

Question 1 – What factors are important to map and why? How can mapping support the equitable distribution of resources and effective prioritisation and targeting of need?

- Establish what partnerships already exist – where the work is already happening
- Review existing policies/strategies (don't re-invent the wheel)
- Need to know what is out there funding wise
- Mapping of distribution of funding throughout NI and is it equitable – Belfast vs Derry vs rural and within the urban areas
- Parallels – social need is as important as numbers (population)
- Funding streams should be targeted to meet need not vice-versa
- Key is to map inequalities women face
- What services are currently there – but if you just map services you don't map the gaps – need to find gaps to establish baseline
- Who funds what currently
- Funding one area can have a negative impact on other 'similar' groups
- Rural vs urban funding – not just quantitative but qualitative measures/outcomes should be measured
- Mapping should highlight inequalities – allow effective targeting of need (ie health, education, caring, poverty etc are all areas of inequalities also childcare and transport)
- How effective is short term/project based funding

- Is anybody listening? Same points arising for decades
- Mapping exercise specific to women's sector resources
- Encourages partnership working
- Knowing/managing who does what
 - target age groups
 - childcare services
 - services and training
 - geographical locations
 - existing partnerships
- Who is funding various organisations and how long for
- Avoid duplication of services/programmes – forming new strategic partnerships
- Quality not quantity
- Accessible services for all
- Identifying areas of greatest need
- Money needs to filter down from large organisations
- Short-term funding undermines value of work on the ground
- Identifying core strengths of each organisation

- Establish a baseline from a cross-departmental perspective – enable to determine where resources come from and where they are going
- Mapping – set baseline of what is currently provided in the women's sector
- Map funding provided by each government department to support provision of services by women's organisations

- Gender Equality Strategy – How is this implemented by each government department
- Does mapping go far enough?
- Gaps within the provision in both disadvantaged, citywide and rural areas
- Services provided by women's groups outside disadvantaged areas
- Mapping government departments and what resources each contributes to the provision of women's organisations
- Need to know baseline of what is provided to the sector
- What is being provided by all departments to the Foyle area?

Question 2 – To what extent has government funding met the needs which are identified by communities to whom services are provided? What factors should government consider when trying to ensure the effective use of limited resources and how may this change over time?

- More transparency from government departments on funding available and what each department are funding
- Often needs are 'fitted' round programmes – impact on other women's groups – duplication and division of sector
- Lack of knowledge of monitoring of effectiveness of groups and funding – needs to be processes in place
- Complexity of paperwork (admin) – overburden on organisations
- Need for open call in funding applications – systems in place to say they are doing the work
- Measuring of qualitative not quantitative
- Models of good practice eg – CR model transferred to women's sector – woman's officer
- Policy worker to support C&V organisations – centralise all the services
- Spot check monitoring to ensure effectiveness of work
- Timeframe of money taking into account application/acceptance/time to spend money
- Mapping of need – changes and priorities

- Met a certain level of needs
- Gaps remain in provision
- More core funding rather than short term – you can concentrate more on project funding
- Funding: Smaller groups do not have the resources to access it
- Area – other organisations already getting funding
- Funding advisors to support the organisations
- Better communication and use of resources
- Funders communicating with grass roots groups
- Funding monitoring too bureaucratic
- Where do organisations fit within 'tick box' criteria? – other factors need to be considered – everything based in Belfast – need to build working relationships
- Salary scales across NI equitable
- More transparency – funding available
- Sharing of resources: create stronger infrastructure

- Sharing of information
- Needs – organisations try to fit into funding criteria – instead of focusing on needs
- Needs are always greater than resources
- Need to go beyond government funding measure
- Childcare
- Education/training
- Access to services
- Health
- Representation/voice
- Enterprise
- Still long way to go – lack of joined up working
- NB: Depts/intermediaries cream of funding
- NB: Time/Energy/Resources to secure money/wasted
- Use of limited resources – not about funding organisation about who can effectively and efficiently meet need
- TSN
- Inequalities
- Tracking performance
- Accountability/Transparency
- Communication with all stakeholders – need mechanisms for this
- Measuring impact/baseline set by government
- Avoiding duplication
- Full cost recovery – education – childcare – transport
- Suggested framework: Strategic development unit in Derry City Council (DCC) area – eg with responsibility for DCC – policy, funding, representation on board
- Avoiding duplication of services
- Partnership working
- Departments working together – cross departmental
- Policies that don't contradict and conflict with each other
- Childcare – all government departments responsibilities
- Women's strategic development unit needed for DCC area (policy and research, advocacy and lobbying)
- Robust evaluation/monitoring of current funding streams by government departments
- No current feedback from evaluations that groups are having to make
- Needs met very piecemeal, short term, 'passing the buck', lack of communication, need a joined up approach, no consistency, needs are adapted to fit funding, no core funding
- Impact of the project – does it reach its target audience
- Better structure for evaluating projects ie follow ups/visits/feedback
- Childcare
- Partnership working

- Centralised/joined up working with government and community groups
- DCC – strategic Development unit – policies/children commission/voice/resources/decision making/funding [women’s forum, childcare forum, DCC]– already in place

Question 3. What is the unique contribution of women’s groups and organisations? What steps might women’s groups and organisations take to ensure the effective use of limited resources? How may this change over time?

- 51% of population – multiple roles – tend to get children – ripple effect – whole family and community
 - Using life experiences
 - Flexibility – multi-tasks – holistic approach
 - Safe space, approachable for women
 - Supportive – self help – cross community work
 - Carrying on work in the
 - Volunteering
 - Integration of ethnic minorities
 - Partnership working
 - Challenging traditional gender roles
 - Not traditionally funding – lead not accepting expectations to work voluntarily
 - Community engagement – awareness how to challenge public services – capacity building
 - Keen to get involved to ensure effective services
 - Remove top tier – money better spent on the ground?
 - Childcare today? Preventing engagement
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- ‘Women only’ space creates safer spaces for the socially excluded
 - Women deliver services more economically and effectively – deliver better value for money outcomes
 - Women’s organisations tend to have a lot of input from volunteers
 - Women’s organisations deliver significant social returns on investment – long term outcomes and impacts
 - Measure how much has been saved through women’s organisations delivering services that government would have to pay more for
 - Strong case for more government resources for the women’s sector
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- Women’s groups are unique in that they encompass all the equality categories in their work
 - Women’s groups are highly effective in delivering services and meeting needs at community/grass roots level
 - ‘Women only’ working creates a new and innovative perspective to solve problems and meet needs eg work with young women
 - Great impacts and results including added value and outcomes come from directly targeting resources to women’s groups
 - Women’s approach (nurturing) – adds value within the community as a whole as it impacts on quality of life for families, communities and young people

- What savings is community and voluntary sector creating for government?
Money should be allocated from each department budget to reflect this
- Family role – the support women’s groups giving to the wider community sector and wider family
- Effective communication – is it effective use of money? – this needs communicated
- Sharing resources
- Already making effective use of limited resources providing value for money but require core costs

- Cross community – women together
- Cross border
- Core role in CD
- Led by need
- Multi-tasking roles – woman’s approach
- Childcare provision today? Advocate lobbyist
- Effectiveness – more joined up strategy approach – more of a voice – on the streets with placards
- Impact assessment should be carried out
- Inter-agency and partnership work
- Better communication – women’s steering group representing all organisations