

Northern Ireland Office

NEW TSN ANNUAL REPORT 2001

INCLUDING ACTION PLAN
April 2001 to March 2003

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Secretary of State's Foreword

Since the "Vision into Practice" consultation document was issued in 1999, the Northern Ireland Office has been committed to the principles enshrined within that report. The Northern Ireland Office remains committed to alleviating social need by the practical application of New Targeting Social Need (TSN) policies within its sphere of control.

New TSN does not discriminate against any section of the community; indeed it should contribute to the reduction of inequalities among different sections of society. New TSN addresses the problems of people who are objectively shown to be in greatest social need and, over time, will contribute to the erosion of inequalities.

This document sets out the revised "Northern Ireland Office Action Plan" and indicates the extent to which the department has developed the objectives of "New TSN".

I have always taken a close personal interest in the New TSN vision and I look forward to receiving future progress reports. These regular reports also record the corresponding advancement of this important part of the equality agenda.



RT HON DR JOHN REID MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Introduction

The New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources towards people, groups and areas in greatest social need. It is a policy running through relevant spending programmes within the Northern Ireland Office and all of the Northern Ireland Departments.

The New TSN policy was developed from the Partnership for Equality White Paper and is a key issue in support of the Good Friday Agreement.

The NIO's commitment to New TSN stems from early in 1999 when we produced a draft Action Plan specifying the particular areas of social need that required to be tackled and setting targets and time-scales. This plan, along with those prepared by the NI Departments, was included in a public consultation document called "Vision into Practice" which was published on 26 November 1999.

A revised NIO Action Plan was developed and agreed by the Secretary of State in January 2001. It was also agreed at that time that the Department would review and update the New TSN Action Plan in 2001 and 2002 and that progress would be reported along with the New TSN Annual Report.

This document, therefore, combines the New TSN Annual Report with the revised New TSN Action Plans for the period April 2001 – March 2003.

New Targeting Social Need (TSN) Policy

New TSN aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources within Departmental programmes towards people, groups and areas in greatest social need.

This means using more resources to benefit the most disadvantaged people, groups and areas. It is also about changing the way things are done so that programmes and services are organised and delivered in ways, which are more helpful to disadvantaged people.

Through New TSN, those in greatest social need must be identified objectively and targeted fairly regardless of attributes such as gender, religion or race. Therefore, New TSN does not discriminate against any section of the community. It should, however, contribute to the reduction of inequalities among different sections of society. By consistently addressing the problems of people who are objectively shown to be in greatest social need, New TSN should, over time, contribute to the erosion of inequalities.

New TSN comprises three complementary elements – tackling unemployment and employability; addressing inequalities in other key policy areas such as health, education and housing; and Promoting Social Inclusion. Some groups in our community are more at risk of poverty than others. The Promoting Social Inclusion element of New TSN involves Departments working together and in partnership with others to identify and tackle factors, which can contribute to social exclusion. In addition it will undertake initiatives to improve and enhance the life and circumstances of the most deprived and marginalised people in our community.

New TSN applies to the Northern Ireland Office and to all Northern Ireland departments and is being implemented through many areas of work. The Department's commitments and actions to implement New TSN are detailed in their New TSN Action Plans. The plans and further details on the policy were set out in **Making it Work: the New TSN Action Plans Report (Published March 2001)**.

NIO's New Targeting Social Need Action Plan

The Northern Ireland Office is responsible for a range of non-devolved matters in Northern Ireland. These include the political process; policing; police reform; security, including services in support of the security forces; prison services; the payment of criminal damage and injuries compensation; criminal justice, including juvenile justice centres and after-care; criminal justice reform; probation services; grants to voluntary bodies concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders, crime prevention and victim support; elections; and legal and forensic services. The Office's primary aim is to secure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, based on the Good Friday Agreement, in which the rights and identities of all traditions in Northern Ireland are fully respected and safeguarded, and in which a safe, stable, just, open and tolerant society can thrive and prosper.

