



**Northern Ireland
Executive**

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DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE

A Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities

2012 – 2015

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

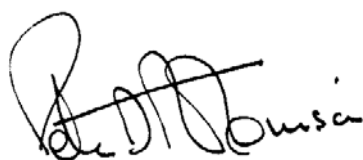
CONTENTS	PAGE NUMBER
1. Ministers' Statement	3
2. Background to the Executive's Disability Strategy	4
3. Actions taken in priority areas 2013/14	6
4. Improving the lives of people with disabilities – Annual Report 2013/14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation and Active Citizenship • Awareness Raising • Accessibility – Physical Environment, Goods and Services • Accessibility – Transport and Personal Mobility • Independent Living / Choice and Control • Children, Young People and Family • Transition from Childhood to Adulthood • Transition from Adulthood to Later Life • Standard of Living • Employment and Employability • Justice and Community Safety • Being Part of the Community 	17
5. Monitoring Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators • Monitoring Arrangements 	28
Appendix 1- Full Departmental Progress Report	30
Appendix 2 - Abbreviations	186

MINISTERS' STATEMENT


In the Executive's Disability Strategy, 'A Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities 2012-15', we set out our determination to ensure that people with disabilities are respected as important and valuable members of our community, treated equally alongside those without disabilities and have equal access to opportunities in all aspects of modern life. We committed to addressing and removing the obstacles that people with disabilities face in their daily lives, improving the delivery of services and ensuring that all people with disabilities, along with their families and carers, are able to access the support they need to fulfil their potential.

This report provides an account of the actions that the Executive took forward in 2013/14 to improve the lives of people with disabilities across each of the eighteen strategic priorities set out in the Strategy. We hope that it provides a helpful and informative report on the steps we have taken towards the delivery of the Strategy, as well as our commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

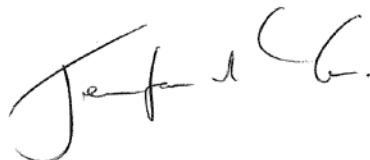
We recognise that people with disabilities still face discrimination and barriers that prevent them from participating fully in all aspects of society. We will continue to raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and tackle the issues that affect them to ensure that everyone in our society is respected and valued.



Rt Hon Peter D. Robinson MLA
First Minister



Martin McGuinness MLA
deputy First Minister



Michelle McIlveen MLA
Junior Minister



Jennifer McCann MLA
Junior Minister

BACKGROUND TO THE EXECUTIVE'S DISABILITY STRATEGY

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the actions taken forward across Government to implement the Executive's Disability Strategy between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.
2. The Executive's Disability Strategy '*A Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities 2012 – 2015*' was launched in February 2013.
3. The strategy was developed using a rights-based approach to fulfil the Executive's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
4. The purpose of the strategy is to:
 - set out a high level policy framework to give coherence and guidance to government departments' activities across general and disability specific policy areas;
 - drive improved performance of service delivery leading to improved outcomes for persons with a disability;
 - increase the understanding and importance of the needs of persons with a disability and ensure these needs are recognised when policy is developed or when implementing initiatives which impact on disabled people; and
 - improve the opportunities for people with disabilities to contribute across all areas of society.
5. The strategy sets out eighteen strategic priorities under a number of cross-cutting themes, clearly linked to rights protected under the UNCRPD. The twelve themes are:
 - Participation and active citizenship;
 - Awareness-raising;
 - Accessibility – physical environment, goods and services;
 - Accessibility – transport and personal mobility;
 - Independent living / choice and control;
 - Children, young people and family;
 - Transition from childhood to adulthood;

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- Transition from adulthood to later life;
 - Standard of living;
 - Employment and employability;
 - Justice and community safety; and
 - Being part of the community.

6. The strategy also identifies seven key areas where Departments aimed to achieve early momentum to deliver real improvements:

- Disability awareness and advocacy;
- Access, particularly access to transport, and digital inclusion;
- Housing;
- Employment and standard of living;
- Tackling crime against people with disabilities;
- Participation in sports and leisure; and
- Monitoring, reporting and governance.

7. The next section provides a summary of the key actions taken in each of these priority areas during 2013/14.

8. The delivery of the strategy is taken forward through the Delivering Social Change framework. The Delivering Social Change framework was set up by the Northern Ireland Executive to tackle poverty and social exclusion by building on those projects and programmes that have already been taken forward as part of Departments' core business.

9. Delivering Social Change represents a new level of collaborative and joined-up working by Ministers and senior officials across Executive Departments to drive through initiatives which have a genuine impact on the ground and make a real difference to people's lives.

ACTIONS TAKEN IN PRIORITY AREAS 2013/14

Priority Area	Lead Department	Actions taken forward 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014
Disability Awareness and Advocacy	OFMDFM	<p>In 2013/14, OFMDFM hosted a major, inclusive disability awareness conference to consider how current arrangements met the needs of all people with disabilities on the basis of equality.</p> <p>OFMDFM worked with Disability Action to develop a DVD resource pack for schools and youth groups to help teach children and young people about the rights of people with disabilities. Following positive feedback from schools, the Department is now looking at how it can roll out the resource pack across all schools in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>OFMDFM has provided financial support to a number of awareness raising activities, including the 6th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness, which focused on the protection and promotion of the rights of deaf people to equality in mental health care, a Symposium event hosted by Niamh and Mencap on capacity building for people with learning disabilities and mental health issues, and the Special Olympics Ulster programme, which provides opportunities for people with learning disabilities to develop skills and confidence and demonstrate their sporting achievements.</p>

Access – Digital Inclusion	DFP	<p>DFP established Go ON NI for 2013 – 2015 incorporating the main objective of increasing in the number of citizens who are online to 78% by 2015. This programme, in association with partnerships with BITC, Libraries NI and Supporting Communities NI, promotes digital services to the most disadvantaged groups, and provides assisted digital services.</p> <p>Provided financial support for Go ON RNIB project to increase the skills of 100 blind and partially sighted people to access digital technology.</p> <p>Roll out of Connect-Ability which raises awareness among people with disabilities of the value and benefits of connecting to online services.</p> <p>The Silver Surfers Day event has grown into Spring on line week providing opportunities for all to develop IT skills and knowledge. Silver Surfers Day 2013 and 2014 resulted in 915 seniors attending.</p> <p>Full Go ON NI events programme and road shows planned for 2014 -2015.</p>
Access – Transport	DRD	<p>In 2013, Translink continued to provide disability awareness training to its staff, including 77 new drivers, as part of their induction resulting in 2,186 drivers having attended this training to date. Disability awareness training has also been</p>

		<p>delivered to 23 customer-facing staff.</p> <p>DRD has completed its consideration of the administrative impact of Welfare Reform on the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme. This was a key task under Strategic Objective 7 of the current Accessible Transport Strategy Action Plan 2012-2015: 'To provide help with travel costs to enable older people and people with disabilities to use the transport services available to them.'</p> <p>Implementation of the necessary changes to the concessionary fares application process awaits the introduction of the Personal Independence Payments Scheme.</p> <p>The Department commissioned research into disability training provision by transport providers in Northern Ireland. This was carried out by the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Council and was published in January 2014. In addition the Department is carrying out its own review of the Transport Buddy Service. This pilot scheme is a voluntary sector-led service provided by volunteer travel trainers who accompany learners on a number of journeys assessing their progress until they are confident and competent to travel independently. The current client base is mainly older people or those with mental health issues or learning disabilities. The Department has bid for Delivering Social Change funds in an attempt to help roll out an improved scheme across Northern Ireland.</p>
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		<p>Following a public consultation, the Regional Development Minister launched the latest Accessible Transport Strategy Action Plan 2012-2015 in January 2013. This latest Action Plan focuses on helping older and disabled people to make the best use of accessible public transport services. As well as introducing new buses and trains and improved pedestrian access for disabled people, the Action Plan includes a range of measures to build confidence and to enable people with mobility problems to access public transport.</p>
Housing	DSD/DHSSPS	<p>Inter-Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation exercise was conducted in 2013. Subsequently responses were analysed and a summary has been available on the Northern Ireland Housing Executive web site since April 2014 - Summary of consultation responses to the Inter-Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services. A final report and draft action plan on the Inter-Departmental review of housing adaptations services, informed by the consultation responses, is currently being finalised and pending Ministers' and Executive approval, a consultation on the final report and draft action plan will then be launched. • Significant work with disabled people, occupational therapists, housing designers, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations has been undertaken since the

		<p>consultation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work resulted in the agreement of an Adaptations Design Communications Toolkit and the toolkit has been available via the Northern Ireland Housing Executive web site since April 2014 - Adaptations Design Communications Toolkit. The toolkit incorporates best practice guidance for housing adaptations design.
Employment and Standard of Living	DSD	<p>DSD launched “Maximising Incomes & Outcomes, a 3 year Plan for Improving the Uptake of Benefits”, in July 2013. Year 1 of the Programme has concluded and key achievements for people with disabilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A direct targeting exercise aimed at older people with potential entitlement to Attendance Allowance (a benefit for those aged 65 or over and need help with personal care because they are physically or mentally disabled); A Make the Call advertising campaign, which specifically targeted older people and those with caring responsibilities; and Launch of an Innovation Fund, with a project specifically targeted towards those with a stroke or a brain injury. <p>An evaluation of the work undertaken in Year 1 has recently been completed and £14.2m in additional annual benefits and arrears was generated; 59% (£8.4million) was paid in disability or sickness benefits. On average people were</p>

		better off by £62 per week.
Tackling crime against people with disabilities	DOJ	<p>A number of criminal justice system support and guidance services for victims were introduced, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victim and Witness Care Unit (VWCU) was rolled out in Belfast and Foyle, providing victims with a single contact point from when the Public Prosecution Service receives an investigation file. The Unit carries out an individual assessment of the needs for services of each victim, provides information in a way chosen by the victim where possible, and carries out checks to ensure that vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses are properly supported and the appropriate applications for assistance are made. • Pilot Registered Intermediaries Schemes were introduced, providing assistance to those with significant communication difficulties if this would diminish the quality of their evidence. The communication difficulties could arise due, for example, to a learning disability; mental health issue; neurological disorder or a physical disability. These Schemes will ensure that people that may not otherwise have access to justice are able to give evidence. • Publication of 'Autism: A guide for criminal justice professionals', provides background information about autism spectrum disorders and aims to

		<p>assist all professionals working in the criminal justice system who may come into contact with someone who has autism.</p> <p>Development of policy and legislation to extend the draft Mental Capacity Bill to the criminal justice system. The Bill is based on the fundamental principle that a person over 16 has the right to make their own decisions unless there is proof that they lack the capacity to do so. Among other issues, the Bill will provide significant, additional safeguards for such persons aged 16 or over, who lack capacity to make a specific decision for themselves.</p>
Access to sports and leisure	DCAL	<p>During 2013/14 DCAL made a substantial investment in improving access to and participation in cultural and sporting activities for people with a disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment & development of 3 IFA Wheelchair Football Clubs located in Derry, Lisburn & Newtownabbey; • Establishment of 15 Community Gyms and delivery of an UBIRFU structured Fitness Development Programme; • Employment of a Rugby Disability Inclusion Officer; and • Establishment of wheelchair hurling teams in Belfast and Derry. <p>The stadium redevelopment at Ravenhill has provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of 123 wheelchair spaces dispersed throughout the venue in order to

		<p>provide a range of viewing options;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installation of 3 accessible lifts to provide access to wheelchair viewing spaces on the upper floors in the three stands; • Mobility Scooter Parking Facility Charging Bays; • Dog Spending Area; • Lowered ticket window at ticket booth; and • Induction Loop Coverage to disabled seating in all three stands. <p>Continued investment and implementation of Sport NI's Disability Mainstreaming Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx £850,000 direct investment in disability sport projects; • 13,223 people with a disability engaged through Active Communities programme; • Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer appointed; • Five Star Disability Sport Challenge programme was delivered in 30 primary schools to 4,500 pupils; • 240 swimmers involved through NI Disability Swimming Championships; and • Ongoing work across archery, athletics, badminton, cycling, soccer, table tennis, sailing, swimming, rugby, boccia, wheelchair basketball and GAA to enhance inclusive practice, policy and programmes – has included delivery of Disability Inclusion Training and development of new 'GAA for All' inclusive
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		<p>resources.</p> <p>The Sign Language Partnership Group (SLPG) comprising government departments and key Deaf organisations continued its work to improve access to services for Deaf people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Deaf Active Citizenship’ project enabled Deaf people to have their voices heard through a series of consultations with government departments and ALBs leading to their wider participation in society; • Leading in the Community Training developed and increased the training opportunities for 36 Deaf sign language users; • ‘Breaking Down The Barriers’ Project improved access to voluntary and community sector services for the Deaf/Sign Language community; • Hands that Talk: ‘Signs for Services’ project improved accessibility to services for Deaf people in the north west region through implementing a training package consisting of Deaf Awareness training and basic sign language tailored to the specific services provided by organisations such as GP surgeries, local councils and leisure centres; and • ‘Educating Deaf Children and Youth to Sign’ project provided personal and social development programmes to 45 children, young people and young adults.
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		<p>In the Arts, the Arts Council NI (ACNI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded the core costs for several Arts & Disability organisations, for example the Arts & Disability Forum £92,946, Open Arts £98,042, Drake Music £52,380 and Kids in Control £50,704; • ACNI funded the award-winning Arts & Disability Awards Ireland (ADAI) grant scheme, for individual disabled artists. In 2013-14, an award of £25,000 was made to the ADAI scheme; • Along with An Chomhairle Ealaíon, ACNI fund the Arts & Disability Directory. This website provides online information that is contained in the Arts and Disability Handbook which is published collaboratively by the two Arts Councils in Ireland; and • The Arts Council (ACNI) supports the Arts & Disability Equality Charter, a 'kite-marking' project developed by disabled people to encourage and reward good practice amongst arts venues. This recognises organisations annually for their achievement of improving access to the arts for all. <p>Libraries NI provided the 'Homecall' service to anyone who has significant difficulty in visiting a branch or mobile library due to ill health, disability or lack of mobility and who does not have anyone who can collect library materials for him/her. This service may be provided via a dedicated mobile library, a dual purpose mobile library or a delivery van. During 2013/14 four new 'Homecall'</p>
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		<p>Vehicles were provided.</p> <p><i>'Health in Mind'</i> programme is a partnership project led by Libraries NI involving 4 mental health charities (Aware Defeat Depression, Action Mental Health, MindWise and CAUSE). The aim is to promote positive mental health through the provision of information, learning and reading activities. The Health in Mind project held 224 events in 2013/14.</p> <p>In 2013/14 DCAL Inland Fisheries Group (IFG) constructed 9 new disabled angling facilities in the Public Angling Estate.</p>
Monitoring, Reporting and Governance	OFMDFM	<p>OFMDFM has established a Departmental Disability Strategy Focus Group to coordinate the implementation of the strategy across government.</p> <p>The Department established a Monitoring and Evaluation Group to develop draft indicators that will be used to monitoring the strategy on an annual basis.</p> <p>Further detail on the monitoring, reporting and governance arrangements is provided in the Monitoring Framework section below.</p>

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

1. The purpose of this annual report is to provide an update on the actions taken by Government Departments during 2013/14 to support the delivery of the strategy.
2. This section highlights some examples of the key actions taken against each of the 12 key themes set out in the strategy.
3. A full report of all the actions taken against each of the eighteen strategic priorities is provided at Appendix 1. This report clearly links each action to one or more of the articles of the UNCRPD to demonstrate how the Executive is fulfilling its obligations under the Convention.

Participation and Active Citizenship

Strategic Priority 1 - Increase people with disabilities' opportunity to influence policies and programmes in Government including the delivery of the Disability Strategy and the subsequent Action Plan

Strategic Priority 2 - Improve interaction between all sectors to achieve the social inclusion of people with disabilities

4. We are committed to ensuring that all people with disabilities have the opportunity to be actively involved in decision making processes across government and are provided with the appropriate support to do so.
5. During 2013/14 we helped people with disabilities to develop skills and take opportunities to engage with government, for example, by funding the British Deaf Association 'Deaf Active Citizenship' project which aims to enable Deaf people to engage in consultations with government departments and the Deaf Answers: Leading in the Community training which develops and increases training opportunities open to sign language users.

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6. We actively involved people with disabilities and disability organisations in the development and management of government strategies and action plans including the Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015, the Autism Strategy 2013-2020 and Action Plan (2013-2016) and the Bamford Action Plan (2012-2015).
 7. We promoted the social inclusion of people with disabilities through projects such as Social Farming Across Borders, which offers disadvantaged groups of people the opportunity to spend time working on family farms, and funding Special Olympics Ulster to encourage people with learning disabilities to participate in sport and raise awareness of their sporting achievements.

Awareness-Raising

Strategic Priority 3 - Increase awareness among people with disabilities of their rights and opportunities through a range of communication activities

Strategic Priority 4 - Develop, in partnership with people with disabilities, a range of awareness raising activities, including those aimed at the general public, to challenge the negative perceptions surrounding disability and to gain a better understanding of the diversity of disabilities, particularly mental health

8. We are committed to raising awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and communicating information about services and programmes in a way that is accessible to everyone.
9. During 2013/14 we raised awareness of mental health issues through the Health in Mind project including the One Book Campaign, which aims to get people talking and thinking about mental health in a positive way, and the Hi Five projects, which operate in areas of social need to provide and promote library stock on relevant issues, deliver workshops on mental health and wellbeing and

provide support and guidance on mental health issues through the Health in Mind website.

10. We promoted the rights of people with disabilities in a wide range of areas including consumer rights, mental health services, training for taxi drivers and internal diversity training which is mandatory for all civil servants.
11. We provide advice and guidance in accessible formats on a range of issues, for example, the Travel Safe Guide which provides advice for people with learning disabilities using the public transport network, information for people with disabilities who are considering starting their own business and targeted health promotion initiatives, particularly for people with multiple needs.

Accessibility – Physical Environment, Goods and Services

Strategic Priority 5 - Eliminate the barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing the physical environment, goods and services so that disabled people can participate fully in all areas of life Strategic Priority 5

12. We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have the right to access all aspects of society on an equal basis with others.
13. We introduced the Pilot Registered Intermediaries Scheme which provides assistance to those with communication difficulties to give evidence in court.
14. We improved physical access to a number of public buildings and sites for people with a disability, including a disabled lift and accessible toilets at Tollymore Forest Park, a range of enhancements at court buildings and a programme of works to improve access to the physical environment, for example tactile paving, dropped kerbs and audible devices at crossings.
15. We provided appropriate and accessible information to break down barriers to participation, for example: CAFRE attended careers events aimed at students

with special educational needs to promote courses and advise on support arrangements; we funded the Hands That Talk: Signs for Services project which provides training packages on Deaf awareness and sign language to organisations providing services in the North West region; and we published Autism: A guide for criminal justice professionals to help them assist people with autism within the criminal justice system.

Accessibility – Transport and Personal Mobility

Strategic Priority 6 - Eliminate the barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing transport, ensuring necessary measures are in place to allow personal mobility for people with disabilities

Strategic Priority 7 - Increase the level of accessible/inclusive communications so that people with disabilities can access information as independently as possible and make informed choices

16. We are committed to taking effective and appropriate measures to ensure personal mobility for people with disabilities and enable people with disabilities to give and receive information and ideas through all forms of communication.
17. We continue to improve access to transport for people with disabilities through various initiatives such as the Buddy Scheme, which helps people to learn and gain confidence travelling independently, the Disability Action Transport Scheme, Concessionary Fares and the Dial-a-Lift Scheme. We have also introduced accommodation measures to help raise the pass rate of the Driving Theory Test for people with disabilities.
18. We helped people with a disability to develop confidence and skills in using technology and the internet through a range of digital inclusion projects, for example the Go On NI programme, and the Connectability programme.
19. We continue to provide a wide range of accessible information, both electronically and in print form, and in alternative formats and keep this under review to ensure

that everyone can access the information that they require and that we meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Independent Living, Choice and Control

Strategic Priority 8 - Increase the level of choice, control and freedom that people with disabilities have in their daily lives

20. We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have access to appropriate support, systems and resources to live independent lives.
21. We commenced Self-Directed Support pilots in each Health and Social Care Trust which are aimed at giving people more control and input into how social care is delivered to them and how resources are spent. We also continue to promote Direct Payments.
22. We have developed and published the Principles of a Persons Own Home guidance framework for people in supported living accommodation.
23. We are taking forward the draft Mental Capacity Bill which will help and support people to make their own decisions where they can and provide safeguards for those who are not able to make a specific decision for themselves.

Children, Young People and Family

Strategic Priority 9 - Ensure that families and carers with children or a family member with a disability have access to appropriate support to enable the child or family member with a disability to fulfil their full potential and that other children within the family have the same opportunities as children in families without a child or family member with a disability. Ensure that women with disabilities are able to fully enjoy the rights and freedoms set out in UNCRPD

Strategic Priority 10 - Ensure parents and carers with a disability have access to effective and appropriate support, where required, to access their right to a family life

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24. We are committed to ensuring that children with disabilities enjoy their human rights on an equal basis with other children and that the families, parents and carers of people with disabilities have access to the effective and appropriate support that they require.
25. We have provided funding to deliver a number of sign language courses to Deaf children and their families to improve communication between Deaf children and their families and to develop language and vocabulary skills of Deaf children to improve their educational outcomes.
26. We have invested in a programme of capital works to improve accessibility for children and young people in schools across all educational sectors.
27. We provided £1.57m funding to the Family Fund to provide practical support to families with severely disabled children. The Family Fund provides help with items such as specialist toys, clothing, bedding and white goods and also provides respites and short breaks for children and their families.

Transition from Childhood to Adulthood

Strategic Priority 11 - Transform the process of transition to adulthood for young people with disabilities
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28. We are committed to ensuring that young people with disabilities are given the appropriate support to overcome the specific barriers that they face in making the transition from childhood to adulthood.
29. In health and social care, transitions planning starts at age 14 and each Trust has a designated individual or team to help young people transitioning from children's services to adult services and from full time education. We work across departments and agencies to ensure that young people and their families are supported to make informed choices about their future.

