Programme for Government

Delivery Plan: Indicator 42

This is a live document which will develop and evolve throughout the engagement process. Please check back regularly for updates.

**Indicator:** Average life satisfaction score of people with disabilities

**This indicator is a primary indicator for:**

**Outcome 8:** We care for others and we help those in need

**Outcome 9:** We are a shared society that respects diversity

**The SRO is:** Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, Community Regeneration and Housing, Department for Communities

If you have any comments on how to improve the plan to turn the curve please contact: [communications@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:communications@communities-ni.gov.uk)

21/11/2016
Indicator 42: Improving the Quality of Life for People with Disabilities and their Families

1. Commitment and Context

1.1. Northern Ireland is a unique and diverse society. It can be an amazing place in which to live, socialise and work. But it is not the same for everyone. Although many disabled people, including those with complex needs, lead happy, productive lives, the life experience for too many falls short of what it could be.

1.2. Disabled people are more likely to live in poverty, to be economically inactive and to face problems with housing. They are less likely to have a qualification or a degree. Many experience social exclusion and low levels of participation in public and community life including the arts and sport.

1.3. The Executive is committed to ‘Improving well being for all’. Indicator 42 recognises the differential experience of people who are disabled compared to those who are not and provides an explicit commitment to “Improving the Quality of Life for People with Disabilities and their Families”

1.4. The focus of the Programme for Government is on major societal outcomes that the Executive wants to achieve in making a difference to the things that matter most to people. The emphasis is on collaborative working across Departments and with the public, voluntary and private sectors in tackling the biggest challenges facing society. This will be essential if we are to achieve an improvement in the quality of life for people with disabilities.

1.5. The sector has also made it very clear that people with a disability (and their families and representatives) must be engaged in that process if we are to succeed. They wish to be a key part of the delivery system so that we avoid a
“done to” approach and achieve one that is “agreed with” those that are impacted by our proposals. Having listened to and heard what the sector are saying, it is our intention to include people with a disability and the wider sector as our partners on a co-design, co-delivery and co-implementation basis.

1.6. There are a number of projects and programme activities currently underway across the departments that will contribute to securing the improvements that need to be delivered. One of the key aspects of our work in taking forward this indicator will be to map those areas of activity in order to consider synergies, best practice and to put in place the mechanisms for joined up thinking.

1.7. This will enable us to consider novel and innovative approaches that may lead to better outcomes as we make progress over time. If necessary we will consider a change of approach and in our commitments if the planned improvement does not materialise.

1.8. This Delivery Plan is therefore a broad commitment to improvement and we will work with the sector and our colleagues in government over the next number of months, and indeed over the longer term, to review, amend and refine our proposed actions.
2. Our Vision

2.1 The Executive’s **Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities**, launched in January 2013 set out a vision of “A future where disabled people contribute to and benefit from the cultural, social, political and economic life of Northern Ireland on an equal basis as others.”

2.2 Our engagement with disabled people and their representatives has confirmed to us that to make real this vision and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, we need to empower and enable people with a disability so that they have:

- More influence over their own lives, so that they are more engaged in decisions which impact on them, with their lives and aspirations shaping services, rather than services shaping their lives and limiting their aspirations.
- More opportunities to allow them to exploit and maximise their full potential.
- A greater sense of belonging to their communities, where they feel valued and respected as others are and have more opportunities to participate in community life.

2.3 To deliver on this agenda cross-cutting action, involving a variety of stakeholders including people with disabilities themselves, are required in the following areas:

1. Raising awareness and changing attitudes towards disability
2. Address the needs of children and young people including improving transition
3. Enhancing opportunities for employment and/or lifelong learning
4. Improving independent living and the provision of suitable homes
5. Improving participation in public and community life
6. Improving access to information and better data collection

3. Baseline Position

**Disability Prevalence in Northern Ireland**

3.1 The disabled population is large, accounting for about one in five of the population. Around 5% of children, 17% of the working age population and 60% of those people aged over 65, report having some form of disability.
3.2 It is also very diverse and includes those who have physical, sensory, learning and mental health disabilities in all age groups. And it is growing. This is in line with demographic trends associated with an ageing population. But the incidence of disability is also rising in children with increasing numbers reported as having complex needs, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and mental health issues. In the adult population increasing numbers are reporting mental illness and behavioural disorders.

