



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended
31 March 2013



NDPB NICCY ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

Laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly under Commissioner for Children
and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003
by OFMDFM

on

15 October 2013

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This publication is also available on our website at www.niccy.org.

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FOREWORD

FROM THE NI COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Welcome to our Annual Report on the 2012-2013 business year. I wish from the outset, to extend my thanks and appreciation to the staff at NICCY who deserve acknowledgement and praise for their hard work, dedication and commitment throughout the year.

During this, the second year of our Corporate Plan (2011-14), I have focused my duties and powers on redressing breaches of the rights of children and young people, promoting their best interests and improving their lives and life outcomes, within my available resources. Our proactive work i.e. the objectives contained within our Business Plan setting out the annual programme of work, is carried out alongside our reactive work e.g. that in response to the work of the Northern Ireland Executive, Government Departments and external / emerging developments. In carrying out this work, I have ensured the voices and views of children and young people were taken into account, as well as other stakeholders, individuals and organisations.

Of particular note this year was my 1st Annual Conference held on the 20th November, anniversary of the UNCRC and celebration of International Children's Day. I was delighted to have, as our Keynote Speaker, Kirsten Sandberg of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (now the current Chair). The Conference, attended by a wide range of Stakeholders - addressed how we might progress development of domestic legislation in respect of Children's Rights. It was therefore extremely useful and beneficial for us to have the Children's Commissioners from Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and the former First Minister from Wales to inform us of the experience in their jurisdictions.

Following a request from OFMDFM to conduct a second 'update' review of the legislation under which the Office was set up, the 'Review of the Commissioner for Children and young people (Northern Ireland) Order 2003' was carried out by Professors Brice Dickson and Barry Fitzpatrick. This will be submitted alongside my report as required under Article 24. I am hopeful that the subsequent recommendations will be given the necessary consideration and implementation.

We have launched a number of research reports throughout this year (the detail of which follow later in this report) which have identified gaps / failings in service provision for children and young people but which have also identified areas of good practice. As a result of the research carried out I have made a number of calls / recommendations to

government to address these and will continue to engage with / provide advice to Ministers and MLAs around the above as well as for example the ongoing impact of welfare reform proposals on children and young people. Earlier this year, as part of a delegation of UK Commissioners, we met with Lord Freud where I raised particular concerns in respect of Northern Ireland.

I have continued to work collaboratively with Children's Commissioners and Ombudsmen in other jurisdictions including via the British/Irish network (BINOCC) and the European Network (ENOC). The periodic report of the UK State Party to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is due in January 2014 and we are adopting a similar approach with the other UK Children's Commissioners as last time in our submission to this.

Other areas of work this year have included the proposed Age: Goods, Facilities and Services legislation, where we have worked jointly with the Equality Commission and indeed the sector as well as Government Officials, to ensure the inclusion of children and young people within same. This will continue as we disseminate legal opinion and policy positions among stakeholders. Our work on separated/ asylum seeking children has seen engagement with the UKBA as well as delivering a presentation to the All Party Group on Human Trafficking. This work is being developed to address models of guardianship in respect of separated children. The second year of our 'NICCY Participation Awards' was a very successful event. These Awards celebrate the increasing engagement with young people, on the part of government departments and their agencies, to promote their participation and 'voice' in service provision which impacts on their lives.

In concluding this foreword and as we enter the 10th anniversary year of this Office, I wish to reiterate my commitment and that of the staff team led by our Chief Executive Mairéad McCafferty, to ensuring the rights of children and young people, as contained within national and international 'instruments' such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), are safeguarded, promoted and respected.



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer

A WORD FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It has been an extremely busy first year in post as I envisaged, during which as part of my initial strategic and operational review, we have enhanced corporate governance and reporting systems and work practice. I have been impressed by the support and vision of staff who have shown same in 'stepping up' as we implement new ways of working, including integrated programmes of work which will improve NICCY's effectiveness and efficiency. We will continue to give greater focus to impact and outcomes in the lives of children and young people. Many issues affecting these still face us, such as – child poverty; social exclusion; 'in care' / secure accommodation / custodial experience/s; educational disadvantage and/or disaffection; health inequalities; mental ill health; 'at risk' behaviours; and child sexual exploitation.



Doing so will entail raising greater awareness that 'rights based frameworks' of service design and delivery will bring about lasting change and improvement in the lives of our children and young people and ultimately our society. NICCY's role in safeguarding and promoting the rights and best interests of children and young people also involves recognition of how these are inextricably linked to those of parents, guardians and carers i.e. in supporting their children and young people to access the appropriate services in e.g. education, health and social care, justice etc, exercising our legal powers and raising awareness around these, we empower those with responsibility for them to achieve better overall outcomes.

