

A COMMISSIONER FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation document. The Council believes that it currently provides all its services on an equal basis and is always looking at ways to improve its services in general and to any section of the community in particular.

The Council believes that the establishment of a Commissioner of Old People is a forward looking step as the number of citizens regarded as "old" continues to rise. In particular the Council supports the principal aim "to safeguard and provide the interests of older people".

The Council is supportive of the proposed duties for the Commissioner and his/her general powers.

The Council is of the opinion that the Commissioner should have the power to act in all relevant cases and to hold the role of the prosecuting authority should this role not lie elsewhere.

Overall the Council is fully supportive of the idea of a Commissioner for Older People with the necessary legislative support to carry out its duties in an effective and efficient manner and would like to see the position being formally established and filled as soon as possible.