The nature of the NIO core's business means that its contribution to the New TSN initiative focuses on specific areas. As the progress report against the 2000/2001 and the revised action plans illustrate, the main opportunities for service delivery lie in our main Next Step Agency (the Northern Ireland Prison Service), Non Departmental Public Bodies, (particularly the Probation Board for Northern Ireland) and the voluntary organisations who work in partnership with us. In addition, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, which is neither a Next Steps Agency nor an NDPB, is committed fully to contributing to the policy.

Commitment to New TSN

In the preface to NIO's New TSN Action Plan published in March 2001, the Secretary of State, Dr John Reid MP, stated that "the NIO as the Department responsible for non-devolved matters, and, as the instigator of New TSN, remains committed to alleviating social need and to the practical application of the policy to those functions which it retains". The Departmental Board had earlier conveyed this same commitment in a message to all NIO staff.

Approaches to targeting New TSN

New Measures of Deprivation for Northern Ireland have been published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The Measures, which are based largely on administrative data sources, were developed on behalf of NISRA by a research team from the University of Oxford and the Queen's University, Belfast, following consultation with the statutory, voluntary and community sectors in Northern Ireland.

The Measures are structured around 51 separate indicators of deprivation, which are combined to form seven individual "domains", each representing a specific form of deprivation. The domains in turn have been combined to form a Ward-based Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) on which all 566 Electoral Wards in Northern Ireland can be ranked. In addition to the MDM, a Child Poverty Measure has been constructed at Ward level using available income information.

The Measures are likely to be used principally at Ward level but may also be aggregated to District Council level. Finally, pockets of Deprivation at sub-ward level (Enumeration District) can be identified drawing on the Income and Employment Domains.

A full report on the new Measures is available on the NISRA website: www.nisra.gov.uk. NISRA will provide advice to Departments and other users of the new Measures on request.

In addition, NISRA staff, seconded to the NIO, are developing an information base, which will inform the implementation, monitoring of New TSN in the Department and help identify need and deprived areas for targeting purposes. They plan to analyse the relationship between patterns of crime and the provision of services against population structures, indices of deprivation and geographical location using the 'Noble' measures of deprivation.

Cross-departmental actions

The NIO continues to be an active participant in the interdepartmental Equality and Social Needs Steering Group. The Northern Ireland Prison Service works with the Department of Social Development's Social Security Agency to ensure maximum uptake of the Assisted Visits Scheme for prisoners' families.

Non-departmental public bodies

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland approved its New TSN Action Plan in January 2001 and is now working with NIO's Criminal Justice Directorate on its implementation. In addition, the Policing and Security Directorate carried out some preliminary work with the Police Authority for Northern Ireland prior to the establishment of the Policing Board. The latter is committed to developing a New TSN Action Plan by July 2002. The new Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland has also indicated that her office would be willing to explore how New TSN might be applied there.

Progress Report to March 2001 and Future Commitments

During the first year of New TSN, the NIO made significant progress in implementing all of the objectives in its Action Plans. Annex B details the progress made. In relation to New TSN Training, the NIO's Central Services Directorate has devised and implemented a programme of equality familiarisation/awareness training, which is ongoing. The Directorate has also devised and implemented a programme for the in-depth training of key staff. In providing support to the Victims of the Troubles, the NIO's Political Directorate had distributed grant aid to just over fifty groups who work with victims. The Directorate has also put in place three programmes to provide practical assistance to individuals and their families.

The NIO's Criminal Justice Directorate has been working with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), with voluntary organisations which it funds and with the Compensation Agency to develop New TSN Action Plans. PBNI approved a New TSN Action Plan and allocated responsibility for implementation to a senior manager. A new community development partnership was devised and implemented with the Northern Ireland Association for the Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO). The Directorate held regular bi-laterals with the funded voluntary organisations to encourage them to ensure that their policies take account of New TSN. To build New TSN considerations into relevant policies, the Directorate has taken forward a scheme to establish ten pilot capital crime prevention projects in Northern Ireland Housing Executive estates. The Directorate has also taken account of New TSN in the development of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. Work is also continuing on the development of a Criminal Justice information database.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) has included New TSN policies within its Corporate and Business Plan. It has put into operation its Assisted Visits Scheme and implemented its New Deal for Young People.

