



What does the commissioner do?

I'm Patricia Lewsley and I am the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. My job is to support and work *with* all of you and *for* all of you. I do this by telling the Government and other organisations how they can make your lives better.

To do that I want to hear what you have to say about your lives and the issues that are really important to you.

Patricia Lewsley
Commissioner

Contact us!

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NICCY

Northern Ireland Commissioner
for Children and Young People



We have already helped children and young people with problems about education; health; adoption; fostering; youth justice; road safety, bullying and other issues affecting young people.

I can also help children or young people with a legal case or become involved in other cases. I have guidelines to help me decide and you can ask to see these.

I can also carry out a formal investigation of a service. This means people must tell me and provide evidence about what they are doing, or not doing, for children and young people.

If you are not sure if I can help, please ring and ask. One of my caseworkers will speak to you and if we cannot help we may know someone who can.

3 Finding out about issues - making changes for you

I use research to find out what life is like for children and young people. This means I am sure that I have the facts or 'evidence' from you and from others who work with children and young people. You can find the research as well as what my policies are on important issues affecting children and young people from the NICCY website www.niccy.org.

If I think that a service children and young people receive isn't good enough I can examine that service - we call it a service review.



1 Making Government keep their promises to you

The law says my job is to promote and safeguard your rights and best interests.

To do this I use a list of promises that Government has made to every child and young person in Northern Ireland. These promises are called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). I also want to make sure you know about the UNCRC and understand what it means for you. You can find a list of the 42 promises on our web site or in our UNCRC leaflet.

One of my jobs is to find new - and hopefully fun - ways of communicating with and listening to all of you. I want to encourage you to get involved in the decisions that affect you. This could also include getting your parents, carers and others involved.

I also have a Youth Panel, a group of young people who tell me directly what they think of what I do and what others should be doing.

2 Providing legal support and advice for you

Our job is to advise, support and give you information if you feel that no one else has been able to help. NICCY caseworkers will be able to listen and together we'll try and provide you with help and advice on any issue you bring to us.



ourwork

Between 2008 and 2001 I am focussing my work in five main areas. We call these our priorities and they are:

- Play and Leisure
- Having Your Say
- Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Protection
- Equal Treatment

You can find out more about these priorities and NICCY's work by visiting www.niccy.org/ourwork

You're the most important thing!

Children and Young People are the most important part of my work. I want to hear your views and want to make sure you are involved in my work.

Everyone here at NICCY is working hard to make sure your views are included in the decisions I make and in the decisions about children and young people taken by the Government, the Assembly and everyone who is meant to be working for you!