



The **Regulation** and
Quality Improvement
Authority

informing and improving health and social care
www.rqia.org.uk



CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RQIA CORPORATE STRATEGY RESPONSE DOCUMENT

RQIA would wish to thank everyone who took part in the pre-consultation phase of the development of the draft Corporate Strategy 2012-2015 and, in particular, to those who had submitted suggestions about the strategic direction of RQIA over the next three year period.

Before responding to this consultation please take note of the Freedom of Information requirements in **Appendix 2** at the end of this document.

The draft Corporate Strategy 2012-15 and corresponding documents are available online at www.rqia.org.uk.

Alternative formats of the documents may be requested by contacting Stuart Crawford as detailed below:

Responses should be sent to:

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Please reply by Friday 9 December 2011.

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RQIA Introduction

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is the independent health and social care regulator and quality improvement body for Northern Ireland. It is responsible for monitoring and inspecting the availability and quality of health and social care services and encouraging improvements in the quality of these services through its programme of inspections and reviews.

Through its activities, RQIA makes an independent assessment of health and social care services to ensure these are safe, accessible, well managed and meet the required standards. RQIA works to ensure that there is openness, clarity and accountability in the management and delivery of all these functions.

RQIA is responsible for the registration and inspection of a range of regulated health and social care services. These include: nursing homes; residential care homes; children's homes; day care settings; residential family centres; nursing agencies; domiciliary care agencies; adult placement agencies; voluntary adoption agencies; and independent hospitals, hospices and clinics. RQIA also works with statutory health and social care organisations across Northern Ireland to encourage the delivery of high quality services through a planned programme of governance, service and thematic reviews.

RQIA undertakes a range of responsibilities for people with mental ill health and those with a learning disability under The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. These include: preventing ill treatment; remedying any deficiency in care or treatment; terminating improper detention in a hospital or guardianship; and preventing or redressing loss or damage to a patient's property.

RQIA also has a responsibility for the inspection of services providing radiology procedures such as x rays and radiotherapy. These regulations are in place to protect service users from inappropriate or unnecessary exposure to radiation.

In its activities, RQIA promotes participation and partnership approaches with service providers and service users alike, to ensure their views are taken into account.

RQIA Corporate Strategy 2012-15

In consultation with stakeholders and guidance from RQIA's Board and staff, we have developed our draft Corporate Strategy for 2012-15.

Our draft Corporate Strategy sets out our key priorities for 2012-15 and detail how we intend to achieve our strategic objectives.

The draft Corporate Strategy highlights the key internal and external issues and challenges facing RQIA. This will provide the context for the representation of RQIA's strategic priorities in the form of a strategic map, together with corresponding objectives initiatives.

A draft Strategy Map (Appendix 1) has been developed for the period 2012-15 as a starting point for the development of a new corporate strategy. This map is a visual representation of our strategy on one page and acts as a road map to guide the activities of the organisation. Each element of the map is explained in more detail below:

- **We exist because / Mission / Outcomes:** answers the question why RQIA exists and defines the value and outcomes we are delivering to our stakeholders.
- **We must excel at these core activities to deliver on our outcomes / Strategic Objectives:** the vital activities at which RQIA must excel in order to deliver effectively our vision. The core activities define what we must focus on and what differentiates RQIA from other organisations.
- **We need to manage these Key Enablers to ensure our Success:** these are value-adding activities or functions performed within the organisation that provide support and enable the delivery of the core activities and the organisation's overall mission.

RQIA held a series of pre-consultation events across Northern Ireland during May and June 2011 in preparation for the development of our draft Corporate Strategy for 2012-15.

Four events were held in various locations throughout Northern Ireland and were attended by representatives from Health Trusts, Service Providers and the General Public. A further three events were held with the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, (DHSSPS(NI)) HSC Bodies and Regulators. A total of 183 people attended the seven events and the valuable information collated was used to inform the development of the draft strategy.

To assist in the further development of RQIA's draft Corporate Strategy 2012-15 we are now seeking comments and suggestions about the strategic direction of RQIA over the next three year period.

Human Rights and Equality Implications

Northern Ireland Act 1998

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 there is a legal requirement for RQIA to consider the possible impact of all its decisions on the specified equality groups and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations in all areas of our work.

RQIA has to consider how to promote equality of opportunity in relation to the following nine equality groups:

- religious belief
- sexual orientation
- political opinion
- gender
- racial group
- disability (those with a disability and those without)
- age
- dependency (those with dependants and those without)
- marital status.

RQIA must also consider how to promote good relations in respect of:

- religious belief
- political opinion
- racial group.

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Human Rights Act 1998 gives legal status in UK law to fundamental human rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The Act is about respecting and fostering the Convention Rights in everything we do. Public bodies now have a statutory duty to ensure that their decisions and actions are compatible with ECHR and to act in accordance with these rights. What is more, we need to be proactive in ensuring that we comply with our obligations and ensure that we develop a human rights culture. The Act gives people a right to redress in a UK court if they think that their human rights have been violated by a public authority.