Section 2

Annex A: The revised and updated Northern Ireland Office, New TSN Action Plan

Annex B: The revised and updated Northern Ireland Office, New TSN Action Plan detailing progress on the Objectives, Targets or Actions identified for the period January 2000 to March 31 2001

Annex C: Northern Ireland Office areas of responsibility and further information about New TSN

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE NEW TSN ACTION PLAN

ANNEX A

Business Area:	Central Services Directorate
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
Desired outcome:	Greater understanding and awareness of the priority to be given to New TSN in all key areas of the Department

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales
<p>NIO 1 To provide appropriate training and timely information on New TSN to relevant staff across the Northern Ireland Office.</p>	<p>a. Include New TSN information in equality familiarisation/awareness sessions during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.</p> <p>b. Provide in-depth training to identified specialists during 2000-2001.</p>

Business Area: Political Directorate

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among victims of the troubles

Desired outcome: Reduction of disadvantage among victims of the Troubles

New TSN objectives

Targets or actions and time-scales

NIO 2 To provide support to victims of the Troubles

a. Distribute funding for groups supporting victims of the Troubles.

b. Work with the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund to explore possibility of developing and funding programmes to assist disadvantaged victims of the Troubles.

Business Area:	Criminal Justice Directorate
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
Desired outcome:	New TSN consideration built into the work of the Directorate, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), funded voluntary organisations and the Compensation Agency

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales
<p>NIO 3 To encourage relevant Agencies and NDPBs to develop New TSN Action Plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with PBNI to explore the scope for implementing New TSN, including addressing training needs. b. From 1 February 2001, work with PBNI to ensure the implementation of their agreed Action Plan. c. Work with PBNI to consider the types of data required to support the Board's Action Plan and the best method of collecting it (linked with progress at 6b. below).
<p>NIO 4 To encourage relevant voluntary organisations to take account of New TSN.</p>	<p>Continue to work with the voluntary organisations funded by Criminal Justice Services Division and encourage them to take account of New TSN, where possible.</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales
<p>NIO 5 To build New TSN considerations into relevant policies.</p>	<p>a. By April 2001, along with partnership organisations and other Departments, review crime prevention, juvenile justice and victims of crime programmes for New TSN applicability.</p> <p>b. Take account of New TSN in the development of a tariff scheme for the payment of personal injury compensation to victims of crime. The decision to introduce a tariff scheme is the result of Government's deliberations following Sir Kenneth Bloomfield's 'Report of the Review of Criminal Injuries Compensation in Northern Ireland'.</p>
<p>NIO 6 To develop an information base so as to inform the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of New TSN by the Department.</p>	<p>a. By April 2001, develop a system that will examine patterns of crime and the provision of services against population structures, indices of deprivation and geographical location.</p> <p>b. Agree common standards for monitoring by religion within the criminal justice system by April 2001 and further develop monitoring systems over the life of this plan.</p> <p>c. Commission research during 2000-2001 to assess the feasibility of using proxy measures for monitoring by religion within the criminal justice system.</p>

Business Area: Policing and Security Directorate – Police Division

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN considerations to be built into the work of the Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales
<p>NIO 7 To work with the Policing Board and the police so that they can build New TSN considerations into their work.</p>	<p>Work with the Policing Board and the police to explore the scope for implementing New TSN, including addressing training needs, while recognising the potential impact of the Police Act and the Implementation Plan on both organisations.</p>

Business Area:	Northern Ireland Prison Service
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
Desired outcome:	New TSN considerations built into the work of the Prison Service

Targets or actions and time-scales	
NIO 8	<p>To build New TSN considerations into Prison Service strategic documentation.</p> <p>As part of the Quinquennial Review of the Service, consideration will be given to including New TSN in Prison Service objectives by March 2001.</p>
NIO 9	<p>To publicise and operate the Assisted Visits Scheme.</p> <p>a. Continue to operate the Assisted Visits Scheme and ensure that uptake is maximised through the use of targeted publicity.</p> <p>b. Expenditure on the Assisted Visits Scheme to be collated and reported on in the 2000-2001 Prison Service Annual Report.</p>
NIO 10	<p>To implement the New Deal for Young People.</p> <p>a. Implement the New Deal for Young People and run six further courses, covering 48 participants, by March 2001.</p> <p>b. Monitor those who take part in the New Deal and report on progress in the 2000-2001 Prison Service Annual Report.</p>