As well as with our children and young people and parents/guardians/carers, this year has seen increasing stakeholder engagement and participation across the political, Governmental, NGO, academic, statutory, voluntary and community spheres. It is vital that 'partnership' working and engagement at local, national and international levels, be built upon and strengthened as we work, within our respective remits, to ensure that we make the positive differences we wish to see in the lives of our current and future generations.

I was delighted to see the success of NICCY's inaugural Annual Event – I believed it was vital to introduce this as another way of engaging with our stakeholders, gaining their input and communicating areas of our work e.g. that to progress child's rights legislation here.

Much has been done and taken forward this year and what follows is a summary of that work. This coming year sees the 10th anniversary of the setting up of the office and it is timely then that we are to develop our new Corporate Plan for 2014-17. This will provide us the opportunity for renewed focus on our function and remit as per the duties set out in the legislation and indeed the exercise of our powers.



Mairéad McCafferty BA PGCE PQH LLM
Chief Executive



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland (NICCY) is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). NICCY was established on 1st October 2003 under the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

These accounts are prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 11 (1) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and in accordance with the 2012/13 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland (DFP).

Principal Activities

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's principal aim is to 'safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people'. While the detailed powers are set out in the legislation, they may be grouped under three main areas as follows:

- Promoting children's rights - the Commissioner will be guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), an international agreement setting out how children should be treated and the rights that they have;
- Advising Government on children's rights and best interests – both in response to requests from Government and proactively as the Commissioner determines.
- Complaints and legal action - the Commissioner can deal with individual complaints from children and young persons, or their parents / guardians about any services that impact on those under 18 years of age (or under the age of 21 for those with a disability or leaving care);

Senior Management Team

Patricia Lewsley
Commissioner

Mairead McCafferty
Chief Executive

Marlene Kinghan
Head of Communication and Participation

Mollie Simpson
Head of Legal and Casework

Alex Tennant
Head of Policy and Research

Audit and Risk Committee

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland seeks to ensure the highest standards of corporate governance and compliance with the values of public service. It has appointed an Audit and Risk Committee which oversees internal audit arrangements and ensures they are conducted in accordance with the standards as set out in the Government Internal Audit Manual. The Audit and Risk Committee also oversees the Commissioners arrangements for risk management. The committee meet at least four times per year and its members are:

Bob McCann
Committee Chair

Julie Erskine
Committee member

Danielle McWall
Committee member

Important Events Occurring After the Year End

There have been no significant events occurring after the year end that would affect this report and the accounts.

Results for the Year

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland operates as a going concern in spite of significant reductions in Taxpayers' Equity over the past few years. The Commissioner is financed by funding from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. Funding for 2013-14 has been approved.

The results for the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland for the period are set out in detail on pages 62 - 66. The net expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2013 was £1,573,091. This net expenditure resulted in a balance in reserves of £97,502 at 31 March 2013.

Non Current Assets

Details of the movements of non current assets are set out in Notes 5 and 6 to the Accounts.

Research & Development

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland does not engage in any research and development activities as defined by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Charitable Donations

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland made no charitable donations during the period.

Pensions Liabilities

Staff Pension Liabilities are borne by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI)

– see Remuneration Report and notes 1.8 and 2(b) to the Accounts.

Payments to Suppliers

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the Confederation of British Industry's Prompt Payer's Code.

Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment was due within 10 working days of receipt of the goods or services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

During the period 85.59% of bills were paid within this standard (92.69% in 2011-12) and 97.65% of invoices were paid within 30 calendar days standard (98.92% in 2011-12).

Sustainability Report

Due to the size and nature of the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland, there is limited scope to promote sustainability in comparison with larger NDPBs and central government departments.

The key activities in which the Commissioner contributes to sustainability is through recycling, for example:
Paper – the majority of waste paper is shredded and recycled;
Printer cartridges - after use are returned to the manufacturers for recycling.

Furthermore, the Commissioner has appointed a representative to participate in the Equality Commission's own Energy Group. Through this working group the sustainability measures and procedures introduced by the Equality Commission are

disseminated and adopted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland in order to promote greener and more energy efficient ways of working.

Disabled Persons

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland seeks to follow best practice guidance as set out in Disability Codes of Practice, on employment and the provision of services to disabled persons.

Equality of Opportunity

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is committed to the provision of equality of opportunity and fair participation to all persons regardless of sex, marital status, religious belief, political affiliation/opinion, age, family status, ethnic or racial background, sexual orientation, disability, nationality or trade union membership.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland will, in all its actions, conform to both the letter and the spirit of the relevant equality legislation. The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland will provide equality of opportunity to all persons irrespective of whether or not there are legislative provisions in place.