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30. In education a Transition Plan is produced at the first (and subsequent) annual review of the statement of special educational needs following the young person's 14th birthday. The Transition Plan draws together information from the young person, his/her parents, the school and any other professionals involved with the young person. It aims to plan coherently for the change when a young person moves from school to adult life. A Transition Service exists in each Education and Library Board.
31. The Careers Service has Partnership Agreements in place with post-primary schools, including special schools, to support the schools' careers education programme and address the needs of young people vulnerable to social exclusion. Career advisors attend Transition Plan meetings with Year 10 pupils to help them make informed decisions about the options available to them when they leave school.
32. The Priorities for Youth Policy aims to improve young people's lives through youth work, support good educational outcomes and help to develop and prepare young people for adulthood.

Transition from Adulthood to Later Life

Strategic Priority 12 - Transform the process of transition from adulthood to later life for people with a disability

33. We are committed to ensuring that people with a disability are supported as they grow older to ensure that they have the same opportunities as older people without a disability.
34. During 2013/14 we worked with the Ageing Strategy Advisory Group, chaired by the Commissioner for Older People, to develop the Active Ageing Strategy. The draft Strategy issued for public consultation on 21 February 2014 and nine public consultation events were held, involving three hundred people. We are currently

working with the Advisory Group and Government Departments to finalise the Strategy.

35. We continue to support older people through the provision of opportunities in Further Education Colleges. We are also widening participation in Higher Education by groups of people who face barriers to participation, including older people and people with disabilities.
36. The Steps to Work programme helps unemployed or economically inactive adults of all ages to find and sustain employment. The programme offers a range of provision including work experience, essential skills and subsidised employment.

Standard of Living

Strategic Priority 13 - Reduce poverty among people with disabilities and their families and protect their right to an adequate standard of living

Strategic Priority 14 - Ensure that people with disabilities and their families have appropriate accommodation and adequate support to live independently

37. We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities and their families have the rights to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing.
38. In 2013/14 we delivered housing support services to over 23,000 people, providing them with the support that they need to live independently in their own homes. We also conducted a review of housing adaptations to maximise the housing choices available to people with disabilities and promote independence.
39. We took forward a range of projects and programmes under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework aimed at people at risk of poverty and social isolation including people with disabilities. These projects covered a wide range of areas including benefit uptake, farm health checks, unemployment, essential skills, health and wellbeing, assisted travel and social isolation.

40. We are continuing to work towards the resettlement of all people in learning disability facilities who do not need to be there for assessment or treatment.

Employment and Employability

Strategic Priority 15 - Work towards increasing the number of people with disabilities entering all levels of employment and safeguard the rights of those disabled people already in work

Strategic Priority 16 - Increase the opportunities for people with disabilities to attain skills and qualifications through access to appropriate training and lifelong learning opportunities

41. We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have access to an inclusive education system at all levels and enjoy the right to work on an equal basis with others.

42. We have increased the number of people with disabilities enrolling in Further Education and Essential Skills programmes. We have increased the funding to colleges to help provide technical and personal support to students through the Additional Support Fund.

43. We have taken forward a number of initiatives to help young people who face barriers to participation in education, employment or training, including those with disabilities, for example the Collaboration and Innovation Fund and the Community Family Support Programme.

44. The Disability Employment Service manages and delivers a range of services and programmes aimed at helping people with disabilities obtain and sustain meaningful work. These include pre-employment and in-work support services such as; Workable, Access to Work, Job Introduction Scheme, Work Connect, Specialist Residential Training and the Condition Management Programme. In 2013/14, approximately 3,000 people with disabilities or health conditions were supported through this menu of provision.

Justice and Community Safety

Strategic Priority 17 - Ensure that people with disabilities are treated equally by the law, have access to justice and can live safely in their own community

45. We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities enjoy equal recognition before the law and are protected from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.
46. In 2013/14 we developed policy and legislation to extend the draft Mental Capacity Bill to the criminal justice system. The Bill will place emphasis on helping and supporting people over 16 to exercise their capacity to make their own decisions where they can. The Bill will ensure that people who lack capacity will be treated equally by the law and have access to justice.
47. We continue to work to reduce instances of hate crime against people with disabilities and to ensure that, when hate crime does occur, there is confidence in the reporting and investigation of those crimes. Our work in this area includes the Hate Crime Advocacy Service, the Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme and the Be Safe Stay Safe project.
48. We are also working to ensure that people with disabilities who become involved in the criminal justice system are treated equally and fairly and have their welfare protected, for example through sentencing guidelines, legal aid reforms and the development of a joint Healthcare and Criminal Justice Strategy.

Being Part of the Community

Strategic Priority 18 - Improve access to sport, arts, leisure and other cultural activities so that people with a disability have equal access to community life

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49. We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are able to participate in the social and cultural life of their community on an equal basis with others.
50. In 2013/14 we provided direct support and investment to twelve focus sports to improve opportunities and provision for people with disabilities. This investment includes providing more accessible and inclusive sporting facilities, raising awareness of opportunities and increasing understanding of the needs of people with a disability in sport, supporting the Special Olympics programme and delivery of the 5-Star Challenge programme in schools.
51. We have supported children and adults with disabilities to become involved in the arts as artists, participants and audience members by funding and supporting a wide range of organisations and projects, including the Arts and Disability Forum, and we support the Arts and Disability Awards Ireland grant scheme for individual disabled artists. Seven arts venues were awarded the Arts and Disability Equality Charter in recognition of their work in improving access to the arts for all.
52. We have also funded projects to improve access to other leisure activities including the provision of improved access to water recreation facilities, new disabled angling facilities and additional Homecall vehicles which deliver books and audio books to those who are unable to access library services independently.

MONITORING FRAMEWORK

1. **Article 31 of the UNCRPD states that** countries must collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present convention. The Executive is committed to ensuring that data sources are identified and developed to measure the outcomes of this Strategy and more widely the UNCRPD.

Indicators

2. We established a monitoring and evaluation group comprising a range of stakeholders including policy officials, statisticians, academia, disability organisations and individuals with disabilities to help identify indicators to measure progress against the strategic priorities on an annual basis.
3. Data has been identified to measure progress against the majority of the strategic priorities and an indicator set has been developed. This annual indicator data will contribute to the final evaluation of the strategy. The indicator set was issued for public consultation on 24 November 2014 and ran until 27 February 2015.
4. We also presented a baseline indicator set at the launch of this strategy in 2013, based on the findings of the NI Survey of Activity Limitation and Disability (NISALD) 2006.

Monitoring Arrangements

5. We intend to establish an oversight group to drive forward and monitor the implementation of the strategy. This group will be comprised of key stakeholders from the statutory, voluntary and academic sectors as well as individuals with disabilities. The group will also assist with monitoring and reporting against the UNCRPD more generally.

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6. We have also established a Departmental Disability Strategy Focus Group, made up of representatives from Departments, to ensure a co-ordinated and joined up approach to the implementation of the strategy across all Departments.
 7. The Strategy is also monitored as part of the work of the Delivering Social Change Ministerial Group and the Delivering Social Change Programme Board, although these groups were not established solely for that purpose.

FULL DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT 2013/2014

1. THEME – PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1**

Increase people with disabilities opportunity to influence policies and programmes in Government including the delivery of this Strategy and the subsequent Action Plan.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>DARD Disability Forum</p> <p>The DARD Disability Forum is a support network for staff with disabilities. It works to raise awareness of the inequalities that people with disabilities can face in their workplace and to encourage individuals to participate and to play an active role by writing articles for the DARD newsletter, and the Forum's intranet site. Forum members have attended various training programmes, such as on understanding the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and United Nations Convention for Rights with People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).</p>	<p>DARD Disability Forum</p> <p>The Disability Forum is represented at the quarterly DARD Equality Steering Group meetings, and provides regular updates on its work and on any issues of concern for staff and customers with disabilities in accessing key DARD services.</p>	5, 8, 9, 27

	<p>The Forum contributes to relevant consultation exercises, provides stands at key exhibitions, assists business areas with the development of Easyread versions of lengthy documents and takes forward small projects e.g. disabled car parking and reviewing evacuation arrangements for disabled staff.</p> <p>Recently as part of the pre-consultative process on the DARD HQ relocation exercise, members of the Forum met with the DARD Relocation team to discuss issues affecting staff with disabilities in relation to the HQ relocation to Ballykelly.</p>		
DCAL	<p>Sign Language Partnership Group</p> <p>The formal recognition of British Sign Language/Irish Sign Language as languages in their own right in March 2004 committed departments to work together, in partnership with representatives of the Deaf community, to develop improved access to public services by users of sign language. As a result the Sign Language Partnership Group (SLPG) was established in 2004. The SLPG is comprised of government departments and key Deaf organisations to improve access to services for Deaf people. DCAL chairs and funds the SLPG under its remit of promoting indigenous languages. Projects from the Deaf sign language sector that contribute to the aims</p>	<p>Sign Language Partnership Group</p> <p>A key achievement has been the increase in the number of Sign Language Interpreters for the Deaf from 4 in 2004 to 27 currently.</p> <p>The 2013/14 SLPG budget has been used to fund several projects that fall into the various themes e.g. Human Rights Training, Assertiveness/Debating Skills Training and Social Development Opportunities</p>	8, 21, 24, 29

	<p>and objectives of the SLPG can qualify for SLPG annual funding which has seen £109k committed in 2013/14.</p> <p>Key Deaf organisations are represented on the SLPG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action on Hearing Loss (AOHL) - Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI) - British Deaf Association (BDA) - Deaf Answers - Foyle Sign Language Centre (FSLC) - Hands That Talk (HTT) - National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) - Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association (NIDYA) - Signature <p>The SLPG budget is funding the following projects which will increase Deaf people's opportunity to influence policies and programmes in Government:</p> <p>Deaf Active Citizenship</p> <p>DCAL funding of BDA's 'Deaf Active Citizenship' project aims to enable Deaf people to have their voices heard through a series of consultations with government departments and ALBs leading to their wider participation in society. It also aims</p>	<p>Deaf Active Citizenship</p> <p>By 31 March 2014 up to 390 Deaf people availed of the project and its services which covered areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Rights Training – 20 people 	<p>8, 21, 24, 29</p>
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	<p>to provide them with a better appreciation of their culture and heritage through events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of formal recognition of BSL and ISL. One of the consultations held under this project was in relation to increasing accessibility of Deaf people to visit local tourists attractions through speaking with NITB, Visit Belfast, Titanic Quarter, NI Museums, Crumlin Road Jail.</p> <p>Leading in the Community Training</p> <p>Deaf Answers: Leading in the Community Training will develop and increase the training opportunities for Deaf sign language skills to support the infrastructure within the DCAL commissioned ten year Strategic Direction ‘Roadmap’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assertiveness / Debating Skills Training – 20 people - Social Development opportunities (International Men’s Day & International Women’s Day) – 150 people - BSL / ISL Charter which encourages both public and private organisations to adopt good practice and build on existing capacity, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and build on good relations with the Deaf community– 20 people (directly trained) - 3 public consultations – 60 people - 10th Anniversary of BSL / ISL recognition celebrations – 120 people <p>Leading in the Community Training</p> <p>Deaf Answers: Leading in the Community Training will develop and increase the training opportunities for 36 Deaf sign language users in the 18 – 40 age range in NI, providing a supply of trained leaders who will have the key</p>	<p>8, 21, 24, 29</p>
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		skills to support the infrastructure within the DCAL commissioned ten year Strategic Direction 'Roadmap' report to benefit the deaf community and service providers.	
DETI	<p>Disability Action Plan</p> <p>Sought input from disability groups to DETI's Annual Disability Action Plan 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014.</p> <p>Public consultation</p> <p>Company Law (CLB) within the Business Regulation Division in DETI undertook public consultation during 2013 on policy proposals for the credit union and industrial and provident society sectors. It was made clear in the consultation document that accessible versions (such as Braille) were available on request. CLB also screened these policy proposals for Section 75 implications.</p> <p>Financial Capability Branch within Business Regulation Division, DETI, consulted disability groups as contained in the Section 75 listing when going out to consultation from 1 May-31 July 2013 relating to a draft Financial Capability Strategy</p>	<p>Disability Action Plan</p> <p>DETI received one response from a Disability Organisation. This was taken into consideration and a full response provided.</p> <p>Public consultation</p> <p>There were no requests for the consultation document in an alternative format. Results of the screening indicated that the policy did not have any significant implication for people with a disability.</p> <p>The Department has concluded that the Strategy proposals should have no significant implications for equality of opportunity or differential impact on any of the Section 75</p>	<p>5, 21</p> <p>5, 21</p>

	<p>for NI Consumers. The Department conducted an Impact Assessment screening exercise to assess the impact of this Strategy on the Section 75 Groups.</p> <p>A variety of disability groups, including Employers for Disability and Disability Action are included in DETI's (and its NDPBs) Section 75 consultee list, which is utilised on a quarterly basis to take our consultees' views on all our Equality Screening of all programmes and policies.</p>	Groups.	
DOE	<p>Equality Scheme</p> <p>The Department's Equality Scheme contains a commitment to hold an annual Equality Forum which is made up of officials from each of the Department's business areas and S75 representative groups, including those representing the disability sector. The Forum allows for discussion on issues around S75 and the commitments set out within the Department's Equality Scheme. Standing items on the agenda include the Department's EQIA programme, consultation and Equality screening.</p> <p>The Department's Equality Scheme contains the commitment for the Department to consult with all S75 groups, including</p>	<p>Equality Scheme</p> <p>The Department's Equality Forum took place on 19 February 2014.</p> <p>Ongoing. Consultation is included as a standing agenda item at the Department's Equality Forum.</p>	5

	those representing the disability sector, in all consultation exercises. S75 consultation lists are maintained by the Department's Equality Team and circulated around policy makers on a regular basis.		
DHSSPS	<p>Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015</p> <p>Disabled individuals and disability organisations are currently actively involved in managing the implementation of DHSSPS 3 year Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015. This involves them actively working in conjunction with official from DHSSPS, HSC Board and HSC Trusts.</p> <p>Autism Strategy (2013-2020) and Action Plan (2013-2016).</p> <p>People with autism, their families and carers and autism-focused voluntary organisations were involved in all stages during the development of the cross-departmental Autism Strategy (2013-2020) and Action Plan (2013-2016).</p> <p>Bamford Action Plan 2012-15</p> <p>Through the Bamford Action Plan 2012-15, the HSCB/PHA</p>	<p>Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015</p> <p>Outputs/results are detailed in 6 monthly progress reports presented to DHSSPS by Strategy Implementation Group.</p> <p>Autism Strategy (2013-2020) and Action Plan (2013-2016).</p> <p>The Autism Strategy (2013-2020) and Action Plan (2013-2016) was launched by Minister Poots on behalf of the NI Executive in the Assembly on 14 January 2014.</p> <p>Bamford Action Plan 2012-15</p> <p>Current Bamford Structures including the Programme Board and the Learning Disability</p>	<p>25, 29</p> <p>25, 29</p> <p>25, 29</p>

	<p>throughout the 2013/14 year and includes arrangements for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consulting; ▪ assessing, monitoring and publishing; ▪ assessing the impact of policies through screening and Equality impact assessment; ▪ staff training; ▪ ensuring and assessing public access to information and services; and ▪ handling complaints. <p>Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995), as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, the Department is required, when carrying out its functions, to have due regard to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and • encourage participation by disabled people in public life. <p>To meet that statutory requirement, the Department submitted a Disability Action Plan (2012-2015) to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) showing how the</p>	<p>2015).</p> <p>A Departmental annual progress report for the 2012-13 year was submitted to the ECNI on 04 September 2013.</p> <p>In addition the Department's website had a total of 50 visits and 67 downloads for the period 01.04.13 to 07.03.14 in respect of the Department's Equality Scheme (2011-2015) and the Disability Action Plan (2012-2015).</p>	
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	<p>Department proposes to fulfil these duties. The Disability Action Plan was compiled following a 12 week public consultation. ECNI approved the Disability Action Plan which was published in November 2012. It is available on the DOJ website and continues to be monitored and reviewed throughout the 2013/14 year.</p>		
DRD	<p>Groups who represent people with a disability are invited to attend an annual forum.</p> <p>The Department also has a list of contact information for Section 75 related groups, including those representing the disability sector which is reviewed and updated annually.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department also attend relevant training, talks and groups associated with a variety of different disabilities to ensure that the Department is aware of any issues.</p>	<p>To keep groups informed of work being taken forward by the Department and how it may impact on them. A Meeting of the forum was held on 25 September 2013.</p> <p>This list is used to seek comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 75 screening forms completed; and • on consultations being undertaken by the Department. <p>Ongoing - meetings attended as required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision Strategy Implementation Group - 3 October 2013. 	<p>8, 9, 29</p> <p>8, 9, 29</p>

	<p>Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Council</p> <p>The Department continued funding of the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Council (IMTAC). IMTAC is a committee of disabled people, older people and others including key transport professionals. Their role is to advise government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of people with disabilities and older people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign Language Partnership Group - 3 December 2013, and a subgroup meeting on 3 September 2013. <p>Their role is to advise government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of people with disabilities and older people.</p> <p>In the past year IMTAC has carried out research on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel training programmes. • How to improve information about transport services for people with a learning disability. • Three audits of pedestrian routes in Omagh, Moira and Derry/Londonderry highlighting issues for those who are disabled in those towns. 	5
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	<p>Equality Forum</p> <p>Groups who represent persons with disabilities are invited to attend the annual forum to discuss work being taken forward by the Department and how it may impact on them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approach of Passenger Transport Executives in Great Britain, to access and inclusion, with a view to inform the future work of Transport NI. <p>This information is considered by the Department with a view to possible future improvements.</p>	
DSD	<p>Personal Independence Payments</p> <p>In preparation for the introduction of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) to replace Disability Living Allowance for working age claimants, the SSA established a Customer Representative Group, involving more than 60 organisations representing people with disabilities to consult on the customer journey, application form and other issues of importance to people with a disability. In conjunction with Disability Action, the SSA ran six public awareness sessions around the introduction of PIP and have engaged separately with other specific disability organisations.</p>	<p>Personal Independence Payments</p> <p>An improved understanding of Personal Independence Payment and how it will operate in Northern Ireland.</p>	8, 9, 21

	<p>Social Economy Enterprise Pilots</p> <p>Investment of £0.7m in two social economy enterprise pilots in Lisburn and Omagh to create local employment opportunities and promote community sustainability.</p> <p>Employment and Support Allowance</p> <p>The Employment and Support Allowance Centre has an active, ongoing programme of engagement with groups representing vulnerable customers. Senior officials from Employment and Support Allowance meet on a regular basis with representatives from the Advice Sector Alliance and participate in the Disability Consultative Forum. This is attended by representatives from the Advice Sector including Citizen's Advice Bureau, NI Advice, Disability Action and the Law Centre. The forum provides the opportunity for discussion on issues such as difficulties faced by customers, how the Social Security Agency's services are delivered, form design and content, and information on benefit entitlement.</p> <p>The Centre also engages in more informal methods of consultation, by inviting customer representative groups to visit the Centre and/or delivering outreach sessions. Groups who have visited the Centre or received an outreach session</p>	<p>Social Economy Enterprise Pilots</p> <p>18 local jobs created in 2013/14.</p> <p>Employment and Support Allowance</p> <p>May 2013 Presentations to outreach officers</p> <p>May 2013 Presentations to drug outreach team</p> <p>June 2013 Staff awareness from Drug Outreach Team Belfast Trust Social Care Team</p> <p>Feb 2014 East Belfast Independence Advice Sector talk to Decision Assurance Call (DAC)</p> <p>Feb 2014 CAB talk to DAC</p> <p>March 2014 Social Security Practitioner Forum</p> <p>March 2014 Law Centre Londonderry</p> <p>March 2014 CAB talk on DAC</p> <p>April 2014 Hillcroft Special School</p> <p>Safeguard visits – 1069 referrals</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9, 21, 28, 29</p>
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	<p>include the National Autistic Society, Citizen's Advice Bureau, RNIB, Housing Rights Service and Disability Action. These meetings enable the Centre to raise awareness of benefit entitlement and provide a practical insight into how Employment and Support Allowance services are delivered, as well as gain an understanding of issues of concern to customer representative groups.</p>	<p>to the outreach team for ESA claimants 13/14.</p> <p>October 13 Working effectively with ESA customers – Training delivered to 9 telephony staff</p> <p>Braille version of ESA 50 held for issuing if required</p> <p>4 Sessions at the Disability Consultative Forum</p> <p>Escalation telephone enquiry process in place for Advice Services Alliance.</p>	
OFMDFM	<p>Victims and Survivors Forum</p> <p>The Victims and Survivors Forum, established by the Commission for Victims and Survivors, provides a platform for the views of victims and survivors to be considered in any policy development.</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation of Disability Strategy</p> <p>Disability organisations and people with disabilities involved in the development of a set of annual indicators to monitor the implementation of the Disability Strategy.</p>	<p>Victims and Survivors Forum</p> <p>A representative of the Victims and Survivors Forum is a member of the Victims and Survivors Programme Board.</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation of Disability Strategy</p> <p>Indicator set developed for consultation.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>29, 31</p>

	<p>Disability Awareness Conference</p> <p>OFMDFM hosted a major, inclusive conference to raise awareness of disability issues. The conference brought together Ministers, government officials and key stakeholders from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to discuss how to develop a programme to address the needs of people with a disability. The theme of the conference was 'changing attitudes and behaviour towards people with disabilities through raising awareness and working together to make a difference'. The outcome was to increase the awareness of disability rights and recognise the change required to improve the lives of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Capacity Symposium event</p> <p>The Department sponsored a capacity symposium hosted by Mencap and Niamh to promote awareness and understanding of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and explore how the rights of people with mental health difficulties or people with a learning disability to make decisions in all aspects of their life can be promoted and respected.</p>	<p>Disability Awareness Conference</p> <p>Participant feedback showed that conference had been helpful and informative.</p> <p>Capacity Symposium event</p> <p>Positive evaluation report indicated that participants thought the event was valuable and useful.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8, 12</p>
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1. THEME – PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Improve interaction between all sectors to achieve the social inclusion of people with disabilities.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>Equality Steering Group</p> <p>The Equality Steering Group (ESG) is made up of senior representatives from across DARD business areas, NIPSA and external representatives from key organisations with an interest in rural equality and good relations issues. Guest speakers are invited to address these meetings on issues of topical interest to ESG members and to highlight their area of work too.</p> <p>Social Farming Across Borders</p> <p>CAFRE through linkages with Queens University have been involved with a project called Social Farming Across Borders (SoFAB). This project offers disadvantaged groups of people the opportunity to spend time working on family farms. A Senior Rural Enterprise Lecturer is on the SoFAB Project</p>	<p>Equality Steering Group</p> <p>Representatives from the disability sector, including our Disability Forum have addressed ESG and during this reporting period, guest speakers included the Director of the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI).</p> <p>Social Farming Across Borders</p> <p>SoFAB output - 20 pilot farms were selected during summer 2013 (10 north / 10 south of the border). 66 participants were matched and are currently availing of the service. In 2014 farmers, participants, health service providers and the wider farming community</p>	<p>5, 8</p> <p>24, 27</p>

