

# Causeway Coast & Glens

## Borough Council

To: Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### Consultation Report

*Consultations available on request.*

#### 1. Delivering Social Care through Childcare

On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 the First Minister and Deputy First Minister launched the draft Childcare Strategy for public consultation.

The Childcare Strategy has two main aims:

- **Developmental:** to give all children the best start in life, preparing them for lifelong wellbeing and achievement, thereby creating the basis for a better, more prosperous future
- **Employment:** to enable parents to join the workforce, thereby enhancing prosperity, and to improve gender equality by enabling mothers to join the workforce, return to work and remain in work.

These aims are supported by seven key objectives, **availability, affordability, sustainability, diversity, quality, informed parental choice and an integrated approach.**

The consultation document and details on how to respond to the consultation are available on the OFMDFM website as follows: <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/childcare>.

The consultation will run for 16 weeks and all responses should be received not later than Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015, and the process will be supported by a series of regional consultation events which will take place in Belfast and other cities and towns. Details of the consultation events will be advertised on the OFMDFM website.