of homes that have benefited through the initiative since its inception in April 2001, to 11,219. The benefits of a warm home are endless. Not only does it improve the general condition of the property but it also makes a significant contribution to the health and well being of the occupants. It can also increase the amount of disposable income available to the households concerned. In addition to the Warm Homes scheme, many people are being rescued from the fuel poverty trap by the Winter Fuel Payment scheme, operated by the Social Security Agency. These two initiatives, working jointly are an effective tool in ensuring that some of the most vulnerable people within society do not suffer physically and socially as a result of cold weather.
- 6.8 On improving access to good quality childcare and family support, DHSSPS continues work with relevant Agencies to maximise the use of

New Opportunities Fund funding for out-of-school childcare, giving priority to areas of social need. This allocation of resources was extremely successful and resulted in the number of target places being exceeded.

- 6.9 An additional 43 residential childcare places, over the 2001 figure, were provided by March 2003 and, although for operational reasons the figure did not reach the original target of 52, the total number of additional places should rise to 77 by January 2004.
- 6.10 The Department for Regional Development believes that initiatives in the Regional Transportation Strategy resulting in new or improved public transport services will, in general, support the objectives of New Targeting Social Need by providing transport for those in social need (DRD objective 3). These schemes will provide access to employment, training and other services for many of the less affluent people, thereby facilitating their inclusion in society.
- 6.11 In light of the social, religious and cultural diversity existing within Northern Ireland society, the Department of Education remains a staunch supporter of a policy, which provides young people with an opportunity to develop awareness and an informed understanding of these differences. The Department continues to employ a significant budget of £3.6m in pursuit of this policy through the Schools Community Relations Programme and the Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme (YSCRSS), which is overseen by the five Education and Library Boards. Voluntary and statutory organisations are also capable of participation in this policy by virtue of the core funding provided by DE. These schemes will certainly have a positive impact on many young people who have grown up in socially disadvantaged areas by enlightening them to the wider social, religious and cultural context that is characteristic of an evolving society.
- 6.12 The Youth Service continues to play a crucial role in the implementation of New TSN principles and is supportive of the Department's overarching ethos as outlined in the Priorities and Plans, to provide a high standard of education for our young people characterised by equal access for all. The primary focus of the Youth Service is to identify key issues affecting young people and to address these in a range of ways. This approach includes programmes and infrastructure developments to meet the needs of marginalised young people. The nature of such activities is very much on a personal basis with youth workers meeting the young people where they are and devising development programmes which will best meet their needs and at least attempt to address the issues in their lives. As a result of Executive Programme Funding, 7 pilot schemes are ongoing with Statutory and Voluntary organisations coming together, namely:
- North Eastern Education and Library Board in partnership with Mencap;
  - South Eastern Education and Library Board in partnership with Phab;



- Western Education and Library Board working with young travellers;
- Southern Education and Library Board considering rural isolation;
- Belfast Education and Library Board working with the Deaf Youth Association and developing city centre initiatives;
- YouthNet considering issues around gay and lesbian young people
- Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) working in conjunction with minority ethnics.

The potential for such partnerships is phenomenal and the learning outcomes will be disseminated across the spectrum of the Youth Service. The Department, in co-operation with relevant organisations is considering the needs of a diverse range of young people in this empathetic exercise.

- 6.13 The Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PSEEP) is a key element both of the Department of Education strategy for tackling low and under-achievement and of the Childcare Strategy “**Children First**”. Since September 1998 the Programme has created over 10,000 new free pre-school education places for children in their immediate pre-school year, increasing the overall level of provision from 45% in 1997 to 92% in 2002/03. The primary aim of the programme is to provide a year of funded pre-school education for every child whose parents will not wish their children to participate in pre-school education. Research has shown that preschool education is particularly beneficial to those children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, who tend to experience more difficulty at school than other children. Regulations give statutory priority to this group under the enrolment arrangements, which apply to the pre-school sector. These provisions offer children from socially excluded backgrounds the opportunity to develop and learn more quickly.
- 6.14 Substantial progress has also been made in applying New TSN to the formulation of the Department for Regional Development’s (DRD) long term regional planning and transportation strategies. The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) is being implemented on the basis of arrangements agreed with the Assembly. Progress continues to be monitored against targets and indicators included in an Implementation Plan which reflects the principles of New TSN. An Annual Report on the implementation and monitoring of the RDS, which is due for publication in June 2003, contains a concluding statement on the RDS Sustainability Appraisals. These Appraisals considered the social equity and quality of life themes associated with New TSN. Initiatives in the RTS will result in new or improved transport for those in social need. This will most certainly improve the quality of life for many socially isolated people. Access to transport will lead to better access to services and a greater degree of independence and confidence. This will have a favourable impact on

communities and work towards social inclusion for all.

- 6.15 From 1 May 2002 to 31 March 2003, the Senior Smartpass allowed over 6 million free journeys to be undertaken by older people.

26 February 2003 saw the announcement of a proposed extension to the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme. By February 2004, this should provide half fare to four additional categories of people:

- The partially sighted;
- Those with a learning disability;
- Persons in receipt of either mobility component or Disability Living Allowance; and
- Persons who have been refused a driving licence on medical grounds

- 6.16 Water Service provides a reasonable cost allowance to existing householders to assist them in connecting their properties to the main. Since increasing the allowance to £5,000 in May 2000 Water Service has connected over 250 properties to the main. This has a significant effect on the quality of life for many people. Water Service is currently exploring possibilities of providing additional funding for mains connections. It is working closely with the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development to find ways of enhancing the quality of existing supplies.

Welcome assistance has come in the form of the Strategic Investment Programme. With its help the £3 billion of necessary re-investment in water mains, sewers, and waste-water treatment can begin to be addressed.

- 6.17 OFMDFM has central responsibility for addressing the needs of victims. The inter-departmental strategy on victims, which was launched on 11 April 2002 runs from 2002–04 and promotes equality of opportunity for victims, many of whom are among the most marginalized people in our society. It contains 49 actions, spread across Departments, relating to access to Government, information, health, education and learning, business skills and the interaction of victims with policy makers. Seventeen of the actions were completed during 2002–03 and the remainder are due to be taken forward by March 2004.

During 2002–03 the Victims Unit funded a Trauma Advisory Panel support worker post in each Health Board area to co-ordinate services to victims. In addition, it supported a number of trauma therapy projects and funded Barnardos to carry out a parenting skills project. £260k was also awarded to the NI Memorial Fund, which runs a number of schemes to provide support to individuals who have been disadvantaged as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

- 6.18 The Peace II measure, aimed at reducing the social exclusion of victims and increasing their access to the labour market has been an effective tool since its inception on 30 November 2001. Projects that address the specific needs of areas, displaying high levels of relative deprivation are particularly eligible for assistance under the measure. However other schemes may be able to obtain aid. By March 2003, almost £4.9 million had been allocated to re-skilling, re-training and re-employment projects.
- 6.19 Several groups have received Peace II funding to run capacity building programmes and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is examining these with a view to address any gaps in the capacity of victims' groups. Seminars and information events have been scheduled on a number of issues including core funding of victims' groups and trauma therapies. In Autumn 2002, victims' groups were asked to express their views on how victims can best connect with policymakers. Their responses were assessed and proposals developed for taking this forward. A series of presentations by workers in the field have been made to the Interdepartmental Working Group on Victims to increase policy makers' understanding of issues affecting victims.
- 6.20 DOE has continued to increase Road Safety Education Officer (RSEO) support to schools with a significant number of pupils from disadvantaged households taking part. In an effort to reduce road casualties A Practical Child Pedestrian Safety Training Scheme has been piloted in 32 schools (approximately 6 in each of the five Education and Library Board areas). The first Pedestrian Training commenced Autumn Term 2002. Follow up work with the schools participating in the pilot scheme is ongoing and the pilot will continue to be rolled out to a further 30 schools in socially disadvantaged areas over the next year.

Schools where the scheme is presently commencing are: Old Warren Primary School, Lisburn; Belvoir Primary School, Belvoir Park; St Luke's Primary School, Twinbrook; and St Kieran's Primary School, Poleglass.

### **Improving Communities**

- 6.21 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.
- 6.22 Following a consultation process and endorsement by the Executive Committee, the DHSSPS Minister launched the key public health strategy *Investing for Health* at the end of March 2002. The strategy is a cross-Departmental, multi-sectoral framework for action to improve health and well being, focusing in particular on the sources of good health and on inequalities in health. It seeks to tackle the factors that cause poor health within our social, economic, physical and cultural environment.

- 6.23 Development of Health Action Zones (HAZ) has also continued. Two Health Action Zones (HAZ) are already established in areas of greater social need to tackle persistent health problems. Initially, two Health Action Zones (HAZ) were established in areas of greatest social need to tackle persistent health problems. Work also continues on the further two HAZ more recently established in the Northern and Western HSS Board areas, with action plans being drawn up for each. Each HAZ works to locally agreed Action Plans that identify the focus for each Zone and the programmes or projects to be put in place. Programmes include tailored support for households in tackling the barriers to employment; work with young people to promote sexual health, reduce teenage pregnancy and support teenage parents; and a range of programmes concerning employability around the themes of housing, rurality and young people.

The Western Health and Social Services Board HAZ Action Plan has been published and implementation is ongoing. During November and early December 2002, Western HAZ facilitated discussion amongst voluntary sector workers, statutory agency staff and community activists on the important issue of poverty amongst families with children. This theme is also highly relevant to Objective 1 of the Investing for Health Strategy. The discussions proposed a series of actions for inclusion in the Western Area IFH Plan and acknowledged the progress that has already been made. Under the Northern Health and Social Services Board HAZ Action Plan, individual community Action Plans have been developed and are being implemented.

- 6.24 The needs of people with Learning Disabilities have also been addressed in "A Fair Chance", a report on an equality consultation exercise, which was launched in May 2002. The exercise was organised jointly by DHSSPS and LEAD, the Coalition on Learning Disability. The primary objective of the report was to provide people with a learning disability with information about equality obligations and the opportunity to voice their opinions on possible areas for change.
- 6.25 Under the joint implementation model for the Drug and Alcohol Strategies, the DHSSPS Minister leads the Ministerial Steering Group and the DHSSPS Permanent Secretary chairs the Implementation Steering Group. The joint implementation model is working well, with six working groups established covering the key issues and DHSSPS in the lead for the Treatment working group. *Investing for Health* complements New TSN commitments, as its main focus is to improve the health of the most disadvantaged in society. All of the initiatives highlighted in the Action Plans will assist in the implementation of the Drug and Alcohol Strategies, which are fundamental to the success of the *Investing for Health* Strategy. In particular, the projects to provide initiatives at community level, especially outreach initiatives, will be piloted in areas of social need and economic deprivation, thus it is the most disadvantaged who will benefit.

- 6.26 DSD has been developing a new strategic approach to urban regeneration across Northern Ireland by focusing on neighbourhood renewal. The core aim is the regeneration of neighbourhoods, targeting those communities experiencing the most serious social and economic deprivation. Public consultation involving 500 organisations and 7 workshops has been completed and the strategy is due to be launched in June 2003. Integral to the strategy is the identification of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Northern Ireland and the new Northern Ireland Measures of Deprivation guided DSD in this task.
- 6.27 The Department for Social Development is primarily responsible for the implementation of Measure 2.11, Area-Based regeneration. In July 2002, a £12 million EU Peace II funding package was announced. The primary aim was to tackle the legacy of conflict, reconciliation difficulties and high levels of deprivation in some of Northern Ireland's most under-developed neighbourhoods. Twelve neighbourhoods were selected to benefit from the funding. The selection of these areas was based upon the Peace II criteria using the Noble Indicators of Deprivation as a guide to the specific targeting of resources on the most deprived wards. Areas such as the Lower Newtownards Road, Short Strand and Donegall Road are just a few neighbourhoods to benefit from the funding. DSD has also progressed work on the Urban II community initiative programme, which will be running until 2006. This programme complements the Peace II initiative and the Building Sustainable Prosperity programme for Northern Ireland. Its primary focus is on achieving a co-ordinated physical, economic and social action in disadvantaged urban areas by drawing upon the experience and practice from participating cities across the European Union. Responsibility for delivering the Urban II programme falls to The North Belfast Partnership Board. At the heart of its ethos lies the aim of facilitating local renewal by means of strategic networks and partnerships, which work together in an individual-centric way.

DSD worked alongside the Monitoring Committee and agreed that two of the measures were to be adopted during 2002/03.

The *Making Belfast Work* Initiative has made considerable progress with the result that some 550 projects have been supported to a value of £9.5 million by the Belfast Regeneration Office. The North West Development Office, through the Londonderry Regeneration Initiative, has supported 179 projects to a total value of £2.7 million. The purpose of these projects is to raise educational achievement, improve access to employment and create a safe and healthy community in which people can live, work and play.

In January 2003, a £9 million regeneration initiative was launched to regenerate Omagh town centre. The project will benefit the town both commercially and environmentally, as well as providing it with a major new Arts Centre to serve the town and outlying district. The initiative is part of the overall vision for Omagh 2010.

- 6.28 The Community Support Programme is an important catalyst for developing local community capacity and is worth approximately £18 million per annum. £3.5 million of this comes from DSD and is allocated using a formula based on both population and deprivation. This funding supports the delivery of a community support plan in each Council area. These plans are currently being reviewed and finalised on the basis of a Good Practice Guide produced by DSD and Councils are being encouraged to use the planning process to identify and tackle community needs, particularly in areas of disadvantage.
- 6.29 DSD has also secured a £1m funding package to encourage more volunteering and active community involvement. After a period of consultation, the strategy document, "Partners for Change" was published on 31 March 2003. This strategy delivers the commitments made in the Compact between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 6.30 The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (DARD) Rural Development Programme continues to grow in stature. The overall aim of the Rural Programme is to promote comprehensive and integrated action towards the sustainable and equitable development of rural areas, with a focus on disadvantage, and in doing so, to contribute to the economic, environmental, social and cultural well being of the rural community for the benefit of the whole community of Northern Ireland. The Programme is designed to target and support local people, encouraging them to participate in rural development. The Programme will have a particular focus on encouraging initiatives involving women, young people, the unemployed and farm families. It will also promote new ways to tackle the needs of rural areas through strong partnerships between the public, voluntary and community sectors.

It is important to note that this programme is not solely for the benefit of the farming community. The motivation behind the initiative is to create a locally driven concept that is focused specifically on the needs of people living in the countryside.

- 6.31 The Rural Community Network (RCN) is a voluntary organisation, established to articulate the voice of rural communities on issues of poverty and disadvantage and to seek greater support for community development as an approach for social change. Currently there are approximately 520 groups in membership of the network.

Within this framework, Rural Women's Networks play a central role in voicing the collective views of women living in rural areas. In all too many cases, women in such situations find themselves ignored and socially excluded. Through the networks, they have been enabled to participate in the wider picture of the Rural Development Programme and in a needs analysis for rural women. This process utilised the input from women from rural backgrounds in a bid to build up a profile of their specific needs and concerns. The Rural Women's Network has been a key supporter of the

Capacity Building Programme for Women. This initiative aims to encourage women through capacity building, organisation and involvement in local regeneration projects and programmes, sectoral development projects, micro business development and participation in Natural Resource Rural Tourism.

- 6.32 Under the Less Favoured Areas Compensatory Allowances Scheme the Department continued to support farmers in Less Favoured Areas for the natural disadvantage they face because of their geographical location. The scheme is designed to support and maintain traditional agriculture in disadvantaged areas. The prediction is that in the period 2000–2006, up to 16,000 farmers will participate in the project within any one year.

The initiative has made a significant contribution to the lives of many farmers in disadvantaged areas. By April 2002, 96% of eligible claims had been paid.

A review of the scheme was carried out during 2002/03 and subsequently a raise in rates of payment was announced in March 2003. The rates have now been increased to £48 per hectare in severely disadvantaged areas while the rates for disadvantaged areas and common land have risen to £24 per hectare. These levels mark the maximum amount permitted under arrangements agreed with the European Commission. These changes mark a major advance in terms of New TSN, as it will become easier to target those in greatest objective social need.

However, one must not forget that the payment of this aid is primarily aimed at the offset of agricultural rather than social, disadvantage. Nevertheless it must be recognised that there is a degree of correlation between the areas of poorer quality agricultural land and areas suffering higher degrees of deprivation, as indicated by the Noble indicators of multiple deprivation.

- 6.33 The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure works closely with local authorities and local community groups in identifying and implementing suitable projects. The types of work undertaken include provision of access facilities such as jetties, slipways, canoe steps and the provision of riverside walks. It is DCAL's policy to provide access for people with disabilities where this is feasible. The programme for 2002/03 included provision of over 5km new or upgraded riverside path, suitable for use by people with disabilities.
- 6.34 The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure charges a concessionary fee for permits for disabled anglers to fish its Public Angling Estate and it provides access facilities for people with disabilities at many of the waters. A list of these is published in the Department's Angling Guide, 2001 edition. During the year a new car park with access for anglers with disabilities has been provided at Middle Woodburn reservoir on the Department's Public Angling Estate.

- 6.35 DCAL maintains its commitment to the Water Based Tourism Measure, launched in December 2001. The scheme is funded under Measure 1.2 (a) of the Peace II fund. An allocation of £2.7m was announced by the Government in March 2003 providing funding to no fewer than 36 beneficiaries, many of which are located in rural locations. These additional resources will enable these organisations to develop their angling facilities and water-based recreation projects.
- 6.36 In line with DARD's New TSN objectives of sustaining employment within the fisheries industry, the Minister, in March 2003 requested the views of those involved in the industry as to how best the £5m set aside for the Fishing Vessels Decommissioning Scheme could be employed.
- 6.37 During the past year, £4.4m has been provided to fund infrastructure development at Kilkeel. This financial assistance is a welcome help for a town so dependent on its fishing industry. The funding is provided as part of the drive towards a more sustainable fisheries industry in Northern Ireland. In July 2002, £2.5m was also released for 4 new schemes. The purpose behind these projects was to improve safety on fishing vessels, to enhance the marketing and quality of small scale and coastal fishing and to facilitate collective operations by the Northern Ireland Fishing Industry as well as providing support for fishing dependent communities. Such initiatives make a positive impact on fishing communities that often suffer disadvantage due to poor output.
- 6.38 The Department of the Environment's commitment to the implementation of New TSN is illustrated in the objectives of the Planning Service. The theme running through its policies aims to produce a quality living environment for all. The Planning Service is giving particular consideration to the principles of New TSN, specifically in the area of the development plan process. An important issue for Development Plans is to encourage development in areas of social deprivation as a means of addressing social, economic and environmental need. DOE continues to use Issues Papers to consult with community groups in order to ascertain the specific needs of communities. The monitoring of housing land availability is ongoing and advances have been made in the utilisation of the Planning Service Geological Information System.
- 6.39 The launch of the consultation document "Forestry in Northern Ireland" took place on 24 June 2002. The Minister emphasised the importance of forests to both the environment and to the economy. In particular there was a keenness on the part of the Department to receive views on how forests should be developed in terms of the emphasis given to industry, environment and to social needs. Due to the fact that everyone benefits from paper and timber as well as by paying visits to forest parks etc, the forestry industry has significant potential to promote social inclusion and improve the quality of life for many disadvantaged people. At the end of the formal period of consultation on 23 September 2002, views from 90 organisations and individuals representing a very wide range of interest



groups and stakeholders were received. These views made a useful contribution to the production of an economic appraisal on the options for the development of forest policy in Northern Ireland, which was completed in February 2003.

