

1	<p>Public Authority: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)</p> <p>Address: Equality Branch, Room 510A Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB.</p> <p>Contact Person: Valerie Keys</p> <p>Branch/Unit: Equality Branch</p> <p>Telephone: 02890524435 Text phone: 02890524420</p> <p>Email: equalitybranch@dardni.gov.uk</p>
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2	<p>Please provide a brief description of the background of the work you want to obtain children and young people's views on:</p> <p>DARD has developed a 2-year draft Action Plan which sets out our proposed work to encourage greater participation and engagement with children and young people. The draft Plan has been developed in partnership with key organisations such as the Participation Network and those representing the interests and views of children and young people including the Young Farmers Clubs, and the Youth Forum. Young people have highlighted their issues of concern to us and have also suggested some actions for us to include. Our Plan includes these suggested actions as well as others that already appear in other Departmental plans and strategies.</p> <p>DARD shares responsibilities to deliver on our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the Executives overarching 10-Year Strategy for Children and Young People. The importance of participation, and our engagement with children and young people, is also highlighted through their inclusion in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, within the age category.</p> <p>Please refer to the attached document.</p>
3	<p>What do you want to know from children and / or young people?</p> <p>DARD would like to hear from children and young people about their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • views on the actions in the plan; • other ideas on what they would like DARD to do; and • any suggestions on how children and young people would like to be involved in the work of DARD.

4	<p>What are you going to do with the information you learn?</p> <p>The information from children and young people will be used to amend/adapt/further develop the draft Action Plan.</p>
5	<p>Who do you want to engage with?</p> <p>(A) – <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An inclusive range of children and young people</p> <p>(B) – And / or the following groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Children and young people in Alternative Education Provision <input type="checkbox"/> Boys or Young Men <input type="checkbox"/> Children and young people in Conflict with the Law <input type="checkbox"/> Children and young people with Disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Minority children and young people <input type="checkbox"/> Girls or Young Women <input type="checkbox"/> Children and young people in or leaving care <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans (LGBT) children and young people <input type="checkbox"/> Children and young people Living in Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Children and young people experiencing Mental Health difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Multilingual children and young people <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Traveller children and young people <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carers <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children and Young people in a specific geographic location (please describe):</p> <p>Children and young people living in rural areas.</p> <p>What age group(s) of children and / or young people would you like to engage with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0-4 year olds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5-11 year olds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12-17 year olds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18-25 year olds

6	<p>How would you like to engage with them? (tick all that apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I/my colleagues would like to attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> activity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> group meeting / forum <p>that children and young people are already involved in</p> • I would like to invite children and / or young people attend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> external consultation event <input type="checkbox"/> working group <p>Please describe:</p> • Other, please describe:
<p><i>The Participation Network recognises that children and young people's participation is not cost-neutral. However, it is the responsibility of the public authority and the organisation to engage in an independent discussion regarding resources and budget.</i></p>	
7	<p><u>When</u> and <u>how</u> will you feedback to children and young people about how their views were considered?</p> <p>Young people's groups (with their support worker) will be invited to attend an evening of entertainment where they will meet the Minister for DARD and hear how DARD will be incorporating their views into the Action Plan.</p> <p>Officials from DARD will revisit the younger children to provide them with feedback on how their views will be incorporated into the Action Plan.</p>
8	<p>Are you able to provide any awards or incentives to the children and/or young people for their participation?</p> <p>DARD goodie bags will be available for children and young people.</p>

9	<p>If an organisation is interested in working with you on this, what should they do? By when?</p> <p>Contact Valerie Keys on 02890524435 with a view to meeting children and young people in January 2010.</p>
Authorised by: Michelle Bell	Date: 8 th December 09