Measuring Quality of Life

3.3 The life experience of people with a disability is different from those without a disability. There are barriers in accessing services for people with disabilities that many take for granted, including health, education, employment, and transport as well as information. Measuring quality of life (QoL) is complex and there is no widely accepted standard measure of QoL. Although the term “quality of life” has meaning for nearly everyone, individuals and groups can define it differently.

3.4 Within the current draft of the Programme for Government, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been identified as the main source of life satisfaction data which could be used as an initial proxy measure of QoL.

3.5 In 2014/15, 70% of those with a disability were categorised as having either high or very high life satisfaction (i.e. reporting a life satisfaction of 7 or more) compared to 89% of those without a disability.

Data Development Agenda

3.6 However, there are a number of issues associated with using the LFS survey data as the key population measure for this Indicator. Consequently a more suitable, robust and statistically valid measurement tool will need to be developed.

3.7 This will require an investment of time and resource. We intend to minimise the lead-in time for a new measure as much as possible. In the interim, the LFS
Life Satisfaction score will need to be utilised given the absence of a suitable alternative.

4. What are the proposals for making a real difference?

4.1 As previously set out in paragraph 2.3 the proposals below result from a highly productive engagement process with the disability sector, including people with a disability. We are extremely grateful to Disability Action who organised this and to all those who participated.

4.2 Our strategic analysis of the engagement with the sector has suggested that concerted collaborative action over a period of time in the areas set out below, will be required to make a real difference in improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. The pace of delivery will ultimately be determined by resource availability. The dates below indicate when a start will be made, but the roll out of the interventions and the realisation of the associated benefits, may take some years.

Raising awareness and changing attitudes towards disability

- We will consider the existing legislative framework with a view to bringing forward proposals, if required, to provide people with a disability and their families in Northern Ireland with the same level of protection that is available to their counterparts in Great Britain.
  
  **When:** Proposals to be brought forward, if agreed, September 2017
  
  **Who:** DfC lead, with input from people with disabilities and their organisations and other government departments

- People with disabilities are still confronted with unacceptable attitudes based on existing prejudices and fear and distrust in their ability. We will develop public awareness raising initiatives designed to counter these negative attitudes. We will co-design this programme in partnership with people with a disability. We will focus initially on the education sector and employers. We will explore whether we can use innovative behavioural techniques to change wider public attitudes.
**When:** This will be a long term initiative, but planning will begin early in 2017-18 with a view to running the first initiatives in 2018-19

**Who:** People with disabilities and their organisations, DfC, DfE, the education sector, employers, and DOF re innovative techniques.

**Addressing the needs of Children and Young People and improving transitions.**
- We will work with our colleagues in education to raise awareness of the needs of children with disabilities in schools, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

**When:** 2017-18, but ongoing in longer term

**Who:** DfE lead, with input from DfC, people with disabilities and their organisations and other stakeholders as required

- We will work with our colleagues in education on the development and implementation of the next Children and Young People Strategy (CYPS) to ensure that children and young people with disabilities and their families have:
  i. Good physical and mental health
  ii. The enjoyment of play and leisure
  iii. Learning and achievement
  iv. Living in safety and with stability
  v. Having economic and environmental well-being
  vi. Being able to make a positive contribution to society
  vii. Living in a society which respects their rights.
  viii. Living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted.

In addressing these issues it is anticipated that we will also impact positively on the families of children and young people with a disability.

**When:** 2017-18, but continuing in longer term

**Who:** DfE lead, with inputs as necessary from DfC and other stakeholders including people with disabilities and their organisations
We will improve the experience of transitions for young disabled people and their families by:

I. Engaging with young people and their families and working with our partners, we will map and identify a prioritised list of improvements to the transition experience for young people moving from post primary school to adulthood, taking account of the CYPS Plan, the Disability Action Plan, the post 19 Action Plan, Bamford and the DEL committee report on Transition for young people with a learning disability.

II. Monitoring the outcome of young people going through transition, and considering how we can ‘smooth’ the transition process throughout all stages of life.

When: Initial changes in place during 2018-19.

Who: DfC, DoH, DfE, CYPS, people with disabilities and their organisations, education sector

Note: we recognise that transitions impact at various stages of life and these too need to be addressed. Initial efforts will be directed at young people transitioning to adulthood. Action to address other transitions will be scheduled later in the planning period.

