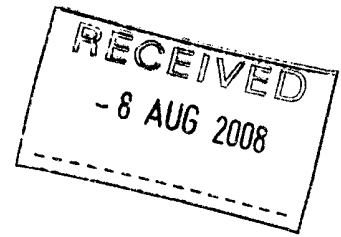


# THE PARTICIPATION NETWORK ENGAGING/ EMPOWERING



THE PARTICIPATION NETWORK

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Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: Review of the Civic Forum**

Following the dissemination of the above name document, we would like to inform you about the services provided by The Participation Network.

The Participation Network has been established, with the support of OFMDFM, to develop the capacity of statutory agencies, local government and government departments in Northern Ireland fulfil their duties to effectively engage children and young people in public decision making, in line with Section 75, the UNCRC, and OFMDFM's 10-year Children and Young People's Strategy.

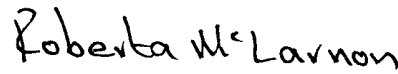
It is welcomed that all Government Departments have signed up to the 10-year Children and Young People's Strategy, thereby demonstrating commitment to creating a culture where children and young people are routinely involved in decision making processes that impact on them. The Participation Network can support OFMDFM deliver on this commitment.

We can support OFMDFM to incorporate the views of children and young people in the development of policies, such as the Review of the Civic Forum. We believe that children and young people's participation in public decision making is most effective when it is a structure integrated into the planning cycle, not merely a one-off event. Therefore, we recommend the following actions to relevant staff:

- Look through our 'Expert Organisation' directory, located on our website
- Contact The Participation Network to arrange a meeting
- Attend training with The Participation Network (details enclosed)

We have enclosed information about the project, including information about the FREE training and consultancy support we offer to public authorities. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
Roberta McLarnon  
Network Co-ordinator (Children)

  
Shannon Sickels  
Network Co-ordinator (Youth)

Enc: training brochure, newsletter