- 6.40 DOE's Environment and Heritage Service (EHS), each academic year, monitors the uptake and usage of its sites by New TSN schools in line with commitments in its current Education Strategy. During the academic year, 2001/02, EHS, against a baseline figure of 12.88% set a target of increasing this figure to 15%. The uptake and usage of sites by New TSN schools had increased to 25.68% in the first academic year for which meaningful figures were available. The Education Action Plan, due to be implemented over a 3 year period, has been delayed as a result of resource restrictions within the Agency's Information and Education Unit. EHS has established criteria and revised the assessment of Natural Heritage grant applications to give extra weighting to projects that specifically target social need. The revised scoring system has been fully operational since 14 October 2002. In tandem with this, the Agency revised the grant application pack to allow applicants to show how projects will target social need. The revised grant application pack was formally launched at a workshop on 13 February 2003. The Environment and Heritage Service, through its Natural Heritage Grants Programme, aims to encourage the conservation and enhancement of key elements of the countryside and its wildlife and the provision of facilities that help as wide a range of people as possible to enjoy and appreciate our natural heritage. Grants are available to District Councils, schools and other organisations with conservation / public interest among the main objectives.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) held an Open Space conference on minority ethnic languages on 4 November 2002. This was the first stage in a consultation process, which will provide the basis for a Northern Ireland strategy for minority ethnic languages. A cross section of people from Government Departments, public bodies and minority ethnic communities attended. The issues identified by participants included the need to encourage dual language maintenance through the education system and an analysis of the difficulties which the language barrier poses for people trying to access employment, healthcare, training provision and other public services.

## 7 Promoting Social Inclusion

- 7.1 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 Departments and other agencies must address in a coherent way.
- 7.2 The Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) element of New TSN involves Departments working, both collectively and with partners outside Government to identify and tackle factors which can contribute to social exclusion. Following on from this Departments and external partners also seek to undertake positive initiatives to improve and enhance the life and circumstances of the most deprived and marginalised people in our community.
- 7.3 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. The initial priorities were the problems faced by Travellers, the problems of teenage parenthood, the position of minority ethnic people, and ways of making Government information more accessible to excluded groups.

### **The problems faced by Travellers**

- 7.4 Before devolution, in recognition of the severe disadvantages encountered by members of the Travelling community, Ministers established a Working Group under the PSI element of New TSN, to make recommendations on issues including Travellers accommodation, health, education, training and policing.

Following an extensive consultation exercise on the Working Group Report, the Government's response and action plan, was published on 25 February 2003. A thematic group on Travellers will be established as part of the Northern Ireland Race Forum to oversee the implementation of the Government's response.

Copies of the Government response are available on request from the Race Equality Unit, Room E3.19, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SR or at <http://www.newtsni.gov.uk/travellers/index.htm>

### **The problems of Teenage Parenthood**

- 7.5 There are many difficulties associated with teenage parenthood. In all too many instances the interruption of an unplanned teenage pregnancy can lead to poor educational achievement, poor physical and mental health and social isolation. All these factors combine to create a poverty inducing concoction.

It was for these reasons that an action plan was drawn up. The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy for Northern Ireland was published in January 2003 and it outlines a course of action with two primary aims in view:

- Facilitate a reduction in the number of unplanned births to teenage mothers; and
- Minimise the adverse consequences of those births to teenage parents and their children.

Included within the Strategy is a series of challenging targets to reduce the rate of births in teenage mothers particularly those under the age of 17. The proposed programme of action must be implemented at a variety of levels in order to improve communication, promote educational opportunity and provide accessible services for young people. A Multi-Agency Implementation Group has been established to direct and oversee implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

### **The position of Minority Ethnic people**

7.6 On 25th February 2003 two important steps were taken in Northern Ireland on the issue of Race Equality. These were:

- The launch of a consultation document on the Northern Ireland Race Equality Strategy, which will be the overarching Government policy document on tackling Racial Inequality within Northern Ireland and;
- The announcement of the establishment of the Northern Ireland Race Forum, which will oversee the implementation of the strategy.

The draft Strategy was prepared in partnership with representatives from relevant statutory agencies, Minority Ethnic community representatives and community and voluntary organisations. It covers the full range of policy issues which impact on the daily lives of our citizens from minority ethnic communities regardless of whether the policy is made in Whitehall or Stormont.

The Race Forum will include representatives from relevant Whitehall and Stormont Government Departments, Statutory Agencies and the community and voluntary sector. It will provide a vehicle for community and voluntary organisations – especially those representing the Minority Ethnic communities – to play a full part in developing and implementing the Race Equality Strategy and advising Government on issues relating to consultation of Minority Ethnic people.

The consultation will include culturally appropriate consultation with Minority Ethnic communities throughout Northern Ireland. The consultation is due to close to responses on Thursday 31st July 2003.

- 7.8 The fund in support of Minority Ethnic groups and projects continued with its second year of operation 19 groups and projects benefited from the scheme, which had £442,000 available to spend in 2002 / 03. Support provided included core-funding assistance for regional organisations such as Traveller Movement (NI) and the NI Council for Ethnic Minorities; support for projects such as the provision of library material for the Craigavon and District Vietnamese Club and the provision of a Drop In/Advice Centre for the Wah Hep Chinese Community Association.

**Ways of making Government information more accessible to excluded groups.**

- 7.9 Everyone wants and needs access to information, but often people face extra difficulties and challenges because the information we provide fails to meet their needs. All too often we fall into the habit of producing information in the “usual” ways because that’s how we have always done things. We forget to consider the specific needs of our customers and fail to take a citizen-centric approach.
- 7.10 This 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.

The Social Security Agency, for example has placed particular emphasis on the improvement of its service delivery to people with disabilities, older people, people with literacy problems, people in isolated areas, those affected by the troubles and minority ethnic groups. Improvements, which have been implemented include:

- The production of the A–Z guide for people with disabilities; the publication of a Carers’ Rights Pack;
- A new contact centre and telephone interviewing service for Attendance Allowance customers;
- Undertaking 30 benefit take-up road shows in shopping centres and various community venues throughout Northern Ireland to increase people’s awareness of the benefits available to them;
- Along with the Southern Education and Library Board funding an interpreter service to serve the Chinese and Asian communities in the Southern Board area; and
- Successfully achieving “crystal mark” for 27 publications.

## PSI Priorities

- 7.11 The Executive agreed in the first **Programme for Government** to consult on priorities for further PSI cross-Departmental work in 2001. The Executive also agreed that a committee comprising Departmental representatives and a member of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), representing the community and voluntary sector, would use the outcome of the consultation to identify cross-Departmental issues which fit with the Executive's policies and priorities and which are not already being addressed through cross-Departmental work.
- 7.12 The consultation closed on 31 August 2001 and over 100 contributions were received from a range of bodies including; Departments, Assembly Committees, MLAs, public bodies and voluntary organisations.
- 7.13 Examination of the outcome by the Committee revealed a number of well-supported issues, which fitted the agreed criteria and could be effectively addressed using the PSI approach. These were: Older People, Disability, Homelessness, Carers and Mental Health.
- 7.14 It was agreed with the relevant Ministers that OFMDFM would take forward work on Older People and Disability, DSD would take forward work on Homelessness and DHSSPS would lead work on Mental Health and Carers.
- 7.15 Membership of the working groups is wide-ranging and will include Departments, Public Bodies, relevant experts, the voluntary sector and those people directly concerned within the priority areas selected or their representatives.
- 7.16 All the above groups have been established and their Terms of Reference agreed. The groups have identified issues to be tackled in their respective draft strategies, due to be published next year.

## 8 Improving the Information Base

8.1 Equality and Social Needs policies are highly dependent on good quality statistics and research. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has done much to increase and improve on the information available to those concerned with Equality and Social Need issues. Recent developments have included, the phased release of information from the 2001 Census and the launch of the Northern Ireland Census Access website ; the continuous development of web-based geographical information systems; the running of key household surveys including the Family Resources Survey and the Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey; and the update of the digest of Equality Data Sources.

8.2 Work within NISRA is underway to develop a website that will collate information that can be used in relation to equality and section 75 categories, sorted by policy area. It is designed to be a central source for people wishing to obtain information on equality categories and will provide links and references to other useful websites and publications. It is hoped that the website will be launched in early 2004, providing a general overview of information available for each of the section 75 categories and this will be steadily expanded to provide a comprehensive overview of information.

NISRA has also started work on a project aimed at reviewing all available information on people with disabilities. The purpose of this project is to examine available information regarding accuracy, uses, robustness, underlying definitions, and comprehensiveness. The review also aims to identify any information gaps in the light of users' needs. It is intended that the results from this review of information will help determine whether further action is required to fill potential information vacuums and how this should be addressed.

8.3 Equality and Social Need policies impact across all Departmental areas of work. It is therefore important that research in statistical work is carried out in a co-ordinated and strategic manner. The sharing of data, the exchange of experience, expertise and methodologies are promoted through the Equality and Social Need Research and Information Group (ESNRIG). ESNRIG is a NISRA chaired group comprising professional statisticians from every Department and includes representatives from the Equality Commission and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action. ESNRIG is tasked with taking forward Equality and Social Need research and statistical work in support of the Equality and Social Need Steering Group.

8.4 The **Programme for Government** included a commitment to publish a research and information strategy in support of Equality and Social Need policy. A consultation document was developed through both the Equality

and Social Need Research and Information Group and the Equality and Social Need Steering Group and put out to consultation in December 2002. After consideration of consultation responses, a final Equality and Social Need Research and Information Strategy will be published during 2003 / 04. The Strategy will aim to provide a common framework of aims, principles and priorities which will influence the research and statistics programmes both inside and outside Government Departments in the coming years.

- 8.5 The Equality Directorate within the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is directly supported by the statistical and research work conducted and commissioned by the Research Branch (also within OFMDFM). Among others, current work has focused on the measurement of poverty and social exclusion in support of the development of the New TSN policy and gender research in support of the development of the cross-Departmental gender equality strategy. All commissioned research reports are published and available from [www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk](http://www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk).
- 8.6 The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) has made significant progress in taking forward work aimed at measuring the direct and indirect impact of the Department's job creation programmes on the labour market and, in particular, on the unemployed.
- 8.7 In July 2002, DETI published its first annual statement on the findings of its enhanced monitoring arrangements, which were introduced in April 2000 to increase the Department's knowledge of the impact of Government assistance on the labour market. Using initial data gathered from some 50 client companies in New TSN areas, DETI found that, of 1500 new recruits taken on by those companies as a result of financial assistance:
- 53% were Roman Catholic; 38% were Protestant; and 9% were of another religion;
  - 58% were male; 42% were female; and
  - Prior to obtaining these jobs, 65% had been employed elsewhere; 20% had been unemployed; and 12% had been in full-time education.

This early data represents only a starting point in DETI's efforts to understand the impact of government assistance on the labour market and, in particular, on the unemployed. The Department is committed to continuing to develop and enhance its monitoring systems and expects that a more representative and revealing picture will be built up over time.

- 8.8 The major social survey of farmers, conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) marked a leap forward in terms of monitoring the Department's performance with regard to New TSN. The survey began in November 2000 but fieldwork had to be halted

in March 2001 because of the Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak. Work recommenced during September 2001 and ended in March 2002 with the findings being published in July 2002. This is the first time that relevant data has been collated from the farming communities and it will be of vital importance as a source of reference. The prime objective of the Survey was to help DARD fulfil its obligations under New TSN and Equality policies. However the opportunity was taken when the survey was being conducted to collect a wider range of information and therefore, as a result of the survey, DARD now has a greater insight into the lives of those who live and depend, in part or in whole, on family farms. This data will also enable the Department to monitor the impact of its policies, and those it administers on behalf of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or the EU, on a wide range of its customers. As a result of the survey, more detail is available on the sustainability of farming, the need for supplementary work and income, the numbers seeking to diversify and the barriers to achieving this. Data will also show the extent of demand amongst agricultural communities for training and part time employment.

- 8.9 During 2002 DARD undertook an investigatory exercise to establish how to monitor progress on New TSN objectives, and in particular identify sources of data available to the Department for monitoring employment levels within the fishing industry.

The exercise concluded that baseline data was available in the following areas:

- Employment in the Aquaculture Sector;
- Employment in the Catching Sector;
- Employment in the Processing Sector;
- Wages levels in the Processing Sector.

These data will be analysed on an annual basis against current and future financial aid schemes to identify the impact (if any) on employment and wages levels in the industry as a result of Building Sustainable Prosperity Schemes. This will allow consideration of potential new target groups etc and the skewing of resources to those in greatest need.

- 8.10 New TSN is one of a number of Horizontal Principles for those involved in implementation of the Structural Funds Programmes and conformity will be monitored through periodic surveys. In addition, information gathered during the application process and through regular monitoring of the programmes will add considerably to the DARD's pool of knowledge about our customers and the assistance the Department is able to provide for them.



- 8.11 Once the mapping system is in place and New TSN areas are clearly identified in relation to targeted groups, measures will be sought in consultation with existing community infrastructure to inform people of the services available and how they can access them. It is planned to design a series of pilot programmes for disadvantaged people, groups and areas to take place when the research to identify the barriers to participation is completed.
- 8.12 The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety maintains a keen interest in developing its information base. On developing research and statistical information, two research contracts have been awarded to feed into the report on "Health and Social Inequalities in Northern Ireland" and a draft report on the project on changing patterns of smoking behaviour between socio-economic groups in age cohorts over time is being considered.

A Drug Misuse Database Statistical Bulletin and a report on drug and alcohol use among young people were published in November 2002. The fieldwork for an All-Ireland Drug Prevalence Survey has been largely completed. Contracts have been awarded for projects on young persons' treatment services/young vulnerable groups and for homelessness and drug/alcohol misuse. Terms of reference have been agreed for an injecting drug users project and contact has been made with prospective contributors to register for research on drugs and alcohol.

Ten research proposals, to support informed decision making in tackling health and social need, were peer reviewed and the Assessment Panel approved a programme of 8 research projects, which was duly endorsed by the Research and Development Strategy Group. These projects span a range of topics including social inequalities in access to and uptake of prenatal screening, pregnancy and infancy in socially deprived areas of Belfast and New TSN in health and social care. In addition, a New TSN Inequalities Monitoring System was developed and populated with baseline data. The purpose of the monitoring system is to review inequalities experienced between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas in the utilisation of, and access to health and social services. The scope of the system was expanded to assess inequalities between people living in rural and non-rural areas and also to identify differences between the unhealthiest areas and the Northern Ireland average. In addition, differences in the Section 75 Groups are identified. It also incorporates updated population data from the 2001 Census. It is intended to produce a baseline report, drawing on the data contained in the system, by December 2003.

DHSSPS has been involved in a number of projects focusing on travel times to health and social services facilities. Work was commissioned to develop a new access times model, based on the old model used in the Noble Measures of Deprivation Access Domain. The new model calculates travel times from Census Output areas and contains a number of other enhancements to improve/facilitate sensitivity analysis.

- 8.13 One of DSD's New TSN objectives, for which the SSA is responsible, is to tackle poverty and encourage social inclusion by increasing the uptake of benefits. The Social Security Agency is committed to producing a strategy for benefits take-up by April 2004 and the forthcoming statistical analysis from the Family Resources Survey will help provide valuable information for this strategy.

## 9 Future Commitments

- 9.1 In developing its policies and programmes and in allocating resources to support them, the Executive wants to focus on the people and areas in greatest social need and will make sure that measures to tackle poverty and other causes of social exclusion continue to form a key part of the NI Departments work. During the year the NI Government published its Priorities and Plans for 2003 – 06, building on progress established in its previous Programme For Government.
- 9.2 During the past year OFMDFM officials have been liaising with other local departments, as well as the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain, regarding the Northern Ireland contribution to the **UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion**. 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 2003 – 2005. New TSN will be highlighted as Northern Ireland's overarching policy in this area. The UK National Action Plan, which is due to be published in July 2003 will set out objectives, timetable and monitoring arrangements for action against poverty by both the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. We will want to ensure that the Executive's policies continue to complement the national anti-poverty strategy.

Locally a number of other strategies are being progressed, which will both complement and assist with the aims and objectives of New TSN, these include the **Children's Strategy** where work is underway to develop proposals for a ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland. This includes considering how to give an effective voice to children and young people, their parents and those representing them. It will also involve consideration of the issue of child and family poverty.

In February of this year, legislation to establish the office of Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland was given Royal Assent. Work then began on an innovative selection process involving young people, with a view to announcing the appointment in June 2003.

OFMDFM has been tasked to both bring forward and implement a cross departmental **Gender Equality Strategy** during 2003. As well as tackling gender inequalities the strategy will also support the values and principles of New TSN, encouraging the targeting of efforts and available resources on groups of women and men and areas in greatest social need. This requires the mainstreaming of gender at each stage, in the identification of challenges, the design, implementation and assessment of policies, including the selection of indicators and targets, and the involvement of stakeholders involved in gender related work to identify and tackle those factors which can contribute to women and men being excluded from social and economic life in the province.

9.3 In taking forward all of our work we want to develop and strengthen our relationships with local government, social partners and the Civic Forum and welcome the work that has been undertaken by these organisations. This will enable us to make informed decisions about future policy development in line with the Executive's aim to tackle poverty and social exclusion, and in the outcome of the Evaluation of New TSN.

#### 9.4 **Evaluation of New TSN**

Much has been done and achieved to promote equality of opportunity in line with specific requirements of the Belfast Agreement. The Government believes it is now important to take stock of how effective these measures are in achieving their desired objective of reducing inequality and poverty in Northern Ireland. For that reason the Government is carrying out an interim evaluation of New Targeting Social Need. The aim is to assess the effectiveness of its implementation and to examine its initial impact.

Officials from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) worked with officials from all Departments and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland as well as the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action in drawing up the strategy for the interim evaluation. The proposals were put out to consultation and a public seminar was held on 17th June 2002 at Queens University Belfast. An Evaluation Steering Group was established in June 2002 to oversee the evaluation.

Independent consultants were appointed and began work on the 9th September 2002. In October 2002, Queens University of Belfast Institute of Governance organised a seminar as a contribution to the evaluation. The session looked at the development of New TSN to date, assessing experience from elsewhere and identifying possible future policy directions for New TSN. Over a hundred people attended and the participants included representatives from the voluntary, community, statutory and private sectors as well as from political parties.

The agreed evaluation methodology provides for an input from the Advisory Panel, which will be asked to comment on the evaluation at critical stages. This will provide the evaluators with an opportunity to test their ideas, assumptions and conclusions across an audience of relevant practitioners and commentators on anti-poverty policy.

Specifically the role of the Advisory Panel is:

- To provide informed comment and views to OFMDFM on the evaluation at key stages;
- To discuss and agree with the appointed evaluators the two areas of high deprivation used in the 'case study' component of the evaluation; and

- To submit a written paper, representing the views of the advisory panel on the conduct and outcome of the evaluation, to the Equality and Social Need Steering Group (ESNSG).

The panel reflects a spectrum of expertise and professional involvement in poverty and social exclusion issues and its membership is drawn from Academia, the Voluntary and Community Sector, the Equality Commission, the Equality Coalition, Local Government and The Civic Forum.

The summary document of the outcome of the Evaluation of New TSN is expected in early April 2003. Emergent findings include the following:

- Social Need was variously defined depending on the social program delivered;
- there are too many specific actions with too few strategic targets and lack of measures of success in tackling poverty;
- 33% of actions in departmental Action Plans were successful while a further 1/3 were process and not outcome related;
- there is no global measure of poverty;
- there were good developments in statistics, research and measurement of poverty;
- there was evidence of targeting disadvantage;
- there was good awareness of the policy;
- there was a need for a greater focus on trends among disadvantaged groups;
- Northern Ireland needs to develop better income indicators.

The Evaluation Report will be the subject of discussion within Northern Ireland Departments through the Equality and Social Needs Steering Group and by the Independent Evaluation Advisory Panel who will be asked to comment before recommendations on any specific policy changes are made to the Minister.

Any proposed change in policy will be the subject of public consultation.

The Northern Ireland Government, represented by OFMDFM officials, is a participating partner in the European Commission's Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion (2002–2006) research project on Mainstreaming poverty and social inclusion. Specifically, the project will

carry out research aimed at assessing approaches by different EC member states to mainstreaming poverty and social inclusion measures across all policy areas as a means of tackling poverty and social exclusion.

Involvement in this project will present opportunities for piloting and building best practice approaches into the further refinement of New TSN policy.

