

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. The strategy outlines a care pathway (page 10).

(a) If you are a service user and/or carer, please tell us what difference you believe the implementation of the pathway will make to the services you experience.

No Comment

(b) How can we best ensure that services and support meet your needs?

No Comment

(c) If you are a care provider, what changes will you need to make to implement the pathway?

No Comment

(d) How will you make these changes?

No Comment

2. The strategy identifies key factors that need to be in place to ensure the pathway is successful (Page 11 para 6.7).

(a) Which of the key factors are most important for a successful pathway?

No Comment

(b) Which are the most challenging to put in place?

No Comment

(c) Do you think that any key factors have been missed?

YES

Within the “strategy” there is no explicit link or references to support services within education provision. Nor is there any reference to the underpinning which is required to support these services. This despite the aim of the paper which is to outline: “A strategic framework for meeting the needs of people with a sensory impairment in Scotland.” Within the text of the paper “people” would appear to include all those with a sensory impairment in Scotland, including children.

3. The strategy identifies areas for action that should be addressed going forward (Page 13-16)

(a) Which of the areas for action will be the most challenging to implement?

No Comment

(b) Which of the areas for action will make the biggest difference and why?

No Comment

(c) Are there any other areas for action that you would like to see included within the strategy?

The strategy needs to include direct references to specialised provision within education and how these will be underpinned/supported with sufficient and appropriate resources. These references should also include a description of the resources (time and finance) which are needed to support effectively:

- the mandatory training of teachers who work with pupils who are hearing impaired, visually impaired or both hearing and visually impaired (these teachers are required to obtain the necessary qualification/competences within five years. Ref: The Requirements for Teachers (Scotland) Regulations 2005). The time required to undertake this mandatory training will become increasingly difficult for these teachers with the introduction of Professional Update\* in August 2014.
- the excellent work and support provided by the Scottish Sensory Centre (based in University of Edinburgh) to these specialised teachers working within Scottish education. You will be aware that this Centre of Excellence was threatened with closure last year because of “austerity cuts”.

Professional Update\*

A scheme of reaccreditation for teachers.

4. Please comment on the current provision of sensory impairment services as either a service provider or service user. If you have any experience of sensory impairment services, please let us know what you think of them: this should include any experience of one-stop shops.

No comment

5. What difference will the implementation of the strategy make to your life?

No comment

6. Does this strategy properly reflect the current climate and developments in policy and practice for children and young people particularly in relation to the Getting it Right for Every Child approach and the Doran Review?

“See Hear” claims to provide:

“A strategic framework for meeting the needs of people with a sensory impairment in Scotland.”

Yet there is no reference or reflection on how this framework will include provision for the 3 – 18 years age group. Reference is made in paragraphs 1.5 – 1.7 to GIRFEC and the ASN bill but that is all –there are no direct link/s with the specialised provision within education; nor is there any articulation described between the strategy and the specialised provision within schools.

7. Do you have anything you wish to add to the Sensory Impairment Strategy or any other general comments that have not been covered by the questions?

Page numbers and a definition of terms would have been helpful. In this connection, no definition of the term “people” in the title is provided. The text of the paper implies that the strategy includes children (Paragraphs 4.4 & 4.5). If indeed it does include children, we would suggest that the word “people” in the title is inappropriate and confusing.

Paragraph 4:1 states:

“This strategic framework covers cradle to grave sensory impairment .....

Yet it makes no reference whatsoever to specialised teachers within education who support children with a sensory impairment. Details of their role can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/29163203/3>

The title of the paper makes reference to a strategic framework. We do not think that the paper actually provides a framework.

Consequently, and for the above reasons, we would suggest that the title should be revised to something along the following lines: “Working towards a strategic framework for meeting the needs of people of all ages who experience a sensory impairment in Scotland.” This would ensure that all age groups are included both within the title and within the contents of the document. This revised title would also make it clear that the paper is not actually a framework as yet but rather an initial step towards such a framework.

The SSTA hopes that this contribution is helpful.