



## SOUTH BELFAST PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Early Years Education and Learning  
Early Years Strategy Team  
Room 109  
Department of Education  
Rathgael House  
Balloo Road  
Bangor Co Down,  
BT19 7PR

1<sup>st</sup> February 2013

Dear Early Years Strategy Team,

Please find attached our response to the Learning to Learn - A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning consultation. This response has been prepared by the South Belfast Partnership Board in consultation with a number of local community groups in particular members from the South Belfast Health and Wellbeing Forum:

- **South Belfast Partnership Board** – A Board which brings together all sectors – community, statutory, political and private – to strengthen and better target the efforts being made by the community, the private sector and the Government to tackle in partnership the economic, social and environmental problems which affect people in the most disadvantaged areas of South Belfast
- **South Belfast Health and Well-being Forum** – In January 2010 the South Belfast Partnership Board established a Health Programme as the issue of health and wellbeing emerged as an area requiring a strategic focus. The programme objective was to encourage a strategic approach to address health inequalities and the promotion of wellbeing across South Belfast as a whole through enabling stakeholders to identify priority issues and develop responses to these issues. To achieve this, a South Belfast Health and Wellbeing Forum was created in August 2010. The members include a wide range of community, voluntary and statutory organisations. See the list below:
  - Forum for Alcohol and Substance Abuse (FASA)
  - Donegall Pass Community Forum
  - Windsor Women's Centre
  - Lower Ormeau Residence Action Group
  - Ballynafeigh Community Development Association
  - Age Sector Platform
  - Community Resources Belfast South

### South Belfast Partnership

23 University Street, Belfast BT7 1FY. Tel: 028 90244070; Fax: 028 90245565; 028 90241760

email: [enquiries@southbelfast.org](mailto:enquiries@southbelfast.org); <http://www.southbelfast.org>

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- Markets Development Association
- Sandy Row Community Forum
- South Belfast Surestart
- Taughmonagh Community Forum
- Engage with Age
- Markets Community Centre
- Greater Village Regeneration Trust
- South City Resource & Development Centre
- Donegall Pass Community Centre
- Opportunity Youth
- Fitzroy Presbyterian Church
- Contact Youth
- South Belfast Male Care
- Women's Information Northern Ireland
- Taughmonagh Live and Learn Programme
- The Rainbow Project
- GEMS NI
- Northern Ireland Council Ethnic Minorities
- Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Barnardo's Northern Ireland
- Polish Association
- Chinese Welfare Association
- Belfast Islamic Centre
- Multi-Cultural Resource Centre
- Sólás

Currently the South Belfast Partnership Board is leading/facilitating the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership process of establishing Locality Planning Groups and Family Support Hubs across south Belfast. We strongly recognise the linkages and importance between the Learning to Learn Strategy focusing on Early Years Education and Learning and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

I trust that you find these comments useful and look forward to seeing how they help shape the final strategy in due course.

The South Belfast Partnership Board would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the matters raised within this response with the Department of Education. We would also be pleased to act as a conduit for any discussions at a local level. Should you require further information or clarity to any of our comments please don't hesitate to contact my colleague Una Lappin on 02890 244 070 or [unalappin@southbelfast.org](mailto:unalappin@southbelfast.org).

Yours sincerely

Briege Arthurs  
 Chief Executive  
 South Belfast Partnership Board