## **Annex 1**

### **All Departments New TSN Action Plans 2003–2004**

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Corporate Services Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Greater understanding and awareness of the priority to be given to New TSN in all business areas.</p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>OFMDFM 1</b></p> <p>To embed New TSN in the plans and culture of the Department.</p>	<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p>a) Incorporate New TSN in the Department's Service Delivery Agreement for 2004/05, which is due to be prepared and published by 31 March 2004. (Central Management Unit).</p> <p>b) Facilitate the submission of regular progress reports on OFMDFM's New TSN Action Plan to the Departmental Board throughout the period of this Plan (Central Management Unit).</p> <p>c) Keep staff informed of New TSN developments via the team briefing system throughout the period of this Plan (Central Management Unit).</p> <p>d) Ensure New TSN training needs are met throughout the period of this Plan by including New TSN in the Department's induction programme and responding to training needs as they arise (Training and Development Services Unit).</p>



<p><b>Business Area:</b> New TSN Unit</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> New TSN effectively implemented throughout all Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office</p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>OFMDFM 2</b></p> <p>To promote New TSN and PSI and advise Departments, relevant Agencies and NDPBs on its implementation and challenge current arrangements where necessary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Lead the Equality and Social Needs Steering Group to ensure it fulfils its terms of reference throughout the period of this Plan.</li> <li>b. Provide advice to Economic Policy Unit on Departments' contributions to Programme for Government, Public Service Agreements and Service Delivery Agreements within published timetables, to ensure their consistency with New TSN policy.</li> <li>c. Review and, where necessary, challenge the New TSN implications of Departments' proposed key policies and legislation and provide advice to Ministers on their consistency with New TSN policy throughout the period of this plan.</li> <li>d. Within DFP set timescales review and, where necessary, challenge key proposed actions by Departments in implementing New TSN and examine their expenditure and spending bids to ensure consistency with New TSN aims and objectives.</li> <li>e. By Autumn 2003, consult with relevant external organisations and public bodies on future directions for New TSN. Consider outcome in the context of the evaluation of New TSN.</li> <li>f. Following evaluation of New TSN, develop appropriate recommendations on the future of New TSN for consideration by Ministers and the Executive by September 2003.</li> </ol> <p><b>OFMDFM 3</b></p> <p>To identify and disseminate good practice to Departments and other Government bodies in relation to all aspects of New TSN.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. As part of the evaluation of New TSN, review core New TSN training material by March 2004 to ensure its continued relevance and provide advice and information to Departmental trainers involved in the delivery of New TSN training within their Departments, as required.</li> <li>b. Throughout the period of this Plan, consider New TSN research findings, their policy implications and disseminate advice and guidance as appropriate.</li> <li>c. By Autumn 2003, within the context of the evaluation of New TSN, establish relevant working groups to investigate good practice to inform the refinement of the policy.</li> </ol>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>OFMDFM 4</b></p> <p>To promote New TSN externally.</p>	<p>a. In liaison with Executive Information Service, arrange and launch press coverage for the 2003 New TSN Annual Report in Autumn 2003.</p> <p>b. By Autumn 2003, develop a mechanism to ensure effective involvement of social partners in the further refinement of the policy.</p> <p>c. By Autumn 2003, with the Executive Information Service and Equality and Social Needs Steering Group, develop a Communications Strategy to highlight New TSN developments.</p>
<p><b>OFMDFM 5</b></p> <p>To review and report on progress in implementing New TSN.</p>	<p>a. Provide the Equality and Social Needs Steering Group and the Executive with regular progress reports on New TSN, throughout the period of this Plan.</p> <p>b. Provide briefing on New TSN policy to Ministers, Executive and Committee of the Centre as required, throughout the period of this Plan.</p> <p>c. Work with the Equality and Social Needs Steering Group to develop a revised Action Planning and Review process by December 2003.</p> <p>d. Draft and submit to Ministers a New TSN Annual Report intended for publication in Autumn 2003.</p> <p>e. Work with Research Branch and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to facilitate the implementation of the New TSN monitoring plan, to be completed by the end of March 2004.</p>
<p><b>OFMDFM 6</b></p> <p>To chair and service PSI Working Groups dealing with issues for which there is no identifiable lead Department.</p>	<p>a. Develop a strategy to address the issues facing Older People by the end of March 2004.</p> <p>b. Publish good practice guidelines on making information accessible by Summer 2003.</p> <p>c. During the period of this Plan, publish a strategy to implement the Executive's response to the Disability Rights Task Force recommendations to bring forward improved rights for people with disabilities.</p>
<p><b>OFMDFM 7</b></p> <p>Inform other jurisdictions of developments in New TSN and take account of UK National, and other relevant, Anti-Poverty Strategy and policy developments.</p>	<p>a. Keep informed relevant contacts in UK Departments, in the Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Unit and in Scotland and Wales of developments in New TSN, and co-ordinate NI input to relevant UK reports, throughout the period of this Plan.</p> <p>b. Disseminate information to Ministers, Northern Ireland Departments and the NIO on relevant developments in UK Departments, Scotland, Wales and other jurisdictions, as appropriate throughout the period of this Plan.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Research Branch	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Robust data systems and methodologies for targeting and monitoring in New TSN
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
OFMDFM 8 To provide NI Departments and the NIO with appropriate New TSN relevant research and statistical input.	<p>a. Provide input to the Equality and Social Needs Research and Information Subgroup (ESNRIG) to ensure it fulfils its terms of reference throughout the period of this Plan.</p> <p>b. Provide advice and information to NI Departments and the NIO on statistical and research issues associated with New TSN training throughout the period of this Plan.</p> <p>c. Provide advice to NI Departments and the NIO on monitoring and targeting (including the redirection of resources) in New TSN as required throughout the period of this Plan.</p>
OFMDFM 9 To provide a structured approach to research on New TSN and to the evaluation of New TSN.	<p>a. Work with ESNRIG to facilitate supportive cross-departmental statistical and research developments on New TSN post-evaluation.</p> <p>b. Develop the Equality and Social Need Research and Information strategy post consultation through ESNRIG/ESNSG, obtain Ministerial approval and publish by September 2003.</p>
OFMDFM 10 To commission research on New TSN.	<p>a. Throughout the period of this Plan, commission independent research, to inform the implementation of New TSN, on projects which focus on poverty and factors associated with deprivation, and in particular which impact on people and areas.</p> <p>b. Throughout the period of this Plan, consider and develop innovative research approaches based on findings of existing research, and consult on these.</p>
OFMDFM 11 To disseminate research findings and statistical information relevant to New TSN.	<p>a. In 2003/2004, publish and disseminate reports of the findings from New TSN Research undertaken, with each report being published within 4 months of completion of the relevant research project.</p> <p>b. In addition to publications, all final reports will be disseminated through the Research Branch website at <a href="http://www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk">www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk</a>.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b>	Community Relations Unit
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Poor community relations and sectarianism amongst those who are most disadvantaged
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Improved community relations and a decrease in sectarianism amongst those who are most disadvantaged
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<b>OFMDFM 12</b> Incorporation of New TSN in the inter-departmental Community Relations Strategy.	To reflect the principles of New TSN in the Community Relations Strategy by December 2003.
<b>OFMDFM 13</b> To revise the existing funding formula for the District Council Community Relations Programme (DCCRP) for application to a permanent locally-based programme, for the allocation of resources, incorporating a New TSN weighting by March 2004.	Funding Strategy Group to be convened by October 2003 to consider emerging conclusions from the consultation on improving relations in Northern Ireland and to consider the revision of the existing funding formula for the DCCRP, for application to a permanent locally-based Good Relations Programme.
<b>OFMDFM 14</b> To monitor grant awards by CRC to ensure New TSN considerations are applied. Ensure CRC schemes of assistance reflect New TSN principles in the context of the new CR strategy.	To meet with Community Relations Council (CRC) by October 2003 and monitor awards made to ensure that New TSN considerations have been properly applied.  To provide advice and guidance to CRC by March 2004 in relation to New TSN application following implementation of the new CR strategy.
<b>OFMDFM 15</b> To ensure that New TSN principles continue to be reflected in the allocation and monitoring of funds in Peace 2 Measure 2.1.	To continue to include New TSN considerations in the selection procedure for awards for capital projects directly administered by the Community Relations Unit and put monitoring arrangements in place for grant applications by October 2003.  To continue to provide information and advice to the European Programme of the CRC on New TSN matters as and when required.  To put arrangements in place by June 2003, in conjunction with the Community Relations Council to monitor grant recipients.

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Statutory Duty Unit</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Any correlation between socio-economic disadvantage and gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age, marital status, having dependants</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in any socio-economic disadvantage associated with gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age, marital status, having dependants</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>OFMDFM 16</b> To ensure New TSN and the Statutory Duty on Equality of Opportunity under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 are complementary.</p> <p>a. Throughout the period of this Plan make clear in advice to Public Authorities that action to counter social disadvantage is fully compatible with the Statutory Duty and advise Departments on section 75 issues arising from the implementation of their New TSN Action Plans.</p> <p>b. On foot of information gathered in the review of consultation processes, in conjunction with the Department of Social Development, issue by September 2003 agreed guidance to improve consultation processes</p> <p>c. Following Ministerial approval issue by September 2003, formal guidance to public authorities on consultation methods</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Anti-discrimination Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of awareness experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland, of their rights to equal treatment and the help available to them</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Increased awareness among disadvantaged people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland of their rights and help that is available to them</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>OFMDFM 17</b></p> <p>To enable the Equality Commission to produce and implement a New TSN Action Plan.</p>	<p>a. Obtain draft New TSN Action Plan from ECNI within the Unit's required timescale and seek New TSN Unit's approval .</p> <p>b. Confirm Departmental approval of each year's plan within 2 weeks of New TSN Unit's response to ECNI</p>
<p><b>OFMDFM 18</b></p> <p>To monitor progress made by the Equality Commission towards increasing awareness amongst the target constituencies</p>	<p>a. To review progress against the Equality Commission's New TSN Action Plan on a quarterly basis.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Gender Equality Unit	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in northern Ireland	
<b>Desired outcome:</b> New TSN to be built into the work of Gender Equality Unit	
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>OFMDFM 19</b> Build New TSN into the work on the Gender Equality Unit during 2003/4	<p>a. New TSN principles to be included in the Gender Equality Strategy as an underpinning principle and discussed with Government Departments, Statutory bodies and NGOs as part of the consultation process by December 2003.</p>
<b>OFMDFM 20</b> Liaise with government departments and the sectors to develop the appropriate gender scoping study baseline information into phase 1 Gender Action Plans by March 2004	<p>a. Initial scoping study findings disseminated to interested parties by December 2003</p> <p>b. Phase 1 action planning process agreed by March 2004</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Economic Policy Unit</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> New TSN effectively implemented throughout all Northern Ireland Departments and the NIO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p>a. Throughout the period of this Plan, in association with the New TSN Unit, to ensure that New TSN is reflected in the development of policy at a strategic level, including in the Programme for Government.</p> <p>b. Throughout the period of this Plan, in association with the New TSN Unit, to ensure that New TSN is taken into account in relevant cross-Departmental work.</p> <p>c. Ensure, in the development of policy on Executive Programme Funds including the criteria for decisions on allocations that New TSN principles are taken into account.</p> <p>d. In taking forward work to refine Public Service Agreements and to develop Service Delivery Agreements, ensure that New TSN is reflected.</p> <p>e. By 30 June 2003, issue a Policy-Making Guide to all Departments, including guidance on taking account of New TSN in policy-making.</p> <p>f. By 31 October 2003, pilot an Integrated Impact Assessment tool designed to provide a vehicle for New TSN proofing and other types of proofing of new policies.</p>
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p>OFMDFM 21</p> <p>To further embed New TSN in cross-Departmental policies</p>	



<b>Business Area:</b> Race Equality Unit	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	New TSN to be built into the work of the Race Equality Unit
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<b>OFMDFM 22</b> To develop and establish government policy and strategy on race, including Minority Ethnic people and Travellers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete public consultation on Northern Ireland Race Equality Strategy by July 2003.</li> <li>b. By March 2004 publish the finalised Northern Ireland Race Equality Strategy and associated action plan for implementation.</li> <li>c. During 2003 create the Northern Ireland Race Forum and associated thematic group on Travellers.</li> <li>d. During 2004 begin implementation of the Northern Ireland Race Equality Strategy and associated action plan.</li> <li>e. On an ongoing basis, liaise and consult with the Departments and the sector to identify main racial equality related indicators that impact on social disadvantage to help inform the implementation of the Northern Ireland Race Equality Strategy and the work of the Northern Ireland Race Forum.</li> </ul>
<b>OFMDFM 23</b> To establish and provide targeted support for Minority Ethnic groups and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To consider grant applications and award monies as appropriate during 2003.</li> <li>b. By November 2003 to complete the review of the funding scheme.</li> <li>c. By March 2004 implement any changes to the funding scheme that arise from the review.</li> </ul>

<b>Business Area:</b>	Victims Unit
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Disadvantage experienced by victims of the Northern Ireland conflict
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Addressing the needs of the most socially disadvantaged victims of the Northern Ireland conflict
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<b>OFMDFM 24</b> To take forward the actions contained in the cross-departmental strategy for victims	a. To ensure that New TSN priorities are taken into account in the implementation of the victims' strategy which runs until March 2004.
<b>OFMDFM 25</b> To manage the Victims strategy Implementation Fund	a. To ensure that Departments and Agencies are adequately funded to carry out projects which will acknowledge and address the needs of those who have suffered most
<b>OFMDFM 26</b> To develop a new cross-departmental strategy for victims which will run from April 2004 and build on progress already made.	a. To reflect the principles of New TSN in the draft strategy by March 2004.
<b>OFMDFM 27</b> To manage Peace II Measure 2.4b	a. To ensure that arrangements are in place to monitor grant allocations to projects aimed at re-skilling, re-training and re-employment of victims.

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Children and Young People's Unit</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by children in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Securing the rights and meeting the needs of the most socially disadvantaged children in Northern Ireland</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p>a. Informal consultation ongoing to gather information to develop proposals for the consultation document to be issued in June 2003. In particular, systematic consideration will be given to those children and young people who are vulnerable, in need, marginalized or excluded, and the issue of child poverty will be addressed.</p> <p>b. Strategy to be published by March 2004.</p>
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>OFMDFM 28</b></p> <p>To reflect the principles of New TSN in the children's strategy to be published by March 2004</p>	

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Central Information Technology Unit (Northern Ireland)</p> <p>Unequal access to computing and internet technology across society in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> To ensure that access to computing and information technology for citizens in Northern Ireland is on a par with the "Information Elite" countries and that all citizens irrespective of barriers can access the technology</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>OFMDFM 29</b></p> <p>To ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• those in lower socio economic groups;</li> <li>• those with disabilities;</li> <li>• the elderly; and</li> <li>• other groupings in society identified fisheries-dependent communities as having lower access opportunities to computing and internet technologies have relevant ,convenient, low cost facilities available to them.</li> </ul> <p><b>OFMDFM 30</b></p> <p>To commission timely research aimed at those NI Citizens identified as</p>
<p>a. By 2005, to ensure that the percentage of NI citizens who will recognize and be prepared to take advantage of the access opportunities available, will be on par with the 'information elite' countries (70%).</p> <p>b. By 2005, difficulties experienced by certain groupings in society to accessing modern computing and Internet technology will have been overcome.</p> <p>c. By June 2003, a Digital Inclusion Unit will be established to drive forward the implementation of the 'Digital Inclusion strategy For Northern Ireland'</p> <p>d. By October 2003, to establish a Digital Inclusion Working Group comprising membership across the Northern Ireland public, private and voluntary and community sectors to direct digital inclusion activities (in support of the Digital Inclusion Strategy).</p>	<p>a. By June 2003 to publish the outcomes of a NISRA Omnibus survey into access to, and attitudes towards, computing and Internet technologies.</p> <p>By December 2003 for the Digital Inclusion Unit to have identified relevant areas to research obstacles to and enablers of computing and internet use.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> DARD</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage among rural people, groups and areas and fisheries-dependent communities in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Need to tackle rural disadvantage fully recognised in DARD plans and programmes and understood by staff and NDPBs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DARD 1</b>                  Improve understanding of New TSN amongst staff.                  Provide awareness training to all DARD senior staff by 30 December 2003.                  Review and update the New TSN induction material provided to all new entrants to the Department by 30 September 2003.                  Continue to disseminate information on New TSN to all staff. (The DARD Intranet will be constantly promoted and updated to ensure that all staff are aware of their New TSN obligations.)</p> <p><b>DARD 2</b>                  Incorporate New TSN into the DARD Business Strategy                  DARD's 2003 Business Strategy will reflect New TSN principles.</p> <p><b>DARD 3</b>                  To introduce New TSN considerations into NDPBs business planning.                  a. Liaise with the Rural Development Council, the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission and the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority to ensure their NTSN Action Plans are fully implemented and that NTSN is embedded in all their activities.                  b. Provide continuing help and support to DARD's NDPBs with all aspects of New TSN.</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Service Delivery Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage in rural areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Encourage economic growth in disadvantaged areas</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DARD 4</b></p> <p>To develop and commence delivery of a Rural Connect Service with an aim to ensure farm families within disadvantaged areas are aware of DARD/Government's support services.</p>	<p>a. Establish the Rural Connect Service by June 2003.</p> <p>b. Produce a publication detailing relevant information on DARD/Government support services by June 2003.</p> <p>c. Over the course of the year, host 60% of information events within disadvantaged areas.</p>
<p><b>DARD 5</b></p> <p>To review participation in the Beef Quality Initiative programme with respect to New TSN</p>	<p>By October 2003, review the location of participants on the Beef Quality Initiative during 2002/03 against the Noble Index of Deprivation, making appropriate recommendations to the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Environment for action in implementing the Beef Quality Initiative during 2003/04.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Service Delivery Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Economic and social disadvantage in rural areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To stimulate the economic and social revitalisation of rural areas of Northern Ireland, with a particular focus on disadvantage</p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p>	<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>
<p><b>DARD 6</b></p> <p>To ensure that disadvantaged rural groups can avail of the opportunities offered by the 2001-2006 Rural Development Programme.</p>	<p>a. Working through local partnership groups, launch 5 Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative local strategies by 1 June 2003</p> <p>b. Working through the Rural Development Council, launch a rural transport initiative by 31 May 2003</p> <p>c. Working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Rural Community Network, launch a community estates programme by 30 June 2003</p> <p>d. To continue working with the International Fund for Ireland on its Disadvantaged Areas Initiative</p> <p>e. To continue to provide support, through the Rural Community Network, for 12 Rural Support Networks and to launch a new Network by 31 July 2003</p> <p>f. To launch by 31 December 2003, an area based strategy covering disadvantaged areas around Lough Neagh</p> <p>g. To call for sectoral programme applications by 30 June 2003 with a focus on under represented groups, specifically women, youth, farm families and the long term unemployed</p> <p>h. To keep New TSN on the agenda for future Rural Development Steering Group meetings to identify areas where a number of co-ordinated actions can be established</p>
<p><b>DARD 7</b></p> <p>To ensure that farmers and members of farm families avail of the opportunities under the PEACE II Measures 1.6, 1.7A, 1.9 &amp; 5.6B</p>	<p>To have 50 groups of farmers engaged in group training by 31 March 2004</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Farm, Food, Environmental and Horticultural Policy</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage in rural areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Encourage economic growth in disadvantaged areas</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DARD 8</b></p> <p>To further imbed New TSN considerations into the revised 2004 Less Favoured Areas Compensatory Allowances Scheme (LFACA).</p> <p>To bring forward proposals for a revised LFACA scheme which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintains the 2:1 differential in the rates of aid according to land classification as it makes a significant contribution to New TSN by targeting funds to the most disadvantaged areas;</li> <li>• will introduce measures designed to achieve a more equitable distribution of support across the 2 principle LFA farming activities of sheep production and cattle rearing, thereby helping to sustain the viability of the predominant farming activity of cattle rearing, the sector shown to have received significantly reduced support under the previous arrangements.</li> </ul> <p>To obtain Ministerial approval for the proposed changes by 30 April 2003</p> <p>To obtain EU approval for the proposed changes through a modification to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Regulation Plan by 31 December 2003.</p> <p>To ensure that national legislation permitting the implementation of the changes is operational by 29 February 2004.</p> <p>To commence payment processing during March 2004.</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Policy and Economics Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage in rural areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Encourage economic growth in disadvantaged areas</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DARD 9</b></p> <p>Embed NTSN in all development work undertaken by the DARD Policy Unit</p>	<p>Build NTSN into the policy development process and ensure staff are given appropriate awareness training.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Fisheries Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage in fisheries-dependent communities</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To sustain and enhance the employment opportunities in Sea Fisheries</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DARD 10</b></p> <p>Taking account of declining fish stocks, sustain and enhance employment opportunities in Sea Fisheries</p>	<p>a. Monitor employment, wage and skill levels in the three main fishing ports.</p> <p>b. Monitor and analyse performance of grant schemes under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance programme against baselines, and re-target as necessary</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Forest Service</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of access to forest facilities by disadvantaged people</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To address disadvantage or inequality in relation to access to forestry services</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DARD 11</b> To reduce barriers to forest access for recreational and educational purposes by disadvantaged sectors of society.</p>	<p>By 31 March 2004 develop a mechanism to gather baseline data to identify opportunities to reduce barriers to the use of forest recreation areas.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> All</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> New TSN integrated in organisational culture</p>	
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	
<p><b>DCAL 1</b></p> <p>Raise awareness of New TSN within culture, arts and leisure organisations</p>	<p>1.1 Develop a common training package (All; DCAL to lead)</p> <p>1.2 Provide awareness training to all new staff (All)</p> <p>1.3 Include overview of New TSN in induction manuals for new staff and undertake New TSN training for appropriate staff (All)</p>
<p><b>DCAL 2</b></p> <p>Mainstream New TSN into organisational activities</p>	<p>2.1 Take account of New TSN in business plans and job plans (All)</p>

