

NICCY

northern ireland commissioner
for children and young people

Manifesto



The report from UNICEF, published on the 14th February 2007, confirms how far we lag behind other developed nations – if elected you have a chance to make a real difference to the lives of all 500,000 children and young people in Northern Ireland.

NICCY wants you to make four key **promises** to Northern Ireland's children and young people.

These are:

- **Implement** the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

NICCY believes that the UNCRC should be fully incorporated into a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

- **Ensure** Article 12 of the UNCRC is fully implemented in all Government decisions

Article 12 says children and young people should have a real, meaningful say in the decisions that affect their lives – and their views should be listened to and acted on.

Particularly important issues are the Review of Public Administration, Juvenile Justice, providing advocacy and developing school councils.

- **Commit** Comprehensive Funding for children and young people's services

As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review there should be a clear commitment to significantly increase funding to make sure that evaluated and proven services are developed, maintained and enhanced to meet the Outcomes set out in the 10 year Children's strategy.

One key example, from many, is the need to implement the recommendations of the Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability.

- **Eradicate Poverty**

Use existing and new resources creatively to tackle the blight of poverty that affects 32,000 children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's job is to promote and safeguard the rights and best interests of children and young people.

We have 15 priorities, which guide our work that are derived from comprehensive research into Children's Rights in Northern Ireland. You can read the full list of the priorities, read the research and find more information about our work to date at www.niccy.org



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You can also contact us by Minicom on 028 9031 6393, or by using the Relay Services to contact NICCY's telephone number (028 9031 1616).

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