

Annual Report & Accounts 2021 – 2022



The mission of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People and her team is:

“To safeguard and promote the rights and best interest of Children and Young People”

PUSHING FORWARD

“The past year has seen NICCY make progress for children and young people, despite the challenges presented by the political and financial climate and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Here we are with a mountain to climb and climb it we shall because children, young people, their families and communities continue to demonstrate resilience, determination and humour and therefore deserve our very best.”

“As I enter my final year as Commissioner, I am of course looking forward but this report also provides the opportunity to reflect on the excellent work that the NICCY team have done during the year.”



KOULLA YIASOUMA
NORTHERN IRELAND COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



MAIRÉAD MCCAFFERTY
NICCY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LOOKING AHEAD

“Over the past eight years there has been a focus on identified key priority areas of work, some of which have already come to conclusion, others will conclude this coming year.

Staff will be continuing to work extremely hard in delivering on these, just as they have in 2021-22.

“The commitment and professionalism of the team across the organisation has as always, been evident in our work to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of Children and Young People in NI.”

OUR VALUES

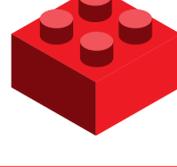
Guided by the UNCRC, our values applied in all our work, are as follows:

- 1. Children’s and Young People’s Rights are at the centre of all we do**
- 2. We value and protect our independence**
- 3. We respect and value people, promote inclusion and diversity, and challenge discrimination and inequality**
- 4. We are open and honest and act with integrity**
- 5. We are optimistic, striving to effect positive and lasting change**

OUR OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

Objective 1

To ensure that children’s rights are respected, promoted and protected in the work of all duty bearers



CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

- Worked to embed children’s rights across NICCY’s key priorities and highlight rights issues with NI Government Ministers and Departments
- Engaged with relevant stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally to improve provision of children’s rights.

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Repeated the call for incorporation of the UNCRC in NI through reports/advice to government



COVID-19

- Researched and reported the impact of the pandemic on the rights of children & young people
- NICCY staff and Youth Panel (NYP) members contributed to ENOC’s position statement on the impact of Covid-19 measures on children’s rights

CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (CRIA)

Delivered CRIA sessions to NI Government Departments & Agencies



Objective 2

To highlight and address critical issues which adversely affect children & young people



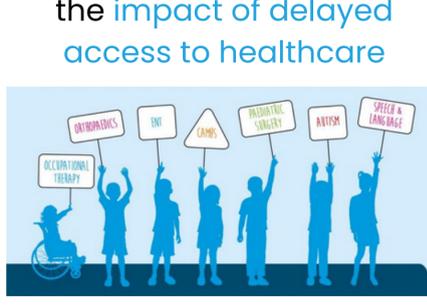
POVERTY

Advised government on development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy, welfare reform & campaigned for Child Payments in NI



HEALTH

Published 'More Than a Number', raising awareness of child health waiting lists & the impact of delayed access to healthcare



PUTTING THE CHILD AT THE CENTRE

Published a research report on work towards a child rights compliant response to child victims of sexual offences based on a Barnahus Model



MENTAL HEALTH

Assessed & monitored the delivery of the 'Still Waiting' Action Plan to improve mental health services for children and young people



EDUCATION

Raised issues & provided advice on integrated education, restraint and seclusion in schools and the impact of Covid



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Disseminated findings of NICCY’s 'Too Little Too Late' report and worked with relevant authorities to progress recommendations



OTHER KEY ISSUES

