

Title of Policy	<i>Our Children, Our Pledge: a 10-year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland 2006 - 2016</i>
<p>Background</p> <p>The Children and Young People's Unit (CYPU) of OFMDFM is responsible for the development, implementation, and subsequent evaluation of the ten year strategy for children and young people.</p>	
<p>Approach</p> <p>To take this work forward, a steering group, Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Forum, Young People's Advisory Forum and Research Panel were established. The Young People's Advisory Forum, consisting of 48 young people, aged between 12-18 years, was established to inform the development process. The Forum was a representative grouping of all Section 75 categories of children and young people.</p> <p>Before the draft strategy ("<i>Making it r World 2</i>") was produced, adults, young people and children – some as young as 3 years old- were asked their views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the issues for children and young people? • How should these be dealt with? 	
<p>Outcomes</p> <p>In November 2004, the Children and Young People's Unit (OFMDFM) published the draft strategy "<i>Making it r World 2</i>" for consultation. NGO's and schools organised events throughout Northern Ireland, which were attended by 1255 children and young people.</p> <p>A young person friendly paper was developed by CYPU with the Young People's Advisory Forum and Young Citizens in Action programme to inform children and young people of key actions outlined in the draft strategy. The document can be accessed by following this link: http://www.allchildrenni.gov.uk/strategynew.pdf</p> <p>Responses were collated and can be accessed: http://www.allchildrenni.gov.uk/responses.pdf</p> <p>The final document, <i>Our Children, Our Pledge: a ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland</i> was also produced as a comic strip with a supplemental teacher's pack for primary school children along with a separate document for post-primary students.</p>	
<p>Lessons Learned (by public authority)</p> <p>Children and young people, but particularly young children, will see an</p>	

issue from a different angle than adults. We were made aware of issues of litter, broken glass and dog fouling because of what the very young children told us. These were the big issues for them, but adults hadn't considered them.

Summary of key features of the policy process

- Early and continued involvement with main stakeholders.
- Partnership working with experts in the field to help access groups of children and young people, e.g. children aged under 5 years.