Progress Report on Targets and Action Plans from January 2000 to March 2001

ANNEX B

Business Area: Central Services Directorate

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: Greater understanding and awareness of the priority to be given to New TSN in all key areas of the Department

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 1 To provide appropriate training and timely information on New TSN to relevant staff across the Northern Ireland Office.</p>	<p>a. Include New TSN information in equality familiarisation/awareness sessions during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.</p> <p>b. Provide in-depth training to identified specialists during 2000-2001.</p>	<p>Steps are well underway to include New TSN improvements in equality familiarisation/awareness sessions. (This work is ongoing).</p> <p>Key staff were given in-depth training during 2000/2001.</p>

Business Area: Political Directorate

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among victims of the troubles

Desired outcome: Reduction of disadvantage among victims of the Troubles

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 2 To provide support to victims of the Troubles</p>	<p>a. Distribute funding for groups supporting victims of the Troubles.</p> <p>b. Work with the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund to explore possibility of developing and funding programmes to assist disadvantaged victims of the Troubles.</p>	<p>The Core Funding Grants Scheme has provided funding of £3.1 million for the period April 2000 to March 2002. By 31 March 2001, just over 50 groups who work with victims, had received grant aid.</p> <p>By 31 March 2001, three programmes were in place providing practical assistance to individual victims and their families. Almost £623,000 had been distributed to 1785 individual victims and their families.</p>

Business Area: Criminal Justice Directorate

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN consideration built into the work of the Directorate, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), funded voluntary organisations and the Compensation Agency

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 3 To encourage relevant Agencies and NDPBs to develop New TSN Action Plans.</p>	<p>a. Work with PBNI to explore the scope for implementing New TSN, including addressing training needs.</p> <p>b. From 1 February 2001, work with PBNI to ensure the implementation of their agreed Action Plan.</p> <p>c. Work with PBNI to consider the types of data required to support the Board's Action Plan and the best method of collecting it (linked with progress at 6b. below).</p>	<p>PBNI approved a New TSN Action Plan in Jan 2001. A Senior Manager has been allocated the responsibility to drive forward the New TSN concept.</p> <p>The following has been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New community development partnership with NIACRO (Northern Ireland Association for the Resettlement of Offenders) to cover all Probation area teams. • New referral arrangements agreed. • A partnership with NIACRO, in conjunction with Northern Ireland Prison Service, has resulted in an application to the Equal (European) Fund to deal with pathways for prisoners to employment and training. • A pilot scheme is underway in relation to the link between community service and employability.

<p>NIO 4 To encourage relevant voluntary organisations to take account of New TSN.</p>	<p>Continue to work with the voluntary organisations funded by Criminal Justice Services Division and encourage them to take account of New TSN, where possible.</p>	<p>At regular bi-laterals, voluntary organisations have been encouraged to ensure their policies take account of New TSN.</p>
<p>NIO 5 To build New TSN considerations into relevant policies.</p>	<p>a. By April 2001, along with partnership organisations and other Departments, review crime prevention, juvenile justice and victims of crime programmes for New TSN applicability.</p>	<p>NIO has taken forward a scheme, in conjunction with the Creating Common Ground Consortium, to establish ten pilot capital crime prevention projects in NI Housing Executive estates. Among the considerations, in selecting which estates would benefit, was deprivation as well as crime criteria.</p> <p>New TSN considerations, combined with other identified needs, have been used to inform investment decisions on the development of services and programmes for young people at risk of involvement in crime. Funding has been made available to support particular priorities identified through the multi-agency children services process and to address issues arising from rural isolation. Significant investment is also being made to support the development of projects in communities, which are affected by chronic criminal and anti-social behaviour. For example, an inter-agency car crime project has been established in West Belfast.</p>