	<p>Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Invest NI's Innovation Voucher Scheme</p> <p>Through Invest NI's Innovation Voucher scheme, Autism NI and Triangle Housing have worked with CAFRE's Loughry Campus on food product development.</p>	<p>were interviewed to establish personal experiences of the project. Placements and monitoring through interviews /visits is ongoing.</p> <p>Invest NI's Innovation Voucher Scheme</p> <p>Autism NI and Triangle Housing output - The aim of this scheme is to set up businesses to employ disadvantaged and disabled members of the community.</p>	27
DCAL	<p>Deaf Answers 'Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap' project</p> <p>DCAL has funded the Deaf Answers 'Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap' project and is reviewing progress to date on implementation of the 2010 '10 Year Roadmap' report which was a strategic vision of improving access to services for Deaf people. Its aim is to identify ways of progressing further implementation of the 10 Year Roadmap through working with stakeholders such as the SLPG, other government departments, Deaf community and Healthcare providers. The 'Roadmap' aims to strategically improve access to all services for the Deaf community by tackling the inequalities, poverty and social exclusion felt by the Deaf</p>	<p>Deaf Answers 'Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap' project</p> <p>The funding of the 'Roadmap' project is in keeping with the DCAL ethos of both working in partnership with and empowering the Deaf community to improve access to services. The review process to date has involved meeting groups of stakeholders on a one to one basis to gather their views on the progress of the roadmap. Initial interim report presented to DCAL.</p> <p>The review process consisted of</p>	9, 29

	community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One meeting with each government departments with the exception of Department of Justice who were not involved in the original consultation report in 2010. • One meeting each with representatives of Deaf organisations AOHL, NDCS, Foyle Sign Language Centre, Hands that Talk, NIDYA, BDA, ASLI. • One meeting with Deaf Professionals 	
DETI	<p>Consultation</p> <p>Northern Ireland Tourist Board and key tourism providers attended a consultation evening on 27 February 2014 with the British Deaf Association (NI Branch) (BDA) representatives.</p> <p>Public appointments</p> <p>Throughout 2013, DETI was represented on the CPANI-led working group on diversity and under-representation in public appointments in Northern Ireland. The Commissioner for Public Appointments published his findings and recommendations in January 2014. A key recommendation is that specific public policy should be developed on board</p>	<p>Consultation</p> <p>Feedback from the BDA representatives will be taken on board by the key tourism providers to improve accessibility for the deaf community.</p> <p>Public appointments</p> <p>OFMDFM are in the lead in relation to taking forward the strategic recommendations contained in the Commissioner's report. These, and a number of other areas will require detailed work and, ultimately,</p>	<p>9, 30</p> <p>29</p>

	<p>diversity, together with an overall framework for action by the Executive and Departments, and this should be articulated to the public, monitored and reported on annually.</p> <p>The NICS wide cross-departmental Public Appointment Forum (PAF) is currently in the process of considering all the recommendations made.</p> <p>In the meantime DETI have piloted one of the suggested initiatives ie the 'Guaranteed Interview Scheme' (GIS) and on completion of the competition will be reporting back to the PAF.</p> <p>DETI will take forward other specific relevant actions (to be agreed) as the year progresses.</p>	<p>Executive approval.</p> <p>The PAF will determine how outputs will be monitored to ensure consistency</p> <p>Feedback from DETI and other departments who trial the GIS will be analysed by the PAF.</p> <p>The number of applications for DETI public appointment vacancies from individuals who declare a disability will continue to be monitored on an ongoing basis and reported upon annually to OFMDFM Central Appointments Unit for their annual report.</p>	
DHSSPS	<p>DHSSPS funding for disability organisations</p> <p>DHSSPS provides core funding to a range of disability organisations to support them in their interaction with other sectors to improve the social inclusion of people with disabilities. For example, Family Fund, Disability Action, RNIB,</p>	<p>DHSSPS funding for disability organisations</p> <p>A total of almost £2.3m per annum across 16 organisations. Annual monitoring returns from organisations and site visits to ensure delivery</p>	25, 28

	<p>Action on Hearing Loss, MENCAP, Down's Syndrome Association and Autism NI. It also contributes to NI Executive funding provided to the Special Olympics in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Implementation of Bamford Action Plan 2012-15</p> <p>DHSSPS leads on the implementation of the Bamford Action Plan 2012-15, published in March 2013. This new Action Plan represents the Northern Ireland Executive's continued commitment to the development of mental health and learning disability services in Northern Ireland, and to the promotion of independence and social inclusion for those people within our community.</p>	<p>on objectives agreed at beginning of funding cycle.</p> <p>Implementation of Bamford Action Plan 2012-15</p> <p>The Bamford Inter Departmental Senior Officials Group and the Ministerial Group on Mental Health and Learning Disability meet 6 monthly to monitor progress on the Bamford Action Plan.</p> <p>Monitoring report for 2013 published on 28 February 2014</p> <p>http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/bamford-monitoring-report-november-2013.pdf</p>	<p>19, 25, 26, 28</p>
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DSD	<p>Review of Supporting People programme</p> <p>Review of Supporting People programme 2014-15 will examine the commissioning of housing support services including services for disabled people and make recommendations for improved interaction between all stakeholders.</p> <p>Special Olympics Ulster</p> <p>Special Olympics Ulster (SOU). SOU receives funding from five NI Departments with DCAL as lead funder. Funding is for a 4 year period and DSD contributed funding of £121 k in 2013 / 2014 and £122k in 2014/2015.</p>	<p>Review of Supporting People programme</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Special Olympics Ulster</p> <p>For DSD the specific objective to be achieved is to promote volunteering and active citizenship in Northern Ireland by welcoming and training volunteers over a range of age groups and experience to fill a wide variety of roles in Special Olympic programmes.</p>	9, 19, 28
OFMDFM	<p>Disability Awareness Conference</p> <p>OFMDFM hosted a major, inclusive conference to raise awareness of disability issues. The conference brought together Ministers, government officials and key stakeholders from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to discuss how to develop a programme to address the needs of people with a disability. The theme of the conference was 'changing attitudes and behaviour towards people with disabilities through raising awareness and working together to make a</p>	<p>Disability Awareness Conference</p> <p>Participant feedback showed that conference had been helpful and informative.</p>	29

	difference'. The outcome was to increase the awareness of disability rights and recognise the change required to improve the lives of people with disabilities.		
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2. THEME – AWARENESS-RAISING

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase awareness among people with disabilities of their rights and opportunities through a range of communication activities.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise</p> <p>The Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) continues to use the equine facilities at CAFRE's Enniskillen Campus on a one-day per week basis throughout the year. The children range from 8 to 15 years of age and attend Erne Special School and Elmbrook School.</p> <p>Reconnect and other horticulture therapy charities participate in the Horticulture careers forum. Reconnect is an organisation which provides prevocational training to improve the employment prospects of people with disabilities.</p>	<p>College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise</p> <p>CAFRE have been present at careers events for school pupils with special educational needs. At these events CAFRE promotes its courses to potential candidates with special educational needs.</p> <p>On 26th February 2014 CAFRE was represented at a STEM Special School Careers Event at W5 in the Odyssey. The purpose of this was to promote courses to potential candidates with special educational needs.</p>	7, 8, 24, 30

DCAL	<p>Deaf Answers ‘Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap’ project</p> <p>DCAL has funded the Deaf Answers ‘Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap’ project and is reviewing progress to date on implementation of the 2010 ‘10 Year Roadmap’ report which was a strategic vision of improving access to services for Deaf people. Its aim is to identify ways of progressing further implementation of the 10 Year Roadmap through working with stakeholders such as the SLPG, other government departments, Deaf community and Healthcare providers. The ‘Roadmap’ aims to strategically improve access to all services for the Deaf community by tackling the inequalities, poverty and social exclusion felt by the Deaf community</p>	<p>Deaf Answers ‘Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap’ project</p> <p>The funding of the ‘Roadmap’ project is in keeping with the DCAL ethos of both working in partnership with and empowering the Deaf community to improve access to services. The review process to date has involved meeting groups of stakeholders on a one to one basis to gather their views on the progress of the roadmap. Initial interim report presented to DCAL.</p> <p>The review process consisted of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One meeting with each government departments with the exception of Department of Justice who were not involved in the original consultation report in 2010. - One meeting each with representatives of Deaf organisations AOHL, NDCS, Foyle Sign Language Centre, Hands that Talk, NIDYA, BDA, ASLI. - One meeting with Deaf Professionals 	9, 29
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	<p>Deaf Active Citizenship</p> <p>DCAL funding of BDA ‘Deaf Active Citizenship’ project aims to enable Deaf people to have their voices heard through a series of consultations with government departments and ALBs leading to their wider participation in society. It also aims to provide them with a better appreciation of their culture and heritage through events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of formal recognition of BSL and ISL. One of the consultations held under this project was in relation to increasing accessibility of Deaf people to visit local tourists attractions through speaking with NITB, Visit Belfast, Titanic Quarter, NI Museums, Crumlin Road Jail.</p>	<p>Deaf Active Citizenship</p> <p>By 31 March 2014 up to 390 Deaf people will avail of the project and its services which will cover areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Rights Training – 20 people - Assertiveness / Debating Skills Training – 20 people - Social Development opportunities (International Men’s Day & International Women’s Day) – 150 people - BSL / ISL Charter which encourages both public and private organisations to adopt good practice and build on existing capacity, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and build on good relations with the Deaf community– 20 people (directly trained) - 3 public consultations – 60 people - 10th Anniversary of BSL / ISL recognition celebrations – 120 people 	<p>8, 21, 24, 29</p>
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DETI	<p>Consumer rights</p> <p>The Consumer Council for Northern Ireland has been redeveloping its website during this period to make it more accessible to consumers, particularly those with a visual impairment (it is hoped the new website will be launched on 1 April 2014).</p> <p>The Consumer Council for Northern Ireland also delivered a programme of workshops across NI aimed at increasing awareness of consumer rights. These were particularly targeted at advice workers working with disabled people, disabled people and people with caring responsibilities.</p> <p>During the period 1.4.13 – 31.3.14 the Trading Standards Service has informed people with disabilities of their consumer rights by undertaking the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered a range of presentations across Northern Ireland; - Publicised its service at a number of events, including Carers Rights Day, Alzheimer's Event and Macmillan Cancer Event. 	<p>Consumer rights</p> <p>Evaluation and monitoring will take place when the site is up and running.</p> <p>Initial evaluation responses are very positive and a high level of participants have agreed to be part of a longitudinal evaluation study to assess how they have used and shared the knowledge and resources gained from the training.</p> <p>Consumerline conducts a yearly survey to collect data about the people using the service. During 2013/14 15.7% of people using Consumerline considered themselves as having a disability.</p>	9, 21
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Placed articles in various relevant publications, eg Carer magazines; and - Undertaken personal visits to provide advice and guidance to vulnerable individuals identified as being targeted by mass marketed scammers. <p>Advice for businesses</p> <p>Both Invest NI's website and NIbusinessinfo.com feature equality pages which highlight the provision Invest NI will make towards providing reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities and NIbusinessinfo.com also links to the Disability Action website and a wide range of further information specifically aimed at people with disabilities who are considering starting their own business.</p> <p>Invest NI has also hosted an annual event since 2011, the most recent of which took place on 21 February 2014, which aims to promote entrepreneurship amongst people with disabilities. Entitled 'Working for Me', the event features a number of inspirational speakers, who have started their own business, while coping with their disabilities. Delegates</p>	<p>Advice for businesses</p> <p>Invest NI have now filmed two entrepreneurs with disabilities, who had previously acted as Speakers in our Working for Me event of February 2014. These videos will now feature on nibusinessinfo.com in order to improve the profile of disabled people in public life and to highlight the success of these individuals.</p> <p>The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive and attendance at the event has grown year on year.</p>	<p>8, 9, 27</p>
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	include individuals with disabilities and representatives from Disability Organisations.		
DOE	<p>Public appointments</p> <p>The Department's public appointment competitions continue to be advertised on Disability Action website and on their e-newsletter.</p> <p>Promotion of NIEA events, sites and properties</p> <p>The DOE Corporate Communications team continues to promote Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) events, sites and properties to disability representative groups, particularly those which have access for people with disabilities and is in negotiation with the NI Tourist Board about advertising on the DiscoverNI website the facilities at</p>	<p>Public appointments</p> <p>During 2013/14 the Department held competitions for the Historic Buildings Council (HBC), the Coastal and Marine Forum and the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside. These competitions were advertised on Disability Action website and on their e-newsletter.</p> <p>Promotion of NIEA events, sites and properties</p> <p>A detailed 'events calendar', which included events, sites and properties, was circulated in June 2013. News releases and posts are regularly made on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, so providing information to people with disabilities.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9, 21, 30</p>

	<p>NIEA-managed properties for people with disabilities. NIEA is planning events for 2014.</p> <p>Departmental Disability Liaison Officer</p> <p>Raise staff awareness of the role of the Department's Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) who acts as a point of contact for staff with disabilities and managers who have staff with disabilities.</p>	<p>Departmental Disability Liaison Officer</p> <p>Ongoing – Contact details for DLO posted on Department's Intranet site and articles on disability issues published in Staff Brief as appropriate.</p>	<p>8, 9, 27</p>
DHSSPS	<p>Carers</p> <p>The HSCB in conjunction with the Patient Client Council are investigating the future caring responsibilities of people with learning disabilities who have older carers, through a range of events involving service users and carers and research.</p> <p>Map of mental health services</p> <p>DHSSPS is developing a web-based service map of mental health services</p>	<p>Carers</p> <p>A number of events have been held throughout the region to consider the needs of older carers of people with a learning disability.</p> <p>Map of mental health services</p> <p>The mental health service map is largely complete and is expected to go live in the coming months.</p>	<p>19, 23, 25</p> <p>21, 25</p>

DRD	<p>Travel Safe Guide</p> <p>Update of Travel Safe Guide which is a guide that provides advice to those with a learning disability to travel independently and safely i.e. advice on how to use the bus and train network.</p> <p>Access to Information</p> <p>The Department ensures information on the services provided is available on NI Direct and on request will supply in an accessible format.</p>	<p>An updated guide that may encourage more people with a learning disability to use public transport (updated was developed (published in June 2014).</p> <p>To ensure all information is available from a central source and is available in an accessible format</p>	<p>8, 9, 19, 20</p> <p>8, 9, 21</p>
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2. THEME – AWARENESS-RAISING

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

To develop, in partnership with people with disabilities, a range of awareness raising activities, including those aimed at the general public, to challenge the negative perceptions surrounding disability and to gain a better understanding of the range of diversity of disabilities particularly mental health.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>Disability Forum</p> <p>The DARD disability Forum has developed its own work plan, taking into account the Department’s Disability Action Plan and the priority areas and targets set out in it. The Forum encourages its members to take part in awareness raising activities, such as speaking to groups, writing articles about disability issues, intranet development and in taking forward small projects.</p> <p>The DARD Disability forum attended and managed a stall at an “Access all Areas” event in conjunction with the Ards Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Ards</p>	<p>Disability Forum</p> <p>Disabled staff have been directly involved in helping to improve the accessibility of key information services for our staff and customers.</p> <p>Attendance at this event provided a networking opportunity with external statutory and voluntary organisations. It</p>	5, 8, 9, 27

	<p>Borough Council on Saturday 23 November 2013. This information event was primarily for people with disabilities, their families and carers and the aim of the event was to provide a 'one stop shop' for people with disabilities and their families to obtain advice on the services available to them in the Ards Borough, together with promoting participation in public life.</p> <p>The event was also attended by approximately 20 other statutory and voluntary/community groups on the day.</p> <p>Accessible information</p> <p>The Department has published numerous Easyread versions of documents to accompany much longer publications and the Forum has assisted with the development of many of these. The availability of Easyreads has been highlighted on the Department's website and in a range of published disability reports too.</p>	<p>also enabled Forum members to engage with members of the public and talk about the work of the disability Forum.</p> <p>Accessible information</p> <p>During this reporting period Easyread publications have included the DARD HQ Relocation EQIA and the DHR Diversity Plan 2013-15.</p> <p>Information sheets about Autism and Diabetes were made available to all staff through the internal staff intranet site.</p>	<p>9, 21</p>
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	<p>Hi Five (<i>Teenagers</i>)</p> <p>Hi Five (<i>Teenagers</i>) is comparable to the previous project. It aims to engage with 10,000 teenagers over the lifespan of the project through developing and promoting library stock on relevant issues, the development and roll out of age appropriate workshops on mental health and wellbeing, development of a 'teen' section on the health in mind website and a range of other initiatives.</p>	<p>Hi Five (<i>Teenagers</i>)</p> <p>Appropriate improvements to stock collections will be made in 20 libraries serving areas of high social need.</p> <p>The project was only approved in October 2013 so it too early to assess its impact.</p>	<p>7, 8, 19, 25, 30</p>
DETI	<p>Disability awareness training</p> <p>The Consumer Council for Northern Ireland held disability awareness training for staff during March 2014.</p>	<p>Disability awareness training</p> <p>Evaluation and monitoring will take place.</p>	<p>8</p>
DOE	<p>Disability awareness training</p> <p>The Department is contributing financially to the provision of the Diversity Now training course. This is a corporate NICS course that is being delivered to all departments by the Centre for Applied Learning (CAL). It is a mandatory course and all 3000 staff in DOE will receive this training. The course includes a section on the two disability duties.</p>	<p>Disability awareness training</p> <p>At 31/03/13 938 staff had received the training. A new online version was developed during 2013/14 and this new e-learning package will now be made mandatory across the Department.</p>	<p>8, 27</p>

	Taxi driver training The Department has agreed to introduce mandatory periodic training for all taxi drivers, one element of which will be disability awareness training.	Taxi driver training The issue has been consulted on and the relevant legislation is being drafted, due to come into effect from September 2015.	8, 9
DHSSPS	Health promotion On DHSSPS' behalf the Public Health Agency are currently considering how they can target public health messages at disabled people through future health promotion initiatives, particularly those with multiple needs. This is an action in DHSSPS Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan which was developed in partnership with people with disabilities and their representative organisations.	Health promotion Outputs/results are detailed in 6 monthly progress reports presented by to DHSSPS by Strategy Implementation Group.	21, 25
DOJ	Prison Service All Northern Ireland prisons have in place an Equality and Diversity Committee which monitors the equality of opportunity across a number of s75 categories. Where possible each committee has within its prisoner membership a disabled prisoner or prisoners who represent the views of other disabled prisoners held in that environment. All	Prison Service Anyone being committed to a Northern Ireland prison is now given the opportunity to self declare a disability. Such disclosures are then referred to health care for verification. In each prison, an annual survey of	5, 9, 14, 20, 25, 27

	<p>prisoner representatives are given equality training upon their appointment to the committee. This initiative in the past year has resulted in the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of mobility scooters for those with mobility problems, • An increase in the number of low mobility cells, • Work allocation boards looking at where reasonable adjustment can be made to facilitate people with a disability, • Physical education departments developing appropriate exercise programmes. 	<p>inmates is carried out in April where, again, everyone has the opportunity to declare a disability.</p> <p>The data from both the above processes is monitored at Equality and Diversity meetings which take place 10 times per year.</p>	
OFMDFM	<p>UNCRPD School Resource Pack</p> <p>In partnership with Disability Action, OFMDFM developed a school resource pack to help teachers and youth workers to teach young people about the rights of people with disabilities.</p>	<p>UNCRPD School Resource Pack</p> <p>The pack was piloted across c. 350 schools and youth groups and feedback was extremely positive. The Department is now looking at how the pack can be rolled out across all schools.</p>	7, 8, 24

3. THEME – ACCESSIBILITY – PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, GOODS AND SERVICES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Eliminate the barriers people with disabilities face in accessing the physical environment, goods and services so that disabled people can participate fully in all areas of life.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>Employee access</p> <p>Work continued during the year to prepare, develop and update Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) to ensure effective arrangements are in place for access and emergency evacuation for employees and visitors.</p> <p>Work is on-going to review Dundonald House car parking arrangements so that suitable disabled car parking is reserved in close proximity to the building.</p>	<p>Employee access</p> <p>PEEPs have been prepared and are reviewed regularly to ensure suitable arrangements are in place for access and to cope with emergency evacuation.</p> <p>Dundonald House car parking has been reviewed and a new system implemented which provides for more spaces available for general use and suitable disabled car parking reserved close to the building. The new car parking arrangements came into effect on 20 October 2014. As a result of</p>	9, 11, 27

		these arrangements staff in possession of a Blue Badge were allocated an individual parking space. The number of staff in receipt of Blue Badges increased and this will have added benefits for individuals beyond the workplace. Staff with temporary mobility difficulties have a permit allowing them to park in “pooled areas” on a first come basis. The Department’s Disability Forum was involved throughout the process.	
	<p>Access to recreation and tourism</p> <p>Forest Service has been allocated £4 million for recreation and tourism improvements from the NI Executive’s Economy and Jobs initiative under the theme Supporting Infrastructure Investment. This money is available during 2013 to 2015 and has been designated as the “Forestry Fund”. The Forestry Fund is being utilised to target supporting strategic infrastructure improvements for recreation and tourism at forest sites. These improvements include access</p>	<p>Access to recreation and tourism</p> <p>During 2013-14 work commenced on the redesign of two of our visitor buildings in Tollymore Forest Park to include a disabled lift, changing places toilet and a disabled toilet facility within the old cafe building. Works due to be completed in 2015.</p>	9, 30