Disability Discrimination Act (1995) (DDA)

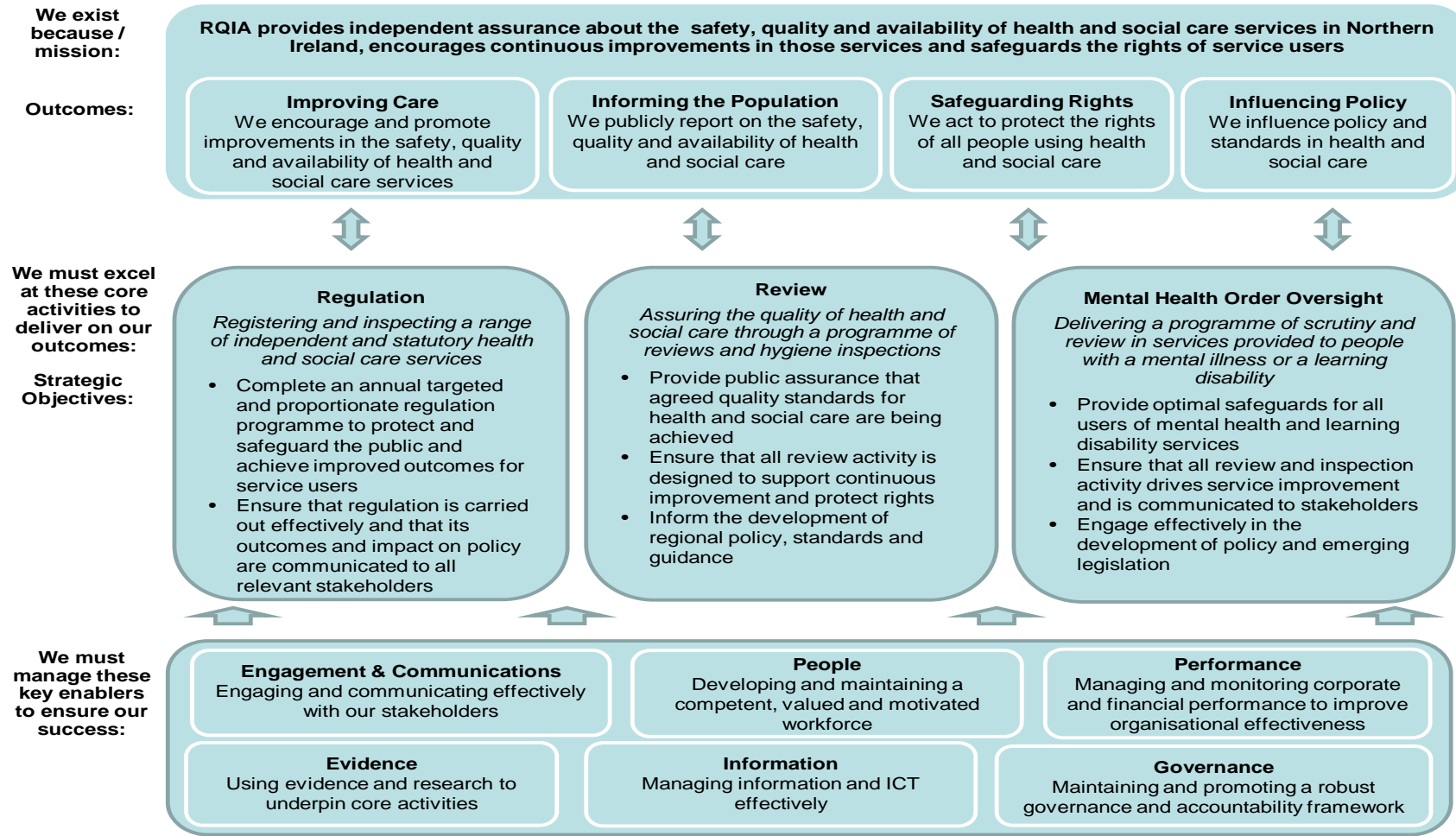
Under the most recent amendment of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, that came into effect in January 2007, public authorities, in all areas of their work must now consider how to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

Equality Screening Exercise

As part of the development of the Corporate Strategy an Equality Screening Exercise was carried out. This exercise indicated that RQIA's Corporate Strategy has neutral impact and therefore does not require an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to be undertaken.

RQIA Strategy Map 2012-15



Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Confidentiality of Consultations

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. RQIA can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, RQIA in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. RQIA cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation.

However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs' Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- RQIA should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- RQIA should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by RQIA of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office at:

Information Commissioner's Office Northern Ireland

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Belfast
BT2 8FE

Tel: 028 9026 9380

Fax: 028 9026 9388

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