



**Armagh and Dungannon**  
Health Action Zone

GM | 25 AUG 2005 | 2

Tuesday 23 August 2005

**ANTI-POVERTY**

**25 AUG 2005**

**RECEIVED**

Dr Gerry Mulligan  
OFMDFM  
Equality & Social Need Division  
Room E3.26  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast

Dear Dr Mulligan

Please find enclosed comments from Armagh & Dungannon Health Action Zone on NEW TSN – The Way Forward – Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy consultation document Phase 2.

Armagh & Dungannon Health Action Zone looks forward to the final publication of the Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Strategy and Regional Action Plan.

Yours sincerely

Paula Tally  
ADHAZ Manager

*"Together We Can Make a Difference"*

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**Comments from Armagh & Dungannon Health Action Zone on  
NEW TSN - THE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS AN ANTI  
POVERTY STRATEGY, Consultation Document Phase 2**

Armagh & Dungannon HAZ welcomes the commitment of the government to the administration to an 'anti-poverty' strategy, which was launched in April 2004.

The focus of the previous policy was on the means of achieving specific objectives and the proposed change to focus more on the outcome of key actions as opposed to the process is welcomed. However, key actions need to be specific and measurable in order to evaluate the outcome.

The overall strategic focus of the anti-poverty strategy is to improve the income and living conditions, in addition to this it will be important to include other impacts on poverty such as rural isolation, health, education etc.

The section in the report on Target Setting highlights the process and importance of setting targets, and takes into consideration the complexity of poverty. A strategy is not complete and effective without smart objectives, targets and action plans with achievable timescales to ensure its successful implementation.

Capacity Building, employability and tackling financial exclusion are mentioned as 3 high level priorities, however, tackling poverty will require a cross sectoral- departmental approach. Alongside the above the following need to be tackled;

- Poor Housing & Environment
- Education and skills enhancement
- Poor Mental Health
- Disability
- Low Self Esteem

The Strategic Framework mentions links to Departmental Policies and programmes and it is not always possible to mention all of them, we would welcome reference is made to the Public Health Strategy For NI' Investing for Health'

The report has highlighted there will be no additional resources and dedicated budget for the delivery of the strategy. Therefore, proposed actions and defined outcomes within the strategy need to be costed and prioritised within departmental budgets, taking into consideration other current funding streams coming to an end such as PEACE II, which has resourced a vast amount of projects targeting TSN over the past 6 years - Skewing of resources might not be as effective as it was.

A Ministerial Forum is not enough on its own to ensure leadership, coordination and monitoring of the strategy. There is a need for a strategic tier and several operational tiers, to ensure joint departmental implementation with reporting systems in place and effective representation from key stakeholders and decision makers. Within the proposed changes there is no mention of the Review on Public Administration and how this will inform and shape the new ministerial forum.

In conclusion Armagh & Dungannon Health action Zone welcomes the New TSN be renamed the Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Strategy, giving Northern Ireland its own identity in the hope of reinstallation of a local government. We look forward to the final publication of the strategy.