Employee Involvement

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland encourages widespread consultation and exchange of information at all levels within the organisation through staff and team briefings. NICCY has made a commitment to be an Investor in People accredited organisation.

Data Protection and Freedom of Information

The Commissioner has in place policies and arrangements for compliance with Data Protection and Freedom of Information Legislation.

NICCY has recently reviewed all data it currently holds, both physical and computerised, and has put measures in place to ensure data which is no longer required is disposed of safely and securely according to NICCY's Data Retention policy. All staff are required to ensure that data being stored is not kept for longer than is necessary and when disposal dates approach, steps are taken to dispose of this securely with disposal notifications confirming destruction.

In relation to portable media, NICCY locks all USB ports on work stations, ensuring no data can be transferred to portable devices without authorisation. All staff who have been issued with mobile phones, have also signed off on the Mobile Device Policy, ensuring these devices are not used for storage or onward transmission of data.

Following a review of NICCY's computer systems, all staff signed up to a confidentiality agreement but further steps have been taken in relation to user access on the NICCY network. Controls are in place which prevent staff viewing files or folders they are not authorized to view. Passwords and account details of staff who leave NICCY's employment are also changed on the day they leave, ensuring there is no unauthorized access.

NICCY have also reviewed and agreed the Service Level Agreement with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) for

the next 3 years (2013-2016) which covers all security matters in relation to NICCY computer systems.

Freedom of Information requests are logged and maintained by the Information Officer. A spreadsheet details all requests made by individuals, including the nature of the request and the timescales involved.

NICCY is confident that it complies with the current Data Protection and Freedom of Information Legislation and will continue to monitor this on an on-going basis.

During the year there were seven Freedom of Information requests, all of which were responded to within the statutory time limit.

There were no personal data related incidents during the year.

Sick Absence Data

During the course of the year, 5.1% of the available working days were lost due to staff sickness in NICCY (4.37% in 2011-12). This figure also includes long-term absence which contributed approximately 2.8% of the working days lost (1.31% in 2011-12).

Register of Interests

An up to date register of interests is maintained by the Accounting Officer and is available for inspection at the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland offices in Equality House, 7 – 9 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DP.

Auditors

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland (C&AG) in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. He is head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) and he

and his staff are wholly independent of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. He reports his findings to the NI Assembly.

The audit of the financial statements for 2012-13 resulted in an audit fee of £11,295 which is included in the Operating Costs within the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. Additional non audit work carried out by the NIAO in year 2012-13 pertained solely to the National Fraud Initiative work for which a fee of £1,175 was paid.

Disclosure of Audit Information

As far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the entity's auditors are unaware. The Accounting Officer has taken all steps that she ought to have taken to make herself aware of any audit information and to establish that the entity's auditors are aware of that information.

Offices of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland:

Equality House
7-9 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DP

Auditor:
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1EU

Signed by:



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
03 October 2013



MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

Context

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland has prepared this report in accordance with the Accounting Standards Board Reporting Statement: Operating and Financial Review. Following the spirit of the Reporting Standard, this Management Commentary focuses on the activities of the year under report, performance outputs and outcomes of relevance to the interests of stakeholders.

The Commissioner

Ms Patricia Lewsley-Mooney was re-appointed for a second and final term as Commissioner for Children and Young People on 8 January 2011, for a period of 4 years.

Mission

Article 6(1) of the 2003 Order established the Commissioner's principal aim/mission which is to:

- Safeguard and Promote the Rights and Best Interests of Children and Young People.

NICCY reports on its progress against objectives and targets within its annual Business Plan on a quarterly basis to OFMDFM. This management commentary section of the report details the outputs, broad outcomes and achievements over the course of the 2012/13 business year.

Full details of our priorities and objectives are set out in NICCY's Corporate Plan 2011 – '14 and the annual Business Plans, all of which are available on the NICCY website (www.niccy.org).

Our work entails effective working relationships with our Stakeholders not only in terms of accountability, transparency and collaborative and partnership working but also in terms of fulfilling our legislative function and remit. NICCY's new Stakeholder Engagement Strategy identifies them as:

- Children and young people;
- Parents and adults;
- Government Ministers, MLAs and Politicians;
- Government Departments (including Sponsor Dept OFMDFM) and officials;
- Statutory Bodies and ALBs (NDPBs);
- Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs);
- Media – print, online, TV, radio;
- Legal institutions and agencies;
- Domestic, national and international rights bodies (NI Assembly, BINOCC, ENOC, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child).