<p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> All</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Increased participation by disadvantaged people</p>	
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	
<p><b>DCAL 3</b></p> <p>Identify action to overcome barriers to participation in culture, arts and leisure.</p>	<p>3.1 Consider 'Barriers' research and bring together stakeholders to agree action by March 2004. (DCAL to lead)</p>
<p><b>DCAL 4</b></p> <p>Increased participation in sport by disadvantaged people</p>	<p>4.1 Appoint six Community Sport Development Officers, for the Community Sport Programme to work with disadvantaged groups in 5 specific areas within Northern Ireland and one NI wide post (Disability) by October 2003 (Sports Council for Northern Ireland)</p> <p>4.2 District Council Sports Development Network - The Sports Council is supporting financially the work of Sports Development Officers in Derry/Londonderry, Larne and Carrickfergus. The officers' work, centres on increasing participation with underrepresented groups. Specific targets have been set for each officer. All targets to be met by 31 March 2004. (SCNI)</p>

New TSN objective	Actions
<p><b>DCAL 5</b></p> <p>Increased participation in museums by disadvantaged people</p>	<p>5.1 Implement the first phase of MAGNI learning and access action plan as follows - (MAGNI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver cross community TSN residential project, UAFF, targeted to four pairs of schools identified from WELB by June 2003.</li> <li>• Complete Free School Meals mapping project, uptake of museum visits by July 2003.</li> <li>• Commence staff training in e learning and associated skills by September 2003.</li> <li>• Activate Coming to your Senses project for visually impaired people by October 2003.</li> <li>• Review current provision for Work Experience students and develop MAGNI policy by January 2004.</li> <li>• Benchmark our Learning and Access work against Best Practice, measured by reference to other museums and relevant organisations by March 2004.</li> </ul> <p>5.2 Deliver MAGNI outreach programme for 2003/04 (run in partnership with CRC) in support of community-based projects exploring the historical legacies of division, identity and diversity by conducting up to twenty projects by March 2004 (MAGNI)</p> <p>5.3 Skew 50% of available grant-in-aid for projects that increase access to collections for disadvantaged people. (NIMC)</p> <p>5.4 Disseminate information on Resource's Inspiring Learning for All standard for access and learning for museums, archives and libraries by December 2003. (NIMC/MAGNI/PRONI//DCAL/ELBs/ETI)</p> <p>5.5 Commission, by March 2004, an audit of all registered museums to ascertain the existing provision for people with disabilities and to make recommendations to the 38 museums concerning the reasonable steps they could take in compliance with DDA (NIMC)</p> <p>5.6 Make the on-site and outreach services provided by the Armagh Planetarium better known by having 12 visits by groups of older people from disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>5.7 Work with partner groups in industry and education to visit schools and community groups as well as bringing them to the Planetarium site, targeting 4 major events, and 10 special needs school events by 31 March 2004. (AP)</p> <p>5.8 To provide, in conjunction with MAGNI, an Irish Language translation of leaflets for 1 museum by March 2004. (Foras na Gaeilge)</p>

New TSN objective	Actions
<p><b>DCAL 6</b></p> <p>Increased participation in Arts by disadvantaged people</p>	<p>6.1 Establish and deliver the Creative Youth Partnerships (CYP) scheme by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establishing current levels of activity by carrying out a baseline mapping exercise by January 2004;</li> <li>b. Establishing 5 three-year development posts for each youth action zone by January 2004;</li> <li>c. Establishing and sustaining 5 local action zone support groups by March 2004. (ACNI)</li> </ul> <p>6.2 Pilot a mentoring programme with 2 organisations (1 minority ethnic and 1 inter-face) to plan and develop their community arts practice. Evaluate and report by March 2004 (ACNI)</p> <p>6.3 Conduct baseline study on current participation rates in the arts of artists and audience with disabilities. Completion by March 2004. (ACNI)</p> <p>6.4 Extend young people's access to the arts by establishing a web portal for young people in conjunction with OFMDFM and other government departments by October 2003. (ACNI)</p>
<p><b>DCAL 7</b></p> <p>Increased participation in libraries by disadvantaged people</p>	<p>7.1 Map activity and record levels of participation in libraries serving wards with high deprivation indicators for the following activities Bookstart; Children's reading groups; Adult reading groups; Reader development sessions; story telling programmes; Story-telling outreach sessions; Yarn-spinning programmes; Reminiscence sessions (ELBs).</p> <p>7.2 Roll out public access computer facilities to all feasible mobile libraries and promote the use of these facilities in areas of need by 31 October 2003. (ELBs)</p> <p>7.3 Agree methodology for Community Profiling by March 2004 in preparation for implementation in 2004 and onwards. (ELBs)</p>
<p><b>DCAL 8</b></p> <p>Increased participation in Inland Fisheries by disadvantaged people</p>	<p>8.1 Improve fisheries in the Public Angling estate and invest in water recreational facilities in NTSN areas to assist economic growth through added visitor attractions by 31 March 2004. (DCAL)</p>

New TSN objective	Actions
<p><b>DCAL 9</b> Increased participation in Inland Waterways by disadvantaged people</p>	<p>9.1 Establish 3 partnerships with appropriate organisations to encourage greater uptake of use of the waterways by disadvantaged people through provision of additional facilities by March 2004.</p>
<p><b>DCAL 10</b> Increased participation in Film and Television by disadvantaged people</p>	<p>10.1 NIFTC to impose consideration of NTSN in funding agreements with its delivery partners; that is Cinemagic, Foyle Film Festival, QFT, Northern Visions, Nerve Centre and Belfast Film Festival for the year 2003/2004. Feedback will be sought by December 2003. (NIFTC)</p> <p>10.2 30% of the Outreach Officer's workshops using the Digital Film Archive to involve disadvantaged people (NIFTC)</p>
<p><b>DCAL 11</b> Increased uptake of PRONI facilities by socially disadvantaged groups and to support education and learning by socially disadvantaged people</p>	<p>11.1 Implement action plan for outreach to those in areas of social disadvantage, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations/workshops to 7 schools and 7 community groups by March 2004</li> <li>• Visits from 3 schools by March 2004</li> <li>• Develop a learning resource on 'Victorian Times' for primary schools by December 2003</li> <li>• Introduce a new Fees Order with differential charging to encourage wider use of archival sources by March 2004</li> <li>• Supply targeted information to 50 libraries and community groups by March 2004 to encourage more adults into lifelong learning. (PRONI)</li> </ul>



<p><b>Business Area:</b> Astronomy and related sciences</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Increased access to scientific knowledge amongst socially disadvantaged groups</p>	
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objective</b></p> <p><b>DCAL 12</b>                      Improve opportunities among disadvantaged sections of the community to experience scientific research in a high-technology environment</p>	<p>12.1 Facilitate an inclusive work experience programme for a person with disabilities. This is ongoing.</p> <p>12.2 Continue to monitor participation on student programme placements with reference to New TSN.</p>
<p><b>DCAL 13</b>                      Improve access to the Northern Ireland scientific and cultural heritage</p>	<p>13.1 Continue to promote e-access to astronomical and meteorological information, achieving 370,000 distinct e-visitors for the calendar year 2003.</p> <p>13.2 Continue to encourage visits by people from socially disadvantaged areas or scientifically disadvantaged backgrounds (AO)</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Libraries/Arts/Sport</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Enhanced skills and opportunities for disadvantaged people, groups and areas</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Actions</b></p> <p>14.1 Implement DCAL's Learning Strategy in respect of disadvantaged people. Targets for this, differ between boards and will be met for 2003/04 by the 5 ELB's (ELBs)</p> <p>14.2 Support the development of expertise and skills within the community arts and voluntary arts sectors by including provision in the Business Support framework by March 2004. (ACNI)</p> <p>14.3 Build the capacity and skills of people in disadvantaged areas in sports development through the Community Sport Development Officer network. Baseline to be established by 31 March 2004. (SCNI)</p>
<p><b>New TSN objective</b></p> <p><b>DCAL 14</b> Enhance skills and thereby increase opportunities for disadvantaged people</p>	

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Inland Waterways and Inland Fisheries/ Creativity / Linguistic Diversity</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Increased economic activity in disadvantaged areas and by disadvantaged people</p>		
<p><b>New TSN objective</b></p> <p><b>DCAL 15</b> Promote water-based tourism in disadvantaged areas.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Actions</b></p> <p>15.1 Allocate at least 60% of grant aid under EU funded angling and water recreational development programmes in disadvantaged areas (DCAL)</p>	
<p><b>DCAL 16</b> Increase economic activity by Irish language speakers in socially-disadvantaged areas</p>	<p>16.1 Irish language film and television - Second pilot broadcasting training course to be run by March 2004. (DCAL)</p> <p>16.2 Draft business case for an Irish Language Production Fund to be completed by mid September 2003. (DCAL)</p> <p>16.3 Facilitate access by socially disadvantaged Ulster-Scots to Government and EU support for training and business development throughout the period of the plan. This will be done by hosting a conference and working with appropriate organisers and agencies by March 2004. (Ulster-Scots Agency)</p> <p>16.4 Facilitate access by socially disadvantaged Ulster-Scots to government, IFI and EU and other appropriate support for community and cultural development throughout the period of this plan. This will be achieved by working with appropriate organisers and agencies and by hosting a conference by March 2004. (Ulster-Scots Agency)</p> <p>16.5 Commission an audit of all registered museums to ascertain the existing provision for Irish speakers, including the Irish Medium sector, and to make recommendations to the 38 museums concerning the reasonable steps they could take under the Good Friday Agreement by 31 March 2004. (Foras na Gaeilge)</p> <p>16.6 Develop a policy and action plan to put in place the necessary interventions to meet the needs of the Irish Language and Ulster-Scots sector by October 2003 (Arts Council for Northern Ireland).</p>	

New TSN objective	Actions
<p><b>DCAL 17</b> Ensure that the next phase of the Unlocking Creativity strategy takes into consideration social need and social exclusion</p>	<p>17.1 Develop a new interdepartmental action plan, with DEL, DETI and DE, to take the strategy forward, by January 2004. Consult stakeholders on draft action plan, by December 2003. (DCAL)</p>
<p><b>DCAL 18</b> Increase economic activity in disadvantaged areas</p>	<p>18.1 Ensure NTSN is taken into account in all economic appraisals for projects with expenditure greater than 50,000 euro, by March 2004. (WI)</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Linguistic Diversity/Libraries/Museums</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Increased awareness and understanding of Minority ethnic groups</p>	
<p><b>New TSN objective</b></p> <p><b>DCAL 19</b>                  Increase awareness and understanding of minority ethnic groups within Northern Ireland</p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>19.1 Set up and agree Terms of Reference for an interdepartmental Working Group to take forward issues identified by minority ethnic stakeholders in Open Space conference by December 2003.</p> <p>19.2 Devise a Cultural Diversity strategy for local, regional and independent museums by March 2004. (NIMC)</p> <p>19.3 Promote cultural diversity in the arts by a) delivering a training programme on Cultural Diversity and Good Relations Duty Awareness by March 2004 and b) Complete a baseline study into the arts of and by ethnic minority communities by March 2004. (ACNI)</p> <p>19.4 Commence a programme to provide comprehensive diversity awareness training for library staff by 31 March 2004. (ELBs)</p> <p>19.5 Establish a baseline for library provision in minority languages materials by March 2004. (ELBs)</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI)</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Mapping support for all departments to enable effective use of data to target social need</p>	
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objective</b></p> <p><b>DCAL 20</b> To develop by December 2003 a Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement</p>	<p>20.1 Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement action plan to be developed by December 2003. (OSNI)</p>

## GLOSSARY

<b>DCAL</b>	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
<b>SCNI</b>	Sports Council of Northern Ireland
<b>MAGNI</b>	Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland
<b>UAFP</b>	Ulster/American Folk Park
<b>WELB</b>	Western Education and Library Board
<b>CRC</b>	Community Relations Council
<b>NIMC</b>	Northern Ireland Museums Council
<b>PRONI</b>	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
<b>ETI</b>	Education and Training Inspectorate
<b>DDA</b>	Disability Discrimination Act
<b>AP</b>	Armagh Planetarium
<b>ACNI</b>	Arts Council of Northern Ireland
<b>ELB</b>	Education and Library Board
<b>WI</b>	Waterways Ireland
<b>NIFTC</b>	Northern Ireland Film and Television Commission
<b>QFT</b>	Queen's Film Festival
<b>AO</b>	Armagh Observatory
<b>IFI</b>	Internal Fund for Ireland
<b>OSNI</b>	Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland

<p><b>Business Area:</b> General</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Low educational achievement, low personal and social skills and poor employability among disadvantaged groups and areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improved academic achievement, increased self esteem and employability among disadvantaged groups</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DE 1</b> To ensure that the New TSN policy is developed and implemented across the education service.</p>	<p>a. DE's Steering group oversees the incorporation of New TSN in its policies and programmes and its executive NDPBs and to ensure that it is an integral part of strategy and planning within these bodies.</p> <p>b. DE's Working Group co-ordinates New TSN action plan requirements within DE and its executive NDPBs and to communicate with sectoral partners and other interested parties on the performance of the Department and its NDPBs in implementing New TSN.</p>
<p><b>DE 2</b> To develop a better understanding of the effectiveness of different forms of education intervention in combating social disadvantage and low achievement.</p>	<p>a. Commence a research project, by May 2003, to track participants in Alternative Education Provision (AEP) for two years.</p> <p>b. The Youth Service Liaison Forum to consider the recommendations contained in the Report from the Young Adult's Policy Panel and draw up an Action Plan September 2003.</p> <p>c. To develop by March 2004 a support/representational strategy, which reaches out to and is inclusive of those organizations seeking to support young people identified under Section 75 and to actively promote good relations between those organizations and existing voluntary sector organizations.</p>
<p><b>DE 3</b> To enhance the impact of New TSN policy in education.</p>	<p>a. To keep under review the training requirements of all staff on New TSN.</p>



New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DE 4</b></p> <p>To ensure in tandem with our partners in DES, that Measure 5.5 “Education, Cross-border School and Youth Co-operation” of the PEACE 2 Programme, is efficiently implemented.</p>	<p>a. Agree outputs and targets with tranche 1 approved projects and issue Letters of Offer in May 2003.</p> <p>b. Launch 2nd tranche of funding in early May 2003.</p> <p>c. Select approved projects June 2003.</p> <p>d. Visit approved projects and issue letters of offer to successful 2nd tranche applicants by end June/July 2003.</p> <p>e. Ongoing payments to all projects and monitoring and reporting on the delivery of the Measure.</p>
<p><b>DE 5</b></p> <p>To improve the targeting and effectiveness of New TSN funding for schools in order to raise achievement levels.</p>	<p>a. Review the targeting of New TSN funds to schools and publish proposals for improvements by April 2003. Proposals to improve the targeting and effectiveness of New TSN funding for schools were published in the consultation document “A Common Funding Formula for Grant-aided Schools” in April 2001. These new arrangements were to come in to effect from April 2003 but had to be postponed due to the suspension of the devolved administration in Northern Ireland and the return to direct rule from Westminster.</p> <p>b. Develop and implement arrangements for schools to account for their use of New TSN funding by April 2003. The arrangements for schools to account for their use of New TSN funding were outlined in the consultation document, which issued in April 2001 (see DE7a above). These new arrangements will, because of delay in implementing the Common Funding Formula, not be introduced until April 2004.</p>
<p><b>DE 6</b></p> <p>To raise the quality of early learning for socially disadvantaged children and young people.</p>	<p>a. As part of the Inter-Departmental NI Childcare Strategy, maintain a level of funded pre-school education places sufficient to provide a funded place for every child in its immediate pre-school year whose parents wish it.</p> <p>b. In October 2002 £700k was distributed to the Education and Library Boards and the GMI sector based on the number of pupils in Year 2 in each Board and in the GMI sector. The resources were targeted at schools with the lowest proportion of their pupils reaching the expected standards for their age at Key Stage 2 and are to be used to employ classroom assistants to help teachers of P2 classes within the selected schools.</p> <p>c. Consider the development of early (0-3 years) language development schemes, in conjunction with DHSSPS 2003.</p>
<p><b>DE 7</b></p> <p>To assist low achieving schools to devise and implement strategies for self-improvement.</p>	<p>a. A new Strategy Group has been established to consider the way forward on School Improvement Policy, in conjunction with other major policy initiatives such as the new curriculum.</p>

Targets or actions and timescales	
<p><b>DE 8</b></p> <p>To improve educational provision in the lowest achieving schools with significant levels of disadvantage.</p>	<p>a. Group 1 Schools to develop Action Plans and submit to DE for Approval by Summer 2003.</p>
<p><b>DE 9</b></p> <p>To improve the quality of teaching in low achieving schools.</p>	<p>a. 2003/04 funding for SSP to be allocated to the Education and Library Boards by Summer 2003, ensuring that additional support is targeted at teachers and senior management in low and underachieving schools on foot of approved action plans.</p> <p>b. Train teachers of all subjects in low achieving schools in teaching literacy and numeracy by the end of the 2003/04 Academic Year.</p>
<p><b>DE 10</b></p> <p>To make education more relevant and interesting to children and young people.</p>	<p>a. Bid for resources to mainstream and expand out-of-school hours provision in disadvantaged areas in conjunction with existing youth service provision wherever possible.</p> <p>b. Pilot Project involving 6 schools serving areas of high social disadvantage throughout the period of this plan.</p> <p>c. Key stage 4 Flexibility Initiative in progress, enabling post-primary schools to discontinue aspects of the statutory curriculum in favour of innovative work-related learning programmes. Thirtythree schools participated in 00/01; 57 schools participated in 01/02; 74 schools participated in 02/03; applications have been invited for 03/04.</p> <p>d. Consider the role that could be played by the Youth Sector in removing the barriers to the effective use of information and communication technology by March 2003.</p> <p>e. Consider ways to implement the preferred option contained in the Economic Appraisal by March 2005.</p> <p>f. The Northern Ireland Business Education Partnerships (NIBEP) was re-constituted in September 2000 with a 3-year strategy to strengthen Business/Education links. NIBEP in taking forward its new Strategy will give priority to the development of activities targeted at disadvantaged locations and groups. Progress will be dependent on funding.</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DE 11</b></p> <p>To promote social inclusion of specified groups of children and young people at risk of underachievement or marginalisation.</p>	<p>Reduce by 20% the number of pupils with multiple suspensions by 2003 compared to 2000/01.</p> <p>a. Returns to the Department indicate an overall increase of 20% in the number of pupils with multiple suspensions during the period 2001/02 compared to 2000/01. While there appears to be an underlying trend towards an increase, the most significant increases have occurred in areas of civil strife. A major review of suspensions and expulsions arrangements began in August 2002 and the working group is expected to publish proposals in September 2003.</p>
<p><b>DE 12</b></p> <p>To promote the inclusion in mainstream schools of children with special educational needs.</p>	<p>a. To continue to review effective strategies for the successful integration of children with special educational needs in mainstream schools and classes, and produce a policy paper on inclusion.</p> <p>b. To continue to review the training needs of teachers in mainstream schools in meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and produce a training strategy.</p> <p>c. To produce recommendations on the future local provision for children with special educational needs currently educated outside NI.</p>
<p><b>DE 13</b></p> <p>To ameliorate the disadvantage suffered by pupils in socially disadvantaged families by raising family income and improving the accuracy of DE targeting through Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement.</p>	<p>a. To develop, by September 2004, an action plan to publicize the entitlement and encourage greater uptake of Free School Meals. Work on this cannot begin until patterns of eligibility for benefits and entitlement of FSM have been established. The Department has agreed with DSD that this should be taken forward via the medium of the Family Resources survey, which commenced in April 2002. Agreement has been reached with DSD regarding the questions to be included in the survey. Results from this survey will be publicly available in April 2004.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Youth</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Exclusion of young people in disadvantaged areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Increase access to, and participation in, youth programmes</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DE 14</b></p> <p>To alleviate social need through focused youth provision.</p>	<p>a. Support NDPB's in determining priorities and basing their funding decisions on the basis of an audit of provision and social exclusion from March 2004.</p> <p>b. To continue to take advantage of the Executive Programme Funding for capital projects, Social Inclusion and Children at Risk Initiatives by March 2004.</p> <p>c. By March 2004 to invite applications from key stakeholders for funding of new initiatives under Social Inclusion and Children at Risk.</p>
<p><b>DE 15</b></p> <p>To assist youth service providers to devise and implement strategies for work with young people at risk.</p>	<p>a. To continue to support the work of the Curriculum Development Unit and seek evaluation of the Unit by March 2004.</p> <p>b. Consider, on the basis of the evaluation of the Curriculum Development Unit, further funding until March 2006.</p>
<p><b>DE 16</b></p> <p>To contribute to the raising of achievement in disadvantaged areas by improving the quality of youth service provision.</p>	<p>a. A scoring mechanism, including a TSN element, has been drawn up to prioritise applications for capital grants.</p> <p>b. Give priority, in areas of disadvantage, to provision of in-service training and support for youth workers throughout the period of this plan.</p>

