

## **Programme for Government**

**The SDLP's priority issues for the Programme for Government if implemented will improve the lives of those living in Northern Ireland.**

The SDLP's concerns have been well documented in relation to the lack of specific detail around the delivery plans and the need for a more targeted approach.

The following areas are key asks that the SDLP has proposed for agreement to all five political parties. These are in addition to calls for agreement on a health implementation plan and education.

### **Poverty and Tackling Disadvantage**

- A standalone anti-poverty strategy is required, running alongside the Programme for Government with specific measurable targets and a suitable budget line.
- There needs to be an agreement on what is meant by 'objective need'.

### **Housing**

- There is a lack of consensus around the need for a 13 outcome PfG – incorporating a housing outcome. Housing is critical to improving wellbeing. It is not just an 'enabler' of other outcomes, it is an outcome in and of itself.
- We want at least 3000 new build social homes that is accurate and based on areas of need.

### **Childcare**

- The SDLP want an increase in childcare provision from 12.5 hours to 20 hours (with a view to increasing to 30 hours).

### **Skills and Investment**

- We want to see increased investment in third level education including expanding Ulster University's Magee campus in line with the Magee Outline business case.
- In line with option 1b of the DEL options paper 'The Big Conversation', we also want to see an increase in the number of third level education places for NI students studying in NI and an increase in investment for apprenticeships.

### **City Deals**

- We want to see the development and implementation of City Deal projects for Northern Ireland as part of the Programme for Government.
- City Deals should address regional disparity and be used in line with council priorities for economic growth.

### **Bill of Rights**

- We want to see the development and implementation of a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights.

### **Brexit**

- In addition to the recognition of our unique status, we want to see agreement for a Junior Minister for Brexit and a sub-committee of the Assembly will be established on Brexit.