NICCY's Work Over the Year

Progress against agreed Key Performance Indicators

Having noted some of the highlights from 2012 – '13 I am pleased to report that in terms of our progress against key performance indicators under our five high level objectives set out below, four of these were met in full and the fifth was met substantially with one piece of work being carried forward into the last business year of the corporate plan period. Further detail on these is presented as follows.

Objective 1: Raise awareness of children's rights and the functions of the Commissioner amongst children, parents and other stakeholders.

Objective 2: Review and advise Government on development of policies, services and legislation relating to children's rights and best interests.

Objective 3: Use the Commissioner's powers to challenge breaches of children and young people's rights.

Objective 4: Ascertain the views of children and young people in relation to issues which affect their lives.

Objective 5: Maximise NICCY's impact and corporate performance.

1. Children's and Young People's Rights: Raising Awareness and Influencing Practice

In line with NICCY's Article 7 duties, we have maintained a key focus on raising awareness of children and young people's rights – with them, and among stakeholders including parents, professionals, students, officials, NGOs and staff within statutory agencies responsible for delivering services. This will continue, as we know from evaluative feedback, to influence the development of good practice within a 'rights based framework' including the 'Voice of children and young people' as per Article 12 of the UNCRC.

This year saw the development of our new 'Training and Education Strategy' which will enhance content, delivery and quality assurance systems as we develop models of excellence in these areas. The skills, knowledge and expertise of staff across the range of disciplines e.g. youth work, legal, policy, research, teaching and communications within NICCY will ensure best practice as we progress.

Overall we have:

- Directly engaged with over 1,500 children and young people during 28 sessions including workshops in schools, youth clubs, public events and other similar awareness raising activities;
- Engaged and delivered training on children's rights and NICCY's role and remit to 700 professionals/trainee professionals in the education, legal, health and social care fields;
- Held four 'Legal Outreach 'Clinics' with marginalised young people including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN), homeless young people, and young people from the LGBT community;
- Delivered lectures to students in Queen's University, University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College;
- Delivered lectures on 'NICCY's Duties and Powers' to trainee legal professionals in the Institute of Professional Legal Studies in Belfast and equivalent institute in Derry/Londonderry;
- Delivered lectures to various solicitors' associations across Northern Ireland;
- Held a CPD event in November 2012 for legal practitioners on 'UNCRC Back to Basics: a practical guide to using and understanding the UNCRC';
- Facilitated a presentation on the UNCRPD and its interconnectedness with the UNCRC;
- Trained schools' counsellors on 'Children's Rights' and 'Gillick Competence' at their training day organised by Department of Education in March 2013;
- Delivered training in the Masters module on 'Children's Rights and Education' and to undergraduates at St. Mary's University College;
- Delivered training in the BA course in Early Childhood Education at Stranmillis Teacher Training University;

- Delivered to 60 students at University Ulster in their second year on social policy – ‘Youth & Policy’;
- Delivered a three hour Masters level lecture and workshop to the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queens University Belfast;
- At undergraduate level, delivered a lecture to first and third year social work students on ‘NICCY, the UNCRC and practical application with ‘clients’;
- Workshop delivered to 30 professionals across Trusts, practitioners across Belfast Trust and social workers from the South Eastern HSCT;
- Trained 40 Service Unit Managers from N’Ards Borough Council and others; and
- Delivered training to FE College students in ‘Social and Childcare’.

Our newly established Child Rights Information Service (CRIS) has been developed to aid legal professionals working on behalf of children and young people. A promotional strategy was implemented and requests for information were responded to in a timely manner. This has helped to raise awareness of children’s and young people’s rights among legal practitioners. An internal evaluation of the CRIS pilot was carried out and proposals agreed on the roll out of this service during the next business year.

Following on from our recent stakeholder awareness survey, a targeted programme for parents has been developed and piloted by participation staff. This programme will be rolled out during the next business year.

The Senior Management Team, with the Commissioner, has also developed a corporate ‘Information/Induction Seminar’ on NICCY’s role, remit and responsibilities’

for visiting delegations, Government officials and Children’s Champions. Our political engagement plan, following last year’s political audit, will also contribute greater awareness of same. Feedback from the training delivered, has been overwhelmingly positive. As you can see from the quote below, trainee teachers have stated it has not only given them ideas to use as part of the curriculum, but also increased their understanding of the importance of teachers knowing about children’s rights and what recourse they have when these are not met.

