

3 March 2014

Dear Consultee

**The Future of Respite (Short Breaks) Services for Children with Disabilities**

We have developed a consultation document which details why we believe we need to modernise our respite provision. Respite offers parents the time and space to devote to other family members and to deal with everyday life. It also provides the opportunity for children and young people with a disability to experience new opportunities and make new friends. We hope through the proposed changes to be able to offer better, more flexible and tailored care.

The consultation document can be found on the Trust's website at <http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net>. Alternatively, if you would like us to send you a copy of the consultation document please contact the Trust's Equality Unit on 028 2766 1377 or email [equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net)

In keeping with our legislative requirements under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act we have also completed an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the proposed changes. A copy of the EQIA can also be found on the Trust's website.

We welcome your views on our proposals and the EQIA. A consultation Proforma is available on our website for you to complete, however, we welcome your comments in any format. We are consulting for 12 weeks beginning 3 March 2014. Comments should be returned to the Equality Unit by 26 May 2014.

If you have any queries about these documents, and their availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk, audio cassette and minority languages) then please contact:

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We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely



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**Marie Roulston**  
**Director Children's Services**