

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on Volunteering in Health and Social Care

We would like to invite you to participate in the public consultation on Volunteering in Health and Social Care being undertaken by the Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency.

Volunteering has always played a significant role in the delivery of health and social care in Northern Ireland. Volunteers add value to the work of paid staff by providing befriending, meeting and greeting, transport, chaplaincy, meal time support, breastfeeding support and many other roles. In 2012, the Health and Social Care Board commissioned Volunteer Now to support the development of a three-year regional plan for volunteering in partnership with the Public Health Agency and HSC Trusts across Northern Ireland. This plan sets out a series of proposals to:

- promote and support the role of volunteers within health and social care;
- ensure that the commissioning of services from organisations using volunteers is informed by good practice guidelines and standards;
- encourage health and social care organisations to enable employees to contribute to employer supported volunteering.

The Volunteering in Health and Social Care Plan document and a response form can be accessed on the Health and Social Care Board website at www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult or www.publichealth.hscni.net/consultations.

The equality, good relations and human rights screening document is also available online.

We would ask that you use your available networks to ensure that as many stakeholders as possible are informed about the consultation.

How can I respond?

There are a number of ways that you can respond and these include:

Email: Maurice.Meehan@hscni.net

In writing: c/o Maurice Meehan
Public Health Agency
Alexander House
17A Ormeau Avenue
Belfast, BT2 8HD

Response questionnaire forms are available to download from the Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency websites www.hsboard.hscni.net/consult or www.publichealth.hscni.net/consultations and can be sent by email or post.

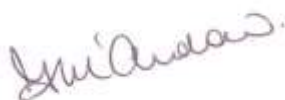
If you require a printed copy of the consultation documentation or an alternative format, please telephone 028 90311611 x 425 or lesley.blackstock@hscni.net

All responses must be received by 5pm on Friday 18th April 2014.

What happens after the consultation?

Following the end of the consultation period, the Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency will consider all the responses and make relevant recommendations for implementation.

We look forward to receiving your views on this important consultation.



Fionnuala McAndrew
Director of Social Care and Children
Health and Social Care Board



Dr Carolyn Harper
Director of Public Health &
Medical Director
Public Health Agency