

Poverty, Social Inclusion, Disability Branch
OFMDFM
Room E3.19
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SR

10 August 2012

Our ref: 12/PD/PLM/075

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on a Strategy to improve the lives of disabled people 2012-2015

The Northern Ireland Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) was created in accordance with 'The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order' (2003) to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

While we are not able to respond to this consultation NICCY would highlight that the Northern Ireland Executive must ensure that the Strategy and any associated action or implementation plan is compliant with both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

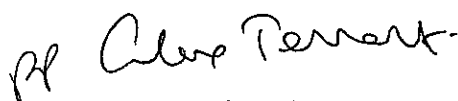
It is of significant concern that since NICCY was established in 2003 the office has regularly received reports that the rights and best interests of disabled children are not being properly protected in Northern Ireland. The effectiveness of arrangements to support the transition of young people with learning disabilities from children's to adult services has been a recurrent theme in reports and in response to this NICCY has commissioned a scoping paper to examine this area in more detail.



The commissioned report will be published in mid September and NICCY requests that where possible, the Department ensures that the Strategy particularly in relation to strategic priorities 7-10 which are concerned with children, young people and families and transitions to adulthood take account of the findings and recommendations of the report.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Lewsley-Mooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner for Children and Young People