“The children’s rights module opened my eyes to some of the experiences our students go through and gave me an enhanced perspective on their rights as learners and my role as an educator.” - MED Student

Part of our work in this area has also seen development of our ‘Stakeholder Engagement Strategy’ to enhance same, and focus on the recommendations of reviews and surveys undertaken to inform our communications via ‘better targeting and information sharing’ with those decision makers who can influence change. The work of our communication team has resulted in increased online, print, TV, radio media presence and coverage.

Online

NICCY’s online communications channels continue to develop and this year our first E-zine (electronic newsletter) was successfully piloted, with increasing uptake and page views. This has now been rolled forward into the 2013-2014 business year, to help further communicate and raise awareness about NICCY’s work and children’s and young people’s rights. Throughout the year we continued to see

corresponding increases in visits to our website when significant activity, such as when we launched a research report, occurred. A phased plan for the corporate website was developed following a landscape review. The first stage, now completed, was to develop a new content management system (CMS), allowing greater flexibility and access including enhanced social media features.

We continue to see an increase in the number of Twitter followers and YouTube 'views', further promoting visits to the website as well as increasing awareness of our work. As part of our ongoing development of YouTube as a social media channel, we produced two videos for NICCY's Participation Awards, one with the Commissioner promoting the awards and the other providing a visual record of the awards ceremony itself.

In further developing our online outreach services to users, a weekly summary of relevant Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answers is now included on the website and a link tweeted to 'followers' each Monday.

Media – Print / Radio / Television

Media Enquiries from 1/04/2012 to 31/03/2013

- Irish News
- News Letter
- Belfast Telegraph
- BBC Radio 5 Live
- Community Telegraph



Stories relating to NICCY's work appeared in 150+ regional weekly newspaper articles and regional radio station articles in 2012-13. Those areas with most coverage were in Co. Londonderry and the Bangor/Ards areas. The vast majority of coverage (90%+) was positive/neutral.

28 proactive and 13 reactive media releases on a wide range of relevant topics were issued and 93 media enquiries were dealt with. The Commissioner was interviewed and/or had stories covered on all broadcast outlets and in all NI print media. Included in this is the 'third party action' organisations took e.g. issuing supportive media releases and statements as a result of the Commissioner's work such as on Welfare Reform proposals, transitions and shared education. In addition opinion pieces were published in Northern Ireland media and specialist national publications. An ongoing column in the leading 'Children and Young People Now', a specialist magazine for those working in the sector, is now submitted by NICCY every eight weeks, in rotation with the other three UK Children's Commissioners.

Political sphere

On the political front an awareness audit of the Commissioner amongst political representatives (carried out in the previous business year) showed increasing levels of awareness of the Commissioner and her

work. In 2012-13 the focus shifted to specific programmes of work.

The Commissioner gave evidence to six Northern Ireland Assembly Committees, attended two informal sessions with committee members, presented to All Party Working Groups and several written assembly questions were asked about the work of the Commissioner.

In addition the Commissioner's reports and associated recommendations have been referenced on a number of occasions. For example on 'Transitions' for young people with learning disabilities into adult services, the proposer of an Assembly motion on the topic referenced the Commissioner's report twice, and two more MLAs also spoke during the plenary session. During debates and questions on welfare reform, child poverty and adolescent suicide, the Commissioner's work in these areas was significantly referenced.

The Commissioner also continued to engage in a series of meetings with Ministers and individual MLAs to address their concerns on areas such as 'public disturbances', 'flags protests' and 'paramilitary dress', as well as to further raise awareness, influence decision making and pursue calls on key issues affecting children and young people.

2. Advising Government on the development of Legislation, Policy and Service Provision

One of the key functions of NICCY is to advise Government, and to keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law, practice and services provided to children and young people. This year while

the Commissioner has focused, as per the 2011-14 Corporate Plan, on providing advice in relation to the work of the four government departments (see below) with the most significant role in delivering on children's rights and best interests, we have also provided advice to others. For example advice in relation to welfare reform proposals issued by DSD, careers guidance by DEL, child protection and safeguarding by DCAL and participation more generally in DARD and indeed across all departments.

NICCY fulfils this duty through conducting and commissioning research, making calls and recommendations, issuing guidance and information, 'upstream' involvement in legislative and policy developments, meetings with Ministers, MLAs and officials, giving evidence to Assembly Committees and presenting to All Party Groups to progress same.

The following summarises where we have carried this out with four departments who have a significant impact on the lives of children and young people:

- The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister
- Department of Education;
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety; and
- Department of Justice.

The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

NICCY has provided advice to OFMDFM, the Committee for OFMDFM and other related agencies on a number of issues affecting children's rights and best interests over the year. The key areas included the Delivering Social Change programme, forthcoming legislation on an Age Discrimination Bill in relation to Goods,

Facilities and Services, as well as child rights implementation measures as outlined below. NICCY also provided advice in relation to other areas, including child poverty (see Welfare Reform sections), the childcare strategy, the disability strategy and the Inquiry into Historical Abuse.