	<p>enhancements for disabled visitors. This year Forest Service has redesigned two of our visitor buildings in Tollymore Forest Park to include a disabled lift, changing places toilet and a disabled toilet facility within the old cafe building.</p> <p>Student support</p> <p>DARD's College (CAFRE) is pro-active in providing support for students with dyslexia, learning difficulties and other disabilities. CAFRE students who declare a disability are interviewed to identify any additional support needs they may have and this support is put in place.</p> <p>CAFRE have attended a number of careers events aimed at those students with special educational needs. CAFRE takes this opportunity to provides course and support information, advice and guidance to prospective students.</p> <p>In February CAFRE was represented at a STEM Special School Careers Event at W5 in the Odyssey. The purpose of this was to promote courses and provide information on</p>	<p>Student support</p> <p>During 2013-2014, 37 CAFRE students who had declared their disability, medical condition or learning need have been provided with the specialist additional support they need.</p>	<p>7, 9, 14</p>
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	support to potential candidates with special educational needs.		
DCAL	<p>Sign Language Partnership Group</p> <p>The formal recognition of British Sign Language/Irish Sign Language as languages in their own right in March 2004 committed departments to work together, in partnership with representatives of the Deaf community, to develop improved access to public services by users of sign language. As a result the Sign Language Partnership Group (SLPG) was established in 2004. The SLPG is comprised of government departments and key Deaf organisations to improve access to services for Deaf people. DCAL chairs and funds the SLPG under its remit of promoting indigenous languages. Projects from the Deaf sign language sector that contribute to the aims and objectives of the SLPG can qualify for SLPG annual funding which has seen £109k committed in 2013/14.</p> <p>Key Deaf organisations are represented on the SLPG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action on Hearing Loss (AOHL) 	<p>Sign Language Partnership Group</p> <p>A key achievement has been the increase in the number of Sign Language Interpreters for the Deaf from 4 in 2004 to 27 currently</p> <p>The 2013/14 SLPG budget has been used to fund several projects that fall in to the various themes eg Human Rights Training, Assertiveness/Debating Skills Training & Social Development Opportunities</p>	8, 21, 24, 29

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI) • British Deaf Association (BDA) • Deaf Answers • Foyle Sign Language Centre (FSLC) • Hands That Talk (HTT) • National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) • Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association (NIDYA) • Signature <p>Breaking Down the Barriers project</p> <p>DCAL funding of Action on Hearing Loss: 'Breaking Down The Barriers' Project which aims to improve access to voluntary and community sector services for the Deaf/Sign Language community through the provision of 20 Deaf awareness/ Sign Language recognition and basic British Sign Language(BSL) courses to participants from various Community & Voluntary Sector (CVS) groups. This sector provides invaluable support and advice on arrange of topics from welfare/benefits entitlement particularly in light of current welfare reforms, housing, women's aid etc. Through creating a more Deaf friendly environment more Deaf people</p>	<p>Breaking Down the Barriers project</p> <p>Provision of 20 Deaf awareness/ SL recognition and basic BSL courses to 300 participants by 31 March 2014</p>	<p>8, 9, 19, 21, 28</p>
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	<p>can avail of their services.</p> <p>Hands that Talk: Signs for Services DCAL funding of Hands that Talk: 'Signs for Services' project which will improve accessibility to services for Deaf people in the north west region through implementing a training package consisting of Deaf Awareness training and basic sign language tailored to the specific services provided by organisations such as GP surgeries, banks etc</p>	<p>Hands that Talk: Signs for Services By 31 March 2014 Deaf Awareness training and basic sign language courses will be provided to 20 staff from each of 6 service providing organisations. On completion of training the organisations will have increased knowledge of Deaf people's needs, language and culture and will be better placed to engage and communicate with them leading to reduced isolation, improved inclusion and empowerment of the Deaf. Courses will be provided by Deaf tutors.</p>	<p>8, 9, 19, 21, 28</p>
DETI	<p>Employee access DETI maintains the considerable adjustments it undertook some years ago to comply with DDA requirements, such as ramps, automated external doors and disabled toilet facilities, and additional adjustments such as automated</p>	<p>Employee access No issues with employee or customer access have been raised.</p>	<p>9, 20, 27</p>

	<p>internal doors. During 2013/14 the Departmental purchased a powered wheelchair for a member of staff.</p> <p>NITB funded projects and events</p> <p>All Northern Ireland Tourist Board funded projects and events have conditions written into all Letters of Offer to ensure that project promoters met all statutory obligations, including for example Section 75 obligations.</p>	<p>NITB funded projects and events</p> <p>6 Projects supported</p> <p>51 Events have been supported</p>	5
DOE	<p>NIEA events and properties</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) continues to promote its events, sites and properties to disability representative groups, particularly those which have access for people with disabilities and is developing an Online Booking system for implementation in 2014/15 which should facilitate the making of any special arrangements. Planning the events programme for 2014 is nearly complete.</p> <p>Driving Theory Test</p> <p>The Driving Theory Test pass rate for candidates with disabilities is lower than average and the Department has</p>	<p>NIEA events and properties</p> <p>A detailed 'events calendar', which included events, sites and properties, was circulated in June 2013. News releases and posts are regularly made on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>Driving Theory Test</p> <p>The pass rate for customers who availed of the accommodations for the period April</p>	<p>9, 21, 30</p> <p>9</p>

	<p>therefore introduced a number of measures to help raise this pass rate. These ongoing actions include allowing extra time to take the test, reader/ recorder assistance, British Sign Language on-screen video, Lip Speaker, Sign Language Interpreter.</p> <p>Road Safety campaigns</p> <p>The Department endeavours to make all DOE Road Safety campaigns accessible to as wide an audience as possible by considering how the material could be made more meaningful to the hearing impaired.</p>	<p>2013 to March 2014 was 15.95%. The Agency has therefore included revised accommodation arrangements within the scope of the new contract following discussion with Disability Action and Action on Hearing Loss.</p> <p>Road Safety campaigns</p> <p>All new DOE Road Safety campaigns had appropriate subtitles to ensure accessibility for the hearing impaired.</p>	<p>9, 21</p>
DOJ	<p>Access to Court Buildings</p> <p>The following programme of improving access for disabled persons entering court buildings, at the listed locations, is on-going and on target to be complete by 31 March 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Courts of Justice, Belfast – Doors programme on all floors, upgrade of Master’s courtroom on ground floor for disabled access and disabled toilets installed; 	<p>Access to Court Buildings</p> <p>The Premises Officers in each Courthouse will monitor access by disabled users and report any issues.</p> <p>Feedback on courthouse accessibility will be included in the next Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service Customer Exit Survey.</p>	<p>9, 13</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downpatrick Courthouse - Doors programme around the building, Induction loops installed in four rooms and signage throughout the building; • Omagh Courthouse – Doors programme throughout the building, alterations to main public reception counter to meet DDA compliance and signage throughout the building; and • Armagh Courthouse – Doors programme throughout the building, induction loops installed in consultation rooms, handrails installed in public areas and signage throughout the building. <p>Reduce the number of ‘peace walls’</p> <p>The achievement of this commitment could lead to an improvement in access to services etc by removing interface structures.</p> <p>The DOJ has worked in partnership with the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and Belfast City Council to develop programmes associated with interface structures.</p>	<p>Reduce the number of ‘peace walls’</p> <p>Engagement has been initiated on 38 of the DOJ's 53 structures. The overall number of DOJ structures has reduced from 59 to 53.</p> <p>Engagement has been progressed on two significant NIHE owned structures and discussions are on-going on a further</p>	<p>9, 19</p>
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	<p>IFI have approved funding for eight specific projects, covering a number of structures. 24 specific action plans have been developed through IFI, Belfast City Council and DOJ in respect of those structures where engagement has been initiated.</p> <p>Belfast City Council secured Peace III funding under Phase II of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Plan to develop a peace walls programme. This programme has been extended to April 2014 at which time the Council will look to mainstream it, along with their Tension Monitoring Programme and Youth Engagement Programme, within core Council business beyond the closure of Peace III.</p> <p>The Housing Executive, through its Community Cohesion Unit, has engaged with six interface communities through its Shared Communities and its BRIC Programmes to develop better cross community relations. NIHE have developed Good Relations Plans for each of these areas. Community relations programmes have been rolled out across these areas and a 'visioning tool' process has developed</p>	<p>three structures. NIHE has also introduced a 'normalisation' programme which will provide protective measures at homes to assist in gaining community support for substantial alteration to, or removal of, interface structures.</p> <p>Belfast City Council Peacewalls Programme has been extended until April 2014.</p> <p>The DOJ has agreed with OFMDFM to jointly fund a rerun, through the Delivering Social Change Programme, of the UUJ Attitudes to Peace Wall Research Report of June 2012, commencing in 2014 with a potential report in early 2015. This report will be extended in an attempt to gain information on whether there has been an improvement in access to services by removing interface structures.</p>	
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	<p>proposals for removal/ replacement/ transformation of a number of these interface structures. This 'visioning tool' element of the programme has also been applied to all 20 NIHE owned interface structures allowing the initiation of conversation and early stage action plans for further areas.</p> <p>New Police, Prison and Fire Training College The Programme to complete the construction of the College is at the design and contract award stage. Every effort will be made throughout the design phase to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are considered and accommodated as much as possible.</p> <p>Victim and Witness Care Unit The Victim and Witness Care Unit (VWCU), rolled out during 2013/14 in Belfast and Foyle, provides victims with a single contact point from when the Public Prosecution Service receives an investigation file. The Unit carries out an individual assessment of the needs for services of each victim. Information is provided in a way chosen by the victim</p>	<p>New Police, Prison and Fire Training College Throughout the design phase and construction phase, all issues, including disability considerations, will be discussed and monitored by the Programme Board which meets on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Victim and Witness Care Unit Victim and Witness Care Unit roll out. Individual needs assessments of victims undertaken.</p>	<p>9, 24, 27</p> <p>9, 13, 21</p>
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	<p>where possible. The VWCU also carries out checks to ensure that vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses (which can include people with a disability) are properly supported and the appropriate applications for assistance are made.</p> <p>Pilot Registered Intermediaries Schemes</p> <p>Pilot Registered Intermediaries Schemes were introduced in May 2013, providing assistance to those with significant communication difficulties if this would diminish the quality of their evidence. The communication difficulties could arise due, for example, to a learning disability; mental health issue; neurological disorder or a physical disability. These Schemes will ensure that people that may not otherwise have access to justice are able to give evidence.</p> <p>Live link facilities</p> <p>Remote live link facilities at court have been extended to give vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses (which can include people with a disability) access to these facilities within a reasonable travelling distance.</p>	<p>Pilot Registered Intermediaries Schemes</p> <p>Registered Intermediaries Schemes are providing access to justice for those with communication difficulties, including where this is the result of a disability.</p> <p>Live link facilities</p> <p>Remote live link facilities provided at two further locations during 2013/14 (to total of three).</p>	<p>9, 13, 21</p> <p>9, 13, 21</p>
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	<p>Facilities for victims and witnesses in all court houses are evaluated to identify specific improvements that can be made.</p> <p>Autism Guide Publication of 'Autism: A guide for criminal justice professionals'. The guide provides background information about autism spectrum disorders and aims to assist all professionals working in the criminal justice system who may come into contact with someone who has autism. This provides those in front-line roles within the criminal justice system with a general awareness of what autism is and how it might affect people in providing services to victims of crime.</p> <p>Special Measures Leaflet Publication of a leaflet giving information to victims and witnesses about special measures at court. This will help vulnerable (which can include people with a disability) and intimidated witnesses give their best evidence at court.</p>	<p>Potential improvements to facilities have been identified and are being explored.</p> <p>Autism Guide The 'Autism: A guide for criminal justice professionals' was published in February 2014.</p> <p>Special Measures Leaflet A special measures leaflet was published in November 2013.</p>	<p>8, 13</p> <p>8, 13</p>
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DRD	<p>The Department's Transport NI helps people with a disability to access the physical environment on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>The work undertaken in 2013/14 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transport and Safety Measures (LTSM) Programme • New footways. • Footway resurfacing to make surfaces smoother. • Tactile paving indicates crossing points. • Controlled crossings provide safer places to cross. • Tactile and audible devices helps people with visual difficulties use controlled crossings. • Measures such as dropped kerbs, traffic islands, tactile paving, kerb build outs. • Continued management of the Blue Badge Scheme. • Accessible parking bays provide convenient and dedicated parking opportunities for Blue Badge Holders (BBH). • Free on-street parking allows BBHs to park without charge. • Parking Enforcement helps ensure that accessible bays are kept free for intended users. 	<p>Improvements to the physical environment which in turn helps to reduce barriers faced by people with a disability.</p> <p>As part of the LTSM Programme, Transport NI has implemented 22 Pedestrian crossings during 2013/14 to help vulnerable road users.</p>	9
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	<p>The Department's Transport NI has also been working in partnership with the police and has identified a previously unused fixed penalty offence for dealing with the problem of obstruction and particularly the issue of footway/parking/obstruction. They are also currently consulting on a proposal for making the obstruction of access to premises an offence enforceable by fixed penalty notice as well as the existing summary conviction.</p>		
DSD	<p>Funding to RNIB</p> <p>Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). DSD provide funding of £37k April 13 – March 14.</p>	<p>Funding to RNIB</p> <p>The project will seek to recruit more volunteers from underrepresented groups and encourage and support their development through a tailored training programme to increase and develop their skills. It is anticipated that 20 blind and partially sighted volunteers will undertake a bespoke campaigns training programme and that a further 100 blind and partially sighted people will sign up to the project as Campaigner's Active Network members.</p>	21, 24, 29

	<p>Funding to Champ Youth “Volunteering to Support Youths with Special Needs – Pilot</p> <p>SOLAS – Champ Youth “Volunteering to Support Youths with Special Needs – Pilot. DSD provide funding £46k 04/11/13 – 31/03/15.</p>	<p>Funding to Champ Youth “Volunteering to Support Youths with Special Needs – Pilot</p> <p>The overall aim is to adopt a volunteering approach to build a network of Champ Youth Clubs across NI which specifically caters for young people between the ages 10 and 16 with Special Needs/disability. It is anticipated that 30 volunteers will take part in the programme. 60+ young people with special needs/disabilities will benefit by promoting their engagement in positive activities which allow access to play and recreation. Indirectly the families of these young people will also benefit.</p>	7, 24
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OFMDFM	<p>Together: Building a United Community</p> <p>Together: Building a United Community seeks to build a united, shared and reconciled community where everyone can see and play a full role in continuing to shape the kind of society we all want to see. The strategy recognises the need for discrete interventions to promote equality of opportunity and social inclusion for specific groups in our society and seeks to complement these separate interventions as opposed to replace them.</p>	<p>Together: Building a United Community</p> <p>In conducting any events within the context of the strategy implementation, OFMDFM will seek to ensure they are accessible to everyone (e.g. United Youth Design Day).</p>	9
DEL	<p>United Youth Programme</p> <p>United Youth is a good relations programme that will provide flexible, high-quality, young-person-centred opportunities for 16–24 year olds (extending to 14–24 year olds when it rolls out), particularly those who are not in education, employment or training. The programme is a key commitment in the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy.</p>	<p>Following a co-design process that began in 2014, concept proposals were invited, the strongest of these were invited to submit applications for full pilots, and 13 pilots have now been selected to deliver in 2015-16. These pilots will create up to 365 places for young people. United Youth will provide support for those who are the most vulnerable and hardest to reach in our society, many of whom experience significant barriers, including disabilities. It</p>	

		is based around a youth-centred approach, and provision will be tailored to individual needs, via personal action planning and one-to-one mentoring. (included in report as work commenced in 2014)	
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4. THEME – ACCESSIBILITY – TRANSPORT, PERSONAL MOBILITY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6

Eliminate the barriers people with disabilities face in accessing transport ensuring necessary measures are in place to allow personal mobility for people with disabilities.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD (& DRD)	Assisted Rural Travel Scheme The Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS) is an initiative which commenced in conjunction with DRD under the Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Programme and which DARD is continuing to fund. ARTS supports those entitled to a SmartPass, mainly older people and disabled to avail of free or half fare travel on rural community transport partnership vehicles. DARD and DRD are committed to funding and delivering the Scheme until March 2015	Assisted Rural Travel Scheme On average DARD has invested £500k per annum in the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme. Between the scheme commencing in December 2009 and March 2014, 723 021 passenger trips have been funded. Disabled people have availed of 204 674 (28%) of these trips. In 2013/14 214,613 passenger trips were delivered of which 65,209 (30%) were for disabled people.	9, 19, 20

DOE	<p>Driving Theory Test</p> <p>The Driving Theory Test pass rate for candidates with disabilities is lower than average and the Department has therefore introduced a number of measures to help raise this pass rate. These ongoing actions include allowing extra time to take the test, reader/ recorder assistance, British Sign Language on-screen video, Lip Speaker, Sign Language Interpreter.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible taxis</p> <p>The Department is introducing a new higher specification for Wheelchair Accessible Taxis. This is designed to make these taxis more wheelchair friendly.</p> <p>Access to country parks</p> <p>NIEA has worked up a proposal to allocate funds raised through the carrier bag levy to facilitating in 2014/15 transport to its country parks and enjoyment of them by disadvantaged groups, including those with disabilities. It is developing an Online Booking system, for implementation in 2014/15, which</p>	<p>Driving Theory Test</p> <p>The pass rate for customers who availed of the accommodations for the period April 2013 to March 2014 was 15.95%. The Agency has therefore included revised accommodation arrangements within the scope of the new contract following discussion with Disability Action and Action on Hearing Loss.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible taxis</p> <p>Timescale for the introduction of legislation revised by Minister to June 2015 following engagement with the taxi industry.</p> <p>Access to country parks</p> <p>The Carrier Bag Levy funds were utilised by the Department to provide support grant aid funding for local community initiatives/groups but NIEA proposals to facilitate disabled access to properties were</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9</p> <p>9, 21, 30</p>
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	may assist disability groups in making applications for support with transport if funding is allocated.	not taken forward. NIEA is nearing completion on the development of the online booking system. Final testing of the system was completed in December 2014. Full implementation is still planned for February//March 2015.	
DRD	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>Actions the Department undertakes in this area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to provide information in accessible formats - • Updated the Travel Safe Guide. The Travel Safe guide provides advice to those with a learning disability to travel independently and safely i.e. advice on how to use the bus and train network. • Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS). The Department continues to implement the ATS Action Plan. <p>DRD has developed an Accessible Transport Strategy which is implemented via a series of action plans – the current action plan is for the period 2012 – 2015 and includes specific</p>	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>See Strategic Priority 3 for information on these items.</p> <p>(Revised guide published June 2014.)</p> <p>The 2nd Year Monitoring Report 2013/14 on the ATS action plan was published.</p> <p>The strategy and the subsequent services provided seeks to address the wide range of barriers that impede use of the transport</p>	9, 21

	<p>measures to further reduce the barriers to transport which remain for people with learning difficulties.</p> <p>Examples of initiatives being taken forward are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Programme for People with Disabilities. This includes several different services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disability Action Transport Scheme (DATS) ○ Group Transport. ○ Easibus. ○ Shopmobility. ○ Information guides. ○ Advice, support and research undertaken by the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee. ○ Buddy scheme - This is pilot scheme which is currently being evaluated. The current client base is mainly older people or those with mental health issues or learning disabilities. ○ Rural Community Transport also provides some transport options that people with disabilities can avail of. 	<p>system by older people and people with disabilities.</p> <p>2nd year monitoring report has been published.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work towards 100% accessible bus fleet • Concessionary Fares Scheme continues to offer a half fare concession to people with a disability who satisfy the relevant criteria. <p>Blue Badge Scheme</p> <p>The Department has continued to provide its Blue Badge Disabled Parking Scheme. It is an important service for people with severe mobility problems that enables badge holders to park close to where they need to go.</p> <p>The Department carried out a public consultation during 2013 about a number of planned and potential administrative and operational changes to the Blue Scheme in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Blue Badge SchemeThe Blue Badge Scheme enables people with a disability to access services and facilities, through a range of parking concessions.</p> <p>All of the proposed changes are aimed at enhancing the service and ensuring the Scheme's uptake is targeted at those whose everyday lives can be greatly enhanced by the concessions they are entitled to. This could include more effective prevention of misuse and fraud, improved enforcement and more efficient and improved customer services. The Department's final</p>	<p>9, 19, 20</p>
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		recommendations are nearing completion and the results of the Blue Badge consultation will be published later in 2014.	
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4. THEME – ACCESSIBILITY – TRANSPORT, PERSONAL MOBILITY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 7

Increase the level of accessible / inclusive communications so that people with disabilities can access information as independently as possible and make informed choices.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>Departmental publications include an accessibility statement at the front which outlines that each can be made available in a range of formats on request. These include; large print, audio cd / MP3, Braille, Easyread and languages other than English.</p> <p>DARD has produced a number of Easyread publications upfront to accompany documents more than 30 pages long, which aim to assist customers who are dyslexic, or who may have a reading, learning or comprehension difficulty. Details of all Easyread publications are available the DARD internet.</p>	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>During this reporting period Easyread publications have included the DARD HQ Relocation EQIA and the DHR Diversity Plan 2013-15</p> <p>Countryside Agri-Rural Partnership have</p>	9, 21

	<p>Ruralni and CAFRE websites are speech enabled using Browse aloud which means that any material on the web can be read out to the customer. This is particularly helpful for those who may have a disability.</p> <p>Countryside Agri-Rural Partnership provide telephone helpline for queries on Farm Modernisation Programme in addition to employing face –to face, written, text phone, web-based, and text communication channels in delivering this measure.</p> <p>DARD is taking forward an ambitious work programme to develop its digital presence and on-line services and to make them as accessible as possible, to suit the diverse needs of our customers.</p>	issued text alerts to 2,977 farm businesses since 01/04/13 in respect of delivery of the Farm Modernisation Programme under Axis 1 of the NIRD.	
DETI	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>During 2013/14 a project has been launched to improve the content of DETI's website and the accessibility of Departmental information for all members of the public.</p>	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>The new DETI website has increased in the "Sitemorse" rankings, which is the most measurable improvement in accessibility. The site has moved up 143 places in the</p>	9, 21