<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<p><b>DE 17</b></p> <p>To promote equality of access to youth provision for socially disadvantaged children and young people.</p>	<p>a. Investigate the barriers to equality of access to youth provision for socially disadvantaged children and young people by March 2004. To increase to 34% by 2004 the number of young people who are members of youth service organizations from a baseline of 32%.</p> <p>b. By 2004, to evaluate schemes being piloted to assist youth service providers to improve access to youth service provision for socially disadvantaged children and young people including those with severe learning difficulties.</p> <p>c. Disseminate learning from the evaluations Province-wide by March 2005.</p>
<p><b>DE 18</b></p> <p>To increase participation of socially disadvantaged young people in the Schools Community Relations Programme (SCRIP) and Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme (YSCRSS).</p>	<p>a. SCRIP- The programme is currently being reviewed. In developing future guidelines the Department will reinforce ELB's policy that applications from schools in disadvantaged areas should be supported. - March 2004.</p> <p>b. YSCRSS- The ELB's have agreed to be particularly supportive to applicants from Organizations/Projects from disadvantaged areas. - March 2004.</p>
<p><b>DE 19</b></p> <p>To raise participation of young people in community relations in areas of social disadvantages.</p>	<p>a. Community Relations Core Funding Scheme – A further round of Core Funding for period April 2004-07 will be advertised in 2003/04 and those applying will be asked to supply details of how they propose to target young people in socially disadvantaged areas. A new baseline will be established as part of the next round of core funding.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> DEL	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Disadvantage in terms of access to employment, training, and further and higher education.
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Effective integration of New TSN into DEL's planning and operations.
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<b>DEL 1</b> To ensure commitment to New TSN at all levels within DEL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Ensure that New TSN is integrated into the Department's corporate planning and policy formulation processes throughout the period of this Plan.</li> <li>b Provide general information and maintain awareness in relation to New TSN within DEL via the Department's Intranet service.</li> <li>c Ensure coverage of New TSN in all staff induction training throughout the period of this Plan.</li> </ul>

<b>Business Area:</b> Lifelong Learning Strategy.	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Low levels of qualifications and basic skills among socially disadvantaged groups or individuals.
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Increased employability among these groups or individuals and raised levels of adult basic skills.
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>DEL 2</b> To promote New TSN within the Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Continue to monitor FE participation by gender/age/community background and HE participation by gender/age/socio-economic group/community background and disability.</li> <li>b Monitor colleges' response to New TSN through analysis of college development plans throughout the period of this plan</li> <li>c Monitor the performance of the HE Institutions against the targets set in their action plans.</li> </ul>
<b>DEL 3</b> To improve the targeting and effectiveness of New TSN funding for HE and FE.	(a) Evaluate the impact of the review of student support against targets for widening participation in 2003.
<b>DEL 4</b> To promote wider access to HE and FE by the socially disadvantaged and socially excluded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a By June 2003 determine the future of "Step Up" (UU) and "Discovering Queens" projects in light of the evaluation of the initial phase.</li> <li>b By June 2003 make detailed recommendations to the Minister regarding the introduction of an Educational Maintenance (EMA) model tailored to meet Northern Ireland needs.</li> <li>c During 2003/04 introduce a Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill (or order in council) for Northern Ireland</li> <li>d During 2003/04 fund 330 additional full time equivalent higher education student places.</li> </ul>

Targets or actions and timescales	
<p><b>DEL 5</b></p> <p>To raise the levels of essential skills among the adult population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a To have supported 14,500 learners to update their essential skills by March 2004 (PFG)</li> <li>b By March 2004 to have in place essential skills qualifications ranging from entry level to level 2</li> <li>c By March 2004 to have in place a system for tracking the progression of learners against the essential skills qualifications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DEL 6</b></p> <p>To enhance the employability of students in FE and HE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a During 2003/04 commence implementation of the proposed strategy and way forward for Further Education (PFG)</li> <li>b By September 2003 to have in place full support arrangements for curriculum and staff development.</li> <li>c By June 2003, determine the future of Foundation Degrees in light of the evaluation of the pilot.</li> <li>d By March 2004 to provide the opportunity for a further 30 FE lecturers to return to industry for up to three months to update their skills.(PFG)</li> </ul>
<p><b>DEL 7</b></p> <p>To increase significantly adult participation in vocational education and training, including access to further and higher education and training from groups previously under represented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a By May 2003 to have in place revisions to the <b>learnirect</b> funding formula to address barriers to participation in learning through this route.</li> <li>b By May 2003 confirm allocation of 120 higher education places in Further Education colleges for the academic year 2003/04</li> <li>c During 2003/04 initiate a review of Adult Learner support(PFG)</li> <li>d By March 2004 to have provided financial support for 15,000 adults to learn via <b>learnirect</b> and other innovative approaches</li> </ul>



<p><b>Business Area:</b> New Deal</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment among 18-24 year olds in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance, (JSA) for 6 months and those 18-24 year olds eligible for early entry to the New Deal.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Unemployment among people aged 25+ in receipt of JSA for 18 months</p> <p>(a) To get unemployed people into jobs, and to help them stay in employment.</p> <p>(b) To increase the long-term employability of unemployed people by improving their self-respect, their skills, their experience and their motivation.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DEL 8</b></p> <p>To assist people to move into and sustain employment</p>	<p>Review New Deal Core Gateway provision by 31 March 2004, identify best practice and complete an action plan for implementation in 2004/2005, which will, in particular, target provision at the needs of those facing multiple barriers to employment.</p> <p>Introduce by January 2004 a New Deal Adviser Discretion Fund in Target Initiative areas .</p> <p>Introduce by January 2004 Essential Skills incentives in Target Initiative areas.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Job brokerage and Joint Service delivery by DEL and SSA</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment among benefits recipients.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Unemployed people getting into jobs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DEL 9</b> To help unemployed people move from welfare to work</p> <p>a. During 2003/04, help 13,000 unemployed people move from welfare to work including New Deal participants and people with disabilities (PFG)</p> <p>b. By September 2003, the Department will have commenced the Targeted Initiatives to pilot new approaches to overcoming barriers to employment in selected areas of low employment and high deprivation, as recommended by the Taskforce on Employability and Long term unemployment</p> <p>c. By March 2004, to have developed a more cohesive strategy for encouraging employers to actively help the more disadvantaged in NI into work</p> <p>d. By March 2004, extend the new joint Jobs and Benefits service to 20 of the 35 Social Security offices and JobCentres in Northern Ireland</p> <p>e. Achieve a 15% reduction in the jobseekers register for each of the Jobs and Benefits offices within three months of go-live.</p> <p>f. By March 2004, implement new work focused interview procedures in all Jobs and Benefits offices</p> <p>g. By September 2003, the Department will, jointly with the SSA develop a strategy to communicate to customers new ways of working in the Jobs and Benefits offices</p> <p>h. Based on research carried out in 2002/03, during 2003/04 the Department will develop its programmes and services to meet the needs of its expanded customer base.</p> <p>i. By March 2004, to make vacancy information available through Touch Screen Kiosks in all JobCentres and Jobs and Benefits Offices</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Education and Training for 16-19 year olds</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Employability of young people, including those with special needs, who leave school on attaining the minimum school leaving age.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To provide young people in the target group with the skills which will enable them to secure and progress in Employment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DEL 10</b> To enable trainees to achieve vocational and vocationally related qualifications and Key Skills.</p> <p>To ensure that by March 2004 60% of trainees who commenced a Jobskills Traineeship in 2000/01 achieve an NVQ at level 2, compared with the 1999/00 intake</p> <p>To ensure that by September 2004 65% of those who commenced a Jobskills Modern Apprenticeship in 1999/00 achieve an NVQ at level 3(PfG)</p> <p>During 2003/04 begin implementation of the key findings of the review of the planning, funding and management of education and training programmes for 16-19 year olds(PfG)</p> <p>By May 2003 to set qualification achievement rates against which individual training organizations will be assessed (NVQ level 2)</p> <p>By May 2003 to set qualification achievement rates against which individual training organizations and sector training councils will be assessed (NVQ level 3)</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Bridge to Employment  <b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment in general and long term unemployment (12 months or longer) in particular.  <b>Desired outcome:</b> To provide unemployed people with the opportunities to compete on an equal basis with others for new jobs created through inward investment and expansion of NI companies.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DEL 11</b>                  To attract more long term unemployed people onto the programme.</p> <p>By March 2004 to train 500 unemployed people on Bridge to Employment courses, 400 of whom will be offered employment(at an average cost of less than £1,800 per job)</p>
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<b>Business Area:</b>		Worktrack
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>		Long-term unemployment, principally among people not eligible to participate in the New Deals, including people who are economically inactive.
<b>Desired outcome:</b>		Progression into sustainable employment.
<b>New TSN objectives</b>		<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<b>DEL 12</b> To get people into sustainable employment.	During 2003/04 provide 2,000 temporary employment opportunities through the Worktrack programme for people not eligible to take part in any of the New Deal options.	

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Disablement Advisory Service</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment among people with disabilities (As defined by the Disability Discrimination Act).</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To get people with disabilities into employment and help them continue in employment.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DEL 13</b></p> <p>To get people with disabilities into employment and assist them to continue in employment.</p>	<p>a. Place 1400 people with a range of disabilities into employment. This figure includes 850 people moving from welfare to work; 200 people retaining employment after acquiring a disability; and 350 people obtaining work (including voluntary, therapeutic and other work experience) that will develop their employment potential</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment/employability of those people currently in receipt of Incapacity Benefit, Income Support with a Disability Premium or Severe Disablement Allowance.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To help people with a disability or long-term illness who are currently dependent on benefits to get into work and to remain in work.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DEL 14</b> To help people with a disability or long-term illness in receipt of the above benefits to get into work and to remain in work.</p>	<p>a. Evaluate the NDDP provision through a consultation process involving a range of services and disability voluntary organizations</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Ulster Supported Employment Limited (USEL)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment among people with severe disabilities.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To provide employment in a supported environment for people with severe disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DEL 15</b></p> <p>To provide employment for people with severe disabilities.</p>	<p>a. Continue to provide paid productive employment for at least 75 or more people with severe disabilities throughout 2003/ 2004.</p> <p>b. Monitor the implementation of Action Plans formulated by USEL management designed to increase factory employees' opportunities for personal development and progression.</p> <p>c. Monitor the implementation of USEL's Operational Plan for 2003/04</p>



<p><b>Business Area:</b> Training for Work Programme [This programme is now delivered by Enterprise Ulster]</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment among people who are not yet eligible to participate in the New Deal.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Progression into employment either during their participation in the programme or within 3 months of leaving the programme.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DEL 16</b> Enhance the capabilities, experience and training of the unemployed.</p>	<p>During 2003/04, provide 2,000 short term (6months) training opportunities through the Training for Work pilot programme for people not eligible to take part in any of the New Deal options</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> DETI Equality &amp; Diversity Working Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Effective strategic management of New TSN within DETI</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DETI 1</b></p> <p>To ensure continued top level commitment to New TSN throughout DETI and to enhance existing top level structure to drive New TSN forward.</p>	<p>DETI's Equality &amp; Diversity Working Group (EDWG), led by the Equality &amp; Diversity Unit of the Policy Services, Tourism &amp; Equality Division of DETI, has co-ordinated the development and implementation of this Plan and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to co-ordinate its implementation through monitoring meetings and regular reports to the Equality &amp; Diversity Steering Group (EDSG), the DETI Minister and the Departmental Management Board.</li> <li>b. Continue to provide advice and guidance throughout DETI.</li> <li>c. Prepare a progress report on this Plan and submit to the Minister and DETI Management Board for approval prior to publication in the New TSN Annual Report each year.</li> </ol>
<p><b>DETI 2</b></p> <p>To ensure all staff receive relevant training on New TSN and are kept informed of progress and ongoing developments.</p>	<p>The DETI Equality &amp; Diversity Working Group is responsible for appropriate training and development on New TSN as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. New TSN Workshops to be delivered as appropriate to staff in DETI HQ and its NDPBs by March 2004.</li> </ol> <p>Continued use of staff magazine and internal Staff Brief to inform staff of New TSN progress and developments - eg regular articles and coverage of specific developments or announcements.</p>
<p><b>DETI 3</b></p> <p>To ensure that the private sector, appropriate industry and trade union bodies, District Councils, local enterprise agencies and community and voluntary groups are aware of DETI's New TSN activities to enable a partnership approach to addressing unemployment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. During 2003/2004, continue to liaise with these organisations, in order to increase awareness of DETI's Equality activity, including New TSN, and facilitate increased collaboration.</li> </ol>

Targets or actions and timescales	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DETI 4</b> To continue to increase knowledge of impact of DETI activity on the labour market and, in particular, on the unemployed and long-term unemployed gaining employment in order to inform future policy and actions during the life of the Plan.</p>	<p>Consider the ongoing results of the Labour Recruitment Study by the QUB Centre for Spatial Territorial Analysis and Research into job location and its impact on disadvantaged (ie unemployed) individuals and disadvantaged areas to inform future targeting policy.</p> <p>a. Consider the ongoing results of the Labour Recruitment Study by the QUB Centre for Spatial Territorial Analysis and Research into job location and its impact on disadvantaged (ie unemployed) individuals and disadvantaged areas to inform future targeting policy.</p> <p>b. Continued implementation of DETI agencies' enhanced monitoring arrangements (including those involving third party agents) for the collection of data on those gaining employment from new or expansion projects or participating in training schemes as follows; location of individual (postcode); gender; disability; minority ethnic status; previous economic activity status (ie employee, self-employed, unemployed, education or economically inactive) and community background. Second annual statement on findings to be published by end-June 2003.</p> <p>c. Utilising data provided through the enhanced monitoring arrangements outlined at b. above, use the PwC Secondary Effects Model to provide an annual estimate of the indirect and secondary benefits of DETI assistance on the labour market. Second statement to be published by end-June 2003.</p> <p>Consider any further relevant research work undertaken by other organisations into labour market issues.</p>
<p><b>DETI 5</b> To identify what (if any) community differentials exist within each area of DETI activity.</p>	<p>a. Continue work during 2003/2004 to identify any community differentials within each area of DETI.</p>
<p><b>DETI 6</b> To ensure New TSN is taken into account in policy appraisal and evaluation activity and economic appraisal activity.</p>	<p>a. Include New TSN within Terms of Reference of all DETI policy appraisal and evaluation assignments and within economic appraisals.</p> <p>b. Integrate DFP guidance on how New TSN should be taken into account within financial accounting and monitoring systems into the Department's procedures as appropriate.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b>	DETI HQ – Economic Infrastructure Division	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Telecommunications – Social e-inclusion	
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Local access to affordable Broadband Services	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>DETI 7</b> To ensure that affordable broadband services are available to those who wish to avail of them, particularly in rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To ensure the percentage of households with access to affordable broadband services increases from its current (2003) level of 48% to 60% by 31 March 2004.</li> <li>b. Action to include supporting 3 pilot projects that encourage the rollout of broadband in areas - specifically New TSN areas – currently considered by the market as commercially non-viable.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Business Area:</b> DETI HQ - European Programmes</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Effective use of EU funds in addressing need</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DETI 8</b> To ensure that the DETI managed post-1999 EU Structural Funds programmes support the aims of New TSN.</p> <p>a. Ensure that the principle of Targeting Social Need is embedded in and delivered through post-1999 EU funding programmes, ie the PEACE II and Building Sustainable Prosperity and Interreg IIIA Operational Programmes. Relevant Programme Monitoring Committee to regularly monitor and review information captured on the DFP-developed central database and assess impact of EU Programmes on New TSN areas and groups.</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> DETI HQ – Strategic Policy Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in unemployment and increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed and long-term unemployed</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DETI 9</b> To contribute to DEL-led Task Force on Employability and Long Term Unemployment.</p>	<p>a. To contribute, as appropriate, to the Inter-Departmental Implementation Group established to ensure that each of the parties to the Action Plan (launched on 16 December 2002) take responsibility for delivering on their commitments.</p>
<p><b>DETI 10</b> To contribute to the implementation of the West Belfast Task Force's recommendations to reduce social and economic disadvantage in the West Belfast and Greater Shankill areas.</p>	<p>a. To chair the Inter-Departmental Group as Government's response to the West Belfast Task Forces' recommendations develop.</p> <p>b. In conjunction with DSD, to work with West Belfast Partnerships, employers and Enterprise Agencies to establish an Oversight Body by 30 June 2003.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> DETI HQ – Business Regulation Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Growth and development of the Social Economy sector</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DETI 11</b> To lead the development and implementation of a more integrated, strategic approach for the social economy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To ensure establishment and operation of an inclusive and effective Social Economy Network by Social Economy Agency against agreed targets and develop partnership approach with the SEA/Network. Progress to be reviewed on a quarterly basis.</li> <li>b. To develop, through the Inter-departmental Steering Group, a cross-Departmental strategic approach to the social economy for consultation by September 2003.</li> <li>c. To organise and facilitate the first meeting of the Social Economy Forum by June 2003.</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Invest NI – Business Improvement Services</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in unemployment and increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed and long-term unemployed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p>a. Proactive targeting of non-Company Development Programme (CDP) client companies in New TSN areas. 50 companies to be targeted each year to undertake programmes to enhance qualifications and skills.</p>
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DETI 12</b> To encourage the take-up of management training programmes in New TSN areas.</p>	



