

2 April 2026

John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast

Dear John

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chief Executive of Belfast City Council and as Chairperson of the Belfast Community Planning Partnership.

As you are aware, the Community Planning Partnership is scheduled to meet on 9 April. At this meeting, a jointly commissioned and long-developed piece of work, led by the Belfast Area Outcomes Group, will be presented to the Partnership: The Belfast Child document.

This correspondence is a request from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that Belfast City Council give advance consideration to the 'Belfast Child' document, with a view to Belfast City Council supporting its endorsement at the April Community Partnership meeting.

An electronic version has been attached to this email, and a pre-production printed mock-up (subject to minor amendment) is being forwarded along with the hard copy of this letter.

The origin of this work lies in the mandate for Belfast Area Outcomes Group to act as the Partnership's children and family early-intervention lead, and to develop a "seamless pathway" model for children and families in Belfast. This mandate reflects the strength of the relationships fostered through the community planning process in Belfast, as well as the collective vision that underpins it.

In line with this remit, Belfast Area Outcomes Group has developed the 'Belfast Child' document, which I am pleased to share with Belfast City Council colleagues. This blueprint sets out a city-wide vision to ensure that every child aged 0–8 years in Belfast can benefit from a seamless developmental pathway as they grow.

Our shared vision is that every child in the city is supported to realise their full potential through a clear commitment by agencies and services in Belfast, to align, connect and collaborate around families. This collaborative approach aims to deliver the best possible outcomes for children.

The Belfast Child document is intentionally ambitious and aspirational. It will seek endorsement and ownership from agencies and organisations across Belfast — from

senior leadership to local delivery partnerships. The goal is to build an integrated, city-wide support ecosystem capable of providing timely and effective intervention beginning at pre-conception and continuing until at least age eight. This represents the first stage of a journey that will, over time, extend to all children and young people under 18, aligning with the Belfast Agenda's 2035 vision.

The Belfast Area Outcomes Group intends to launch the document following the Partnership meeting. To that end, I look forward to aligning our respective diaries to secure an appropriate date for a city-level launch event, marking the beginning of this integrated approach to supporting children and families. We believe this work will form a foundation for Belfast's development as a truly child-friendly city.

Your ongoing support and collaboration remains crucial to the success of this initiative. We look forward to continuing to work closely with all Community Planning Partners, particularly Belfast City Council, as we move together toward making the vision set out in The Belfast Child a reality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Welsh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Welsh
Chief Executive