**Improving transition from post primary to adulthood** – We will provide comprehensive information on benefit support for young people with severe learning disabilities, with a focus on transition and post transition support. We have and will continue to engage with special needs schools on benefit support. Any schools requesting information will be given presentations and one to one advice.

When: 2017-18 and throughout planning period

Who: DfC Lead

We will explore support options that will enable more young people with disabilities to access pre-employment, educational and vocational programmes.


Who: DfC lead with people with disabilities and their organisations and further education sector
Enhancing opportunities for employment and/or lifelong learning

- We will work with other Departments and their associated bodies to promote and implement social clauses in services contracts led by the government, maximising opportunities for people with disabilities to secure paid employment.
  
  **When:** 2017-18 and throughout planning period
  
  **Who:** SIB lead, all departments and associated bodies, Industry

- We will implement the Employment Strategy for people with a disability to create a pathway that will help more young adults move into work.
  
  **When:** 2017-18 and throughout planning period
  
  **Who:** DfC lead, people with disabilities and their organisations, employers

- Working with colleagues in other departments and sectors, and through policy development, we will ensure that disabled people who are economically inactive are, where possible, helped back into the labour market (indicator 6 and 17 refers).
  
  **When:** 2017-18 and throughout planning period
  
  **Who:** DfC, DoH, health and social care sector, employers, people with disabilities and their organisations

- We will work with our colleagues in the Department for the Economy and the higher and further education sector, to increase accessibility to, and improve the quality of experience of Further and Higher Education for people with a disability.
  
  **When:** 2017-18 and throughout planning period
  
  **Who:** DfE and the education sector

- We will work with the educational sector to improve the educational attainment of young people with a disability. (indicator 12 refers)
  
  **When:** Long term
  
  **Who:** DfE lead
• We will work with our colleagues in Education and Universal Credit regarding childcare and the implementation of the Childcare Strategy in order to provide better access to childcare for parents of children with disabilities and children of parents who have disabilities.

  **When:** 2017-18 and throughout planning period  
  **Who:** DfE, DfC and people with disabilities and their organisations

**Improving independent living and the provision of suitable homes**

• We will streamline the Adaptations and Disabled grants process and reduce waiting times for adaptations etc.

  **Time:** Initial changes will be introduced from 2017-18  
  **Who:** DfC, NIHE, Housing Associations, people who are disabled, Health and Social Care Trusts, and local government.

• We will increase the provision of accessible homes and consider ring fencing them for disabled people and complete the accessible housing register.

  **When:** Commencement in 17-18 but ongoing thereafter  
  **Who:** DfC, NIHE, Housing Associations

• Working with our colleagues in DfC we will ensure that any anti poverty policies take account of the needs people living in poverty who are disabled (indicator 19 refers).

  **When:** From 2017-18 onwards  
  **Who:** DfC lead

• We will ensure that people with disabilities continue to gain from the Department for Communities improving benefit uptake campaign so that they receive all the social security benefits to which they and their families are entitled.

  **When:** From 2017-18 onwards  
  **Who:** DfC

• We will review the eligibility criteria of the fuel poverty scheme to address the differential in fuel poverty between disabled and non-disabled people.

  **When:** By September 2017
Who: DfC, NIHE, local government

- We will ensure better access to life skills for independent living such as budgeting, cooking and independent travel training, and ensure our supporting people programme is appropriately targeted.
  When: From 2018-19
  Who: DfC, NIHE, supporting people providers

- We will review the housing and respite options for adults with complex disabilities with a view to ensuring needs are met in an age appropriate way.
  When: 2018-19
  Who: DfC, NIHE, Housing Associations, DoH, HSC organisations

- We will work with the social care and community sectors to extend the range of day opportunities for those who wish to avail of them.
  When: 2017-18 onwards
  Who: DoH lead, HSC sector, people with disabilities and their organisations

- We will work with our colleagues in Health to consider the development and implementation of a second phase of the Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan (2012 – 2015).
  When: 2017-18
  Who: HSC Board lead with people with disabilities and their organisations and HSC Trusts

- We will support the delivery of the new Accessible Transport Strategy [due to be published by end of 2016] and assist the Department for Infrastructure in delivering a transport network that is inclusive and accessible to all. In particular we will work to increase awareness and uptake of travel concessions through the Maximising Incomes and Outcomes programme.
  When: 2017-18
  Who: DfI lead, DfC, people with disabilities and their organisations, Transport NI,
• Public Realm Access: We will work with the Department for Infrastructure and local Government, in partnership with people with disabilities and their organisations to identify the current issues experienced by people with disabilities and the impact of these issues on their access to their local and wider community. This is to ensure that such issues are taken into account in community planning in order to ensure our streets and highways are accessible, safer and reduce the risk of unnecessary injury.
  