<p><b>Business Area:</b> Invest NI – Innovation Research &amp; Technology</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in unemployment and increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed and long-term unemployed</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DETI 13</b></p> <p>To raise the level of research and development activity in companies located in New TSN areas to increase overall competitiveness.</p>	<p>In 2003/04:</p> <p>a. 50% of promotional events to take place in New TSN areas.</p> <p>b. Encourage START and COMPETE applications from companies or research organisations in New TSN areas, aiming for at least 50% of total applications.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Invest NI – Business International</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in unemployment and increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed and long-term unemployed</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DETI 14</b></p> <p>To encourage visits by potential investors to New TSN areas.</p>	<p>a. 75% of all first time visits to NI by potential investors to be to New TSN areas in 2003/04.</p>
<p><b>DETI 15</b></p> <p>To encourage the location of foreign direct investment in New TSN areas.</p>	<p>a. 75% of all first time inward investment projects to be located in New TSN areas in 2003/04. Invest NI to retain facility to offer enhanced rates of assistance to projects locating in New TSN areas, if required.</p>
<p><b>DETI 16</b></p> <p>To attract tradeable services projects to New TSN Council areas outside Belfast Urban Area.</p>	<p>a. Within the period 2003/04, attract 4 new tradeable service projects or satellite(s) of existing Belfast based tradeable service operations to locate in New TSN Council areas outside the Belfast Urban Area.</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DETI 17</b></p> <p>To increase employment opportunities for the long term unemployed particularly those located in New TSN areas in conjunction with DEL's activities and also in collaboration with Councils and community training providers.</p>	<p>a. Encourage companies accepting an offer of financial assistance from Invest NI which includes an increase in employment of more than 20 to commit to satisfying at least 10% of that increase from the unemployed using, where appropriate, DEL programmes such as New Deal and Bridge to Employment and drawing in Councils and community training providers where necessary. This target to be reviewed and agreed with DEL annually.</p>
<p><b>DETI 18</b></p> <p>To ensure the provision of industrial land for industrial development in New TSN areas.</p>	<p>a. Work with Councils, the Planning Service and private developers to ensure the provision of adequate land for industry in all designated New TSN areas.</p> <p>b. Where there is no private sector interest, intervene by acquiring such land where necessary.</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DETI 19</b> To ensure greater integration of Invest NI's efforts, resources and activity with those of other Departments (DARD, DOE, DEL, DSD) to impact on the unemployed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Meet at least annually with DARD to continue to develop and implement a co-ordinated approach to support the allocation of European Funds (Process and Marketing Grant Scheme) to companies in the Agri-Food Industry, particularly those located in New TSN areas.</li> <li>b. Meet regularly with DOE to discuss the formulation of the Area Plans and ongoing planning issues in relation to Invest NI's property and land portfolio with specific consideration of New TSN issues.</li> <li>c. Invest NI and DEL senior management to meet on a regular basis to discuss higher education, further education and vocational training issues in support of the types of inward investment opportunities to be attracted to Northern Ireland.</li> <li>d. Maintain ongoing contacts through Invest NI's dedicated resource with Councils and local economic development groups in support of local economic development activity.</li> <li>d. Maintain Invest NI's momentum on Investing in Women initiative, including facilitation of the Women in Enterprise Stakeholders Forum. The Investing in Women initiative aims to encourage 3,500 female programme participants in the year 2003/04. In addition a 5% increase is projected for the number of women participating on the Northern Ireland Business Start Programme.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Invest NI – Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Division (E&amp;ED)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in unemployment and increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed and long-term unemployed</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p>	<p><b>DETI 20</b> To direct resources towards disadvantaged individuals and areas.</p> <p>a. Not less than 60% of support to small businesses within E&amp;ED to be in New TSN areas through giving them priority for business needs assessments.</p> <p>b. Not less than 60% of Invest NI resource allocated to Local Economic Development to be on activities and individuals in New TSN areas.</p> <p>c. Target 54% of financial assistance for all tourism accommodation projects to New TSN areas, over the financial year 2002/2003.</p>
<p><b>DETI 21</b> To provide developmental support to businesses in New TSN areas to address barriers to growth.</p>	<p>a. Give priority to E&amp;ED businesses in New TSN areas on all Invest NI run initiatives and programmes for small businesses throughout the period of this Plan.</p> <p>b. Following the review of all Invest NI programmes, establish New TSN participation targets for all E&amp;ED companies by Autumn 2003.</p>

Targets or actions and timescales	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DETI 22</b></p> <p>To promote New TSN as a key consideration for District Councils, District Partnerships and other Local Economic Development organisations including local enterprise agencies, to develop collaborative initiatives involving businesses that can impact directly or indirectly on creating employment opportunities in New TSN areas.</p>	<p>a. Monitor New TSN participation on the Northern Ireland Business Start Programme (NIBSP) through the implementation of a comprehensive tracking system (ie NIBSP.com) and provide Councils with performance information to enable them to benchmark their New TSN uptake with other Council areas.</p>
<p><b>DETI 23</b></p> <p>To increase participation in local economic development activity by those resident in New TSN areas.</p>	<p>a. 51 businesses to be established over the 3-year Community Business Start-Up Programme which was launched in June 2002.</p> <p>b. Continue to work with DARD to maximise self-employment opportunities in rural areas, including launch of Enterprising Rural Women initiative by December 2003.</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DETI 24</b></p> <p>To encourage the unemployed and those who are not currently economically active into self employment.</p>	<p>a. By end-December 2003, establish New TSN targets for outcomes from Accelerating Entrepreneurship Strategy (due to be launched in June 2003) and develop a methodology to measure Strategy's impact in New TSN areas.</p> <p>b. Monitor entrants into NIBSP from DEL's New Deal Self-Employment Option and assess the new partnership agreement between NIBSP and New Deal, that is due to come into effect from June 2003.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Invest NI – Knowledge Management</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improved business competitiveness through increased uses of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) leading to the development of sustainable employment</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DETI 25</b></p> <p>To ensure that Information Age Initiative funds are used effectively in New TSN areas.</p>	<p>a. At least 50% of Information Age Initiative funded projects to be located in New TSN areas.</p>
<p><b>DETI 26</b></p> <p>To increase the use of new technologies in companies located in New TSN areas to increase overall competitiveness.</p>	<p>a. 50% of in-house e-Solutions demonstrations to involve companies from New TSN areas.</p> <p>b. 50% of regional e-Solutions events to take place in New TSN areas.</p> <p>c. 50% of Best Practice events to take place in New TSN areas.</p>



<p><b>Business Area:</b> Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in unemployment and increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed and long-term unemployed</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p>	<p><b>DETI 27</b></p> <p>To ensure increased emphasis on New TSN individuals and areas within NITB activity.</p>
<p><b>DETI 28</b></p> <p>To ensure the integration of tourism-related activity across other Departments to achieve maximum impact, particularly in New TSN areas.</p>	<p>a. Target 54% of financial assistance for all eligible tourism development projects to New TSN areas, over the period 2003/2004.</p> <p>b. Encourage those companies accepting an offer of financial assistance to work with DEL, (through New Deal, Bridge to Employment or Worktrack where appropriate) to recruit 10% of new jobs created from unemployed/long-term unemployed [target reviewed annually].</p> <p>c. Measure broad indicators of progress in New TSN areas in terms of percentage of support; numbers of employees in tourism and leisure establishments; and distribution of bedspaces.</p> <p>a. Continue to monitor, with relevant partners (DARD, DCAL and DOE), the implementation of the National Resource Rural Tourism Initiative (NRRTI).</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> DETI HQ – Consumer Affairs Branch (CA Branch) incorporating Trading Standards Service (TSS)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Low level of awareness of how TSS can contribute to consumer protection and inadequacy of current data on New TSN specific consumer issues</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Greater awareness and understanding of TSS services and up to date data on key consumer issues for New TSN individuals and areas</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DETI 29</b> To increase TSS knowledge of the range and spread of consumer complaints coming from disadvantaged individuals and from New TSN areas and to develop appropriately targeted responses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Monitor the volume and nature of complaints by disadvantaged individuals and from New TSN areas using Voluntary Advice Sector and TSS data.</li> <li>b. Continue to consult with the network of advice agencies (eg NIACAB, Association of Independent Advice agencies), local community groups and the Voluntary Activity Unit of DSD to identify consumer problems experienced by the vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and consumers in New TSN areas.</li> <li>c. Use the findings from the above to shape the CA Branch Operating Plan for 2003/2004 and, in particular, to address the continuing need to promote consumer awareness amongst disadvantaged individuals and in New TSN areas.</li> <li>d. Devise and implement by end-October 2003 a marketing plan which will raise awareness of the pilot NI consumer helpline, particularly in areas of NTSN. During the pilot year, review the effectiveness of the marketing plan.</li> </ol>
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<b>Business Area:</b> The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (GCCNI)	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Lack of awareness of consumer rights
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Greater consumer awareness amongst disadvantaged individuals and in New TSN areas
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>DETI 30</b> To increase GCCNI's knowledge of consumer concerns and the degree of consumer proficiency in New TSN areas and to target programmes and resources appropriately.	<p>a. Work towards improving consumer skills in schools and the community by drawing up a plan to target a high proportion of consumer awareness programmes towards schools which DE has identified as having significant numbers of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds as detailed in implementation plan (three year period to March 2005).</p> <p>b. Monitor complaints on a yearly basis to ascertain take up of services from New TSN areas and seek to promote GCCNI role as necessary based on this.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> DETI HQ – Economic Infrastructure Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Energy Costs</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> A diversified and low-cost energy supply</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DETI 31</b></p> <p>To consider within the parameters of relevant EU Structural Funds and Initiatives, how to maximise the impact of renewable energy schemes and projects in NTSN areas.</p>	<p>a. Financially assist renewable energy demonstration projects in designated NTSN areas over the period 2002-2006.</p> <p>b. Measure economic activity in such areas, post intervention, in terms of jobs created and income generated (including conventional energy costs reduced/avoided).</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of awareness of health and safety at work issues in small companies, many of which are based in New TSN areas. Greater risk of injury/illness in high risk industrial sectors such as agriculture, construction and quarrying where many of the workers involved may be disadvantaged individuals (eg small farmers or low paid/low skilled) who may reside in or be employed in New TSN areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Greater awareness of health and safety at work in small companies and reduction of occupational accidents and illness in the high-risk sectors concerned</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DETI 32</b> To promote greater awareness of health and safety at work in small companies, particularly those in New TSN areas. To devote proportionately higher enforcement resources to the high risk industrial sectors of agriculture, construction and quarrying.</p> <p>a. Establish under the auspices of Business in the Community's Business to Business Bridge programme, a pilot project in the North West involving the mentoring of SMEs by larger companies on health and safety at work issues.</p> <p>b. During 2003/2004 HSENI will devote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 days to inspections in the agriculture sector;</li> <li>• 60 days to inspections in the quarries sector; and</li> <li>• 200 days to inspections in the construction sector.</li> </ul> <p>c. To commission research to determine the extent of hydrogen-sulphide gas emissions during the mixing of slurry tanks in livestock buildings.</p> <p>d. To launch a child safety on farms awareness campaign in partnership with the Ulster Farmers' Union and other stakeholders by March 2004.</p> <p>e. To organise a Quarry Conference to highlight health and safety issues relevant to the sector by October 2003.</p> <p>f. To establish a HSENI regional office in Omagh to enhance the level of service provided to customers in the West of the Bann catchment area, by September 2003.</p> <p>g. To approve and publish a Code of Practice concerning the prevention of accidents to children in agriculture by March 2004.</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> InterTradelreland (ITI)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Unemployment / long-term unemployment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in unemployment and increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed and long-term unemployed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DETI 33</b></p> <p>To ensure that New TSN principles are integrated into InterTradelreland (ITI) activities (within Northern Ireland).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Define New TSN targets within relevant InterTradelreland Projects in the 2003 Operating Plan.</li> <li>b. Incorporate agreed TSN targets into InterTradelreland New TSN Action Plan by 31 May 2003.</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improve and share research and statistical information sources</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DFP 1</b></p> <p>To promote the development of, and access to, appropriate data sources in support of New TSN.</p> <p>a. To undertake an analysis of the 2001 Census of Population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To complete the release of all planned outputs from the 2001 Census of Population by Summer 2004.</li> <li>(ii) By Summer 2003, to complete the development of the Northern Ireland Census Access system which will optimise the provision of Census Products through electronic media.</li> </ul> <p>b. To facilitate the use of and to develop measures of deprivation and local area statistics for Northern Ireland, thus ensuring that people living in disadvantaged areas can be identified and targeted by funders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To facilitate the use of the measures of deprivation by providing briefing and advice.</li> <li>(ii) Following the publication of 2001 Census small area data to state further development of the measures of deprivation by June 2003.</li> <li>(iii) In June 2003 to launch the new Northern Ireland Neighborhood Information Service (NINIS).</li> <li>(iv) To develop and implement a strategy for marketing the use of NINIS by December 2003.</li> </ul> <p>c. In conjunction with the Economic and Social Research Council, establish funding for a further three years of the Household Panel Survey. This will continue to assist Departments to monitor the impact of interventions in tackling disadvantage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To complete the second wave of fieldwork by end May 2003.</li> <li>(ii) Initiate the third wave of fieldwork by September 2003.</li> </ul>
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New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DFP 2</b></p> <p>To work with OFMDFM to develop an information base so that equality impact assessments can be more effectively carried out.</p>	<p>a. Work with policy colleagues on the development and implementation of the New TSN policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Commission and manage New TSN relevant research.</li> <li>(ii) Co-ordinate the development and delivery of New TSN relevant data through the Equality and Social Need Research and Information Group.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Business Area:</b> Central Finance Group (CFG), European Division.</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> The social disadvantage caused by an Inter-Regional Border and the effects of Civil Unrest in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Effective strategic management of New TSN by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DFP 3</b> To ensure that the SEUPB produces and regularly reports to the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) on its New TSN Action Plan.</p> <p>a. To submit the SEUPB's Action Plan for 2003-2004 to NSMC by the end of June 2003; and b. To consider quarterly progress reports and submit to NSMC as appropriate.</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Central Finance Group (CFG)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of existing information on New TSN expenditure and programme outputs and/or impacts</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improved categorisation of expenditure baselines and/or programmes and evaluation outcomes</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DFP 4</b> To develop further the practical guidance on the appropriate methodologies for taking account of New TSN objectives in economic appraisals and in programme and project evaluations.</p>	<p>a. New guidance on appraisal and evaluation of New TSN was issued to Departments on 9 November 2001 and published on the DFP Economics Website. This is to be incorporated, updated if appropriate, into a revised version of the Northern Ireland Preface to the Green Book, DFP's general guide to appraisal and evaluation. A first draft of the revised NI Preface was circulated to Departments in March 2003. A final draft should be available in June 2003.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Central Finance Group (CFG)	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Lack of existing information on New TSN expenditure and programme outputs and/or impacts
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Categorisation of Public Expenditure database to measure skewing of New TSN expenditure
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>DFP 5</b> Identify/measure skewing of resources to New TSN within Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Departments to have completed categorisation of units of business in relation to New TSN relevance - end of April 2003.</li> <li>b. Public Expenditure Database to have been tagged in relation to Departmental returns - end of May 2003.</li> <li>c. Provisional figures produced for 2002/03 on completion of Provisional Outturn - end of June 2003.</li> <li>d. Final figures produced for 2002/03 on completion of Final Outturn - end of January 2004.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Central Finance Group (CFG)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of existing information on New TSN expenditure and programme outputs and/or impacts</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improved categorisation of expenditure baselines and/or programmes and evaluation outcomes</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DFP 6</b></p> <p>To address New TSN within the Budget process and Monitoring Rounds.</p>	<p>a. Draft Budget 2003 (late September 2003) to take account of implications of New TSN.</p> <p>b. Consultation on Draft Budget to seek views on New TSN implications.</p> <p>c. Budget 2003 to take account of implications of New TSN (early December 2003).</p> <p>d. Review New TSN expenditure guidance for Monitoring Rounds in light of developments on the recording of expenditure on the database by December 2003.</p>

<b>Central Finance Group (CFG)</b>	
<b>Business Area:</b>	Inequitable distribution of the rate burden on individuals as a result of the present valuation and rating systems
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<p><b>DFP 7</b></p> <p>To consider the impact on New TSN objectives of conducting future domestic rates revaluations on the basis of capital rather than rental values</p>	<p>a. CFG's Rating Policy Branch will, subject to Ministerial approval, explore the full implications of altering the basis of future revaluations. Studies of alternative rating options are without prejudice to any future decision to alter the basis of local revenue generation.</p> <p>b. Main actions are impact analyses which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Correlate areas in NI ranked by deprivation (using Noble indicators) with area rate bills using the current rental values basis and capital value basis in order to assess any change in the local tax burden in deprived areas.</li> <li>(ii) Compare the proportion of local tax bills to household income over a range of incomes under the existing rental value system and under a capital value system in order to assess any change in the equality of the local tax burden on households.</li> <li>(iii) Examine the issue of Domestic rating reliefs by outsourcing a study on possible options. New TSN analysis would be carried out on any recommended options.</li> </ul> <p>c. This work is being incorporated within the Review of Rating Policy. A policy paper on domestic issues is expected to be completed by August/September 2003. This will incorporate any TSN analyses.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Corporate Services Group (CSG) and Central Personnel Group (CPG)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of employment in disadvantaged areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> To ensure the proper consideration of the option for dispersing jobs in planning to meet NICS accommodation needs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DFP 8</b> To contribute as appropriate, to improving access to employment in disadvantaged areas, as measured by unemployment rates, by ensuring that the potential for dispersal is addressed within accommodation planning.</p> <p>a. By 2006, following a review of office accommodation for NI Departments, to complete arrangements, in the context of equality of opportunity, for rationalising and managing the office estate to improve business efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Produce an implementation plan for approval by Ministers - by August 2003.</li> <li>(ii) Establish project teams to carry out implementation plan - by November 2003.</li> <li>(iii) Complete Economic Appraisals – by 2004</li> <li>(iv) Complete projects to timescale agreed in implementation plan.</li> </ul> <p>b. To ensure that plans for meeting NICS office accommodation needs take into account options for job dispersal, within guidelines already provided to Departments (CPG)</p> <p>c. To monitor geographical disposition of NICS on an annual basis throughout the period of this Plan (CPG).</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Rate Collection Agency (RCA)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by people through lack of access to information about the Housing Benefit Scheme and Disabled Person's Allowance Scheme</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improved awareness of entitlement to Housing Benefit and Disabled Person's Allowance</p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p>	
<p><b>DFP 9</b></p> <p>To increase awareness of the Housing Benefit Scheme and Disabled Person's Allowance Scheme</p>	<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p>a. To review the effectiveness of the awareness campaign, to identify areas for improvement, by 31 August 2003, and develop an implementation plan by 30 September 2003.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Central Procurement Directorate (CPD)</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Access to work for the unemployed.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improvement to access to employment opportunity through Government procurement processes.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DFP 10</b> To contribute to improving access to employment through inclusion of appropriate provisions in Government procurement contracts.</p>	<p>a. To consult with Client Departments on the development of the pilot study outlined in the Procurement Review, taking account of cost, statutory equality obligations, New TSN and the policy objectives of Departments.</p> <p>b. Complete the pilot study – end of Oct 2004</p>



<b>Business Area:</b>	Central Procurement Directorate (CPD)
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Combating unemployment and social exclusion.
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	To increase the opportunities for the unemployed and socially excluded through the award of public procurement contracts.

<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<b>DFP 11</b> To identify opportunities to integrate social policies with public procurement policies.	a. To submit proposals for integration to Procurement Board by October 2003.