	<p>rankings to 66. The new site template is now WCAG 1.0 AA compliant.</p>	
<p>Translink Passenger Charter</p> <p>The Consumer Council for Northern Ireland worked with Translink during this period to develop its Passenger Charter. This has a section devoted to passengers with reduced mobility and the Charter has achieved the Crystal Mark for its plain language, which benefits everyone, particularly people with a learning disability.</p>	<p>Translink Passenger Charter</p> <p>Through the Customer Performance Index (CPI) the independent monitor PWC attempts to measure customer satisfaction levels through user's perceptions of punctuality, value for money, comfort of buses and trains and helpfulness of staff. There are no specific monitors for use of services by passengers with additional needs at present.</p>	9, 21
<p>Access Statement and good practice accessibility toolkit</p> <p>The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland is currently developing an Access Statement template and a good practice accessibility toolkit for the tourism industry. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) will assist in disseminating these toolkits and encourage the use by the</p>	<p>Access Statement and good practice accessibility toolkit</p> <p>NITB will monitor the number of organisations downloading and completing the Access Statement toolkits and number of attendees at the Customers with Disabilities module.</p>	9, 21

	industry. NITB will also encourage individuals and organisations to undertake the World Host Customers with Disabilities module.		
DOE	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>The Department will review ways of making information on services more accessible and include any resulting additional measures in its 'Guide to Making Information Accessible'.</p> <p>Promotion of NIEA events, sites and properties</p> <p>The DOE Corporate Communications team continues to promote Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) events, sites and properties to disability representative groups, particularly those which have access for people with disabilities and is in negotiation with NI Tourist Board about advertising on the DiscoverNI website the facilities at NIEA-</p>	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>The Department's 'Guide to Making Information Accessible' was reviewed in consultation with S75 groups and the revised version was published on the Intranet site in June 2013. This guide is reviewed on an annual basis and is included as a standing agenda item for discussion at the Department's Equality Forum.</p> <p>Promotion of NIEA events, sites and properties</p> <p>A detailed 'events calendar', which included events, sites and properties, was circulated in June 2013. News releases and posts are regularly made on social media sites such</p>	<p>9, 21</p> <p>9, 21, 30</p>

	managed properties for people with disabilities.	as Facebook and Twitter, so providing information to people with disabilities.	
DFP	<p>Digital inclusion workshop</p> <p>Digital Inclusion Unit ran a workshop session at the OFMDFM Disability Awareness Conference 2013 to consult with attendees and ensure that comments and views were taken on digital inclusion issues for people who have a disability.</p> <p>Digital training</p> <p>Go On NI programme ran digital inclusion events and training across NI using over 500+ digital champions – this included sections of society who have a disability. These events took the form of one-to-one practical training and short skills based training. These sessions took place across hundreds of locations across Northern Ireland, both rural and urban, and assisted disadvantaged communities and individuals to engage with digital technology as a means of improving their social inclusion</p>	<p>Digital inclusion workshop</p> <p>Number of people with a disability who use the internet increased by 5% in this period. Evaluation will be completed to measure number of participants.</p> <p>Digital training</p> <p>7 organisations were involved with 6-week sessions in each one.</p>	<p>9, 21</p> <p>8, 9, 21, 24</p>

	<p>Connectability programme</p> <p>Connectability programme implemented to help adults with disabilities get online via the support of business volunteers. Disability Action, Cedar Foundation, RNIB, Stepping Stones, Orchardville Society, MS Society and Mencap were involved. This success has enabled further volunteers to be placed within disability groups.</p> <p>Digital events</p> <p>Following a presentation at the Assembly All Party Group on Visual Impairment, ESS are running a programme of digital training events with RNIB to increase digital skills and awareness for citizens who have a visual impairment.</p> <p>ESS ran specific events for people with a disability during Spring Online Week 2014.</p> <p>ESS Digital Inclusion Unit has submitted a bid for DSC funds.</p>	<p>Connectability programme</p> <p>100 citizens trained in 2014.</p> <p>Digital events</p> <p>302 RNIB clients have been trained through this programme. The programme continues through 2014</p> <p>Spring Online Week events in April encompassed 5 days across various themes such as nirect, social media and security. Mobile broadband hardware used to train citizens in their own communities without need for travel.</p>	<p>8, 9, 21</p> <p>8, 9, 21, 24</p>
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DHSSPS	Accessible communication guide Under the auspices of DHSSPS Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy, a guide “Accessible Communication for All” is being produced for all HSC Trusts to help Health & Social care staff communicate more effectively with people who may have a disability or a communication difficulty.	Accessible communication guide Development underway. Outputs/results are detailed in 6 monthly progress reports presented by to DHSSPS by Strategy Implementation Group.	8, 9
DOJ	Accessible communications Criminal Justice Service providers continue to keep their communications under review to ensure that material is as accessible as possible. This work will continue in future years and be complemented by a commitment in the Victim and Witness Strategy to providing information in a suitable format for people with disabilities.	Accessible communications Communications with victims and witnesses kept under review.	9, 13, 21

DRD	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>The Department ensures information on the services it provides is available on NI Direct and on request will supply information in an accessible format.</p> <p>Transport NI introduced a large print version of the Transport NI compensation claims forms/guidance notes on NI Direct. Where a claimant makes use of this form, all subsequent correspondence to him/her will be in font size 20.</p>	<p>Accessible information</p> <p>To ensure all information is available from a central source and is available in an accessible format.</p>	8, 9, 20
DSD	<p>Accessible forms</p> <p>The Centre can Provide an ESA40 in Braille if requested – the ESA40 is the notes page that accompanies the ESA1 claims form</p>	<p>Accessible forms</p> <p>Since the Braille version of the ESA40 notes page was introduced in 2008, there has been 1 Braille version of the form requested and issued.</p>	9, 21, 28

5. THEME - INDEPENDENT LIVING / CHOICE AND CONTROL

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 8

Increase the level of choice, control and freedom that people with disabilities have in their daily lives.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 - 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DCAL	<p>Deaf Answers: Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap project</p> <p>DCAL has funded the Deaf Answers 'Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap' project and is reviewing progress to date on implementation of the 2010 '10 Year Roadmap' report which was a strategic vision of improving access to services for Deaf people. Its aim is to identify ways of progressing further implementation of the 10 Year Roadmap through working with stakeholders such as the SLPG, other government departments, Deaf community and Healthcare providers. The 'Roadmap' aims to strategically improve access to all services for the Deaf community by tackling the inequalities, poverty and social exclusion felt by the Deaf community</p>	<p>Deaf Answers: Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap project</p> <p>The funding of the 'Roadmap' project is in keeping with the DCAL ethos of both working in partnership with and empowering the Deaf community to improve access to services.</p> <p>The review process to date has involved meeting groups of stakeholders on a one to one basis to gather their views on the progress of the roadmap. Initial interim report presented to DCAL.</p> <p>The review process consisted of</p>	8, 21, 24, 29

	<p>Deaf Active Citizenship project</p> <p>DCAL funding of BDA ‘Deaf Active Citizenship’ project aims to enable Deaf people to have their voices heard through a series of consultations with government departments and ALBs leading to their wider participation in society. It also aims to provide them with a better appreciation of their culture and heritage through events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of formal recognition of BSL and ISL. One of the consultations held under this project was in relation to increasing accessibility of Deaf people to visit local tourists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One meeting with each government departments with the exception of Department of Justice who were not involved in the original consultation report in 2010. • One meeting each with representatives of Deaf organisations AOHL, NDCS, Foyle Sign Language Centre, Hands that Talk, NIDYA, BDA, ASLI. • One meeting with Deaf Professionals <p>Deaf Active Citizenship project</p> <p>By 31 March 2014 up to 390 Deaf people will avail of the project and its services which will cover areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Training – 20 people • Assertiveness / Debating Skills Training – 20 people • Social Development opportunities (International Men’s Day & International Women’s Day) – 150 	<p>8, 21, 24, 29</p>
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	attractions through speaking with NITB, Visit Belfast, Titanic Quarter, NI Museums, Crumlin Road Jail.	<p>people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSL / ISL Charter which encourages both public and private organisations to adopt good practice and build on existing capacity, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and build on good relations with the Deaf community– 20 people (directly trained) • 3 public consultations – 60 people • 10th Anniversary of BSL / ISL recognition celebrations – 120 people 	
DHSSPS	<p>Self Directed Support pilots</p> <p>Self Directed Support pilots underway in each HSC Trust aimed at giving people more control/input over how social care is delivered to them and resources spent. Direct payments being promoted.</p>	<p>Self Directed Support pilots</p> <p>Progress monitored regularly by HSC Board SDS Project Board.</p>	19, 25

	Funding to Thalidomide Trust DHSSPS provides £470k per year to Thalidomide Trust to help thalidomide survivors in NI to live independently in their communities.	Funding to Thalidomide Trust Maintains independence as part of a UK wide scheme.	19, 25
DOJ	Draft Mental Capacity Bill Development of policy and legislation to extend the draft Mental Capacity Bill to the criminal justice system. The Bill is based on the fundamental principle that a person over 16 has the right to make their own decisions unless there is proof that they lack the capacity to do so. Significantly, it will also place an emphasis on helping and supporting people to exercise their capacity to make their own decisions where they can. The Bill will also provide significant, additional safeguards for such persons aged 16 or over, who lack capacity to make a specific decision for themselves. Extending the Bill to the criminal justice system will increase the choice, control and freedom that people with	Draft Mental Capacity Bill The Department is due to consult on this policy in March 2014, with the aim of introducing a draft Bill to the Assembly in January 2015 and enactment of the legislation in March 2016.	12

	or without capacity will have in respect of decisions relating to their care, treatment or personal welfare.		
DSD	Regulatory framework for Supporting People Officials from Department for Social Development, Housing Executive, Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Regulation Quality and Improvement Authority and the Charities Commission to agree a regulatory framework for Supporting People	Regulatory framework for Supporting People Published "Principals of a Persons Own Home" guide for people living in supported living accommodation in January 2014	19, 28
OFMDFM	Age Friendly Environments signature programme OFMDFM officials are currently working with Belfast, Newry & Mourne and City of Derry Councils to advance the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Environment's programme. Amongst other things the programme aims to improve the accessibility of outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation accessibility; social inclusion and so should make life easier for people with a disability.	Age Friendly Environments signature programme In June 2013 Armagh City Council signed the Dublin Declaration to commit to being an Age Friendly Council.	

6. THEME - CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, & FAMILY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 9

Ensure that families and carers with children or a family member with a disability have access to appropriate support to enable the child or family member with a disability to fulfil their full potential and that other children within the family have the same opportunities as children in families without a child or family member with a disability. Ensure that women with disabilities are able to fully enjoy the rights and freedoms set out in UNCRPD.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DCAL	<p>Family Sign Language Course</p> <p>DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society 'Family Sign Language Course'.</p> <p>Deaf children typically start their early education without having the same level of language skills and vocabulary as their hearing peers, placing them at a substantial disadvantage in their early education, where the development of literacy and numeracy skills will help shape their future academic achievements and employment prospects. This project will provide early intervention to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children through delivering the Family Sign Language</p>	<p>Family Sign Language Course</p> <p>By 31 March 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This project will provide early intervention to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children through delivering the Family Sign Language (FSL) course to 12-14 families of young Deaf children who want to use BSL who will be taught the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as	7, 21, 24

	<p>(FSL) course to families of young Deaf children who want to use British Sign Language (BSL) and who will be taught the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as the tools for practical communication about food, sleeping and nappy changing, for example.</p> <p>British Sign language course for parents</p> <p>DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society 'British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 Course for Parents of Deaf Children'.</p> <p>Many families who have taken part in the DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Family Sign</p>	<p>the tools for practical communication about food, sleeping and nappy changing, for example.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will also provide top up classes to up to 26 families who availed of previous FSL classes. • It will also provide 2 FSL training days (1 in Belfast and 1 in Derry) to up to 60 professionals who work with pre-school deaf children, such as in nursery schools, play groups, day care centres, crèches, and childminders giving them a basic knowledge of FSL/BSL and greater Deaf awareness. <p>British Sign language course for parents</p> <p>By 31 March 2014:</p> <p>This project will address this gap through the successful delivery of BSL Level 1 to 24 parents of Deaf children empowering both parents and Deaf children to learn at a</p>	<p>7, 21, 24</p>
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	<p>Language courses wish to formally learn British Sign Language (BSL), particularly for those whose children are continuing British Sign Language (BSL) as their primary communication method, in order to maintain a similar level of sign language to match their child's skills which will develop rapidly through school and social use. There is currently difficulty for such parents in accessing British Sign Language (BSL) courses due to cost, timing, geographic location and this project will address this gap through the successful delivery of British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 course.</p> <p>Educating Deaf children and youth to sign! DCAL funding of Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association 'Educating Deaf Children and Youth to Sign!' The majority of Deaf children and young people are encouraged by teaching professionals in schools and their families to use speech as the main form of communication. This often results in them feeling excluded from the hearing world as they struggle to academically achieve and</p>	<p>similar rate. This project is aimed at tackling the causes of poverty and social exclusion (including within families where communication between hearing parents/siblings and a Deaf child is difficult) by providing family communication skills and support for the Deaf child at the earliest stage and as (he) develops to improve his/her life outcomes opportunities. It also contributes to DCAL's role of promoting BSL/ISL.</p> <p>Educating Deaf children and youth to sign! By 31 March 2014: This project will provide personal and social development programmes to 45 children, young people and young adults in order to redress the educational/ academic under achievement of Deaf people in order to</p>	<p>7, 21, 24</p>
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	<p>communicate on a level par with their hearing peers. At the same time they also feel excluded from the Sign Language community as they have been given the opportunity to learn Sign Language. This social isolation frequently results in low self esteem, behavioural difficulties, vulnerability to abuse and academic failure. The low academic achievement of Deaf children and young people leads to reduced employment prospects in adulthood. This project will provide personal and social development programmes to children, young people and young adults in order to redress the educational/ academic under achievement of Deaf people in order to reach their full potential and gain better employment prospects.</p>	<p>reach their full potential and gain better employment prospects. It also The benefits of the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of Deaf tutors presenting the BSL classes. • Providing the opportunity for children, young people and young adults to gain SL qualifications at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 3 including the Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs). <p>It will provide the opportunity for children, young people and young adults to use their newly acquired learning skills to take part in new social and educational opportunities within the Deaf Community.</p>	
DE	<p>Sure Start</p> <p>The DE Sure Start programme works with parents and children under 4 in the top 20% most disadvantaged areas. The aims of the programme are to improve the ability to learn, health and social development of pre-school children.</p>	<p>Sure Start</p> <p>34,000 children currently registered to avail of Sure Start services.</p> <p>Baseline data is being established to allow future monitoring of the number of referrals</p>	7, 24, 25, 28

	<p>Whilst not designed to address specific needs, Sure Start services can aid early identification of additional needs and provide referral to the appropriate professionals.</p> <p>The Sure Start developmental programme for 2-3 year olds provides support to those children, and their families who would be considered to benefit most from its provision. Support from other Health Professionals working within Sure Start (Health Visitors, Occupational Therapists etc.) is encouraged and is sought where programme staff feel that this would benefit a child or children in their care.</p> <p>Priorities for Youth policy</p> <p>The Priorities for Youth Policy was published in October 2013. This policy sets the future direction of the DE-funded youth service and was developed with the objective of improving young people's lives through youth work. The policy is designed to be inclusive and seeks to support a youth service which facilitates the non-formal learning of all young people. As a result, actions are detailed in Priorities for Youth to not only enhance generic youth provision but</p>	<p>to professionals from children engaged with the Sure Start programme.</p> <p>Priorities for Youth policy</p> <p>Policy implementation is ongoing. Full implementation planned for April 2016. Young people from all backgrounds and abilities will have opportunities to participate in the youth service and to take part in activities which enable them to achieve their full potential.</p>	<p>7, 24</p>
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	<p>also to increase targeted provision for young people with barriers to learning (including those with special educational needs or disabilities).</p> <p>Priorities for Youth outlines steps to support youth service staff, such as making available those support materials and resources concerning children and young people with special educational needs which are currently only available to staff in schools.</p> <p>Spend on Disability Related Capital Works</p> <p>From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014 the Belfast, Western, North Eastern, South Eastern and Southern Education and Library Boards spent £3,102k on disability related capital works in controlled schools and Board owned buildings. During this period a further £2,015k capital funding was spent on Voluntary Sector disability projects, this includes Catholic Maintained, Voluntary Grammar, Grant-Maintained Integrated and Irish-Medium Schools.</p>	<p>Spend on Disability Related Capital Works</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>7, 9, 24</p>
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DHSSPS	Family Fund DHSSPS provides £1.57m per annum to Family Fund to help support families with severely disabled children. Family Fund provides help with items such as respite/short breaks, clothing, bedding, washing machines, tumble dryers, specialist toys.	Family Fund In current financial year 2,870 families helped with a grant which averaged £500 each.	7, 28
DRD	Travel initiatives This Department does not provide direct support, however it does provide a range of travel initiatives (see strategic priority 6) which could assist in enabling this group to get access to the same opportunities as others.	Travel initiatives The transport initiatives listed at Strategic Priority 6 are available to all people with a disability.	9, 19, 21

6. THEME - CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, & FAMILY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 10

Ensure parents and carers with a disability have access to effective and appropriate support, where required, to access their right to a family life.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DCAL	<p>Family Sign Language Course</p> <p>DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society 'Family Sign Language Course'.</p> <p>Deaf children typically start their early education without having the same level of language skills and vocabulary as their hearing peers, placing them at a substantial disadvantage in their early education, where the development of literacy and numeracy skills will help shape their future academic achievements and employment prospects. This project will provide early intervention to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children through delivering the Family Sign Language (FSL) course to</p>	<p>Family Sign Language Course</p> <p>By 31 March 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This project will provide early intervention to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children through delivering the Family Sign Language (FSL) course to 12-14 families of young Deaf children who want to use BSL who will be taught the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as the tools for practical communication about food, sleeping and	7, 21, 24

	<p>families of young Deaf children who want to use British Sign Language (BSL) and who will be taught the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as the tools for practical communication about food, sleeping and nappy changing, for example.</p> <p>British Sign language course for parents DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society 'British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 Course for Parents of Deaf Children'. Many families who have taken part in the DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Family Sign Language courses wish to formally learn British Sign Language (BSL), particularly for those whose children are continuing British Sign Language (BSL) as their primary</p>	<p>nappy changing, for example.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will also provide top up classes to up to 26 families who availed of previous FSL classes. • It will also provide 2 FSL training days (1 in Belfast and 1 in Derry) to up to 60 professionals who work with pre-school deaf children, such as in nursery schools, play groups, day care centres, crèches, and childminders giving them a basic knowledge of FSL/BSL and greater Deaf awareness. <p>British Sign language course for parents By 31 March 2014: This project will address this gap through the successful delivery of BSL Level 1 to 24 parents of Deaf children empowering both parents and Deaf children to learn at a similar rate. This project is aimed at tackling the causes of poverty and social exclusion</p>	<p>7, 21, 24</p>
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	<p>communication method, in order to maintain a similar level of sign language to match their child's skills which will develop rapidly through school and social use. There is currently difficulty for such parents in accessing British Sign Language (BSL) courses due to cost, timing, geographic location and this project will address this gap through the successful delivery of British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 course</p> <p>Educating Deaf children and youth to sign! DCAL funding of Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association 'Educating Deaf Children and Youth to Sign!' The majority of Deaf children and young people are encouraged by teaching professionals in schools and their families to use speech as the main form of communication. This often results in them feeling excluded from the hearing world as they struggle to academically achieve and communicate on a level par with their hearing peers. At the same time they also feel excluded from the Sign Language community as they have been given the opportunity to learn</p>	<p>(including within families where communication between hearing parents/siblings and a Deaf child is difficult) by providing family communication skills and support for the Deaf child at the earliest stage and as (he) develops to improve his/her life outcomes opportunities. It also contributes to DCAL's role of promoting BSL/ISL.</p> <p>Educating Deaf children and youth to sign! By 31 March 2014: This project will provide personal and social development programmes to 45 children, young people and young adults in order to redress the educational/ academic under achievement of Deaf people in order to reach their full potential and gain better employment prospects. It also The benefits of the project include:</p>	<p>7, 21, 24</p>
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	<p>Sign Language. This social isolation frequently results in low self esteem, behavioural difficulties, vulnerability to abuse and academic failure. The low academic achievement of Deaf children and young people leads to reduced employment prospects in adulthood. This project will provide personal and social development programmes to children, young people and young adults in order to redress the educational/ academic under achievement of Deaf people in order to reach their full potential and gain better employment prospects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment of Deaf tutors presenting the BSL classes.• Providing the opportunity for children, young people and young adults to gain SL qualifications at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 3 including the Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs). <p>It will provide the opportunity for children, young people and young adults to use their newly acquired learning skills to take part in new social and educational opportunities within the Deaf Community.</p>	
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7. THEME - TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULthood

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 11

Transform the process of transition to adulthood for young people with disabilities.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>Student support</p> <p>Support offers are tailored specifically to the needs of the individual. Any student who makes a disclosure about learning or other disabilities will have their needs assessed in terms of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reasonable adjustments2. Assistive technology eg software/IT3. One to one support <p>This offer of support will include support through the transition into Further Education.</p>	<p>Student support</p> <p>All students who made a disclosure about learning or other disabilities were assessed and support was provided appropriate. Of the 44 students who made disclosures, 22 were assessed as needing support and this was provided in a range of ways to suit their individual needs</p>	9, 20, 24

<p>DCAL</p>	<p>Family Sign Language Course</p> <p>DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society 'Family Sign Language Course'.</p> <p>Deaf children typically start their early education without having the same level of language skills and vocabulary as their hearing peers, placing them at a substantial disadvantage in their early education, where the development of literacy and numeracy skills will help shape their future academic achievements and employment prospects. This project will provide early intervention to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children through delivering the Family Sign Language (FSL) course to families of young Deaf children who want to use British Sign Language (BSL) and who will be taught the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as the tools for practical communication about food, sleeping and nappy changing, for example</p>	<p>Family Sign Language Course</p> <p>By 31 March 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project will provide early intervention to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children through delivering the Family Sign Language (FSL) course to 12-14 families of young Deaf children who want to use BSL who will be taught the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as the tools for practical communication about food, sleeping and nappy changing, for example. • It will also provide top up classes to up to 26 families who availed of previous FSL classes. • It will also provide 2 FSL training days (1 in Belfast and 1 in Derry) to up to 60 professionals who work with pre-school 	<p>7, 21, 24</p>
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	<p>deaf children, such as in nursery schools, play groups, day care centres, crèches, and childminders giving them a basic knowledge of FSL/BSL and greater Deaf awareness.</p>	
<p>Sign Language course for parents</p> <p>DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society 'British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 Course for Parents of Deaf Children'.</p> <p>Many families who have taken part in the DCAL funded National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Family Sign Language courses wish to formally learn British Sign Language (BSL), particularly for those whose children are continuing British Sign Language (BSL) as their primary communication method, in order to maintain a similar level of sign language to match their child's skills which will develop rapidly through school and social use. There is currently difficulty for such parents in accessing British Sign Language (BSL) courses due to cost, timing, geographic location and this project will address this gap through the</p>	<p>Sign Language course for parents</p> <p>By 31 March 2014:</p> <p>This project will address this gap through the successful delivery of BSL Level 1 to 24 parents of Deaf children empowering both parents and Deaf children to learn at a similar rate. This project is aimed at tackling the causes of poverty and social exclusion (including within families where communication between hearing parents/siblings and a Deaf child is difficult) by providing family communication skills and support for the Deaf child at the earliest stage and as (he) develops to improve his/her life outcomes opportunities. It also</p>	<p>7, 21, 24</p>