  **When:** 2018-19
  
  **Who:** DfC, DfI, people with disabilities and their organisations, Transport NI and local Government.

• We will consider the possibility of introducing a grant scheme to enable the additional cost associated with driving and theory lessons for people with disabilities to be met.
  
  **When:** 2017-18
  
  **Who:** DfC

• We will work with disabled people and social care sector to address barriers and to increase take up of self-directed support and direct payments, for those who choose to access their care in this way.
  
  **When:** 2018-19
  
  **Who:** DoH lead, DfC, people with disabilities and their organisations, people with disability, HSC organisations

• We will financially protect individuals with a disability impacted by the welfare changes up to a period of 12 months to afford them time to adjust to the new welfare reforms. This includes support for people currently on DLA who lose out as a result of the introduction of Personal Independence Payment and their carer's.
  
  **When:** 2017-18 and throughout planning period
  
  **Who:** DfC lead
• We also recognise the particular pressures on families where a member of the household has a disability. The introduction of the benefit cap, which is to make sure that no household receives more in benefits than an average wage or salary, will not apply if any member of the household qualifies for a disability benefit.
  
  **When:** 2017-18 and throughout planning period  
  **Who:** DfC lead

**Improving participation in public and community life**

• We will involve disabled people in designing a structure for monitoring the implementation of this plan including the setting up of a central regional disability forum involving people with disabilities. This forum will have oversight responsibility for this indicator.
  
  **When:** 2017-18  
  **Who:** DfC, people with disabilities and their organisations, DoH, DfE, Dfl, DfE

• We will develop and deliver a disability sport action plan, the vision of which is that everyone with a disability has an equal opportunity to access sport and active recreation (indicator 27 refers).

  **When:** Launch of plan expected in 2016.  
  **Who:** DfC, Sport NI, Disability Action, NI sports forum, TEO, DE DoH

• We will work with The Executive Office and the Commissioner for Public Appointments NI with a view to increasing the number of people with disabilities in public appointments.
  
  **When:** 2019-20  
  **Who:** DfC, TEO, CPANI, public bodies, people with disabilities and their organisations.

• We will engage with stakeholders and local Councils to consider how we can better provide peer support and create more opportunities to allow disabled people to participate in community life. (Indicator 27 refers).
**When:** From 2017-18  
**Who:** DfC lead (see action plan for indicator 27) people with disabilities and their organisations, local councils

- We will improve outdoor recreation opportunities for people with disabilities. We will provide, improve and promote access opportunities for outdoor recreation at NIEA-managed Country Parks and Nature Reserves for people with disabilities by removing, where practicable, obstacles to access and publicising disability-friendly facilities and paths.  
**When:** 2017-18  
**Who:** NIEA and people with disabilities and their organisations

- We need to ensure that our society is an age friendly region in which people, as they get older, are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights respected and their dignity protected\(^1\) and we will work with our colleagues in DfC to ensure the actions associated with the Active Ageing Strategy reflect the needs of people with disabilities.  
**When:** The strategy was launched in 2016 and covers the 2016 -2012 period  
**Who:** DfC

**Improving access to information and better data collection**

- We will develop a Northern Ireland standard for accessible communications.  
**When:** 2018-19  
**Who:** DfC, other government departments, people with disabilities and their organisations

- We will create a disability information hub that includes links and information from a range of stakeholders from health, voluntary sector education and employment and training which will provide a central point for information access and the sharing of advice. We will also explore with people with disabilities how we can improve access to information through the provision of a more tailored/personalised peer led service.

\(^1\) Active Ageing Strategy 2016-21, Northern Ireland Executive, 2016.
**When:** 2019-20  
**Who:** DfC, DfF/ ESS, DoH, DfE, people with disabilities and their organisations.

