



Investing
for Health

SOUTHERN INVESTING FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

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17th August 2005

Ms Liz McMeekin
Anti-Poverty Unit
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Stormont estate
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ANTI-POVERTY

24 AUG 2005

RECEIVED

Dear Ms McMeekin

Re: New TSN – The Way Forward: Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy. A Consultation Document. Phase 2

Please find enclosed a response to the above consultation document on behalf of the Southern Investing for Health Partnership.

The Partnership is pleased to have contributed to the consultation processes and looks forward to receiving the final Anti-Poverty Strategy in due course.

Yours sincerely

Colm Donaghy
Chair: Southern Investing for Health Partnership

Enc

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NEW TSN – THE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS AN ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY.

A Consultation Document Phase 2

Comments from the Southern Investing for Health Partnership

1. The Partnership welcomes the intention to revise the name of the strategy and that it will be known as “The Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Strategy”.
2. The intention to focus more on the outcome of key actions is welcomed, but this will be determined by the nature of those key actions being appropriately developed and monitored.
3. The detailed discussion on poverty and social exclusion in N Ireland in Section 2 is helpful to put the extent and breadth of the issue in context. It would be important to ensure in the Key Actions identified that a commitment to on-going research at local level, combined with comparative studies at national and international level be continued. This will help ensure that N Ireland does not fall behind other countries in its efforts to address this issue.
4. The Strategic Framework outlined in Section 6 is clearly laid out and should form the basis for the development of the Regional Action Plan. It is vital that this Action Plan is developed as soon as possible. This must have, as is suggested, a range of indicators which will identify targets areas and groups. However, these will also form the basis for the monitoring process. Such indicators must be developed sensitively and appropriately, reflecting the different aspects of poverty as outlined in the consultation document and the differing target groups, areas and issues which impact on or are impacted by this issue.
5. The intention to build on existing policies and programmes is welcomed but again we would make the comment that only certain strategies are referenced and that in particular there is no mention of the regional Public Health Strategy for N Ireland – “Investing for Health”. We would also wish to re-iterate that strategies must not only be linked at departmental level but most importantly at local level. It is at

local and community level where the key actions will be implemented to affect the desired outcomes and achieve the aim of this strategy.

6. The section in the document on Target setting highlights the need to take time to set specific, measurable and realistic targets reflecting the complexity and diversity of this issue and its impact on people where they live. We appreciate that no specific targets can be set at this time, but again stress our concern that the specific needs of rural dwellers and those involved in the fishing industry be reflected in the targets set and in the processes established to monitor those targets.

Finally, the Partnership looks forward to the final publication of the Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Strategy and in particular the establishment of the Forum and the development of the Regional Action Plan. It is our hope that this Action Plan will define clear outcomes against measurable time-frames and identified sources of funding, skewed or otherwise, which will make a real impact on poverty in our community.