OFMDFM's Delivering Social Change

Given that the key 'vehicle' for delivery for children is now under the Delivering Social Change (DSC) programme, which now encompasses a number of relevant strategies and 'signature projects', NICCY has been active in providing advice in relation to this, from initial drafts of the 'Early Actions' document, via a number of meetings with officials responsible for managing the programme, meetings with the Junior Ministers and through attendance at both conferences related to the DSC programme. NICCY is pleased at the focus on children and on poverty within the programme and is keen to agree a mechanism whereby the Commissioner can meet her statutory duty to provide advice to government in relation to children's rights and best interests, focussing particularly on the work of Delivering Social Change.

Age: Goods, Facilities and Services

NICCY have been working in collaboration with ECNI to ensure that the proposed extension of the EU Age Directive on discrimination law covering the provision of goods, facilities and services includes children and young people.

Working jointly, the two organisations hosted a 'Roundtable' of children's sector bodies in November 2012 to commence our engagement on the issue. While also engaging and working individually with decision makers, we have jointly commissioned legal opinion on the

implications of the inclusion or exclusion of children and young people from this extension of the existing law and subsequently have formulated a policy position paper. This policy paper has been disseminated to decision makers in Government and also to sectoral bodies for their information/use in influencing key players. NICCY commenced a plan for engagement with children and young people on this issue which will be rolled out in the 2013/14 Business Year.

Child Rights Implementation

The UNCRC is fundamental to the work of NICCY as it focuses on the minimum rights standards which should be afforded children since ratification. It also includes a set of measures that should be taken by government to deliver on children's rights, the 'General Measures of Implementation'. Much of NICCY's advice to government focuses on the implementation processes required to deliver on children's rights.

These include:

- 'Incorporation' of the UNCRC into domestic legislation;
- Promotion and awareness raising of UNCRC;
- Participation of children and young people;
- Budgeting for children;
- A strategy for children;
- Child Rights Impact Assessment;
- Reporting to the UN Committee on the rights of the child; and
- An Ombudsman or Commissioner for Children.

Over 2012-13 Queens University Belfast and NICCY developed a 'Knowledge Exchange' Partnership Project, supported by the Economic and Social Research Council, to engage with critical stakeholders

in the development of proposals for children's rights legislation for Northern Ireland. This concept had emerged in response to legislation being passed in Wales and legislation drafted in Scotland, both of which require government to consider the impact of new legislation and policy on the realization of children's rights

We invited key voluntary sector organizations and interested stakeholders working on children's rights to join our Children's Rights Implementation Group, which provides advice to NICCY and shares information in relation to the implementation of children's rights.

This group has reviewed the briefing papers produced for each of a series of workshops on the potential for children's rights legislation and provided valuable input. The project is due to be completed in September 2013 with the production of a paper outlining the potential focus for child rights legislation in Northern Ireland.

NICCY has also engaged with OFMDFM in relation to:

- The ongoing development of Children's Rights Indicators – relevant staff participated in meetings and relevant workshops based on UNCRC 'rights clusters';
- The NI input to the State Party Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- The Strategy for Children and Young People and its role in promoting the UNCRC; and
- The participation of children and young people.

We also commissioned a paper on the potential for Child Rights Impact Assessment to be incorporated into

government impact assessment procedures.

Department of Education

Advice concerning a range of education issues was provided to the Department of Education, the Education Minister, the NI Assembly Education Committee and various statutory agencies and organizations. It is pertinent to note that much of the casework which comes through our Legal and Investigations department has an 'education theme'.

In May 2012, a detailed advice paper was prepared for the Minister for Education in response to his summary of key proposals to progress legislation following the 'Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion'. The Department of Education provided a very detailed response to the paper, following which NICCY then met with the Minister on two occasions to discuss SEN and inclusion issues. Our Chief Executive also engaged with members of the Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance (CDSA) to discuss the Department's SEN and inclusion proposals and led a joint meeting between the CDSA, the NI Human Rights Commission, the Equality Commission for NI, NICCY and the Education Minister. Following representations to the Department by NICCY, the Minister subsequently amended several aspects of the proposals.

In August, the Commissioner, Chief Executive and staff participated in a roundtable meeting with the independent panel chaired by Sir Robert Salisbury, appointed by the Minister to review the current Common Funding Scheme, in order to provide advice and represent areas of concern.

A meeting was convened with the Chief Executive designate of ESA in July and a detailed briefing regarding key children's rights issues arising in the proposed Education Bill, was submitted to the NI Assembly Education Committee in November 2012.