- We will work with our colleagues in DfC with respect to the work being taken forward through the Advice Strategy ‘Advising, Supporting, Empowering’ and the ‘Welfare Reforms Mitigations Project’ to ensure these are designed to address access to information for people with disabilities’.

**When:** 2017-18  
**Who:** DfC

- A data development Agenda (designed in collaboration with the central regional disability forum – described earlier in this document) will be taken forward with two main objectives

  (i) To establish the prevalence of disability within the Northern Ireland population, by type and for all age groups including children.

  (ii) To develop an alternative measure to the LFS life satisfaction score. The new measure will need to be more closely aligned to an agreed definition of Quality of Life (QOL) and will need to adequately and sensitively capture the differing needs/ issues of a very diverse population.

**When:** Commencement 2017-18  
**Who:** DfC, Nisra, people with disabilities and their organisations

5. **Delivery Partners**

5.1 It is acknowledged that in order to successfully deliver on the new Programme for Government, meaningful collaborations and partnerships will be required, not least with people with disabilities and their organisations. The Department for Communities will lead on the implementation of the plan but it will require the commitment and co-operation of the delivery partners below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Partner</th>
<th>Their Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept for Communities</td>
<td>Lead responsibility for overall implementation of Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Depts, particularly DoH, DfE DfE DfI</td>
<td>Leadership and commitment across their stakeholders and ALBs to delivery of plan; responsibility for certain actions; review of policies, priorities and processes in their sectors to give effect to the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIHE, Housing Associations, supporting people providers</td>
<td>Delivery of housing and adaptations service; ensuring supporting people programme is appropriately targeted, delivery of fuel poverty schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with a disability</td>
<td>Influencing design of specific actions and involvement in delivery and monitoring implementation of the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability sector</td>
<td>Influencing design of specific actions and involvement in delivery and implantation of the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport NI (with DfI)</td>
<td>Implementation of accessible transport strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education sector (with DfE and DfE)</td>
<td>SEN, raising awareness, CYPS, transitions educational attainment, access to further and higher education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and social care sector</td>
<td>Physical and Sensory Disability strategy, transitions, housing adaptations, promotion of independent living, promotion of day opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NISRA</td>
<td>Data development agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government</td>
<td>Delivery partner in a number of actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIEA/ SportNI/Disability sport NI/Arts Council</td>
<td>Delivery partner in improving participation in community life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers (public, private and third sectors), SIB</td>
<td>Implementation of social clauses, creation of employment opportunities, adoption of positive attitude towards disability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Plans for Evaluation

6.1 A programme team will be established and will be responsible for developing an overarching evaluation plan which will include assessing not only the progress of each intervention but also the impact that each intervention has had on improving the quality of life for people with a disability. The plan will detail monitoring arrangements on progress.

6.2 The delivery plan will be updated on an ongoing basis, with actions reviewed, replaced and updated as we learn about their effectiveness. This learning will be fed directly into the ongoing delivery process around the interventions.

7. Equality Impact

Equality Screening

7.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires all public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between –

- Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Men and women generally;
- Persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Persons with dependents and persons without.

7.2 A screening process has been completed (Annex A) and on this basis it has been concluded that there are no expectations of negative impact arising from the plan in terms of the Section 75 dimensions and this will be kept under review.
### Equality Screening

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires all public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between –

- Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Men and women generally;
- Persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Persons with dependents and persons without.

In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, public authorities must also, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Public authorities are required to screen all policies and make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations. A summary of that screening process is set out below.

### Information about the policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 - Draft Delivery Plan for Indicator 42: Improving the Quality of Life for People with Disabilities and their Families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New policy – Delivery Plan arising from the Draft Programme for Government Framework</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The draft Delivery Plan will seek to contribute towards the delivery of the Draft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?  
If so, explain how.

One in 5 people living in Northern Ireland report having a disability. Disabled people are more likely to live in poverty, to be economically inactive and to face problems with housing. They are less likely to have a qualification or a degree. Many experience social exclusion and low levels of participation in public and community life including the arts and sport.

