

## Response ID ANON-9A9V-TBT2-5

Submitted to **The Socio Economic Duty**

Submitted on **2017-09-05 15:53:58**

### Section 1 - Defining the Key Terms of the Duty

**1 Do you agree that the definitions of these terms are reasonable and should be included within the Scottish Government's forthcoming guidance on the socio-economic duty?**

Yes

**Comments::**

YouthLink Scotland welcomes the proposed duty; and supports the definitions of the key terms as set out in Section 1 of the consultation paper. In particular, we welcome the inclusion of a definition of disadvantaged communities of interest in addition to disadvantaged places. We also welcome the recognition of intersectionality of the factors impacting upon individuals and families which when they come together will exacerbate poor outcomes and experiences of disadvantage and inequality. Public Authorities should try where possible to respond in an intersectional manner; rather than considering each factor/community in isolation.

With regard to the definition of 'decisions of a strategic nature' we would welcome further consideration of including other statutory duties to produce strategic plans/reports in addition to those listed. For example, Children and Young People's Services Plans, CLD Regulations; Child Rights Reporting – duties which cross the spectrum of operational and strategic activities but which directly impact on outcomes in communities. The document provides an example of "Community Engagement Strategies" for Policy Authority but not for a Local Authority – we would advocate that this is an example of a strategic area which should be subject to this duty in all Public Authorities.

We support the principle that 'Due Regard' should not place any additional burden upon Public Authorities and we understand that additional resources are unlikely to be available and that this is about making better decisions. However, it is important that there is a level of transparency as to how Public Authorities demonstrate the ways in which they have given 'Due Regard' to their decisions; even if that decision is to do nothing. This requirement is included in Section 3 (Step 3) but it would be beneficial to recognise this in the definition too.

### Section 2 – The Public Authorities covered by the Duty

**2A Do you agree that the socio-economic duty should apply to the Scottish public authorities named here?**

Yes

**If not, please specify which authority you do not think it should apply to and why?:**

YouthLink Scotland agrees with the named list of authorities which should be bound by the duty. We would however ask that consideration be given to the role of the emerging Regional Education Collaboratives, as set out in the Education Governance Review; as they have the potential to be a significant influence on educational outcomes in our communities and for young people – addressing an inequality that exists largely due to socio-economic disadvantage.

**2B Do you think the duty should apply to any other public authorities, similar to those listed in the Equality Act 2010?**

Yes

**If so, please name them and explain why you think the duty should apply.:**

The list of included authorities is somewhat shorter than those included in the Equality Act 2010; and we would raise a concern that the vision set out is for this duty to sit alongside other legislative pillars (Equality Act; Child Poverty Act) and this will not be delivered if the duty does not apply to all of the same bodies; therefore, the duty should potentially apply to the same authorities as set out in the Equality Act.

### Section 3 - Meeting the Requirements of the Duty

**3A Do you have any comments on the steps set out in SECTION 3?**

**Comments::**

YouthLink Scotland welcomes the approach set out in Section 3, and in particular would advocate for the inclusion of communities in this process where this can be done with dignity and respect. Where appropriate the skills and expertise of local Community Learning and Development professionals could be drawn upon to engage communities in this process, and provide support for those where English is not a first language, or where literacy or numeracy skills can be developed through this process.

**3B What other actions could public authorities take to demonstrate that they are meeting the duty?**

**Comments::**

**3C Could you offer suggestions as to how public authorities could improve budgetary analysis and reporting so as to take better account of inequalities related to socio-economic disadvantage?**

**Comments::**

**3D Can you offer examples of how public authorities and others have made best use of the expertise of people with direct experience of poverty?**

Comments::

**3E What kind of guidance and support on meeting the duty would be most useful for public authorities?**

Comments::

**3F Do you have a view on whether public authorities should use existing monitoring frameworks to track whether the socio-economic duty is making a difference to outcomes over the long term?**

Comments::

## **Section 4 - Links between this and other Duties**

**4A Once the socio-economic duty is introduced, the Scottish Government is keen for public authorities to look strategically across all planning processes in place to maximise their impact.**

**What could public authorities and the Scottish Government do to make sure that the links between the different duties are managed effectively within organisations?:**

YouthLink Scotland recognises the complexity of duties and their interactions upon public authorities. We would like the requirement for Children's Rights reporting on what public bodies have done to further the rights of the child, and Ministerial consideration of steps which would further the UNCRC (Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014) to be recognised within this mapping. It is important that these duties are given their own value and their individual purpose is recognised.

**4B Can you offer examples of good practice in taking an integrated approach to issues such as poverty, equality, and human rights?**

Comments::

## **About You**

**What is your name?**

**Name:**

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**What is your email address?**

**Email:**

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**Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?**

Organisation

**What is your organisation?**

**Organisation:**

YouthLink Scotland

**The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:**

Publish response only (without name)

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

## **Evaluation**

**Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

**Please enter comments here.:**

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

**Please enter comments here.:**