

Initial Identification Of New Targeting Social Need

New Targeting Social Need is the Northern Ireland Executive's main policy for tackling poverty and social exclusion. It has influenced and shaped the Programme For Government, being built into the Executive's priority areas such as Growing as a Community, Investing in Education and Skills and Securing a Competitive Economy.

For further information and guidance on New Targeting Social Need please click here www.newtsnni.gov.uk

New TSN Policy

The Northern Ireland Executive set out its vision in the **Programme for Government**, highlighting the challenges ahead in turning its vision into reality, which will deliver real benefits to all. The Executive has made explicit its desire to address fundamental issues that are important to achieving a stable, peaceful and cohesive society, in particular the impact of poverty on individuals and communities.

New TSN is the Executive's main policy for tackling poverty and social exclusion. It has influenced and shaped the **Programme for Government**, being built into the Executive's priority areas such as Growing as a Community, Investing in Education and Skills, and Securing a competitive Economy.

The New TSN policy aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources on people, groups and areas in greatest objective social need.

Those in greatest social need must be identified objectively and targeted fairly, regardless of attributes such as gender, religion or race. New TSN does not discriminate against any section of the community.

However, New TSN aims to contribute to the reduction of inequalities among different sections of society. By consistently addressing the problems of people who are objectively shown to be in greatest social need, New TSN should, over time, contribute to the erosion of these inequalities.

The policy is being advanced through three complementary elements ; tackling unemployment and increasing employability; tackling inequality in other policy areas such as health, housing and education; and Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI).

New TSN is unique in that it is not a programme with it's own budget. Instead it is a policy running through all relevant existing spending programmes across all Northern Ireland Departments.

Each Department must target their money in such a way that more of it can be used to benefit those who are most disadvantaged. New TSN is however not just about money. It is also about targeting efforts. That means changing the way things are done so that programmes and services are organised and delivered in ways that are more helpful to disadvantaged people.

The policy is currently being evaluated and any changes in policy direction will be fed into future developments of this policy.

Further background details of the New TSN policy can be found in the **New TSN Annual Report's 2001** and **2002** and in **Making it Work**, available on the New TSN website at www.newtsnmi.gov.uk.

For further information on New Targeting Social Need contact the New TSN Unit, OFMDFM, Castle Buildings Belfast.