The Executive is committed to ‘Improving well being for all’. Indicator 42 as part of PfG recognises the differential experience of people who are disabled compared to those who are not and provides an explicit commitment, to “Improving the Quality of Life for People with Disabilities and their Families”

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The draft Delivery Plan for Indicator 42 was drafted by officials from the Department for Communities with contributions from other Executive departments and through engagement with key stakeholders.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Programme for Government Indicators are set and monitored by the NI Executive. The Delivery Plan sits within the remit of the Department for Communities (DfC). There are however specific activities within the Delivery Plan that fall fully within the responsibility of other Departments. DfC will work across Departmental boundaries to oversee delivery. Delivery will also include close working with disability sector.

**Implementation factors**

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?  
If yes, are they

- [ ] financial
- [x] legislative
This policy will be delivered on a Co-Design, Co-Delivery and Co-Implementation basis, which will ensure that the sector is fully engaged in a positive and pro-active way.

Main stakeholders affected
Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

- staff
- service users
- other public sector organisations
- voluntary/community/trade unions
- other, please specify – members of the public, particularly people with disabilities

Other policies with a bearing on this policy
This draft delivery plan for Indicator 42 is part of the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21. It is one of the 42 Indicators underpinning the 14 outcomes of the draft PfG and will be subjected to full public consultation.

Available evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 75 category</th>
<th>Details of evidence/information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Religious belief    | The 2011 Census shows that, overall Catholics\(^2\) were less likely than Protestants to have a disability\(^3\) (20 per cent compared with 23 per cent). Proportionately fewer of those classified as ‘Other religions’ or ‘None’ had a disability (18 per cent and 11 per cent respectively).

There is no reason to believe this category would be adversely affected. Indeed all people with disabilities should benefit from the Delivery Plan. |
| Political opinion   | There is limited research on disability status with regard to Political Opinion. Available survey data\(^4\) indicates that, 25% of the population with a unionist political opinion had a disability compared to 23% of those with a nationalist opinion.

There is no reason to believe this category would be adversely affected. Indeed all people with disabilities should benefit from the Delivery Plan. |

\(^2\) Defined as religion brought up in or belonged to
\(^3\) Defined as a long-term health problem or disability which limited day-to-day activities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racial group</td>
<td>There is limited information on disability across different racial groups due to data disclosure issues. The Delivery Plan for Indicator 42 includes data development activities. There is no reason to believe this category would be adversely affected. Indeed all people with disabilities should benefit from the Delivery Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>The prevalence of disability(^4) rises with age ranging from 5% in those aged 0-15 years, 17% among those aged 16-64 to 60% in those aged 65 and over. There is reason to believe that people in this category should benefit from the Delivery Plan given the focus on transitions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>Higher proportions of disability(^5) are evident among those that are widowed (52%), separated (41%) and divorced/civil partnership dissolved (39%). Similar levels of disability are experienced by those that are married/in a civil partnership (20%) and among those that are single (18%). 12% of those that are cohabiting have a disability. There is reason to believe that people in this category should benefit from the Delivery Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td>There is limited information on disability with regard to sexual orientation due to disclosure issues. The Delivery Plan for Indicator 42 includes data development activities. There is no reason to believe this category would be adversely affected. Indeed all people with disabilities should benefit from the Delivery Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men and women generally</td>
<td>In Northern Ireland, 22%(^3) of females and 19% of males indicated that they had a disability but this profile varies with age. More males under 16 have a disability (7% compared to 4% of females) and the same proportion of males and females have a disability between ages 16 and 44 (10%). The proportion of females only begins to increase above male levels for those aged 45 to 64, with 29% of females compared to 27% of males with a disability. Beyond age 65 gender differences are more apparent, with 62% of females having a disability compared to 56% of males, partly reflecting greater longevity in females and the higher levels of disability associated with increasing age. There is reason to believe that people in this category should benefit from the Delivery Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>20% of the Northern Ireland population are/ have a disability. As the population ages this percentage is expected to increase.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^4\) NI Census 2011  
\(^5\) The Family Resources Survey (2013-14)
There is reason to believe that people in this category should benefit from this Delivery Policy given its focus on disability.

