

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
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For Every Child, Every Right

Our Plan: 2023-2027



Hi, I am Chris Quinn, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, sometimes shortened to 'NICCY'. My job is to **'safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people'**

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Your rights are at the centre of everything I do - and my number one thought as I've put this plan together is that it's YOUR Corporate Plan!

So please let me know what you think about what I'm working on, or what I should be working on - or anything else I can do to protect your rights and best interests! Whether it's via socials, email, a letter or a phone call, I'd love to hear from you.

#ForEveryChildEveryRight

MORE INFO



SAFEGUARD

Protect the rights of children and young people.

ADVOCATE

Speaking on behalf of children and young people when needed.

BEST INTERESTS

When adults make decisions, they should think about how they will affect children and young people, and do what is best for them.

PROMOTE

To make sure more people are aware of children and young people's rights and why they are important.

HOW I DEVELOPED MY PLAN

I asked children and young people to let me know about your experiences and what's important to you. I wrote a plan (called a Corporate Plan) for what children and young people, their parents, carers and guardians want me to do to protect their rights.

Here are some of things you told me

"Make children's rights known throughout all of Northern Ireland."

"More schools for special needs children, so that they don't feel like they are the only ones that are different."

"More support for refugees, hate speech should not be normalised."

"More wheelchair accessible park equipment for kids and young people with disabilities."

"Better support for families in need."

"Increase education budget and mental health services for young people."

All our work is grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

MY PLAN TO WORK FOR YOU

You have helped me identify the wide range of issues that impact on children's and young people's rights in Northern Ireland. I have used your voice to identify our key priority areas of work. These include:



PARTICIPATION: Promoting your voice so services can better meet your needs. It's really important to listen to your opinions about things that affect you – not only because your views can make things better but also because it is your right! I want to make sure government listens to you.



MAKE THE UNCRC REAL: To bring the UNCRC 'home' to better protect you. This means making the UNCRC part of our local law ensuring your rights are recognised in the work of all adults working with, and for you.



TACKLING KEY ISSUES: I will advise and challenge government to do better for you in key areas we know need improvement. These include tackling child poverty; health; education; discrimination; asylum seeking and refugee children; homelessness; and the environment.



ADVOCATE: Using my powers to challenge child rights violations. I will support children and young people whose rights have not been met to access services they should have such as education, healthcare, play and leisure, or having a say in decisions affecting them.



KNOWLEDGE: Making sure everyone knows about your rights, and how they can contact us for help. Ensuring children, young people, their parents, carers, people who work with children and young people, and the wider public know about your rights, the UNCRC and my work. It is essential that we are visible and accessible – particularly to those most in need. Please let me know how you want to get information from us.