

Annual Report & Accounts 2022 – 2023



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”

PASSING THE BATON

As new Commissioner, my role is to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people – with the undoubted commitment, dedication and support of the NICCY Staff Team led by our Chief Executive.



CHRIS QUINN
NORTHERN IRELAND COMMISSIONER
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Koulla Yiasouma. She has undoubtedly championed the role of Commissioner, and I recall being delighted when she took up the post. I look forward to carrying the baton forward.

“This Annual Report highlights delivery on the duties, powers and functions of the Office. It is my intention that we build on these and the work carried out to date, in protecting and promoting the rights of children and young people in NI.”

MOVING FORWARD

This year we have issued a number of reports as well as follow-up monitoring reports ensuring progress on implementing recommendations was being taken forward by relevant authorities.

However, the absence of an NI Executive meant legislation and a number of strategies could not be taken forward.

“The commitment and dedication 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

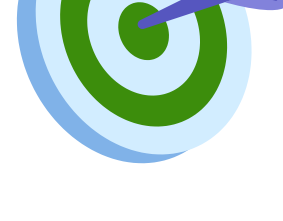
Guided by the UNCRRC, our values applied in all our work, are as follows:

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

- Embedded across NICCY’s key priorities and highlighted with NI Government Ministers and Departments
- Engaged with relevant stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally to improve provision of children’s rights

SOCRNI 3

NICCY published our third ‘Statement on Children’s Rights in NI’ to reflect the Koulla’s final comments at the end of her term

CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (CRIA)

Our CRIA and Children’s Rights training modules were released on LInKS training platform for use by the NI Civil Service



UNCRRC

The Commissioner and local young people attended the UNCRRC Committee’s pre-sessional

ENOC

Participated and engaged with members at annual ENYA conference, contributing recommendations on the ENOC 2022 theme of climate justice



Objective 2

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

A FAILED CHILD

NICCY’s first formal investigation covered Vicky’s story, a child raised in the care of the State and failed by the system and urged urgent improvements in the care of Looked After Children



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

NICCY’s report on highlighted the lived experience of children & families facing homelessness & housing insecurity, including those living in contingency and dispersal accommodation



COVID-19

NICCY published an update on the COVID-19 report ‘A New and Better Normal’ and also provided a Witness Statement to the UK Covid Inquiry Panel



EDUCATION

NICCY provided advice on SEN provision, provision for newcomer pupils, safeguarding and bullying. NICCY also challenged the use of restrictive practices in educational settings.



OTHER KEY ISSUES