**Dependants**
The NI School Census identifies almost 72,000 children who are disabled or have a Special Educational Need (SEN). A new experimental tool, the Database for Income Modelling and Estimation (DIME), will allow identification of individuals with disabled dependents of any age. There is reason to believe that people in this category should benefit from this Delivery Plan given the focus on transitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 75 category</th>
<th>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious belief</td>
<td>We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political opinion</td>
<td>The limited research available appears to suggest that political opinion has little impact on disability – 25% of unionists and 23% of nationalists declared a disability. We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial group</td>
<td>Data disclosure issues mean that the impact of racial group on disability is difficult to quantify. We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>As people age we know they are more likely to have a disability. The needs, experiences and priorities of this group may positively benefit from the Delivery Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>We have reason to believe the needs, experiences and priorities of this group may positively benefit from the Delivery Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td>We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men and women generally</td>
<td>As individuals age gender does impact on disability - more women are affected than men, which is probably related to their greater longevity. The needs, experiences and priorities of this group may positively benefit from the Delivery Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>One in five people has a disability in Northern Ireland which is considerably higher than elsewhere in the UK. Individuals with disabilities can face multiple barriers. The Delivery Plan is designed to address these issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependants</td>
<td>School data provides the number of dependents under the age of 20. DIME offers an opportunity to match the needs of individuals with dependents to interventions in the form of tailored assistance, services or programmes. The needs, experiences and priorities of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
this group may positively benefit from the Delivery Plan.

### Screening questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 75 category</th>
<th>Details of policy impact</th>
<th>Level of impact minor/major/none</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious belief</td>
<td>We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political opinion</td>
<td>We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial group</td>
<td>We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>The Delivery Plan should have a positive effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>The Delivery Plan should have a positive effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td>We have no reason to believe the Delivery Plan will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men and women generally</td>
<td>The Delivery Plan should have a positive effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>The Delivery Plan should have positive impact on equality of opportunity as it is designed to improve the quality of life for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependants</td>
<td>The Delivery Plan should have a positive effect on equality of opportunity for this category</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

6 This policy will have a major and positive impact on the 20% of people in NI who have a disability.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section category</th>
<th>If Yes, provide details</th>
<th>If No, provide reasons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious belief</td>
<td>Yes – The Delivery Plan has been developed on a co-design basis bringing together people from across Northern Ireland. It has offered a positive opportunity for everyone regardless of their religious belief, political opinion, racial group or age, marital status, sexual orientation, men and women generally, disability and dependents, to work together to achieve a positive outcome for the 20% of people in NI affected by disability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political opinion</td>
<td>As above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial group</td>
<td>As above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>As above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>As above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td>As above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men and women generally</td>
<td>As above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>In particular the Delivery Plan is designed to better promote equality of opportunity for this group.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependents</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good relations category</th>
<th>Details of policy impact</th>
<th>Level of impact minor/major/none</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious belief</td>
<td>Yes – The delivery plan has been developed on a co-design basis bringing together people from across Northern Ireland. It has offered a positive opportunity for everyone regardless of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>their religious belief, political opinion, and racial group; to work together, promoting good relations, to achieve a positive outcome for the 20% of people in NI affected by disability.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political opinion</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial group</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good relations category</th>
<th>If Yes, provide details</th>
<th>If No, provide reasons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious belief</td>
<td>Yes – As the delivery plan is implemented there will be further opportunities to bring people together from across Northern Ireland to oversee the implementation of the policy. It will offer a positive opportunity for everyone regardless of their religious belief, political opinion, and racial group; to work together, promoting good relations, to achieve a positive outcome for the 20% of people in NI affected by disability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political opinion</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial group</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional considerations**

We will seek the views of those representing Section 75 groups as part of our co-design, co-implementation and co-delivery processes for the Indicator 42 Delivery Plan.

We will consider evidence from as broad a base as possible for example:

- The March 2016 Equality Commission for Northern Ireland research report on the key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland; and


**Screening decision**

We have not identified potential adverse impact on any of the section 75 groups. There is the opportunity for positive impact on the disability group of section 75.

This Delivery Plan is part of the Draft Programme for Government Framework and will be subject to extensive consultation over the next 4 months. We will have continued liaison with stakeholders and we will seek to respond to needs identified on an ongoing basis.
For these reasons we consider that an EQIA is not required at this stage but the option to carry one out remains open at any stage.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

Should we become aware of significant equality issues remaining we will reconsider the question of carrying out an EQIA.

**Mitigation**

We will continually review the Delivery Plan and re-screen if significant evidence or issues are raised.