<p>b. Take account of New TSN in the development of a tariff scheme for the payment of personal injury compensation to victims of crime. The decision to introduce a tariff scheme is the result of Government's deliberations following Sir Kenneth Bloomfield's 'Report of the Review of Criminal Injuries Compensation in Northern Ireland'.</p>	<p>Draft legislation has been published for consultation. There has been no evidence to show that social need can be targeted through a Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which is equally accessible to all victims of violent crime.</p>
<p>NIO 6 To develop an information base so as to inform the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of New TSN by the Department.</p>	<p>a. By April 2001, develop a system that will examine patterns of crime and the provision of services against population structures, indices of deprivation and geographical location.</p> <p>b. Agree common standards for monitoring by religion within the criminal justice system by April 2001 and further develop monitoring systems over the life of this plan.</p> <p>c. Commission research during 2000-2001 to assess the feasibility of using proxy measures for monitoring by religion within the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Information was published on the relationship between deprivation and crime. Due to resourcing issues, it will be 2001-02 when information on resourcing is developed. This may be affected by the major reviews on Policing and Criminal Justice.</p> <p>This work is being taken forward by the Research and Statistics Sub-Group of the Criminal Justice Board as part of a programme of work that will include addressing clarity of definitions and standards. This work is currently ongoing. (Linked with 3c above).</p> <p>Due to resource constraints, this work has been put back to 2001/02.</p>

Business Area: Policing and Security Directorate – Police Division

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN considerations to be built into the work of the Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 7 To work with the Policing Board and the police so that they can build New TSN considerations into their work.</p>	<p>Work with the Policing Board and the police to explore the scope for implementing New TSN, including addressing training needs, while recognising the potential impact of the Police Act and the Implementation Plan on both organisations.</p>	<p>The Policing Board will develop an action plan by July 2002.</p>

Business Area:	Northern Ireland Prison Service
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
Desired outcome:	New TSN considerations built into the work of the Prison Service

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
NIO 8 To build New TSN considerations into Prison Service strategic documentation.	As part of the Quinquennial Review of the Service, consideration will be given to including New TSN in Prison Service objectives by March 2001.	Included in the Corporate and Business Plan 2001-2004 is the commitment "The Prison Service is committed to the New TSN policy and will take account of this policy in the delivery of programmes and services in each establishment."
NIO 9 To publicise and operate the Assisted Visits Scheme.	<p>a. Continue to operate the Assisted Visits Scheme and ensure that uptake is maximised through the use of targeted publicity.</p> <p>b. Expenditure on the Assisted Visits Scheme to be collated and reported on in the 2000-2001 Prison Service Annual Report.</p>	<p>Achieved. The Prison Service finances the Scheme administered by the Social Security Agency through its network of local offices.</p> <p>Achieved. In the year up to 31 March 2001 nearly £60,000 was paid to subsidise 880 visits within Northern Ireland and a further 57 visits to Great Britain.</p>
NIO 10 To implement the New Deal for Young People.	a. Implement the New Deal for Young People and run six further courses, covering 48 participants, by March 2001.	Six further Welfare to Work courses delivered to 40 candidates between February 2000 and January 2001.

<p>b. Monitor those who take part in the New Deal and report on progress in the 2000-2001 Prison Service Annual Report.</p>	<p>Of the 38 participants who completed the Welfare to Work courses 21% entered employment and 13% started the New Deal Option.</p>
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Northern Ireland Office Responsibilities

ANNEX C

The Northern Ireland Office is responsible for:

- the political process;
- policing;
- police reform;
- security, including services in support of the security forces;
- prison services;
- the payment of criminal damage and injuries compensation;
- criminal justice, including juvenile justice centres and after-care;
- criminal justice reform;
- probation services;
- information services;
- grants to voluntary bodies concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders, crime prevention and victim support;
- elections;
- legal and forensic services;
- European Union Peace and Reconciliation Projects.

The Northern Ireland Office also provides funding for the: Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; the Bloody Sunday Inquiry; and central (Northern Ireland Office) administration.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT NEW TSN

This report can be accessed on the Internet at www.nio.gov.uk. It can also be made available in alternative formats or languages on request from:

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