	<p>successful delivery of British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 course</p> <p>Educating Deaf Children and Youth to Sign! DCAL funding of Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association 'Educating Deaf Children and Youth to Sign!' The majority of Deaf children and young people are encouraged by teaching professionals in schools and their families to use speech as the main form of communication. This often results in them feeling excluded from the hearing world as they struggle to academically achieve and communicate on a level par with their hearing peers. At the same time they also feel excluded from the Sign Language community as they have been given the opportunity to learn Sign Language. This social isolation frequently results in low self esteem, behavioural difficulties, vulnerability to abuse and academic failure. The low academic achievement of Deaf children and young people leads to reduced employment prospects in adulthood. This project will</p>	<p>contributes to DCAL's role of promoting BSL/ISL.</p> <p>Educating Deaf Children and Youth to Sign! By 31 March 2014: This project will provide personal and social development programmes to 45 children, young people and young adults in order to redress the educational/ academic under achievement of Deaf people in order to reach their full potential and gain better employment prospects. It also The benefits of the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of Deaf tutors presenting the BSL classes. • Providing the opportunity for children, young people and young adults to gain SL qualifications at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 3 including the Children of 	<p>7, 21, 24</p>
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	provide personal and social development programmes to children, young people and young adults in order to redress the educational/ academic under achievement of Deaf people in order to reach their full potential and gain better employment prospects.	Deaf Adults (CODAs). It will provide the opportunity for children, young people and young adults to use their newly acquired learning skills to take part in new social and educational opportunities within the Deaf Community.	
DE	<p>Transition planning process</p> <p>The Department continues to engage with Education and Library Boards, DHSSPS and DEL in relation to improving the transition planning process for young people with special educational needs (SEN) through both the cross-Departmental Autism Strategy & Action Plan; the Bamford Action Plan; the cross-agency Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's 'Transition to Adulthood of Young People with Disabilities' sub-group; and the cross-Departmental Post-19 Transition Focus Group.</p> <p>The Department has commissioned the Education and Training Inspectorate to carry out a review of the current statutory Transitions arrangements for young people with Statements of SEN.</p>	<p>Transition planning process</p> <p>Ongoing – the Department continues to fund the Education and Library Boards' Transition Services to help young people and their parents/carers access the appropriate information, guidance and support to allow them to make informed choices for the future.</p> <p>The recommendations of the ETI Transitions Report will help to inform the Department's consideration of future transition planning arrangements.</p>	7, 24

	<p>Priorities for Youth policy</p> <p>The Department of Education's Priorities for Youth Policy outlines the future direction of the youth service with the overarching aim of improving young people's lives through youth work. Priorities for Youth provides a clear focus for DE investment in Youth Services which support good quality educational services and which deliver positive outcomes for young people. Thus the policy shapes a youth service delivery which will help young people to prepare for their future and their transition into adulthood.</p>	<p>Policies for Youth policy</p> <p>Policy implementation is ongoing. Full implementation planned for April 2016.</p>	<p>7, 24</p>
DEL	<p>Careers Service</p> <p>DEL's first point of contact with young people in schools is through the Careers Service. The Careers Service implements a social inclusion policy which focuses on addressing the needs of young people facing, or vulnerable to, social exclusion, including young people with disabilities. To this end, Partnership Agreements are in place with post-primary schools including special schools to</p>	<p>Careers Service</p> <p>During the 2012/13 academic year, attended 1055 Transition Planning meetings. During the 2013/14 academic year, careers advisers attended 1095 Transition Planning meetings and 1917 annual reviews.</p>	<p>7, 21, 24, 27</p>

	<p>support the schools' careers education programme.</p> <p>The Agreements allow careers advisers to attend Transition Plan Meetings of Year 10 pupils and subsequent Annual Reviews. This helps young people and their parents/guardians to make informed decisions about the options available to them on leaving school. Advisers have an active role in the transition planning process of young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need. Data-sharing agreements are signed by school principals and careers managers in post primary schools. The purpose of this agreement is to share relevant pupil data between the school and DEL, to enable the Department to conduct its statutory functions.</p>		
	<p>Review of the Careers Strategy</p> <p>A formal review of Careers was undertaken in 2014 by an Independent Panel of experts from Industry and Education. An action plan for 2015/16 has been agreed and the</p>	<p>Review of the Careers Strategy</p> <p>The Careers Service will continue to support young people with disabilities at key transition stages in school. Careers advisers will also work closely with</p>	<p>7, 24, 27</p>

	<p>Careers Strategy 'Preparing for Success' has been refreshed to reflect the aims and objectives of the careers system for the next 5 years</p> <p>Inter-Departmental Liaison</p> <p>In late 2013, the DEL Minister raised the cross cutting issue of transitions and provision for young people with severe learning difficulties/disabilities at the post 19 stage with the Inter-Ministerial Group on Mental Health and Learning Disability (led by DHSSPS). Subsequently, DEL (under the auspices of the Disability Strategy) agreed to Chair a cross Departmental Transitions Focus Group to scope the role of relevant Departments; identify issues of concern and propose options for addressing same.</p> <p>In addition, DEL officials have engaged with DHSSPS officials and the Chair of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's (CYPSP) Transitions Sub-Group to consider the Health and Social Care Board's (HSCB) review</p>	<p>the Disability Employment Service to support adults and young people in making career decisions. In conjunction with other Departments, DEL has developed and is finalising a paper and related Action Plan for the Ministerial Group's consideration.</p> <p>Inter-Departmental Liaison</p> <p>In conjunction with other Departments, DEL developed and finalised a paper and related Action Plan for the Ministerial Group's consideration. The way forward is now being considered by DEL officials.</p>	<p>7, 24, 25</p>
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	of 'Day Opportunities' and how improvements to Transition services can be taken forward across a number of key Departments' responsibilities.		
DHSSPS	<p>Transition plans</p> <p>To ensure that disabled children known to HSC Trusts leaving school have transition plans in place. In the HSC, transitions planning commences from age 14 and each of the HSC Trusts have designated individuals/teams to assist young people with disabilities make the transition from children's services to adult services and transitioning from full-time education. As part of their role, these teams or individual co-ordinators collaborate with other Departments and Agencies, allied health professionals and the voluntary and community sector. This includes progressing into some form of further education, training, employment and a range of other opportunities suitable to the individual.</p> <p>The Regional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Model, published by DHSSPS in July 2012, requires the HSCB and HSC Trusts to develop effective</p>	<p>Transition plans</p> <p>The consultation for a Regional Learning Disability Day Opportunities Model ended in January 2014 and a Regional Day Opportunities Cross-Departmental Group has now been set up to "oversee the co-ordination and implementation of the Regional Day Opportunities Model for people with Learning Disability across Northern Ireland'. It is estimated that the programme for redevelopment may take up to five years to complete in some areas and any proposals for changes to local services would be consulted on locally.</p> <p>Data collected by DHSSPS/NISRA.</p>	7, 24, 25, 27

	protocols with adult mental health services and wider child and family services to ensure children are supported at transitional points.	The HSCB and Trusts are currently implementing the CAMHS Service Model. Local Implementation Teams, which include representatives from CAMHS and Adult Mental Health Services, have been established and local action plans have been completed and are being implemented.	
DRD	Travel initiatives This Department does not directly assist in the transition to adulthood; however it does provide a range of travel initiatives (see strategic priority 6) which may be a contributing factor in enabling young people with a disability access college/work/leisure/retail opportunities or appointments via public transport.	Travel initiatives See Strategic Priority 6.	9, 19, 21
DSD	Strategic Leadership Forum In conjunction with the DE and the Strategic Leadership Forum for Special Schools, a proposal is being developed to enable a targeted programme of awareness and information	Strategic Leadership Forum Work has commenced to organise the first cluster event in Newtownabbey/Jordanstown area.	7, 21, 24

	<p>events aimed at young people attending Special Schools.</p> <p>At a meeting on 4 February, it was agreed that schools would be geographically clustered and events held for each cluster.</p> <p>Benefit entitlement</p> <p>The ESA Centre has been working with the Benefit Entitlement Unit to provide outreach visits to special schools to help improve awareness of the benefit system and to ensure that early intervention provides relevant support to families and vulnerable young people.</p>	<p>The overall aim is to improve access to and uptake of all financial and other supports to those with special educational needs, their families and educators.</p> <p>Benefit entitlement</p> <p>The ESA Centre continues to work in partnership with the Benefit Entitlement Unit to deliver outreach visits to special schools.</p>	<p>7, 21, 28</p>
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8. THEME – TRANSITION FROM ADULthood TO LATER LIFE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 12

Transform the process of transition from adulthood to later life for people with a disability.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DEL	<p>Economic Inactivity Strategy</p> <p>DEL, in conjunction with DETI, is developing a strategy to address economic inactivity in Northern Ireland. As part of this process consideration will be given to developing an initiative to increase the employment prospects of economically inactive older workers, including those with a disability. The aim would be to re-train, re-skill and re-motivate the group, taking into account the pension age changes.</p> <p>Also under the Active Ageing Strategy, DEL, in conjunction with OFMDFM, will explore how the Department may better promote the benefits of further education opportunities amongst older workers.</p>	<p>Economic Inactivity Strategy</p> <p>A Strategic Framework to address economic inactivity in Northern Ireland is currently under development. An extensive consultation exercise took place during 2014. A final Strategy, based on the outcomes from the consultation exercise, will be presented to the Executive for agreement early in 2015.</p>	<p>24, 27</p> <p>24</p>

	<p>difficulty to access Higher Education and fulfil their potential several forms of additional funding support is available.</p> <p>Steps to Work/Steps 2 Success</p> <p>Steps to Work (StW) was the Department's main adult return to work programme. Its aim was to assist people who are unemployed or economically inactive to find and sustain employment. The programme was available to anyone who is aged 18 years old or over (16 in the case of lone parents) who is unemployed or economically inactive, irrespective of whether or not they are in receipt of benefit. There is no upper age limit for participating in the programme.</p>	<p>the aspiration and educational attainment of those groups who face barriers to their participation and who are currently under-represented in higher education. This includes students with disabilities and learning difficulties. In addition the Department has invited institutions to develop proposals for projects to raise aspiration and attainment among these underrepresented groups</p> <p>Steps to Work/Steps 2 Success</p> <p>Between September 2008 and September 2014 of the 151,145 participants who started the StW programme 15,515 (10%) of all participants had a disability.</p> <p>Of the 12,795 disabled participants who left the StW programme between September 2008 and March 2014 2,715 (21%) moved</p>	<p>27</p>
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	<p>StW offered a wide range of provision including work experience, essential skills training, qualifications, subsidised employment and assistance with self-employment. Steps to Work was replaced by a new programme Steps 2 Success from 20 October 2014.</p> <p>Careers Service DEL's Careers Service continues to offer impartial careers information, advice and guidance to clients of <u>all</u> ages including those with a disability.</p>	<p>to employment with 2,155 (17%) sustaining that employment for a minimum of 13 weeks. There is, as yet, no statistical data available for S2S.</p> <p>Careers Service In 2013/14, careers advisers carried out 36,095 interviews with young people and 16,234 interviews with adults (including those with a disability).</p>	27
DRD	<p>Travel initiatives DRD does not directly assist in the transition from adulthood to later life. The Department provides a range of travel initiatives (see strategic priority 6), which assists people with a disability to access transport and to participate more fully in society.</p>	<p>Travel initiatives See Strategic Priority 6.</p>	9, 19, 21

9. THEME - STANDARD OF LIVING

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 13

Reduce poverty among people with disabilities and their families and protect their right to an adequate standard of living.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	<p>Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework</p> <p>DARD's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework was launched in 2012. This Framework included a commitment to tackle Access Poverty, Financial Poverty and Social Isolation. A range of Projects and Programmes are underway to fulfil this commitment and the majority of these involve working with a range of statutory partners including the Public Health Agency, DHSSPS, DSD, DEL and DRD.</p> <p>Following agreement of the 2011/12-2014/15 budget, the Minister confirmed her commitment to tackling rural poverty and social isolation by allocating £16m to build on the successes of earlier work and develop other interventions. In 2013/14 £4.42m was spent across a range of initiatives.</p>	<p>Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework</p> <p>Through various Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) initiatives (11/12 – 14/15) the following outputs have resulted to date – many of which have benefitted people with a disability: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13,067 households have been visited under the Maximising Access to Grants, Benefits and Services in Rural Areas (MARA) project, 4,902 stated they have a disability;• 6,352 people have benefitted from Farm Family Health Checks carried out at 297	9, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30

		<p>locations (192 farmer marts and 105 community venues);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69,786 contacts have been made under the Connecting Elderly Rural Isolated project; • 1,222 unemployed young people have been supported by the BOOST youth employability programme, • 631 young people engaged in a Youth Entrepreneurship programme; • 828,937 passenger trips have been funded through the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS); • 1,500 rural households have benefited from the installation of various energy efficiency measures; • There is ongoing investment in the Rural Support charity, and in Rural Community Networks to undertake rural Community Development work. This investment supports the Rural Support 	
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		<p>Networks and the 868 community and voluntary groups affiliated to the Networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 63 applicants have had a borewell drilled so as to provide safe drinking water to their rural dwelling.• Another TRPSI initiative the Rural Challenge Programme encourages rural community and voluntary groups to identify a local need and propose an initiative to address a poverty or social isolation issue within their rural community. The Programme last opened for applications during September to December 2012 and grant awards of up to £10,000 each have been offered to 44 applicants. These projects will deliver local actions to address rural poverty and social isolation issues until December 2014.	
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		Grant funding of over £51,000 has been awarded to six organisations who are delivering local projects specifically designed to support people living with disabilities in rural areas. This funding will enable these local organisations to provide participants with advice on health and wellbeing, the opportunity to obtain essential skills as well as providing social and recreational opportunities.	
DCAL	<p>Sign Language Partnership Group</p> <p>DCAL Sign Language Partnership Group (SLPG) funding is directed at the Deaf sign language community which experiences higher levels of unemployment than the general population. It prioritises projects that promote equality, tackle poverty and social exclusion among the Deaf community. Many projects provide work to Deaf tutors to deliver Deaf awareness, basic sign language or BSL qualifications to both hearing and Deaf people eg NIDYA 'Educating Deaf Children & Youth to Sign', Hands That Talk: Signs for Services Project,</p>	<p>Sign Language Partnership Group</p> <p>This funding has lead to an increase in the number of Deaf Awareness and sign language courses which can be delivered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased numbers of Deaf teachers, assessors and verifiers in employment as a result of DCAL funding. • Increased numbers of Deaf people achieving sign language linguistics 	8, 21, 24, 29

	Breaking Down the Barriers' project & Deaf Answers 'Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap' project	<p>certificate which improves employment prospects as a result of DCAL funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pool of 14 trained deaf awareness presenters able to be employed to deliver Deaf awareness to a high standard throughout the north of Ireland as a result of DCAL funding. 	
DRD	<p>Transport initiatives</p> <p>The Department provides a range of transport initiatives for people with a disability (see strategic priority 6) including Concessionary Fares which provides access to public transport at a reduced rate.</p>	<p>Transport initiatives</p> <p>See Strategic Priority 6.</p>	9, 19, 21
DSD	<p>Employment and Support Allowance</p> <p>The Employment and Support Allowance Centre has safeguard arrangements in place to ensure that no vulnerable person has their benefit sanctioned without having their requirement to attend their Work Capability Assessment examinations or Work Focused Interview explained to them. The intervention arrangements provide a safeguard for customers who may not have a clear understanding of the</p>	<p>Employment and Support Allowance</p> <p>There have been 1,069 safeguard visits carried out since 01.04.13, to support vulnerable customers through the Work Capability Assessment and Work Focused Interviews.</p>	28

	conditionality of entitlement and who fail, for example, to return a medical questionnaire. The safeguard provisions also ensure that a vulnerable customer will be contacted by telephone and if necessary visited at home before any sanctions will be applied.		
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9. THEME - STANDARD OF LIVING

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 14

Ensure that people with disabilities and their families have appropriate accommodation and adequate support to live independently.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DHSSPS	Housing adaptations DHSSPS/DSD working in collaboration to address issues around delays in housing adaptations and improving infrastructure to maximise housing choices for disabled people thus promoting independence.	Housing adaptations DSD and DHSSPS Ministers have endorsed the Interdepartmental Review of Housing Adaptations and public consultation has now been successfully completed. Final recommendations and a strategic action plan are currently being prepared for Ministerial approval.	19, 20, 28
	Resettlement The DHSSPS continues to work to resettle all those patients currently in long stay learning disability hospitals	Resettlement Regionally resettlement is on 'target'.	19, 26, 28

	who do not require to be there for assessment or treatment. The key consideration is that their lives will be improved by the process.		
DSD	Social housing Requirement set that all new social housing in NI is built to lifetime homes standards. This ensures that social housing tenants can remain living independently for longer	Social housing PFG target to deliver 1275 new social homes in 13/14 financial year	19, 20, 28
	Housing support services Enable 17000 people to access housing support services to enable them to live as independently as possible	Housing support services Total people in receipt of housing support services in 2013/14 exceeded 23,000	19, 20, 28

10. THEME - EMPLOYMENT & EMPLOYABILITY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 15

Work towards increasing the number of people with disabilities entering all levels of employment and safeguard the rights of those disabled people already in work.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DCAL	<p>Sign Language Partnership Funding</p> <p>DCAL Sign Language Partnership Group (SLPG) funding is directed at the Deaf sign language community which experiences higher levels of unemployment than the general population. It prioritises projects that promote equality, tackle poverty and social exclusion among the Deaf community. Many projects provide work to Deaf tutors to deliver Deaf awareness, basic sign language or BSL qualifications to both hearing and Deaf people eg NIDYA 'Educating Deaf Children & Youth to Sign', Hands That Talk: Signs for Services Project, Breaking Down the Barriers' project & Deaf Answers 'Taking the Lead to Drive Forward the Roadmap' project</p>	<p>Sign Language Partnership Funding</p> <p>This funding has lead to an increase in the number of Deaf Awareness and sign language courses which can be delivered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased numbers of Deaf teachers, assessors and verifiers in employment as a result of DCAL funding.• Increased numbers of Deaf people achieving sign language linguistics certificate which improves employment prospects as a result of DCAL funding.• A pool of 14 trained deaf awareness	8, 21, 24, 27, 29

		<p>presenters able to be employed to deliver Deaf awareness to a high standard throughout the north of Ireland as a result of DCAL funding.</p>	
DEL	<p>Disability Employment Service (DES)</p> <p>DEL's services are client centred; the key aim is to ensure that the needs of all people with special needs or disabilities are individually identified and addressed in the most effective way.</p> <p>DES manages and delivers a range of pan-disability employment services and programmes, aimed at helping people of all ages progress towards, move into and sustain meaningful paid work. It also has its own team of Occupational Psychologists who can support and assist the</p>	<p>Disability Employment Service (DES)</p> <p>From 1 April 13 – 31 Mar 14 there were 600 referrals to the Work Connect programme, resulting in 371 Programme starts and 139 people with disabilities into employment.</p> <p>Workable (NI) - At 31st March 2014, 504 people were receiving support from the programme.</p> <p>Targets for starts and progression for those</p>	27