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Central Finance Group (CFG), European Division.</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> New TSN targeting within the scope of the Community Support Framework (CSF).</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Effective implementation of New TSN Dimension identifiable within each Measure funded under the CSF.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DFP 12</b></p> <p>To promote the effective implementation of New TSN objectives during the life of the CSF through the effective collecting, monitoring and reporting of relevant data.</p>	<p>a. To implement monitoring methodology for New TSN objectives by September 2003.</p> <p>b. In June of each year, to include New TSN data in the CSF Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to the Monitoring Committee.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Corporate Services Group (CSG)	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Effective strategic management of New TSN within DFP
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>DFP 13</b> To ensure that the Department demonstrates its commitment to New TSN at all levels of planning and policy formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To provide accurate and timely information to business areas on the implementation of New TSN.</li> <li>b. To co-ordinate the production of quarterly progress reports, to facilitate the annual revision of the DFP Action Plan and to provide the DFP contribution to the New TSN Annual Report.</li> <li>c. In conjunction with the Training and Development Unit, to consider further the mainstreaming of New TSN across the Department and its agencies through the development of a training module suitable for inclusion in induction packages by December 2003.</li> <li>d. To ensure that New TSN considerations are appropriately reflected at all levels in the Department's and Agencies' planning and policy formulation.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Greater understanding and awareness of the priority to be given to New TSN in all key areas</li> <li>b. Policy and executive responsibilities fulfilled so that New TSN can be effectively implemented throughout DHSSPS and its associated bodies</li> </ul>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DHSSPS 1</b></p> <p>To raise and maintain awareness of New TSN in DHSSPS and associated bodies.</p>	<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensure the inclusion of New TSN and community development policies in training and development programmes for staff in the associated bodies, throughout the period of this Plan. (HRD)</li> <li>b. Disseminate to all staff within DHSSPS and its associated bodies information about the New TSN Policy and progress on implementing it within the Department and those bodies, throughout the period of this Plan. (SIDD)</li> <li>c. By March 2004, develop and implement a collaborative approach to taking forward New TSN Action Plans by the Department and its associated bodies, taking into account the outcome of the interim review of New TSN. (SIDD)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Poor health and social well-being experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Efforts effectively targeted to reduce inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas</li> <li>b. Greater social inclusion of disadvantaged people, groups and areas, in particular greater involvement of local people in decision making and improved access to quality childcare in areas of deprivation</li> <li>c. Increased capacity to determine whether the actions being taken by the DHSSPS and its associated bodies are effectively reducing the inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas</li> <li>d. Increased awareness and understanding in all associated bodies of the importance of community development</li> <li>e. Clearer identification of people, groups and areas with greatest health and social need</li> </ul>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DHSSPS 2</b></p> <p>To develop and promote policies and programmes of action which aim to reduce inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Promote and support implementation of Investing for Health throughout the period of this Plan. (HDD)</li> <li>b. Continue to support and monitor Investing for Health initiatives including Fresh Fruit in Schools, Investing for Healthier Communities Grant Programme and Health Promoting Schools. (HDD)</li> <li>c. Continue to support the Health Action Zones in implementation of their Action Plans. (HDD)</li> <li>d. Publish a good practice guide on "Racial Equality in Health" in conjunction with the Equality Commission by June 2003, and agree an action plan with HSSPS bodies through the Equality Steering Group. (SIDD)</li> <li>e. To implement the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and Action Plan to achieve a reduction of 20% in the rate of unplanned births to teenage mothers by 2007. (HDD)</li> <li>f. By January 2004, to publish a cross-departmental Home Accident Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, which aims to reduce the number of accidental deaths and serious injuries in the home. (HDD)</li> <li>g. To implement the cross-departmental Tobacco Action Plan, one of the aims of which is to achieve an increase in the proportion of non-smokers in manual groups from 65% in 2000/01 to 69% in 2006/07. (HDD)</li> <li>h. By November 2003, to publish, for public consultation, a cross-departmental Sexual Health Promotion Strategy which aims to improve the sexual health of the population and to reduce the number of Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV and AIDs. (HDD)</li> </ul>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DHSSPS 2</b> (continued)</p>	<p>i. To implement the Mental Health Promotion Strategy which aims to improve people's mental and emotional wellbeing and achieve a reduction in the proportion of people with a potential psychiatric disorder (as measured by the GHQ-12 score) to 19.5% by 2008. (HDD)</p> <p>j. By December 2004, introduce a new oral health strategy which will specifically address the inequalities in oral health, especially in children. Key milestone:- By the end of December 2003, to have completed the evaluation of the current oral health strategy. (DSG)</p>
<p><b>DHSSPS 3</b></p> <p>To improve access to good quality childcare and family support, targeting those in areas of greatest need as measured by programme of care specific indices.</p>	<p>a. Work with Department of Education and Department for Employment and Learning and Childcare Partnerships to implement the childcare strategy "Children First", targeting those who have been objectively defined as in greatest need, throughout the period of this Plan. (CCD)</p> <p>b. Develop a draft DHSSPS strategy for children in need, by November 2003. (Child Care Directorate)</p> <p>c. Utilize the Peace II funding available for 2002-2003 to consolidate childcare in disadvantaged areas of need through the Childhood Fund Steering Group. (CCD)</p> <p>d. The Regional Forum on Domestic Violence will produce an action plan by December 2003, for implementation in 2004. (CCD)</p> <p>e. By March 2004, provide an additional 77 residential care places for children, above the levels in 2000/2001, paying particular attention to areas of greatest social need. (Child Care Directorate)</p> <p>f. Provide by March 2004 a pilot residential family assessment centre which will develop innovative approaches for dealing with families at risk of breakdown. (CCD)</p> <p>g. By March 2004 to have carried out an evaluation of the "Wraparound Scheme" offering a range of multi-disciplinary services for disabled children in the Southern Board's area for which funding is being provided from the Executive Programme's Children's Fund. (CCD)</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DHSSPS 4</b></p> <p>To promote the social inclusion of those who are most disadvantaged by encouraging community development approaches and involving local people in decisions about their health and social care needs and the services to be provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensure progress on implementing those recommendations of the report of the Community Development Working Group that can be taken forward within available resources, throughout the period of this Plan. (CCD)</li> <li>b. By March 2004, to evaluate the pilot training programme in community development to examine the extent to which it can better equip staff in Health and Personal Social Services and in the voluntary sector to work in partnership with other Agencies and with local people to identify and tackle the most pressing health and social needs of the community. (HRD)</li> <li>c. Encourage Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts to develop and implement arrangements to secure the involvement of local people in decision-making, and be able to point to effective examples of the involvement of users, potential users and carers, throughout the period of this Plan through the formal Health and Personal Social Services planning and accountability arrangements. (PPMD)</li> <li>d. Implement the recommendation of the final Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Report on Travellers throughout the period of the plan and report progress through the Equality and Social Needs Steering Group. (SIDD)</li> <li>e. Consult on and implement a range of respite care services which meet the needs of Carers and facilitate their ability to participate in social educational, employment and training opportunities through the Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Working Group on Carers. (CCD)</li> <li>f. Implement the recommendations in Valuing Carers to secure and improve access to education, employment, training and social activities for Carers, particularly young carers. (CCD)</li> <li>g. Identify the specific health and personal social services needs of asylum seekers and refugees and work, through the Health Sub-Group, with statutory and voluntary sector organisations to ensure access to services. (CCD)</li> <li>h. Take forward agreed actions by the Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Multi-Agency Working Group on People with Mental Health problems and report progress to Ministers through the Inter-departmental Equality and New TSN Steering Group. (CCD)</li> <li>i. Take forward agreed actions by the Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Multi-Agency Working Group on Older People and report progress to Ministers through the Inter-departmental Equality and New TSN Steering Group. (CCD)</li> <li>j. Subject to Ministerial approval of the draft strategy developed by the Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Working Group on Disability, the Department will take forward implementation of DHSSPS specific actions in the strategy and report progress to OFMDFM at six monthly intervals. (CCD)</li> <li>k. Support implementation of Investing for Health through the continued implementation of the Building Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) project, the formulation of model community pharmacy/community health development schemes and mainstreaming such schemes. (PASSG)</li> </ul>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DHSSPS 5</b></p> <p>To measure the extent to which inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas are being reduced.</p>	<p>a. Ensure that the targeting of social need under the New TSN policy is fully recognised in the conduct of the planned programme of equality impact assessments which will ensure that all Departmental policies promote equality of opportunity, throughout the period of the Plan. (All Directorates)</p> <p>b. Undertake an annual review of region-wide equality impact assessments to ensure that policy areas included in the programme have the greatest potential for assessing equality of opportunity implications. (SIDD)</p> <p>c. Ensure that associated bodies identify, implement and evaluate interventions which successfully reduce inequalities locally, throughout the period of this Plan through the formal Health and Personal Social Services planning and accountability arrangements. (PPMD)</p> <p>d. Work with Department for Social Development to examine the feasibility of introducing agreed common indicators to monitor and evaluate community development. (SIDD/CCD)</p> <p>Fe. Ensure that a cross-departmental response is taken to implement the Drug and Alcohol Strategy throughout the period of this Plan. Key Milestones:- By 31 December 2003 to have appointed additional Drugs and Alcohol Coordinators; by 31 March 2004 to have completed those activities contained in the Regional and Local Action Plans for which funding is available; by 31 March 2004 to have implemented the recommendations of the Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Team Review; by 31 March 2004 to have conducted four Public Information Campaigns. (HDD)</p>



<p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Poor health and social well-being experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clearer identification of people, groups and areas with greatest health and social need</li> <li>b. Efforts effectively targeted and necessary resources skewed to disadvantaged people, groups and areas with the greatest health and social care needs</li> <li>c. Increased capacity to determine whether the actions being taken by the DHSSPS and its associated bodies are effectively reducing the inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas</li> </ul>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DHSSPS 6</b></p> <p>To identify those in greatest health and social need.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Begin implementing the recommendations in the report of the Department's Review of Business Information Needs (RoBIN) relating to Equality and New TSN by March 2004. (IAD)</li> <li>b. Continue to implement the Action Plan to improve the Equality and New TSN related information across HPSS administrative systems. (IAD)</li> <li>c. By March 2004 to have established the Health and Care Number Index and initiate the rollout of the Health and Care Number across the HPSS. Key milestones:- By December 2003, Pathfinder GPs and one Trust to implement. (DIS)</li> <li>d. By March 2004, produce a report entitled "Health and Social Care Inequalities in Northern Ireland" which will draw on a wide range of information sources and incorporate the Inequalities Monitoring Report. (IAD)</li> <li>e. By March 2004, identify the nature of community pharmacy services in areas of relative deprivation and how services could be best oriented to address health inequality needs. (PASG)</li> </ul>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DHSSPS 7</b></p> <p>To reduce inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas by matching resources to health and social care needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop and review evidence-based additional needs indicators in respect of the Learning Disability, Physical and Sensory Disability, Family and Child Care and Mental Health programmes, in order to inform the Department's Board allocation formula by April 2004. (FD)</li> <li>b. Over a 3-year period, and subject to public consultation and Ministerial decision, implement the agreed recommendation of the Capitation Formula Review Group, taking account of demographic and other financial changes in order to ensure more equitable distribution of resources to HSS Boards Implementation is dependent on being able to skew sufficient new resources to meet identified need.. Key milestone:- In December 2003, to bring forward refinements to the resource allocation formula for public consultation. (FD)</li> <li>c. By December 2003, to test each element of the UK General Practitioner Contract Workload Formula against NI equality legislation and recommend evidence based refinements where deemed necessary to avoid or minimise adverse impact across any of the 9 equality groups. (PCD)</li> <li>d. Ensure that GP Health Promotion payments are effectively used and targeted on disadvantaged people, throughout the period of this Plan. (PCD)</li> <li>e. By October 2004, complete Phase 3 of the Strategic Resource Framework, which will analyse expenditure to demonstrate that HSS Boards are taking purposeful steps to skew resources to reduce inequalities. (FD)</li> <li>f. Approve Health and Social Services Board local equity strategies by June 2004, and oversee implementation over a 3-year period beginning 2004/2005. (FD)</li> </ul>
<p><b>DHSSPS 8</b></p> <p>To provide evidence which supports informed decision making on tackling inequalities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. By November 2003 put in place an agreed programme of investing for Health-related research which will support informed decision-making in tackling health and social need. (IAD)</li> <li>b. By March 2004, to implement the Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Action Plan. (IAD)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Land - Use Planning</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of availability of jobs, housing, social amenities and a quality living Environment.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> A potential supply of suitably designated land to facilitate a sufficient level of development conducive to meeting social need.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p>	<p>In producing new or revising existing Planning Policy Statements, incorporate consideration of the implications for New TSN.</p>
<p><b>DOE 1</b></p> <p>To ensure that new or revised operational Planning Policy Statements reflect New TSN principles.</p>	<p>In the preparation of all development plans :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ensure that proactive consultation with all communities is undertaken.</li> <li>ii. incorporate consideration of New TSN relevant criteria.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DOE 2</b></p> <p>To ensure that new development plans reflect New TSN principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To assess capacity of all land within the urban footprint of settlements &gt; 5000 population in the preparation of each development plan.</li> <li>ii. To achieve a statement of conformity with the Regional Development Strategy from Department for Regional Development for each development plan published.</li> <li>iii. To continue in the production of an Annual Housing Monitor (began in current form in July 2000).</li> <li>iv. To incorporate data collected through the actions at (i) and (iii) in the Planning Service Geographical Information System.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DOE 3</b></p> <p>To promote greater use of land inside the existing urban footprint of towns.</p>	

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Local Government Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Multiple disadvantage in all Northern Ireland District Council areas.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in social need across a range of social and economic indicators.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DOE 4</b></p> <p>To ensure that the new statutory formula for the distribution of general grant addresses socio-economic disadvantage throughout the 3 year period 2003 - 04 to 2005 - 06.</p>	<p>To update data annually, to determine and examine any significant impact on the existing distribution of general grant - by 31 March 2004.</p>
<p><b>DOE 5</b></p> <p>To make District Councils more aware of New TSN and its objectives and to encourage them to redirect resources towards those in greatest need.</p>	<p>i. Liaise with the Department's Economist regarding the new Green Book (Treasury's guidance on completing appraisals) and the NI Preface, which will cover New TSN in economic investment appraisals. The aim would be to achieve the position where all councils would adhere to this guidance.</p> <p>ii. Monitor Councils' progress annually in their efforts to address New TSN.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Environment and Heritage Service	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Environmental awareness in disadvantaged communities	
<b>Desired outcome:</b> Improved opportunities for educational and awareness activities	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>DOE 6</b> Targeted inclusion of disadvantaged children in education and awareness activities.	<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Annual monitoring of uptake and usage of sites by New TSN schools in line with commitments in EHS Education Strategy.</li> <li>ii. Implementation of Action Plan based on the Education Strategy to include specific measures targeted on schools with a significant number of pupils from disadvantaged households over a 3 year period commencing 2003 / 2004.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Road Safety</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Link between social deprivation and child road casualties.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in road casualties among children from disadvantaged areas.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DOE 7</b></p> <p>To increase Road Safety Education Officer support to schools with a significant number of pupils from disadvantaged households.</p>	<p>i. To maintain increased level of support to schools in disadvantaged areas through school visits. The pilot Practical Child Pedestrian Safety Training Scheme will be extended in October 2003 to include a further 30 schools in disadvantaged areas. Follow up work with the 32 schools already participating in the Scheme will continue.</p> <p>ii. To continue to promote the "Walking Bus" scheme with the possibility of having one bus in operation in each of the 5 Education and Library Board areas by 31 March 2004.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Corporate Services	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Targeting of Social Need
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Improved targeting of social need
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>DOE 8</b> To drive forward and monitor the progress of New TSN objectives and review objectives annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To submit monitoring reports to the Departmental Management Group and the Minister and to contribute to regular reports of progress to the Executive Committee.</li> <li>ii. To review annually and develop the Department's Action Plan.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Regional Planning and Transportation Division</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Accessibility of jobs, housing, social amenities and a quality living environment</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> The implementation of the Regional Development Strategy (known as “Shaping our Future”) to provide a balanced approach to the development of Northern Ireland over the next 25 years.</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DRD 1</b></p> <p>Reflection of the principles of New TSN in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) which was formulated on 20 September 2001.</p>	<p>a. By end June 2003, publish, in the Annual Report, a concluding statement to the Sustainability Appraisal, carried out on the Regional Development Strategy, which will include social, economic and environmental themes.</p>
<p><b>DRD 2</b></p> <p>To coordinate the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy.</p>	<p>a. By end June 2003, introduce important Planning Policy Statements on “Housing in Settlements” and “Transportation and Land Use” that will address New TSN issues.</p> <p>b. By December 2003, introduce important Planning Policy Statements on “Retailing and Town Centres” and “The Countryside” that will address New TSN issues.</p> <p>c. By March 2004, introduce jointly with Department of Environment Planning Policy Statement 1 - General principles and the Planning Policy Statement on “The Coast” that will address New TSN issues.</p>



<b>Business Area:</b> Regional Planning and Transportation Division and Roads Service	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Accessibility and mobility
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Improved accessibility and mobility
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>DRD 3</b> To ensure the principles of New TSN are reflected in the implementation of the Regional Transportation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. By December 2003, produce for public consultation an outline Accessible Transport Strategy that addresses New TSN issues, with the aim of completing the Strategy by the end of December 2004.</li> <li>b. By summer 2003, establish a Project Team to take forward detailed economic and other appraisals of a pilot Rapid Transit project in the BMA in line with recommendations of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan and that addresses New TSN issues.</li> <li>c. The Department will establish a Data Modelling and Monitoring Unit to collect data relevant to New TSN that will inform and support transportation decisions.</li> <li>d. By March 2004, have assessed New TSN implications in relation to the transportation initiatives contained in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan and Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Public Transport</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Accessibility and mobility</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improved accessibility and mobility</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DRD 4</b></p> <p>To target the Rural Transport Fund and the Programme of Transport for people with disabilities to improve travel opportunities for people who experience reduced mobility and social exclusion.</p>	<p>a. To extend the number of Rural Community Transport Partnerships (16), by 2, by September 2003 and complete Year 4 monitoring report by 30 June 2003.</p> <p>b. To carry out targeted consultation on the review of the Transport Programme for People with Disabilities and commence implementation of accepted recommendations by March 2004.</p> <p>c. To finalise consultation on proposed extension to the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme by March 2004.</p>	
<p><b>DRD 5</b></p> <p>To continue to provide Northern Ireland Holding Company and Translink with guidance in respect of New TSN both in its planning and practical application.</p>	<p>a. New TSN principles to be reflected in Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company and Translink Corporate and Operating Plan for 2002/2005 and 2003/2006.</p> <p>b. To ensure that the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company and Translink 2003/04 Action Plan are in line with Departmental targets and actions.</p> <p>c. By December 2004, to have assisted Translink in securing all available EU funding in support of New TSN activities. Specifically through the introduction of innovative transport schemes aimed at increasing public transport accessibility in isolated rural areas, provision of public transport vehicles to improve accessibility and reduce social exclusion in the greater Belfast area and by improving accessibility in cross-border regions.</p>	
<p><b>DRD 6</b></p> <p>To maintain a life-line ferry transport between Rathlin Island and Ballycastle.</p>	<p>a. In association with Procurement Service to seek to deliver a longer term contract for the provision of the ferry service beyond March 2004.</p>	

Water Service	
<b>Business Area:</b>	The 1% of houses (mainly in remote rural communities) which do not have a public water supply.
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	A reduction in the number of houses not connected to the public water supply system
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>DRD 7</b> To seek to provide a public water supply, where requested by the householder, to some of the 1% of houses currently without supply.	<p>a. By March 2004 to explore with DARD the possibility of obtaining Rural Development Programme funds to: introduce a scheme to enhance the water quality of private supplies; provide funds in addition to the reasonable cost allowance for existing properties to allow further connections to the main; and to consider what other options exist to address the issue of unconnected properties.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Finance Division	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Lack of resources for those in social need	
<b>Desired outcome:</b> Increased resources for those in social need	
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>
<b>DRD 8</b> Identify and highlight to the Minister, the New TSN implications of public expenditure re-allocations as identified by Budget Holders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Request Budget Holders to identify any new New TSN implications of bids for additional resources and possible budget reductions in future public expenditure reviews and in-year monitoring rounds and highlight these in submissions to the Minister.</li> <li>b. Respond to Public Expenditure timetable as requested by the Department of Finance and Personnel. In-year monitoring: July, October, December and February in each year of the Plan.</li> </ul>

<b>Business Area:</b> Central Policy Management Unit and Top Level Management New TSN Working Group	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Targeting of social need
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Improved targeting of social need
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>DRD 9</b> Changing the Departmental culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To continue to incorporate New TSN into general management and induction courses.</li> <li>b. To keep staff informed of developments and highlight examples of progress and good practice through the Departmental magazine.</li> <li>c. To provide guidance to NDPBs on New TSN.</li> </ul>
<b>DRD 10</b> Changing strategic and corporate management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To include New TSN principles and activities in all corporate and business plans and strategic policy documents.</li> </ul>
<b>DRD 11</b> To drive forward New TSN and monitor progress of objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Department's Top Management Group to consider regular progress reports on the impact and effectiveness of New TSN activities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Corporate Policy and Planning Branch</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Disadvantage among groups and individuals in Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Full and effective implementation of New TSN by DSD</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DSD 1</b></p> <p>Ensure commitment to New TSN throughout the Department.</p>	<p>a. Ensure New TSN policy forms an integral part of the Department's corporate planning process.</p> <p>b. Promote awareness of New TSN through the Departmental intranet and team briefing system.</p> <p>c. Provide advice to assist staff to carry out their New TSN responsibilities.</p> <p>d. Monitor implementation of the New TSN Action Plan, report quarterly to the Departmental Management Board and contribute to reports to the Executive and to New TSN Annual Reports.</p>

