

*These notes refer to the Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c.10) which received Royal Assent on 09 December 2015*

# Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **CONSULTATION**

10. The Member carried out a twelve-week consultation on the policies behind the Act in Spring 2012. The consultation document was sent to approximately 200 organisations and all Assembly Members and Northern Ireland Members of Parliament. A total of 26 responses were received. Every respondent supported the principles of the Act and the introduction of a statutory duty to co-operate on children's services.
11. Of those respondents who directly answered the relevant questions:
  - every respondent stated that the introduction of a duty to co-operate would make co-operation more likely;
  - every respondent stated that there was presently a lack of collaboration within government in relation to children's services;
  - every respondent stated that greater collaboration between government departments and agencies would improve the outcomes for children and young people;
  - every respondent expressed strong support for an enabling power to pool budgets;
  - some respondents highlighted that they considered an enabling power to pool budgets absolutely essential; and
  - every respondent stated that there was currently insufficient co-operation in planning, commissioning and delivering children's services and in the pooling of budgets.