	<p>Employment Adviser teams but who can also carry out employment assessments for individual clients.</p> <p>DES operates a number of specific programmes, including Workable, Access to Work, Job Introduction, Work Connect, Residential Training and Condition Management Programme.</p> <p>Disability Employment and Skills Strategy</p> <p>A strategic review of DES is underway. To inform this review, an overarching Employment and Skills Strategy for People with Disabilities is being developed. A period of public consultation on the strategy proposals is due to commence in September 2015.</p> <p>A Strategic Working Group has been established to take forward the Strategy and membership includes a number of key representatives from the local disability sector. In addition, a number of user engagement events took place</p>	<p>on the programme now requiring less support in work have been achieved.</p> <p>651 people with disabilities being are supported by Access to Work (NI) programme (Mar 14). 156 new clients on programme which includes 18 whose status was unemployed at time of application in the year April 13 to March 14.</p> <p>Disability Employment and Skills Strategy</p> <p>7 meetings of the Strategic Working Group have taken place to date. 7 engagement events with users and non users of DES and other employment related services and an engagement event with a range of employers has also taken place. The information gathered from these events will be used to inform the Strategy. First outline</p>	<p>21, 24, 27</p>
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<p>scheduled throughout Northern Ireland, to ensure that the views of people with disabilities are also considered as part of the development of the strategy.</p> <p>Further Education Pilot initiative for disabled students DES is also conducting a pilot with the Further Education sector (Northern, North Western & Southern Regional College) that will increase the opportunities for students within the Discrete Learning Units to gain employment and realise their potential in the labour market.</p> <p>European Social Fund (ESF) The ESF Programme, 2007-2013 aims to direct support towards 'Helping people into sustainable employment' by assisting unemployed and economically inactive people towards sustained employment. It seeks to support groups experiencing difficulty in obtaining employment or maintaining sustained employment, including people with disabilities.</p> <p>The Department for Employment and Learning has completed</p>	<p>draft of the strategy consultation document is being considered by all of the Strategic Working Group.</p> <p>137 students have been referred to the pilot over 2012-2014; 44 students have secured paid employment with the assistance of YES, EES, Workable and Access to work.</p> <p>European Social Fund (ESF) Currently, there are 20 projects funded under Priority 1 that target participants with disabilities or health conditions. These 20 projects have been offered funding of around £11.5 million ESF (40%) and £7.2m DEL (25%) contribution.</p> <p>Over the period 1 April 2008 and 31</p>	<p>27</p>
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	<p>the development of the new European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for the period 2014-20 in Northern Ireland. It aims to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by reducing economic inactivity and to increase the skills base of those currently in work and future potential participants in the workforce.</p> <p>The Programme will fund activity to enhance and extend employment opportunities, in particular, for those groups at a disadvantage in the labour market, including people with a disability.</p> <p>Over the 7 years of the programme, a total of 13,000 people with a disability will be supported and the following results will be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 (10%) will enter employment upon leaving; • 650 (5%) will still be in employment 6 months after leaving; • 1950 (15%) will enter education/training upon leaving. <p>A total of £104,696,193 (€127,678,284) will be allocated to projects supporting employability among people with disabilities during the lifetime of the ESF programme. This</p>	<p>December 2012 ESF projects have assisted approximately 19,000 participants with disabilities or health conditions.</p>	
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	<p>represents approximately 25% of the total funding available.</p> <p>The figure is made up of 40% funding from ESF, 25% from DEL and a further 35% match funding from other private or public sources.</p> <p>Strategy for Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)</p> <p>DEL is leading on the Executive strategy, “Pathways to Success“, in relation to young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs). The Strategy is designed with a particular focus on helping those young people who face a range of barriers which includes but is not limited to those young people with disabilities) The Strategy also dovetails with DEL’s complementary proposals to tackle the wider problem of youth unemployment. The Strategy underwent a formal interim review commencing in 2014.</p> <p>The Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) pilots new approaches to address the general and specific employability</p>	<p>Strategy for Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)</p> <p>To support delivery of the Strategy, a budget of £25.2 million was secured to enable the Strategy to test approaches to dealing with young people with barriers to employment, education and training.</p> <p>A number of initiatives under the Strategy are directly helping people with disabilities in areas such as employment support and skills development.</p>	<p>7, 24, 25, 27</p>
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	<p>barriers faced by NEET young people through a broad range of provision. The Programme commenced in January 2013 and aims to assist 6,000 young people by March 2015.</p>	<p>From January 2013 to 31 October 2014, the Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) has assisted 4,820 young people in the NEET category, including those with disabilities</p>	
	<p>Local Employment Intermediary Service (LEMIS)</p> <p>LEMIS was a community employment initiative designed to help the “hardest to reach” in targeted areas. The service was provided by local community employment organisations in the Belfast area, Derry, Strabane, Newry and Mourne, Moyle and Cookstown District Council Areas, areas identified by the Noble Indices of Multiple Deprivation as having high levels of deprivation and unemployment.</p>	<p>Local Employment Intermediary Service (LEMIS)</p> <p>During April 2014 to October 2014 2,047 individuals were supported by LEMIS with 35% being NEETs clients. A total of 336 people have moved into full time permanent employment (16.4%), 27 into part time employment and 66 commenced temporary employment. During the same period 365 clients completed a short accredited training course.</p>	<p>24, 27</p>

	<p>Community Family Support Programme</p> <p>The Community Family Support Programme (CFSP) supports families with a high level of need to develop their capacity to reach their full potential by addressing the health, social, economic, educational, employment and training issues that impact on their daily lives. The programme is available to support family members with disabilities. CFSP was a designated Delivering Social Change Signature Project.</p>	<p>Community Family Support Programme</p> <p>The outcomes for the 44 families CFSP pilot (174 participants), were 32 participants started and completed educational/training courses, 81 participants availed of specialist/increased social inclusion provision. 129 participants had improved positive parent interaction/positive motivational activity, 13 entered and completed work experience, 1 entered permanent fulltime employment.</p> <p>In cycle 2 and 3 of the up-scaled CFSP, 480 families have completed participation on the programme, The final programme cycle (cycle 3) commenced in September 2014.</p> <p>A total number of 1,821 family members including 540 adults with parenting or caring roles, 385 young people aged 16-24 years and 896 children under 15 years have</p>	<p>27</p>
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		<p>received help and support on the programme.</p> <p>Data captured through the programme's outcome related funding (ORF) model recorded a total of 490 voluntary family referrals were made to a range of specialist provision to address the particular needs of each family. There were 299 recordings of increased social inclusion, 512 improved family relationships and 731 engagements in positive motivational and miscellaneous activities.</p> <p>Family members completed 135 short accredited training courses, 105 essential skills, educational or training programmes, 32 participated in work placements and 6 entered employment.</p> <p>Social Clauses</p> <p>It will take some time for this to filter through on new CPD contracts.</p>	
	<p>Social Clauses</p> <p>DFP accepted the DEL Minister's request to include a new Social Clause, in order to create further employment/training</p>		

	opportunities for people with disabilities within public sector contracts.		
DOJ	New Police, Prison and Fire Training College The Programme to complete the construction of the College is at the design and contract award stage. Every effort will be made throughout the design phase to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are considered and accommodated as much as possible.	New Police, Prison and Fire Training College Throughout the design phase and construction phase, all issues, including disability considerations, will be discussed and monitored by the Programme Board which meets on a monthly basis.	9, 24, 27
DRD	Transport initiatives The Department provides a range transport initiatives (see strategic priority 6) which may be seen as a contributing factor in enabling those with a disability in accessing work.	Transport initiatives See Strategic Priority 6.	9, 19, 21

10. THEME - EMPLOYMENT & EMPLOYABILITY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 16

Increase the opportunities for people with disabilities to attain skills and qualifications through access to appropriate training and lifelong learning opportunities.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	Physical accessibility All CAFRE lifelong learning venues are assessed for disability access.	Physical accessibility CAFRE has a pool of over 200 venues which may be used for lifelong learning activities and which have been assessed for accessibility.	9, 24
DCAL	Sign Language Partnership Group This funding has lead to an increase in the number of Deaf Awareness and sign language courses which can be delivered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased numbers of Deaf teachers, assessors and verifiers in employment as a result of DCAL funding.• Increased numbers of Deaf people achieving sign	Sign Language Partnership Group This funding has lead to an increase in the number of Deaf Awareness and sign language courses which can be delivered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased numbers of Deaf teachers, assessors and verifiers in employment	8, 21, 24, 29

	<p>language linguistics certificate which improves employment prospects as a result of DCAL funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pool of 14 trained deaf awareness presenters able to be employed to deliver Deaf awareness to a high standard throughout the north of Ireland as a result of DCAL funding. 	<p>as a result of DCAL funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased numbers of Deaf people achieving sign language linguistics certificate which improves employment prospects as a result of DCAL funding. • A pool of 14 trained deaf awareness presenters able to be employed to deliver Deaf awareness to a high standard throughout the north of Ireland as a result of DCAL funding. 	
DEL	<p>Further Education (FE)</p> <p>DEL provides £4.5 million, per year, ring-fenced funding to FE colleges, through the Additional Support Fund (ASF), to help colleges support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SLDD) enrolled in FE provision. £2.5 million of this fund is used to provide appropriate additional technical and personal support, and £2 million to accommodate students who, by nature of their disability, are unable to access mainstream provision. This helps cover the cost of providing smaller class sizes and classroom assistants and is provided</p>	<p>Further Education (FE)</p> <p>In 2013/14 academic year over 3500 students were supported through ASF.</p>	9, 24

	<p>through Discrete Programmes.</p> <p>The fund was recently increased by £1m in recognition of the importance of enabling access and providing support to SLDD to meet their goals in education, progression to employment or towards independent living.</p> <p>In April 2013 the Minister committed to undertake a number of Departmental actions, such as the audit of further education provision for young people post-19 with learning difficulties across all college campuses, to ensure uniformity with regards to standards and provision. The audit was completed and distributed to interested parties, including the Departmental Assembly Committee.</p> <p>Training Programmes</p> <p>The Training for Success Programme provides a guaranteed training place for 16 and 17 year olds and offers extended eligibility for those with a disability (up to age 22). Specialist support providers are available to work in conjunction with Suppliers delivering TfS with the aim of providing assistance where needed for those with disabilities. Additional funding</p>	<p>Training Programmes</p> <p>Records show that at October 2014:</p> <p>Training for Success (Skills for Your Life & Skills for Work) -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy 6487 <p>Training for Success (Programme-Led</p>	<p>7, 24</p>
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	<p>may also be payable in respect of a participant with a disability to help a TfS Training Supplier provide significant additional input of resources in terms of equipment or support in order for the participant to benefit fully from training. Disability Support Suppliers (Disability Action, Sensory Learning Support, Cedar Foundation and Ulster Supported Employment Limited) are contracted by the Department to work in conjunction with training suppliers delivering the TfS programmes.</p> <p>ApprenticeshipsNI</p> <p>Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of occupational areas and can take up to four years to complete, The current ApprenticeshipsNI programme is to provide participants with the opportunity to achieve a Level 2/Level 3 Apprenticeship. The apprentice, who must be in paid employment from day one, will work towards achieving the requirements of an industry-approved Level 2/Level 3 Apprenticeship Framework. comprises of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a competency based qualification, e.g. a National Vocational Qualification; • Essential Skills; 	<p>Apprenticeships) -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy 315 • ApprenticeshipsNI – Occupancy 7072 	<p>24</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a knowledge based qualification; and • other mandatory or optional elements as specified by the particular industry for the occupational area. <p>Training Suppliers are contracted to provide the underpinning knowledge and develop skills, while the employer provides the practical ‘on the job’ experience.</p> <p>To be eligible participants must have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attained the legal minimum school leaving age in Northern Ireland; • be contracted to work a minimum of 21 hours per week (including day release/off-the-job training) with one employer; <p>NB from September 2016 a new apprenticeship programme will be introduced in Northern Ireland. This will concentrate on apprenticeships starting from level 3 and up to Level 8.</p> <p>Higher Education Widening Participation DEL’s Access To Success Strategy aims to widen participation in Higher Education by providing support and encouragement</p>	<p>Higher Education Widening Participation Enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions by students with a</p>	<p>7, 24</p>
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	<p>to individuals who are most able but least likely to participate in higher education so that they achieve the necessary qualifications to apply to, and to benefit from, the higher education that is right for them. DEL has a range of mechanisms in place to assist persons with a disability to access Higher Education and fulfil their potential. These include; funding through Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) to help pay the extra costs which may be incurred in attending a course of study as a direct result of a disability; a premium paid to the universities and university colleges for students with disabilities to provide specialist equipment and/or specific support for these students; and funding for a Register of Support Providers in each of the Northern Ireland Universities.</p>	<p>disability or learning difficulty have increased from 2,650 in academic year 2009/10 to 3,515 in 2013/14. (This represents 5.2% and 6.7% of all enrolments). In 2009/10 755 students with disabilities achieved qualifications while in 2013/14 the number was 940 (this is 5.2% and 6.1% of all student qualifiers).</p> <p>In the same period there was also a significant increase in the number of students who used the services of non-medical helpers through the Register of Support Providers. In 2009/10 868 students used the Register and by 2013/14 this had increased to 1,387. The disabilities students presented included Aspergers, specific learning difficulties and students who were blind and partially sighted. In academic year 2013/14 expenditure on Disabled Students Allowances was £3.641m.</p>	
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	<p>Essential Skills</p> <p>Essential Skills is an integral component of appropriate DEL programmes reported above. Essential Skills is freely available at all FE colleges to adults who have a literacy, numeracy or ICT deficit. Courses are available from Entry Level to Level 2 and are delivered in a range of settings, including for example, in the community and in the workplace. For those young people who are still in school the Department of Education have agreed that Essential Skills can be</p>	<p>In the same year DEL paid the higher education institutions a <u>widening access premium</u> for students with learning difficulties and disabilities. In 2013/14 the widening access premium amounted to £204,801. The premium is intended to provide specialist equipment and/or specific support for these students and it is allocated based on the number of full-time undergraduate students in each institution in receipt of Disabled Students Allowance.</p> <p>Essential Skills</p> <p>Enrolments in Essential Skills by people with a disability have increased from 1846 in 2009/10 to 3378 in 2012/13. (This represents 3.6% and 6.4% of all enrolments).</p> <p>In the 2013/14 academic year there were 45,792 enrolments on Essential Skills courses and 40,857 Essential Skills</p>	
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	<p>delivered in cases only where the school has evidence that it would not be appropriate for an individual pupil to follow a GCSE course</p> <p>Essential Skills provide opportunities to gain recognised qualifications in English, maths and ICT up to Level 2 for all those (including people with disabilities) who left school without these qualifications. Achieving Essential Skills can have a major impact on an individual's overall quality of life and the lives of their family, and enhance their employability prospects.</p>	<p>qualifications were achieved.</p>	
DFP	<p>Social clauses</p> <p>Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) published guidance on 8 November 2013 - PGN 01/13 Integrating Social Considerations into Contracts in support of the Programme for Government (PSG) commitment on social clauses in public procurement contracts.</p> <p>CPD and other Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPEs) have worked with the Department for Employment and</p>	<p>Social clauses</p> <p>The Procurement Board requires departments to report on the number of public procurement contracts which include social clauses, as part of the PfG commitment.</p> <p>Departments also report to the Procurement Board on the delivery of employment and</p>	5, 24, 27

	<p>Learning (DEL) on the implementation of this commitment to include community benefits, which include social clauses, in government contracts. These clauses include opportunities on DEL approved schemes aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing the economically inactive back into the workplace. • Providing training and skills development. • Providing employment, training and skills development opportunities for people with disabilities <p>DEL schemes are open to anyone who meets specific criteria. DEL's Disability Employment Service (DES) also supports people with disabilities in the area of employment and training.</p> <p>Equality of Opportunity clauses are now included in all public sector contracts. These clauses require that tenderers 'Comply with all applicable fair employment, equality of treatment and anti-discrimination legislation.' This would include 'persons with and without a disability (within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995).</p>	<p>training opportunities in public procurement contracts. However this information does not include details of the participants on DEL approved schemes.</p>	
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DOJ	New Police, Prison and Fire Training College The Programme to complete the construction of the College is at the design and contract award stage. Every effort will be made throughout the design phase to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are considered and accommodated as much as possible.	New Police, Prison and Fire Training College Throughout the design phase and construction phase, all issues, including disability considerations, will be discussed and monitored by the Programme Board which meets on a monthly basis.	9, 24, 27
DRD	Transport initiatives The Department provides a range transport initiatives (see strategic priority 6) which may be seen as a contributing factor in enabling those with a disability to access appropriate training and lifelong learning opportunities.	Transport initiatives See Strategic Priority 6.	9, 19, 21

11. THEME - JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 17

Ensure that people with disabilities are treated equally by the law, have access to justice and can live safely in their own community.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DOJ	<p>Draft Mental Capacity Bill</p> <p>Development of policy and legislation to extend the draft Mental Capacity Bill to the criminal justice system.</p> <p>The Bill is based on the fundamental principle that a person over 16 has the right to make their own decisions unless there is proof that they lack the capacity to do so. It will place an emphasis on helping and supporting people to exercise their capacity to make their own decisions where they can. The Bill will also provide significant, additional safeguards for such persons aged 16 or over, who lack capacity to make a specific decision for themselves.</p> <p>Extending the Bill to the criminal justice system will ensure that persons without capacity are treated equally by the law and have access to justice.</p>	<p>Draft Mental Capacity Bill</p> <p>The Department was preparing to consult on this policy, with the aim of introducing a draft Bill to the Assembly.</p>	12, 13

	<p>Hate Crime Advocacy Service</p> <p>One aim within the Department of Justice's Community Safety Strategy (CSS) is to reduce the harm caused by hate crime including hate crime because of a person's actual or perceived disability. In response to consultation responses to the Strategy, consideration of an independent third party reporting system is a key commitment in the CSS Action Plan. This Plan is monitored by a multi-agency group set up to implement the hate crime commitments in the Strategy. Health representation on the group provides the necessary strategic approach and guidance needed for the criminal justice agency representatives to identify and address disability hate crime issues. This group also benefits from feedback received from the Disability Hate Crime Steering Group, which comprises a number of disability groups, on which the DOJ is represented.</p> <p>The purpose of third party reporting is to increase confidence in reporting such incidents and provide an alternative mechanism, in addition to the police, for victims to report a hate crime. During 2013/14, the framework for third party reporting has been consulted on with key stakeholders</p>	<p>Hate Crime Advocacy Service</p> <p>Evidence would indicate that work ongoing to increase disability hate crime reporting is positive. In the year 2012/13, 68 incidents of disability hate crime were reported to the police, of which 31 were confirmed as hate crimes. In the year 2013/14 to date, 118 incidents of disability hate crime have been reported to the police, of which 83 have been confirmed as hate crimes.</p> <p>A Governance Steering Group, comprising of advocacy service funders, will be set up in 2014 to monitor the targets set for advocates by each funder e.g. increase the number of reported disability hate crimes/incidents to the PSNI by agreed percentage per year.</p>	<p>13, 16</p>
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	<p>including representatives from a number of disability groups. A workshop was held on 03 July 2013, followed by one-to-one discussions with key stakeholders, including representatives from a number of disability organisations, between October 2013 and January 2014.</p> <p>The result of these discussions indicate that investing in the current hate crime advocate system would be an effective and sustainable way forward in relation to engaging with victims and increasing reporting, for example the advocates assist increasing disability hate crime reporting due to their placement in key disability victim support bodies and their direct contact with victims and knowledge on services available.</p> <p>During 2013/14, the Police Service of Northern Ireland provided funding for disability advocacy services. Steps are now being taken forward to deliver the commitments in the CSS and develop the hate crime advocacy services, including developing new governance arrangements to ensure consistency of service to all victims of hate crime and seeking</p>		
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	<p>additional funding to address any gaps in service provision.</p> <p>Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme (HIPA) The Department of Justice, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Housing Executive co-fund the Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme (HIPA) to provide physical home protection measures to victims of hate crime, including disability hate crime. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive cover costs of Executive properties and the Department of Justice and Police Service of Northern Ireland provided funding of up to £20,000 each, for the 2013/14 financial year, for private housing.</p> <p>Be Safe Stay Safe The Department of Justice is represented on the Be Safe Stay Safe Project aimed at developing and increasing community and personal, raising awareness and preventing hate crime amongst people with disabilities. There have been two meetings during the period 2013/14 and a number of issues were considered including free of charge, interactive community safety awareness training programmes, addressing</p>	<p>Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme (HIPA) In 2013/14 (to end September) 37 hate incidents were dealt with under the HIPA Scheme (an incident, in relation to HIPA, is defined as maintenance work carried out at an address and not a separate hate incident). The number of tenants with a disability, who availed of the HIPA Scheme, is unknown.</p> <p>Be Safe Stay Safe In 2013/14, to date, 8,860 people with disabilities and carers have received community safety awareness training, addressing fear of crime. Disability hate crime awareness sessions were also delivered to approximately 650 participants/targeting groups.</p>	<p>13, 16, 19, 22</p> <p>8, 13, 16</p>
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	<p>fear of crime for people with disabilities and their carers; PSNI funding for a hate crime disability advocate; production of a PSNI disability hate crime training DVD; DOJ work into third party hate crime reporting and a PSNI disability hate crime leaflet.</p> <p>Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategies</p> <p>The Strategies to address Domestic and Sexual Violence and abuse and the associated action plan will ensure that the Government remains fully committed to addressing the needs of all victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, including those with disabilities.</p> <p>A draft new joint Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy has been developed in partnership with all key stakeholders in the voluntary and statutory sectors.</p> <p>Organisations representing people with disabilities helped shape the draft strategy document which is subject to a public consultation from 15 January 2014 until 11 April 2014.</p>	<p>Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategies</p> <p>202 key stakeholders were invited to workshops to inform the development of the new joint domestic and sexual violence and abuse strategy.</p> <p>108 stakeholders attended and representatives included organisations representing people with disabilities.</p> <p>Information gained from stakeholders at that time and throughout the development of the strategy, as well as recognised evidence and research, indicate that people with a</p>	<p>13, 16</p>
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		<p>disability are more vulnerable to be victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, although these crimes/incidents are not confined to people with a disability.</p> <p>Evidence indicates the holistic needs of victims, witnesses, perpetrators and their families will vary and a range of responses are required to meet these needs. This is particularly relevant to people with a disability.</p> <p>The strategy aims to recognise the issues within domestic and sexual violence and abuse that have a direct and unique impact on persons with a disability, including the issue of consent and the challenges to reporting. The document also seeks to promote equality of access to services for all victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.</p>	
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	<p>The strategy will apply equally to people with a disability as well as those without a disability; however the Strategy recognises that given the nature of some disabilities, some people may find it more difficult to report. Issues identified through the consultation process will be considered in the finalisation of the Strategy and supporting Action Plans.</p>	
<p>Victim and Witness Strategy</p> <p>A five year Victim and Witness Strategy, published in June 2013, aims to provide better quality services which respond to the needs of victims and witnesses and secure a more positive experience for those who have contact with the criminal justice system (including people with a disability). A number of relevant actions have been delivered in 2013/14.</p>	<p>Victim and Witness Strategy</p> <p>Relevant strategy actions delivered during 2013/14 relate to the introduction of pilot registered intermediaries schemes; rolling out of a victim and witness care unit (including individual needs assessments and the provision of information in a way chosen by the victim or witness, where possible); extension of remote live link facilities and evaluation of court house facilities.</p>	<p>13, 21</p>

	<p>Improve access to justice</p> <p>The Department of Justice, in progressing the reforms to legal aid, undertakes screening of all new policies to ensure that people with disabilities are not being unduly disadvantaged. This is in line with Departmental equality guidance to ensure that all Section 75 groups are treated equally.</p> <p>The Department facilitated amendments to Schedule 1 of the Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 to ensure that the Armed Forces Independence Payment was disregarded in relation to calculating disposable income specifically for Legal Advice and Assistance.</p> <p>This change mirrored existing Regulations whereby Disability Living Allowance is disregarded in the calculation of disposable income when applying for civil legal aid.</p> <p>Sentencing Guidelines</p> <p>The age and/or vulnerability of a victim are included as aggravating factors in sentencing guidelines, which are used by the courts as a guide when determining the appropriate sentence. Lay membership of the Lord Chief Justice's</p>	<p>Improve access to justice</p> <p>Armed Forces Independence Payments disregarded in relation to calculating disposable income specifically for Legal Advice and Assistance. This change mirrors existing Regulations whereby Disability Living Allowance is disregarded in the calculation of disposable income when applying for civil legal aid.</p> <p>Sentencing Guidelines</p> <p>Regular consultation with the Lord Chief Justice on the continued inclusion, in sentencing guidelines, of age and/or vulnerability as aggravating factors. The</p>	<p>13</p> <p>13, 14</p>
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<p>Sentencing Group, which oversees the development of sentencing guidelines, will be announced shortly. This will provide enhanced opportunities for debate on sentencing issues outside the context of the individual case.</p> <p>Joint Healthcare and Criminal Justice Strategy</p> <p>DOJ and DHSS&PS commenced work on the development of a Joint Healthcare and Criminal Justice Strategy and Action Plan, which will seek to address the health and social care needs of people who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Key objectives include ensuring that vulnerable people, such as those with disabilities, are treated fairly in the criminal justice system and their welfare protected.</p>	<p>Department has made a commitment to review the approach to sentencing guidelines, which was consulted on in 2010/11, in light of the experience of the operation of the LCJ's Sentencing Group.</p> <p>Joint Healthcare and Criminal Justice Strategy</p> <p>Early engagement has been undertaken with statutory, non-statutory, and voluntary and community sector stakeholders, to help inform the development of the draft Strategy and Action Plan.</p>	<p>13, 14, 25, 28</p>
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12. THEME - BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 18

Improve access to sport, arts, leisure and other cultural activities so that people with a disability have equal access to community life.