<b>Business Area:</b> Child Support Agency	
<b>Social need to be tackled:</b>	Financial difficulties experienced by disadvantaged people
<b>Desired outcome:</b>	Contributing to the reduction and eradication of child poverty
<b>Targets or actions and timescales</b>	
<b>New TSN objectives</b>	
<b>DSD 2</b> Increase the number of children who receive Child Maintenance direct from the Child Support Agency by 200% by March 2006.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. By March 2004, achieve a 50% increase in the number of children receiving child maintenance.</li> <li>b. By March 2005, achieve a 150% increase in the number of children receiving child maintenance.</li> <li>c. By March 2006, achieve a 200% increase in the number of children receiving child maintenance.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Social Security Agency</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Financial difficulties experienced by disadvantaged people</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Greater take-up of benefits and entitlements by disadvantaged people</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DSD 3</b></p> <p>Introduce State Pension Credit from October 2003 to provide help to 76,500 pensioner households and by March 2004 to have promoted take-up to a further 15,000 households with a new entitlement.</p>	<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p>a. Implement a Migration Strategy so that by October 2003, 76,500 pensioner households in Northern Ireland will be converted to Pension Credit.</p> <p>b. Run a take-up promotion campaign so that take-up will be promoted to a further 15,000 households by March 2004.</p>	<p><b>DSD 4</b></p> <p>In conjunction with the Department for Employment and Learning ensure that procedures are in place to put work at the forefront of the benefit claiming process for all appropriate customers of working age and by March 2006 extend the joint Jobs and Benefits Service across the entire local office network so that a 15% reduction in the Jobseeker's register is achieved for each office within 3 months of go-live.</p>
<p><b>DSD 4</b></p> <p>In conjunction with the Department for Employment and Learning ensure that procedures are in place to put work at the forefront of the benefit claiming process for all appropriate customers of working age and by March 2006 extend the joint Jobs and Benefits Service across the entire local office network so that a 15% reduction in the Jobseeker's register is achieved for each office within 3 months of go-live.</p>	<p>a. By March 2004 extend the new joint jobs and benefits service to 20 out of 35 Social Security Offices combined with job Centres.</p> <p>b. Achieve a 15% reduction in the jobseekers register with each of the offices within 3 months of go-live.</p> <p>c. By March 2004 implement new work focused procedures in all Jobs and Benefits Offices.</p>	



New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DSD 5</b></p> <p>Promote the further take-up of selected social security benefits by March 2006 following assessment of benefit take-up and production of a take-up strategy by March 2004.</p>	<p>a. By November 2003, have a baseline of data to improve take-up of unclaimed benefits.</p> <p>b. By March 2004 take-up strategy for benefit developed.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Resources, Housing and Social Security Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Addressing accommodation needs</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Decent housing for those in need</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DSD 6</b></p> <p>During 2003/04 make provision for the accommodation needs of 11,900 people, both homeless and those on low incomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintain a rolling programme of social house building in 2003/04 by starting 1,500 new homes.</li> <li>b. Start 75 units for homeless people.</li> <li>c. Assist 300 applicants to access home ownership in 2003/04 through the NI Co-Ownership Housing Association.</li> <li>d. Administer the re-letting of 8,000 homes by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and 2,200 homes by Housing Associations.</li> <li>e. Develop accommodation that best meets the needs of travellers by funding Housing Associations for the provision and progression of a third pilot group housing scheme in 2003/04.</li> <li>f. By March 2004 present to Minister a draft policy and strategy document for public consultation, based on the Promoting Social Inclusion Working Group's findings on the difficulties faced by the homeless.</li> <li>g. By December 2003 publish a report on the long-term need for housing in Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Resources, Housing and Social Security Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Adapting homes to meet special needs</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Decent housing for those in need</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p>DSD 7</p> <p>During 2003/04 enable around 21,500 people who need special assistance, to maintain an independent lifestyle in a recognised standard of accommodation.</p>	<p>a. Private sector grant funding to provide 1,550 grants for disabled adaptations.</p> <p>b. Capital funding estimated to allow major adaptations to 3,300 NIHE homes.</p> <p>c. Revenue funding estimated to allow minor adaptations to 3,250 NIHE homes.</p> <p>d. Funding estimated to support a programme to allow 1,200 adaptations to Housing associations' properties.</p> <p>e. Implement the new Supporting People initiative in April 2003 to assist 9,000 vulnerable people to live as independently as possible.</p>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Resources, Housing and Social Security Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Raising energy standards</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Eradication of Fuel poverty</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DSD 8</b></p> <p>By March 2004 to have reduced fuel poverty by raising the standards of energy efficiency in 10,000 homes within the owner occupied, private and social rented sectors.</p> <p>* <i>Fuel poverty applies to all those who spend more than 10% of their income on fuel.</i></p> <p>a. Provide funding to the Warm Homes Scheme to enable 6,250 private sector households to be taken out of fuel poverty.</p> <p>b. Provide revenue funding for a programme to replace an estimated heating systems in 3,750 Housing Executive properties with more efficient, better value systems.</p> <p>c. Carry out a review of the Department's approach to tackling fuel poverty and publish a Fuel Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland by March 2004.</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Multiple disadvantage and social exclusion in urban areas across Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in multiple social and economic disadvantage in identified urban areas</p>											
<p><b>New TSN objectives</b></p> <p><b>DSD 9</b></p> <p>Improve the physical, economic and social environment of neighbourhoods, towns and cities in Northern Ireland by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating 250 hectares of improved land including playground and parks and developing 1,450,600 square metres of new/improved floor space created for business/community use; and</li> <li>• Contributing to the creation of, or safeguarding, 3,150 jobs as a result of economic renewal activities and ensuring that 13,000 people benefit from Community renewal activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p>a. i) Dispose of 23 sites for development bringing back into use 140 hectares of vacant and derelict land through Comprehensive development schemes.</p> <p>ii) Create a further 110 hectares of improved land through the Making Belfast Work initiative and make available land for the construction of 250 residential dwellings.</p> <p>iii) Develop 2,500 sq.m. of commercial floor space in assisted Community Regeneration Investment Special Programme (CRISP) projects.</p> <p>b. i) The Belfast Regeneration Office will support 350 projects to a value of £9.9 million during 2003/04 and the North West Development Office will support 170 projects to a value of £2.7 million during 2003/04.</p> <p>ii) Through the Urban Regeneration Programme to have created or safeguarded 3,150 jobs and have 13,000 people benefiting from community renewal activities.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: right;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Jobs created or safeguarded</th> <th style="text-align: left;">People benefiting from community renewal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Belfast Regeneration Office</td> <td>10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North West Development Office</td> <td>3,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional Development Office</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>13,000</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Jobs created or safeguarded	People benefiting from community renewal	Belfast Regeneration Office	10,000	North West Development Office	3,000	Regional Development Office	N/A	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,000</b>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Multiple disadvantage and social exclusion in urban areas across Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Reduction in multiple social and economic disadvantage in identified urban areas</p>	
<p><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p>	
<p><b>DSD 10</b></p> <p>Use European Programmes to contribute towards economic and social renewal (e.g. 'PEACE II', 'URBAN II', Building Sustainable Prosperity' and Interreg).</p>	<p>a. By October 2003 approve 12 Neighbourhood Action Plans to implement regeneration activities in each PEACE II neighbourhood including addressing relevant interecine and interface conflict issues.</p> <p>b. Fund around 30 support agencies to provide support to local voluntary and community groups.</p> <p>c. Fund 8 advice and information service organisations to improve local advice provision.</p> <p>d. Commence the rollout of URBAN II projects by August 2003 and to ensure that £850,000 will be spent by December 2003.</p>
<p><b>DSD 11</b></p> <p>Develop new strategic approaches to urban regeneration across Northern Ireland, the core aim of which is the regeneration of neighbourhoods, targeting those communities experiencing the most serious social and economic deprivation.</p>	<p>a. Launch the Regional Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy by 30 June 2003.</p> <p>b. Develop and launch sub-regional strategies for neighbourhood Renewal in the most disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods in Belfast, Londonderry and other urban areas along with a town and city centre reinvigoration strategy.</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and timescales
<p><b>DSD 12</b></p> <p>By March 2004, have outline proposals for the regeneration of Londonderry in the light of consultation on the "Heart of the City" study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Publish final Urban Design Strategy by August 2003.</li> <li>b. Have agreed delivery structures in place by December 2003.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Business Area:</b> Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Community development</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improving and supporting Community Development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DSD 13</b></p> <p>During 2003/04, support community development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving community services within local council areas on the basis of their community support plans;</li> <li>• Improving access to services for at least 5,000 people in areas of greatest social need through the Outreach Programme;</li> <li>• Promoting active citizenship to create 2,000 new volunteering opportunities;</li> <li>• Investment of £3m to the Local Community Fund to develop community capacity and leadership in disadvantaged areas;</li> <li>• Supporting the Task Force on resourcing the voluntary and community sector;</li> <li>• Developing a central database of government funding to the voluntary and community sector; and</li> <li>• Working with the social partners to develop and implement a strategy to encourage and support employer led volunteering.</li> </ul> <p>a. By December 2003 to have produced a monitoring report on progress made by local councils in the implementation of Community Support Plans.</p> <p>b. By July 2003, to have identified and supported approximately 15 demonstration projects to improve access to services for at least 5,000 people in areas of greatest social need and have produced a progress report by March 2004.</p> <p>c. Support a range of projects and groups to create 2,000 new volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>d. Support a range of actions, initiatives and/or community and voluntary groups to address gaps or weaknesses in community capacity in the selected areas across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>e. Options paper outlining key issues being considered by the Task Force to be produced by October 2003.</p> <p>f. Database operational in all government departments by March 2004.</p> <p>g. To have completed negotiations with partners from the business and voluntary and community sectors for the delivery of actions arising out of the strategy to encourage and support employer led volunteering and have an implementation plan in place by September 2003 for roll-out across Northern Ireland.</p>
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<p><b>Business Area:</b> Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group</p> <p><b>Social need to be tackled:</b> Community development</p> <p><b>Desired outcome:</b> Improving and supporting Community Development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Targets or actions and timescales</b></p> <p><b>DSD 14</b> Oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Partners for Change, Government's Strategy for Support of the Voluntary and Community Sector.</p> <p>Publish a monitoring report by September 2003 to evaluate progress on implementation of action points within the strategy.</p>
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## Annex 2: Further Information about New TSN

This report can be accessed on the Internet at [www.newtsni.gov.uk](http://www.newtsni.gov.uk). It can also be made available in alternative formats from the New TSN Unit in large print, audio cassette and on disc or via e-mail in Word.

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 Michael J Mulholland or Linsey Leckey at the New TSN Unit. You can contact them by:

Post: OFMDFM  
New TSN Unit  
E3.19 Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3SR

Telephone: Michael J Mulholland: 028 90 523337  
Linsey Leckey: 028 90 523164

Fax: 028 90 523323

E-Mail: [New.TSN@ofmdfmni.gov.uk](mailto:New.TSN@ofmdfmni.gov.uk)

Text Phone 028 90 522526

The people listed on the following pages are closely involved with the implementation of New TSN within their respective Departments. You are welcome to contact them if you have a query about a particular Department's approach to the policy or about its Action Plan.

### **Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister**

Michael J Mulholland  
New TSN Unit  
Room E3.19  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast BT4 3SR

Tel: 028 9052 3337  
Fax: 028 9052 3323  
E-mail: Michaelj.mulholland@ofmdfmini.gov.uk  
Text Phone 028 9052 2526

### **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

Esther Moore  
Central Management Branch  
Room 513Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 9052 4047  
E-mail: Esther.Moore@dardni.gov.uk

### **Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**

Mr Colin Watson  
Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure  
INTERPOINT  
20-24 York Street  
Belfast BT16 1AQ

Tel: 028 9025 8809  
Fax: 028 9025 8880  
E-mail: colin.watson@dcalni.gov.uk

### **Department of Education**

Sharon Lawlor  
Equality, Rights and Social Inclusion Unit  
Rathgael House  
Balloo Road  
Bangor BT19 7PR

Tel: 028 9127 9628  
E-mail: sharon.lawlor@deni.gov.uk

### **Department for Employment and Learning**

Briega Rainey  
Room 318, Adelaide House  
Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8FD

Tel: 028 9025 7627  
Fax: 028 9025 7625  
E-mail: briega.rainey@delni.gov.uk

### **Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment**

Irene McAllister  
Equality and Diversity Unit  
Room 141  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast BT4 2JP

Tel: 028 9052 9650  
Fax: 028 9052 9542  
E-mail: irene.mcallister@detini.gov.uk  
Textphone: 028 9052 9304

### **Department of the Environment**

Alex Boyle  
Central Management Branch  
Room 614  
Clarence Court  
10/18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8GB

Tel: 028 9054 1194  
Fax: 028 9054 1169  
E-mail: Alex.Boyle@doeni.gov.uk

### **Department of Finance and Personnel**

Shirley McCullough  
Equality Unit, Central Support Division  
Corporate Services Group  
Room P1, New Building  
Rathgael House  
Balloo Road  
Bangor BT19 7NA

Tel: 028 9185 8046  
E-mail: shirley.mccullough@dfpni.gov.uk

### **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

Doros Michail  
New TSN Unit  
Room C 4.2  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast BT4 3SJ

Tel: 028 9052 2327  
Fax: 028 9052 0510  
E-mail: Doros.Michail@dhsspsni.gov.uk

### **Department for Regional Development**

Margaret Langhammer  
Central Management Branch  
Room 418  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8GB

Tel: 028 9054 0938  
Fax: 028 9054 0064  
Textphone: 028 9054 0642  
E-mail: margaret.langhammer@drdni.gov.uk

### **Department for Social Development**

Danny Byrne  
Corporate Policy and Planning Branch  
5th Floor  
Churchill House  
Victoria Square  
Belfast BT1 4SD

Tel: 028 9056 9533  
E-mail: Danny.Byrne@dsdni.gov.uk

### **Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency**

Ashley Russell-Cowan (Mrs)  
Corporate Branch, NISRA  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
Belfast BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8283  
Fax: 028 9034 8117  
E-mail: ashley.russell-cowan@dfpni.gov.uk

## Annex 3: Abbreviations

<b>ACNI</b>	Arts Council of Northern Ireland
<b>AEP</b>	Alternative Education Provision
<b>BSP</b>	Building Sustainable Prosperity
<b>CCD</b>	Community Care Directorate (DHSSPS)
<b>CCMS</b>	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
<b>CFG</b>	Central Finance Group
<b>CRC</b>	Community Relations Council
<b>CRISP</b>	Community Regeneration Investment Special Programme
<b>CSA</b>	Child Support Agency
<b>CSF</b>	Creativity Seed Fund
<b>CSG</b>	Central Services Group (DFP)
<b>CYP</b>	Creative Youth Partnerships
<b>DA</b>	Disadvantaged Areas
<b>DARD</b>	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>DAS</b>	Disablement Advisory Service
<b>DCAL</b>	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
<b>DCCRP</b>	District Council Community Relations Programme
<b>DCMS</b>	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
<b>DDA</b>	Disability Discrimination Act
<b>DE</b>	Department of Education
<b>DEFRA</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>DEL</b>	Department for Employment and Learning
<b>DETI</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
<b>DFP</b>	Department of Finance and Personnel
<b>DHSSPS</b>	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
<b>DIS</b>	Directorate of Information Systems (DHSSPS)
<b>DOE</b>	Department of the Environment
<b>DRD</b>	Department for Regional Development
<b>DSD</b>	Department for Social Development
<b>DSG</b>	Dental Services Group (DHSSPS)
<b>EC</b>	European Community

<b>ECNI</b>	Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
<b>EDF</b>	Economic Development Forum
<b>EDSG</b>	Equality & Diversity Steering Group
<b>EDWG</b>	Equality & Diversity Working Group
<b>EHS</b>	Environment and Heritage Service
<b>ELB's</b>	Education and Library Boards
<b>ELP</b>	Electronic Libraries Project
<b>EPF</b>	Executive Programme Fund
<b>EQIA</b>	Equality Impact Assessment
<b>ESNRIG</b>	Equality and Social Need Research and Information Group
<b>ESNSG</b>	Equality and Social Need Steering Group
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FD</b>	Finance Directorate (DHSSPS)
<b>FE</b>	Further Education
<b>FRS</b>	Family Resources Survey
<b>GCSE</b>	General Certificate of Secondary Education
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information Service
<b>HAZ</b>	Health Action Zone
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education
<b>HEROBC</b>	Higher Education Reach-Out to Business and the Community
<b>HIP</b>	Health Improvement Plan
<b>HRD</b>	Human Resource Directorate (DHSSPS)
<b>HSENI</b>	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
<b>HSS</b>	Health and Social Services
<b>IAD</b>	Information and Analysis Directorate (DHSSPS)
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IFH</b>	Investing for Health
<b>IFI</b>	International Fund for Ireland
<b>ILA</b>	Individual Learning Account
<b>ITI</b>	Inter Trade Ireland
<b>JSA</b>	Job Seekers' Allowance
<b>LED</b>	Local Economic Development
<b>LFACAS</b>	Less Favoured Areas Compensatory Allowances Scheme



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<b>LSP</b>	Local Strategy Partnership
<b>MIG</b>	Minimum Income Guarantee
<b>NDDP</b>	New Deal for Disabled People
<b>NDLP</b>	New Deal for Lone Parents
<b>NDPB</b>	Non-Departmental Public Body
<b>New TSN</b>	New Targeting Social Need
<b>NGFL</b>	National Grid For Learning
<b>NI</b>	Northern Ireland
<b>NIBEP</b>	Northern Ireland Business Education Partnership
<b>NIBSP</b>	Northern Ireland Business Start-Up Programme
<b>NICOHA</b>	Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association
<b>NICVA</b>	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
<b>NIHE</b>	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
<b>NINIS</b>	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
<b>NIO</b>	Northern Ireland Office
<b>NISRA</b>	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
<b>NITB</b>	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
<b>NRRTI</b>	National Resource Rural Tourism Initiative
<b>NSMC</b>	North South Ministerial Council
<b>NTSN</b>	New Targeting Social Need
<b>NVQ</b>	National Vocational Qualification
<b>OFMDFM</b>	Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
<b>PASG</b>	Pharmaceutical Advice and Services Group (DHSSPS)
<b>PCD</b>	Primary Care Directorate (DHSSPS)
<b>PfG</b>	Programme for Government
<b>PLS</b>	Public Library Service
<b>PPMD</b>	Planning and Performance Management Directorate (DHSSPS)
<b>PPP</b>	Public Private Partnership
<b>PRONI</b>	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
<b>PSEEP</b>	Pre-School Education Expansion Programme
<b>PSI</b>	Promoting Social Inclusion
<b>PwC</b>	PricewaterhouseCoopers
<b>QUB</b>	Queens University Belfast

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<b>RCA</b>	Rate Collection Agency
<b>RCN</b>	Rural Community Network
<b>RDS</b>	Regional Development Strategy
<b>RDSG</b>	Rural Development Steering Group
<b>RHEP</b>	Rural Housing Estates Programme
<b>RRI</b>	Reinvestment Reform Initiative
<b>RSEO</b>	Road Safety Education Officer
<b>RSSI</b>	Raising School Standards Initiative
<b>RTS</b>	Regional Transportation Strategy
<b>RWN</b>	Rural Women's Network
<b>SCNI</b>	Sports Council for Northern Ireland
<b>SCRP</b>	Schools Community Relations Programme
<b>SDA</b>	Severely Disadvantaged Areas
<b>SEA</b>	Social Economy Agency
<b>SEF</b>	Social Economy Forum
<b>SEN</b>	Social Economy Network
<b>SIB</b>	Strategic Investment Board
<b>SIDD</b>	Strategy, Inclusion and Development Directorate (DHSSPS)
<b>SIP</b>	Strategic Investment Programme
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Agency
<b>SSP</b>	School Support Programme
<b>TSS</b>	Trading Standards Service
<b>UFI</b>	University for Industry
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>USEL</b>	Ulster Supported Employment Limited
<b>UU</b>	University of Ulster
<b>VLA</b>	Valuation and Lands Agency
<b>YCNI</b>	Youth Council for Northern Ireland
<b>YSCRSS</b>	Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme

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