

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Interim Evaluation of New TSN

Assessment on the Implementation of Action Plans

April 2003

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Table 13.2

Summary of Achievements

Department	Key Achievements
OFMDFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Negotiating for an increase in allocation to the social exclusion fund to ensure New TSN relevant bids were not penalised by an over-subscription to the fund ■ Working with DFP to ensure that the New TSN impact of bids to Executive Programme funds were identified by Departments ■ Consulting on and establishing priorities for PSI working groups ■ Engaging in consultation with the voluntary and community sector in relation to promoting social inclusion and the PSI report on travellers ■ Conducting and publishing New TSN related research on poverty, community differentials, barriers to essential services and employability ■ Significant contribution to the development of poverty and social exclusion indicators for Northern Ireland
DARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Completion of the Social Survey of Farmers and Farm Families ■ Greater weighting given to New TSN in the assessment of applications from (agriculturally) disadvantaged areas by the Countryside Management Scheme and Processing and Marketing Scheme ■ Allocation of additional milk quota to small active producers effectively skewing resources towards disadvantaged individuals and areas ■ Targeting of disadvantaged areas and groups through the 2001-2006 Rural development Programme
DCAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The development of specific indicators of social disadvantage in respect of DCAL activities ■ Skewing of resources from two of its funding programmes so that 60% of expenditure from the Inland Waterways and Inland Fisheries Programmes is in New TSN areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Five per cent of public library expenditure is skewed towards areas of disadvantage using Noble deprivation data ■ Heightened efforts to ensure the accessibility of the culture, arts and leisure sectors
DE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The proportion of school leavers entitled to FSM achieving 5+ GCSE Grades A*-C has increased at a higher rate than for school leavers in general since 1998/99 ■ The performance of pupils at the lowest achieving schools in terms of attainment of 5+ GCSE Grades A*-C has improved more than the average ■ A rise in pre-school participation rates from 56% in 1998/99 to 86% in 2001/02 ■ An improvement in their GCSE results of 30 of the 32 secondary schools in the School Support Programme ■ Establishment of a database to monitor the educational achievements of looked after children ■ The establishment of School Ages Mothers Programme which 28 young women had participated in and 15 received home tuition by February 2002 ■ The establishment of pilot programmes to identify the needs of and barriers faced by young people with disabilities in relation to youth services provision
DETI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of the Robson + framework and the associated definition of New TSN areas ■ Definition of social need based on area assessment of Noble ■ Retention of the Community Business Programme ■ Introduction of targets for companies in receipt of assistance to recruit from the long term unemployed ■ Location of Inward investment projects and job creation in New TSN areas ■ Development of Enhanced Monitoring Arrangements to monitor and report on performance against targets with initial evidence showing that of the 1,500 new recruits (April 2000 and September 2001): ■ 20% of all those gaining employment (from former LEDU & IDB companies) were previously unemployed and 12% had been in

	<p>full-time education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 53% were Roman Catholic, 38% were Protestant and 9% were of another religion; ■ Significantly exceeding targets for the number of first time investments in New TSN areas and for LEDU support to businesses in New TSN areas
DOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Review of the formula for the calculation of the resources element of General Exchequer Grant to District Councils (£1.5m skewed to areas of disadvantage)
DRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Allocation of vehicles under the Rural Transport Fund based on Robson ■ Targeting of jobseekers and people with limited mobility through the rural transport fund ■ Monitoring of rural community transport partnerships by means of monthly statistical returns
DEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction of widening participation and access measures in FE and HE ■ Skewing of resources to HE and FE institutions based on New TSN considerations ■ Improved monitoring of participants on New Deal programmes; ■ Allocation of funding directly to colleges through the FE Funding Formula which is based on a measurement of student activity and achievement called a Student Powered Unit of Resource (SPUR) which includes a weighting for New TSN, such that colleges receive additional funding for disadvantaged students who are enrolled and who participate in learning ■ An increase of £1,000,000 to the Access Initiative Fund, under which Colleges bid for additional funding to support actions that aim to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds and from groups with traditionally low participation rates in further education ■ The provision of a premium for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to universities that will amount to £1.14m in 2002/03. ■ Introducing new support for FE and HE students. The key features of the new support structure are: ■ the introduction of means tested bursaries of up to £1,500 for HE students from September 2001

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the introduction of means tested bursaries of up to £1,500 for FE students from September 2002 ■ the raising of the parental threshold at which a contribution to HE tuition fees is required from £17,805 to £20,000 ■ Introduction of childcare grant for HE students from September 2001 ■ an increase of 5,500 in full time HE places ■ The initiation and publication of the Employability and Long Term Unemployment Taskforce ■ completion of DEL research such as tracking study examining the employability outcomes of young people not in education or employment ('Status O') ■ Achievement of New Deal targets for 18-24 year olds, 25+ including evaluations on effectiveness that found that over half of participants on 18-24 New Deal lived in areas of multiple deprivation ■ 53% of Jobskills participants transferred to employment or training opportunities by March 2002 and 50% of Jobskills trainees progressed to Modern Apprenticeship training in March 2002 ■ Achievement of job brokering targets that assisted 8,270 claimants in 2000/01 ■ Partial Achievement of Worktrack targets that resulted in 29% of participants in 2000/01 progressing into employment with an 87% retention rate for employed participants after 13 weeks ■ Funding of Worktrack Outreach programme
DHSSPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of innovative methodologies for targeting of social need which extended the use of Noble (Capitation formula) ■ The work of the <i>Capitation Formula Review Group</i> which illustrated how resources are indicatively reallocated toward high need areas and how this formula reallocates resources towards Boards (results in a shift of resources) ■ extension of <i>Health Action Zones</i> into the Northern and Western Boards ■ Building of additional <i>Residential Care Places</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identification of the health needs of travellers through <i>The Traveller's Programme</i>
DFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The development of the Noble indices for multiple deprivation ■ Introduction of key surveys that will assist with the identification and monitoring of poverty, notably the FRS Survey and the British Household Panel Survey ■ The provision by NISRA of research and statistical guidance on the measuring and monitoring of New TSN through its role within Interdepartmental Working Groups ■ Development of a process that aims to quantify the extent to which public expenditure is relevant to New TSN ■ Development of an outreach programme to increase uptake of Housing Benefit and the Disabled Person's Allowance benefit through the Rate Collections Agency
DSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The development of an urban regeneration strategy for NI including the allocation of £12m PEACE II money to 12 deprived communities under Measure 2.11 Area based Regeneration ■ The development and implementation of URBAN II ■ a review of Community Services Programme and development of New TSN based funding formula ■ revision of categorisation of new build social housing to enable greater focus on groups and areas facing specific housing needs ■ allocation of new build funding to priority groups – North Belfast, Travellers, Rural Housing, West Bank ■ introduction of Minimum Income Guarantee for pensioners resulting in average payments of £23.41 per week to 8148 successful claimants ■ promotion of the New Deal for Lone Parents resulting in participation of 4565 individuals in the programme ■ completion of 1,850 new social housing units since introduction of the Action Plan in March 2001 ■ SSA has also undertaken research into the needs of disadvantaged groups (victims, ex-prisoners, people with disabilities)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ overall improvement in housing conditions including improvements in seven of the 10 most deprived district councils, four of which saw improvements greater than the NI average■ introduction of the Warm Homes Scheme offering energy efficiency grants to disadvantaged individuals. £4.38m was spent on 4,500 households between July 2001 and March 2002
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