DEPT	ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD 1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014	OUTPUTS AND RESULTS	LINKS TO UNCRPD ARTICLES
DARD	Accessible facilities Information about the provision of accessible facilities for disabled people in forest parks has been published on the NI Direct website.	Accessible facilities Information about the provision of accessible facilities within forest parks has been published on the NI Direct website.	9, 30
DCAL	‘Ambitions for the Arts 2013-18’ The Arts Council has made substantial investment in order to facilitate new opportunities for disabled people’s involvement in the arts on their own terms, as artists, audience members, project participants and arts sector employees. The Arts Council recognise that people with a disability are much less likely to attend arts events than those without; participation levels are also lower. The Arts Council’s Five Year Strategy ‘Ambitions for the Arts’ 2013-2018 outlines its commitment to	‘Ambitions for the Arts 2013-18’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arts and Disability Forum has received a total of 390 applications since the Arts and Disability Awards Ireland scheme began in 2000. From that, 218 projects from both jurisdictions have been awarded a total of £526,274. In November 2013, the Arts and Disability Charter was awarded to the 	7, 9, 30

	<p>increase participation for disabled people within the theme 'Promote Access'.</p> <p>Current initiatives include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding the core costs for several Arts & Disability organisations including the Arts & Disability Forum, Drake Music and Open Arts. • Funding the core costs for a number of arts organisations which undertake a high level of creative activities with young people with disabilities including Kids in Control, Streetwise, Replay Theatre Company and Play Resource Warehouse. • Funding a wide range of arts & disability projects through Arts Council lottery schemes and Small Grants for example, Headway Belfast and the Beam Creative Learning Centre. • MindWise, a leading mental health charity which aims to support those who are at risk of and affected by severe mental illness and mental health problems, has received Small Grants Funding to develop their 'Unfolding Tales' project. Each session, facilitated by a visual artist, aims to promote access to the arts for people with severe mental 	<p>following arts venues: Strule Arts Centre; Waterfront Hall; Ulster Hall; Lyric Theatre; Grand Opera House; Alley Theatre; Burnavon Theatre (strategic priority 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Charter Plus' Plaque of Excellence was awarded to Strule Arts Centre in Omagh. This is the first plaque of excellence ever to be awarded in recognition of the venue's determination to offer access to the arts to all and for their successful consultation with disabled users in order to improve access. (strategic priority 5) • An additional disability related question has been added to the General Population Survey (GPS) 2014. The findings will provide ACNI with an additional source of data on the barriers that those with disabilities encounter when accessing the arts. Data from the 	
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	<p>health problems, helping them to gain new skills while encouraging them to tell their own personal story through the medium of art. The project will give those involved the opportunity to showcase their work at an end of project exhibition in Belfast's Waterfront Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating a 'Premium Payments' scheme to encourage enhanced disability access. This includes financial support for sign-language interpreters, companions, and transport requirements (strategic priority 5). • Supporting the Arts & Disability Equality Charter, a 'kite-marking' project developed by disabled people to encourage and reward good practice amongst arts venues. This recognises organisations annually for their achievement of improving access to the arts for all (strategic priority 5). • Supporting the Arts & Disability Awards Ireland grant scheme for individual disabled artists. • The Arts and Disability Directory is funded by Arts Council NI (ACNI). This website provides online information that is contained in the <i>Arts and Disability Handbook</i> which is published collaboratively by the two Arts Councils in 	<p>GPS 2012 found that only 59% of disabled people reported attending one or more event compared to 87% of people without a disability and 25% of disabled people reported participating in the arts in 2012 compared to 31% of people without a disability.</p>	
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	<p>Ireland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a new Arts Council Disability Action Plan in 2013/2014 period including consultation with key stakeholders within the sector. 		
DCAL	<p>Water Recreation Grant Programme</p> <p>In January 2013, Inland Waterways Branch sought applications for the 2013/ 14 WRGP. The Grant Programme's primary purpose is to assist provision of water related access, for example riverside paths, canoe steps or other similar facilities on publicly owned land which is free for the public to access and for all to use.</p> <p>Successful applications should have a strong strategic partnership emphasis (for example improving community access and creating community links).</p> <p>Projects are also expected to promote equality and address the problems of poverty and social exclusion. In addition there is an emphasis on providing facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Water Recreation Grant Programme</p> <p>Following a sifting process, Letters of Offer were issued to 6 projects. The Department is co-funding the projects in conjunction with local Councils.</p> <p>In 2013/14 the projects include canoe steps to provide access to boating for people with physical disabilities and a sensory garden for people with visual disabilities.</p>	9, 30

DCAL	<p>Inland Fisheries</p> <p>Inland Fisheries Group (IFG) provides Concessionary disabled licences and permits.</p> <p>In 2013/14 9 new disabled angling facilities were constructed in the Public Angling Estate.</p> <p>IFG has engaged with 4 groups to introduce individuals with disabilities to angling.</p> <p>IFG produces a guidebook specific to the disabled facilities available in the DCAL Public Angling Estate.</p>	<p>Inland Fisheries</p> <p>It is anticipated that these measures will increase participation in the sport of angling contributing to the promotion of positive attitudes towards people with disabilities. The increased accessibility/participation will be measured by the number of disabled permits and disabled licences sold – baseline figure (on 2012 sales) is 1650 for permits and 1835 for licences. IFG aim to increase these figures by 2% in 2013/14 and 2014/15.</p>	9, 30
DCAL	<p>Homecall</p> <p>The Homecall service is provided for “anyone who has significant difficulty in visiting a branch or mobile library due to ill health, disability or lack of mobility and who does not have anyone who can collect library materials for him/her”. This may be provided via a dedicated mobile library, a dual purpose mobile library or a delivery van.</p>	<p>Homecall</p> <p>There are 10 Homecall Vehicles which deliver books and audio books to those unable to access library services independently. Four new ‘Homecall’ Vehicles were provided in March 2014.</p>	9, 30

	<p>Health in Mind</p> <p><i>Health in Mind</i> is a partnership project led by Libraries NI involving 4 mental health charities (Aware Defeat Depression, Action Mental Health, MindWise and CAUSE).</p>	<p>Health in Mind</p> <p>The Health in Mind project held 224 events in 2013/14. This coincides with the end of the current funding stream.</p> <p>The last six months have focused on grassroots networking in the communities, mainly focusing around the 28 rural libraries, with emphasis on the 10 library priorities within that group.</p> <p>Links have been made with other organisations, such as STEPS and Action Mental Health in Draperstown for example, where there is a high suicide rate.</p> <p>Local facilities can dictate the type of session; for example, there is a specialist school in Maghera which is being used for music therapy.</p> <p>Public Health Agency Initiative sees GPs</p>	<p>7, 8, 9, 21, 24, 25, 28, 30</p>
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	<p>referring patients to Health in Mind/LNI and around 500 information packs have been distributed to the most vulnerable via GPs.</p> <p>Events and activities include workshops in each of the pilot 10 areas, signposting of books and IT sessions, and the overcoming of stigma via bibliotherapy.</p> <p>The campaign aims to encourage at least 5,000 people to read the same book. It was launched on the 7th March 2014, the book selected for the campaign is The <i>Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</i> written by Rachael Joyce. It was chosen from a shortlist of three, all of which had the potential to get people talking and thinking about mental health in a positive and engaging way</p> <p>During the lifetime of the project an additional 340 activities will be delivered to</p>	
<p>One of the key deliverables of the health in mind project is the “One Book Campaign”.</p> <p>The campaign aims to encourage the readers to become involved in discussions to raise awareness of mental health issues and reduce the stigma that comes with such issues.</p> <p>Hi Five (<i>Supplementing Health in Mind</i>) is a project which aims to extend the current provision of Health in Mind in libraries</p>		

	<p>across the north.</p> <p>The project will enhance the health in mind provision in the 28 libraries serving areas of social need (i.e. the 10% most deprived super output areas)</p> <p>Hi Five (<i>Teenagers</i>) is comparable to the previous project. It aims to engage with 10,000 teenagers over the lifespan of the project through developing and promoting library stock on relevant issues, the development and roll out of age appropriate workshops on mental health and wellbeing, development of a 'teen' section on the health in mind website and a range of other initiatives.</p> <p>In IT Together project</p> <p>The "In IT Together" project aims to provide short, person centred ICT action learning projects in libraries for small groups of adults with learning disabilities; primarily adults with</p>	<p>3400 participants.</p> <p>This project deals not only with mental health issues, but also has an impact on other Departmental priority areas such as suicide prevention and social exclusion. The project was only approved in October 2013 so it is too early to assess its impact.</p> <p>Appropriate improvements to stock collections will be made in 20 libraries serving areas of high social need. The project was only approved in October 2013 so it is too early to assess its impact.</p> <p>In IT Together project</p> <p>It is intended in years 2 and 3 of the projects to use resources of Creative Labs in 8 libraries to create content which will support</p>	<p>9, 21, 24, 27</p>
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	<p>Down's Syndrome. The project aims to work in partnership with organisations like the Destined and the Down's Syndrome Trust to identify what these projects will be. They are likely to include access to social media such as Facebook and Twitter.</p>	<p>other adults with learning disabilities to access these services.</p> <p>Over the lifetime of the project it would be intended that following pilots the project would involve 400 participants.</p> <p>The 3 year project was only approved in October 2013 so it too early to assess its impact.</p>	
DCAL	<p>National Museums NI</p> <p>Access to work placements and internships, work experience and volunteering opportunities is open to all.</p>	<p>National Museums NI</p> <p>At the end September 2013 volunteering numbers were 90 against a yearly target of 30.</p>	27, 30
DCAL	<p>Regional Stadium Programme</p> <p>The 3 stadium redevelopment projects located at Ravenhill Park, Windsor Park and Casement Park for the governing bodies of UBIRFU, IFA and UCGAA within the £110m capital investment programme are subject to detailed design reviews specifically focussed on inclusion and access for the disabled</p>	<p>Regional Stadium Programme</p> <p>Pre-construction phase:</p> <p>The conditions of award funding include design sign off against the technical aspects of the draft guidance at key stages.</p>	9, 30

	<p>by a new group established by DCAL and Disability Sport NI (DSNI) known as the Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group (ISAG).</p> <p>All three projects have been endorsed by Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group (ISAG) at pre-tender stage and design specifications will be further developed within the design and build contracts during construction.</p> <p>The Programme integrates an exemplar standard for inclusive design in the context of stadium design on all new-build elements of the projects based on new enhanced draft guidance - 'Access to Stadia for people with Disabilities 2012', specifically developed for the programme.</p> <p>The implementation of the guidance is not mandatory from a regulatory perspective, however it is a condition of award funding. It significantly exceeds minimum best practice and captures all current best practice including the British Standards, Building Regulations and the NI Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Red Guide) 2008 and is a key component within the programme stage approval process.</p>	<p>This is part of an overall approvals tracking system and has required evidencing prior to progression to subsequent design stages.</p> <p>Post-construction phase:</p> <p>The projects are subject to a design and build form of contract where the design is innovated to a separate design team managed by the main works contractor or Integrated Supply Team (IST).</p> <p>The contract conditions require that the tendered design specification is delivered by the IST.</p> <p>During the delivery phase the IST may suggest revisions to the design to improve efficiencies. Any revisions are subject to further design review and sign off by DCAL and ISAG.</p>	
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	<p>Ravenhill Park and Windsor Park involve refurbishment and cannot fully accommodate best practice, however make significant best endeavours to raise the standard of access to services in these areas within the constraints of the programme.</p> <p>Casement Park is a new build project and will fully integrate the technical aspects of the draft guidance within the site constraints of the existing context.</p> <p>The standards go beyond previous levels of inclusive design for major sports stadium venue design in NI and compare favourably with provisions made at the Olympic Park.</p> <p>The guidance is based on a 10 point plan and deals with physical design as well as disability awareness and management/operational aspects including pricing policy and staff training. The latter management and awareness aspects will be developed prior to the operational phase of the project. Each of the projects will integrate a public/community</p>	<p>Operational phase:</p> <p>The implementation of the design proposals will be subject to a final as-built review and walkabout by DCAL/ISAG prior to handover and operation by the newly formed Stadium Management companies.</p> <p>Disability awareness training, pricing policy and initiatives to grow capacity in attendance by under-represented groups including disabled users is an integral part of the management aspects of the guidance.</p> <p>All the above provisions are embedded as conditions of DCAL award funding.</p>	
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	<p>accessed element within the overall project, not just on the terraces. The designs will accommodate access to specific areas of the facilities for public participation in sport and community functions. In general, terms the projects will allow for access to all disabilities and include a MENCAP compliant adult 'Changing Places' facility for profound and multiple disabilities and enhanced specific provisions for blind, deaf and ambulant users.</p> <p>Promoting Equality and Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion (PETPSE)</p> <p>IFA, UCGAA & UBIRFU have implemented a series of programmes and projects aimed at promoting equality, tackling poverty & social exclusion through sport, which include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment & development of 3 IFA Wheelchair Football Clubs located in Derry, Lisburn & Newtownabbey. • Establishment of 15 Community Gyms and delivery of an UBIRFU structured Fitness Development Programme • Employment of a Rugby Disability Inclusion Officer; 		
	<p>Promoting Equality and Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion (PETPSE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerchair Football Clubs now well established in Lisburn & Newtownabbey, with a total of 20 players across the clubs; • IFA continue to make networks for the establishment of Derry/Londonderry powerchair football club. • Rugby Disability & Inclusion Officer (DIO) has been employed. • 2 new clubs that specially cater for 	9, 30	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of wheelchair hurling teams in each county, Belfast and Derry. <p>Community Gyms Existing premises were assessed for accessibility. Requests for minor adaptations are included in conditions of award funding.</p>	<p>people with disability have been established – Portadown Panthers & Errigal Eagles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAA Disability Hubs established in Belfast and Derry. Team from Ulster participated in Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling league. <p>Community Gyms A target of establishing 15 community gyms was established at the beginning of the Promoting Equality and Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion (PETPSE) through Sport Programme. This target has now been reached with 15 facilities identified, established or in the process of being established. In addition 2 volunteers at each established facility are in the process of obtaining Level 2 Accredited Fitness instructor Awards.</p>	<p>9, 30</p>
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<p>DCAL</p>	<p>Deaf Active Citizenship project</p> <p>DCAL funding of BDA ‘Deaf Active Citizenship’ project aims to enable Deaf people to have their voices heard through a series of consultations with government departments and ALBs leading to their wider participation in society. It also aims to provide them with a better appreciation of their culture and heritage through events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of formal recognition of BSL and ISL. One of the consultations held under this project was in relation to increasing accessibility of Deaf people to visit local tourists attractions through speaking with NITB, Visit Belfast, Titanic Quarter, NI Museums, Crumlin Road Jail.</p>	<p>Deaf Active Citizenship project</p> <p>By 31 March 2014 up to 390 Deaf people will avail of the project and its services which will cover areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Training – 20 people • Assertiveness / Debating Skills Training – 20 people • Social Development opportunities (International Men’s Day & International Women’s Day) – 150 people • BSL / ISL Charter which encourages both public and private organisations to adopt good practice and build on existing capacity, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and build on good relations with the Deaf community– 20 people (directly trained) • 3 public consultations – 60 people 	<p>8, 21, 24, 29</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10th Anniversary of BSL / ISL recognition celebrations – 120 people 	
DCAL	<p>Implementation of Disability Mainstreaming Policy</p> <p>Continued investment and implementation of Sport NI's Disability Mainstreaming Policy and allied contribution towards associated Sports Matters target PA10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to 12 focus sports to improve opportunities and provision for people with a disability Improved understanding of needs of people with a disability among sports coaches and volunteers Increased opportunity for people with a disability to participate in community and club sport More and better accessible and inclusive sports facilities Improved governance <p>Investment delivered through Disability Sport Northern Ireland, Special Olympics Ulster, Active Communities, Active Schools</p>	<p>Implementation of Disability Mainstreaming Policy</p> <p>Specific outputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx £850,000 direct investment in disability sport projects (DSNI & Special Olympics, excludes capital & individual athlete awards) 13,223 people with a disability engaged through Active Communities programme 240 swimmers involved through NI Disability Swimming Championships (Lagan Valley) Ongoing work across archery, athletics, badminton, cycling, soccer, table tennis, sailing, swimming, rugby, boccia, wheelchair basketball and GAA to enhance inclusive practice, policy and programmes – has included delivery of 	7, 8, 9, 30

		<p>Disability Inclusion Training and development of new 'GAA for All' inclusive resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB Boccia Talent Testing Day held UUJ Nov 2013 • Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer appointed • Pilot wheelchair hurling programme delivered January 2014 • Kelly Gallagher supported in advance of selection for Sochi Winter Paralympics (March 2014) • Ongoing support to Michael McKillop, Jason Smyth & Niall McVeigh • Five Star Challenge programme delivered in 10 schools to 1500 pupils by 31 March 2014 • New Level 2 Boccia coaching course in development with other three Home Countries • Working through implementation of 	
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		<p>access audit recommendations at Aurora 50m pool complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three community sports facilities expected to attain Inclusive Sports Facility Accreditation – Ballymote Sports & Well-being Centre, Coleraine Riding for the Disabled and Shaftesbury Community Recreation Centre • Inclusive access audit engagement with Newry & Mourne DC, Belfast City Council, Magherafelt DC, Lisburn City Council, Craigavon Borough Council, North Down BC, Ards BC & Cookstown DC • Draft Inclusive Stadia Guidelines developed in conjunction with DCAL Stadia Programme • DSNi attained Preliminary level UK Equality Standard • DSNi implemented new Board & governance structures and attained SNI 	
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	<p>5-Star Disability Sports Challenge</p> <p>During 2013/14 Disability Sport NI (DSNI) delivered the 5-Star Disability Sports Challenge, with the assistance of funding from Sport NI, to 4,500 children in 30 primary schools located throughout Northern Ireland. The project was delivered in a diverse range of primary schools in Northern Ireland ranging from small rural schools with as few as 31 pupils to large city schools where up to 548 pupils participated. In order to assess if the project successfully met its objectives, the organising teacher at each participating school was issued with a questionnaire following the event.</p>	<p>Substantial Audit Assurance</p> <p>5-Star Disability Sports Challenge</p> <p>Feedback received from teachers has been excellent, with all teachers stating that the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the children's awareness and understanding of disability sport. • Increased the children's awareness and understanding of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. • Had a positive impact on the children's attitudes to disability. • Aided the children's understanding of the diversity of our community. • Encouraged the children to become more active in sport. 	<p>7, 8, 30</p>
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DETI	<p>City of Culture events</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Tourist Board funded 5 key UK City of Culture events; 44 events through the Tourism Events Fund; World Police and Fire Games events; alongside 6 Tourism Development Scheme Projects. The project promoters who received funding from NITB were responsible for ensuring equal access for people with disabilities as part of the Letters of Offer conditions.</p>	<p>City of Culture events</p> <p>The independent evaluation is being led by DCAL on behalf of Ilex. Findings are still awaited.</p>	30
DOE	<p>Access to country parks</p> <p>NIEA has worked up a proposal to allocate funds raised through the carrier bag levy to facilitating in 2014/15 transport to its country parks and enjoyment of them by disadvantaged groups, including those with disabilities. It is developing an Online Booking system, for implementation in 2014/15, which may assist disability groups in making applications for support with transport if funding is allocated.</p>	<p>Access to country parks</p> <p>The Carrier Bag Levy funds were utilised by the Department to provide support grant aid funding for local community initiatives/groups but NIEA proposals to facilitate disabled access to properties were not taken forward.</p> <p>NIEA is nearing completion on the development of the online booking system. Final testing of the system was completed in December 2014. Full implementation is still planned for February//March 2015.</p>	9, 21, 30

	Promotion of NIEA properties NIEA has partnered with Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) and the NI Tourist Board to develop media apps which will promote its properties to those using e-cars and plans to bid for the installation of charging points at its main properties, facilitating visiting by e-car drivers with disabilities.	Promotion of NIEA properties The SBRI process is still ongoing and the media apps are expected to be developed before 31 March 2015. NIEA have also expressed an interest in locating e-car charging points at 7 of its properties and sites. The feasibility study is currently ongoing and the implementation is expected by 31 March 2014.	9, 30
DRD	Transport initiatives The Department provides a range of transport initiatives (see strategic priority 6) which may be a contributing factor in enabling people with a disability to access to sport, arts, leisure and other cultural activities via public transport.	Transport initiatives See Strategic Priority 6.	9, 19, 21

ABBREVIATIONS

UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UN	United Nations
NISALD	Northern Ireland Survey of Activity Limitation and Disability

DEPARTMENTS

DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DE	Department of Education
DEL	Department for Employment and Learning
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DOE	Department of the Environment
DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
DHSSPS	Department of Health, Social Services, and Public Safety
DOJ	Department of Justice
DRD	Department for Regional Development
DSD	Department for Social Development
OFMDFM	Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister