
BELFAST EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD
NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD
SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD
SOUTHERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD
WESTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD
STAFF COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
ON THE SCREENING OF POLICIES
APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008

This information can also be made available, on request, in alternative formats including in large print, in Braille, by e-mail, on computer disc, on audio-cassette and in minority languages to meet the needs of those people who are not fluent in English.



October 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The North Eastern, South Eastern and Western Education and Library Boards (the Boards) have equality screened the following policies during the past year (April 2007– March 2008). During this period the Belfast, Southern and Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards had no new policies screened.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Listed below are the policies screened by each Board and the results of the screening. If you wish to see any or all of these policies, please contact:-

Mrs Patricia Murray, Project Officer, Staff Commission for Education & Library Boards, Forestview, Purdy's Lane, Belfast BT8 7AR
Tel. No. 028 9049 1461 **Typetalk:** 18001 028 90491461 **Fax No.** 028 9049 1744
Email: patricia.murray@scelb.org.uk

INTRA-BOARD POLICIES

NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

POLICY

Anti-Fraud Policy/Fraud Response Plan

Summary:

This is a statutory policy and plan that the Board is required to have in place as part of its governance and audit arrangements.

Comment:

There were no equality issues identified.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

POLICY

The Review of Maghera High School

Summary:

A wide-ranging consultation with local stakeholders including governors, staff, parents and pupils as well as members of the local community on the future options for the sustainability of Maghera High School was completed in December 2007. As part of the consultation participants were encouraged to consider and respond through a questionnaire to any equality issues related to the three options under consideration.

After due consideration of the consultation response, the Board decided to proceed with the option: Closure of Maghera High School with effect from September 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter.

This policy option was screened using the information and views provided by the consultation exercise. The policy option was determined to have a positive impact on educational provision and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations and therefore would not be the subject of a full equality impact assessment.

Comment:

The screening decision was subject to further consultation, particularly with the Section 75 constituency from 2nd April to 30th May 2008. Only one response was received to the consultation.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

POLICY

Development Proposal 176 – To establish a nursery unit at Moira Primary School

Summary:

The Board proposed that a single nursery unit would be established at Moira Primary School with effect from 1 January 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter. The aims of this proposal were to address the shortfall in provision for pre-school aged children in the Moira ward and to promote the delivery of the early years curriculum to the relevant age group.

Comment:

The Board engaged in consultation with Governors, parents, staff, other schools/playgroups and Section 75 consultees. A development proposal was published following which there was a statutory two month period during which interested parties/individuals could express their opinions directly to the Department of Education.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

POLICY

Development Proposal 177 – To close Conlig Primary School

Summary:

The Board proposed that Conlig Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter. The aims of this proposal were to address declining enrolments that would lead to a school which would be unable to deliver the requirements of the statutory curriculum and to address over provision in the controlled schools estate in the area.

Comment:

The Board engaged in consultation with Governors, parents, staff, other schools and Section 75 consultees. A development proposal was published following which there was a statutory two month period during which interested parties/individuals could express their opinions directly to the Department of Education.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

POLICY

Development Proposal 195 – To amalgamate Crossgar and Drumaghlis Primary Schools

Summary:

The Board proposed that Crossgar Primary School and Drumaghlis Primary School should be amalgamated to form a new controlled primary school with effect from 1 September 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter. The new school would open in the current premises of Crossgar Primary School. The aims of this proposal were to address declining enrolments leading to schools which would be unable to deliver the requirements of the statutory curriculum and to address over provision in the controlled schools estate in the area.

Comment:

The Board engaged in consultation with Governors, parents, staff and Section 75 consultees. A development proposal was published following which there was a statutory two month period during which interested parties/individuals could express their opinions directly to the Department of Education.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

POLICY

Development Proposal 201 – To close Down Academy

Summary:

The Board proposed that Down Academy should close with effect from 1 September 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter. The closure was proposed in order to facilitate the development of a new Grant Maintained Integrated School, Blackwater Integrated College, which would incorporate the pupils from Down Academy Controlled Integrated High School and from the independent school, Rowallane Integrated College. The aims of this proposal were to ensure sustainable educational provision within an integrated setting for those pupils whose parents wish to choose integrated education and to facilitate plans to remove substandard accommodation.

Comment:

The Board engaged in consultation with Governors, parents, staff, other schools and Section 75 consultees. A development proposal was published following which there was a statutory two month period during which interested parties/individuals could express their opinions directly to the Department of Education.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

POLICY

Continuous Improvement – A Corporate Consultation Strategy

Summary

This strategy introduces managed processes of consulting with stakeholders in regard to improving the quality of services and adhering to the statutory duty of consultation under Best Value. The purpose of the strategy is to promote a culture of continuous improvement through a customer focus in which all stakeholders can voice their perspectives and priorities.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

POLICY

Sustainable Controlled Post-Primary Schools

Summary:

The aim of this policy is to keep all interested parties informed, including Boards of Governors, of the practices which the Board will adhere to in order to ensure consistent, fair and equitable treatment in considering the sustainability of controlled post-primary schools. It will also ensure a consistent approach is taken to the appointment of school principals in line with DE and Board policies.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

POLICY

Revised Arrangements for Concessionary Home to School Transport (effective from September 2007)

Summary:

To make suitable arrangements to enable the Board, following the abolition of three for two seating on school buses, to work as expeditiously as possible towards a position where siblings of pupils in receipt of transport assistance are not excluded from receiving concessionary transport as a result of fewer places being available on Board vehicles.

Decision:

No equality impact assessment required.

CONCLUSION

The Boards are seeking comments on the screening of these policies. If you have any comments or if you require further information please contact Patricia Murray, the Boards' Equality Co-ordinator for this exercise. Contact details:

Mrs Patricia Murray
Project Officer
Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast BT8 7AR

Telephone: 028 9049 1461 Typetalk: 18001 028 9049 1461
Fax: 028 9049 1744 E-mail: patricia.murray@scelb.org.uk

Any comments you wish to make on the screening exercise should be made on or before **Friday, 12 December 2008**.

A response pro forma is enclosed which may be of assistance to you.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

**SCREENING OF POLICIES
(April 2007 – March 2008)**

RESPONSE PRO FORMA

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Of the policies listed, please identify any which are of particular relevance or interest to you or your organisation.

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2. Please identify those policies which you feel have significant equality implications.

Policy	Comments

3. If you feel that any of the policies “screened out” require equality impact assessment please state your reasons for this bearing in mind the four screening criteria:
- Is there any evidence, or other reason to believe, that there is a higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?
 - Is there any evidence, or other reason to believe that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy?
 - Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or better community relations by altering the policy or working with others in government or in the wider community?
 - Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that particular policies create problems which are specific to them?

Policy	Reason for Impact Assessment

4. Any other comments?

Please return to:

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 Project Officer,
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Closing Date: Friday, 12 December 2008