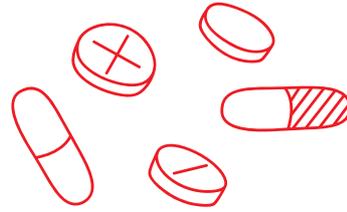


STATEMENT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 3

HEALTH



WHAT DOES THE UNCRC SAY?

ARTICLE 25:
GOVERNMENT
SHOULD CHECK
THAT CHILDREN IN
CARE / HOSPITALS
ETC. ARE SAFE

ARTICLE 24:
YOU SHOULD HAVE
THE BEST
HEALTHCARE AND A
SAFE ENVIRONMENT

ARTICLE 23:
EVERY CHILD WITH
A DISABILITY
SHOULD ENJOY THE
BEST POSSIBLE LIFE
IN SOCIETY.



WHATS GOING ON IN NI?

Mental health

- Poor mental health is one of the most preventable health issues, but **1 in 8 children and young people in Northern Ireland have a mental health disorder** such as anxiety or depression.
- Mental health services for children and young people here get **less government funding** than they do in England or Ireland.
- Many children and young people believe that their **mental health got worse during the pandemic.**
- NICCY has continued to check on progress made on their Mental Health Review, Still Waiting. There are a number of recommendations which **need more action by government** to make sure that a child rights compliant mental health service is in place for those who need it.

Health waiting lists

- In October 2021, NICCY published More Than A Number, a Rights-Based Review of Child Health Waiting Lists. We know that Northern Ireland has some of the **highest waiting list times across the UK** for treatment.
- The More than a Number review shows how many children are **waiting longer than the target time for treatment** and how this affects children and their families.
- We found that **government did not have an effective system** for checking how many children and young people were on waiting lists across all health services in Northern Ireland.
- NICCY made **17 recommendations to government** about how they should prioritise health care for children to cut waiting times and make sure children can have their rights met in other areas.

WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT DO NOW?



Fund and implement 'Still Waiting' recommendations to **develop children and young people's mental health services.**



Improve areas where the worst breaches of children's rights are breached and **clearly show how money is spent effectively** to improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.



Support **children who have been affected by the Pandemic** including those who had existing mental health problems, a disability or were affected by domestic violence, abuse or poverty.



Fund and implement recommendations in 'More Than A Number' report to **improve health waiting times for children and young people.**