Policy advice was also provided to Government in relation to the provision of performance and other 'Information about Pupils and Schools', the 'Area Plans' for post-primary school provision issued by the five Education and Library Boards and in response to the call for evidence from the Ministerial Advisory Group on Shared Education. This was also provided in written format, at meetings and through contact with a range of stakeholders, including the Education & Training Inspectorate, on various education-related matters including 'Alternative Education Provision'/'Education other than at School', Traveller Education, and 'Priorities for Youth'.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Advice relating to policy, services and legislation on a range of matters across health, social care and safeguarding issues has been provided to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), the Assembly Health Committee and a number of key statutory agencies.

Throughout the current corporate plan NICCY has closely monitored and provided extensive advice on a number of key areas of safeguarding legislation and policy development and this has continued during the 2012-13 period. For example the reform of vetting and barring arrangements, the remit for which spans across the UK Government, the Northern Ireland Assembly

and DHSSPS and the Department of Justice respectively, has required the office to ensure timely advice is provided to a variety of decision making bodies and statutory duty bearers in relation to both the Protection of Freedoms Act (2012) and the ongoing N. I. Criminal Records Regime Review. NICCY also continues to advise on the legislation and guidance established for the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland, including in responding to draft departmental statutory guidance, particularly in relation to our concerns regarding the review of and learning from, child deaths and serious cases of harm and abuse.

In relation to the rights and best interests of Separated Children Subject to Immigration Control (SCSIC), NICCY has undertaken a range of activities to promote understanding of the circumstances faced by this vulnerable group including providing advice on a Private Members Bill on Human Trafficking, evidence to the Department of Justice concerning the implementation of the EU Directive on Human Trafficking, submitting to the DHSSPS consultation on Healthcare Entitlement for Overseas Visitors, engaging with Home Office officials on a regular basis and presenting to the newly established All Party Group on Human Trafficking. This area of work is being further developed through the commissioning of research to review law, practice and service provision in Northern Ireland with a view to exploring a model of guardianship for separated children. This work will be completed and disseminated in the 2013-14 business year.

NICCY continues to engage with departmental officials and other key stakeholder organisations regarding the proposed Mental Capacity (Health, Welfare

and Finance) Bill through its membership of DHSSPS and Department of Justice Mental Capacity Reference Groups and meetings with Departmental officials. In May 2012, the Commissioner was invited to provide oral and written evidence to the NI Assembly Health Committee to support its scrutiny of the Bill and specifically provisions for under 16s. In response to concerns raised by NICCY, the Children's Law Centre and others, the DHSSPS has continued to consider aspects of provision for children and young people and proposed a separate project to explore the issue of 'emerging capacity' in children under 16 years.

Policy advice has also been provided in relation to significant regional strategies to reform health and social care and improve health outcomes across Northern Ireland such as 'Transforming Your Care: A Review of Health and Social Care', 'Fit and Well: Changing Lives' and the ongoing 'Review of Paediatric Care'. In addition to this, advice has also been provided to the OFMDFM Committee in regard to the Historical Institutional Abuse Bill as it was progressing through legislative passage and to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for consideration during their investigation into 'Inconsistency in Child Protection'.

Department of Justice

NICCY is currently monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from the Youth Justice Review through its participation in the Youth Justice Review Stakeholder Forum, ongoing engagement with the Department of Justice and in its provision of advice to key agencies. This work is ongoing and will continue through 2013/14. NICCY continued to monitor and advise on a series of key policing and

community safety issues including 'Speedy Justice', 'Alcohol Test Purchasing', the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility, Statutory Time Limits, Delays, the use of Woodlands as a 'place of safety' and the detention of children and young people in Hydebank Wood in 'exceptional circumstances'. NICCY continued engagement with a range of stakeholder bodies including the PSNI and OPONI.

NICCY provided oral and written evidence to the NI Assembly Justice Committee on the Criminal Justice Bill, specifically on proposals regarding DNA and fingerprint retention and the potential impact on children and young people. NICCY also submitted advice regarding proposals to extend the use of live links to courts, the introduction of Youth Engagement Clinics and the Speeding Up Justice initiative.

Further:

- In addition to providing advice in relation to these four key departments, due to the importance of Welfare Reform and its impact on vulnerable children, NICCY has also provided advice to the Department of Social Development.

Department of Social Development:

NICCY commissioned two reports on the issue of Welfare Reform. Our Legal and Investigations department then produced a written evidence paper for the Department of Social Development Committee which was later presented by NICCY in the evidence session. Following this, NICCY were invited to tender written evidence to the Ad Hoc Committee on conformity with Equality and Human Rights Requirements. We also engaged with the NGO sector via the Welfare Reform Group hosted by the Law Centre.

NICCY appreciates the potential adverse impacts on children and young people by benefit reform on increasing child poverty and has been engaging with decision makers on the issues. (*see also Research Reports: A Summary*). Following release earlier in the year on Westminster constituencies 'worst affected' by levels of poverty and deprivation, NICCY began a series of meetings with the relevant MPs in West and North Belfast and Foyle. Such engagement will continue as work to address child poverty carries forward into the next business year.

NICCY is also finalising two budget analysis projects this year, focusing on the specific areas of 'tracking' expenditure on children and young people in NI and on the follow up to NICCY's report on UK comparative expenditure across the UK.

3. Challenging Breaches in Children's and Young People's Rights

Active casework is a key function of NICCY's Legal and Investigations department, which aims to safeguard and promote children's and young people's rights, intervening where necessary and appropriate, in line with our legislative remit. In our work we continue to highlight breaches of their rights, identify gaps in service provision and scope 'child rights abuses' to inform NICCY decision making.

This year we dealt with 373 new enquiries along with 98 enquiries from last year which were 'carried over' as they were still 'live' and necessitated ongoing action. In total 338 matters were resolved and closed. An evaluation of casework carried out showed a 91% satisfaction rate amongst service users. Interestingly, almost all clients who

were not satisfied were dissatisfied with our remit rather than our service. For example many parents felt we should be able to deal with private law family cases around contact and residence, however this falls outside our remit as we can only deal with complaints in relation to 'relevant authorities'. The review of NICCY's legislation also addresses the 'limitations' and 'duplication clauses' contained therein which we hope will be given due weight and consideration by OFMDFM.

During the business year NICCY made a number of interventions in legal cases in respect of child rights issues. Particular areas of concerns were the right to privacy in youth justice proceedings, including the matter of reporting restrictions in the youth justice system and young people's right to be heard in ongoing court proceedings concerning them. These interventions focused on rights 'arguments' based on the UNCRC and other international instruments.

NICCY was able, in line with its legal funding criteria, to provide such support in a number of cases for children and young people, enabling them to have legal redress in relation to breaches of their rights. This included a number of leave applications for judicial review, based on perceived irregularities in suspensions procedures, as well as the lack of the voice of the child in the process.

We also provided legal advice and support at our four legal outreach 'clinics', held with groups of marginalised children and young people including young people with SEN, homeless young people, and young people from the LGBT community. NICCY currently still has an ongoing intervention in a case before the European Court of

Human Rights (ECtHR) and another with the High Court.

4. Participation and the Voice of Our Children and Young People

NICCY believes in the importance of promoting the participation and the 'voice' of children and young people in its work. Integral to this is our 'Children and Young People Screening tool', where each programme of work is 'screened' at the outset to ascertain if/where they need to/should be included. For example we have commenced the plan for engagement with children and young people on the issue of 'Age: Goods, Facilities and Services' which will be rolled out in the 2013/14 Business Year.

The NICCY Youth Panel plays a key role in advising and working with the Commissioner and her staff in a range of ways. Over the year they have been involved in influencing our work by:

- Acting on a shared education advisory group;
- Running NICCY's Participation Awards (including being on the judging panel);
- Sitting on recruitment panels for staff;
- Meeting visiting international delegations and guests; and
- Supporting the Commissioner and staff at events including Belfast Mela and Pride.

Participation Awards

Such good practice is echoed in the Commissioner's Participation Awards, which aim to support government departments in not only working towards this, but to identify good practice already in place by departments and their agencies.

Through our Participation Awards, a group of eight young people from our Youth Panel were involved in developing criteria for successful participation with children and young people by Public Bodies. Eight organisations received awards in two categories:

1. Putting young people at the forefront; and
2. Creating space for young people in decision making.

The panel was involved at all stages of the project, from designing the application process to scoring applicants. Recipients and government ministers were invited to attend an event to showcase and celebrate examples of good practice in participation to encourage others.

"Our involvement in this project has been recognised by the Chief Executive and we can see there is an important role to engage with young people who are one of our main demographics to target and listen to."

Translink – Gold Award Winner 'Putting Young People at the Forefront'

The work of the Awards Panel has been very significant in this process. They developed expertise both in theories of participation and by looking at case studies of successful projects.

"The event and its content has helped to provide input to thinking on how best to promote and encourage effective engagement of children and young people in the policy process. Within the region, there is now a better understanding of the rationale for the engagement of children and young people in the policy process. There is however a continuing need to

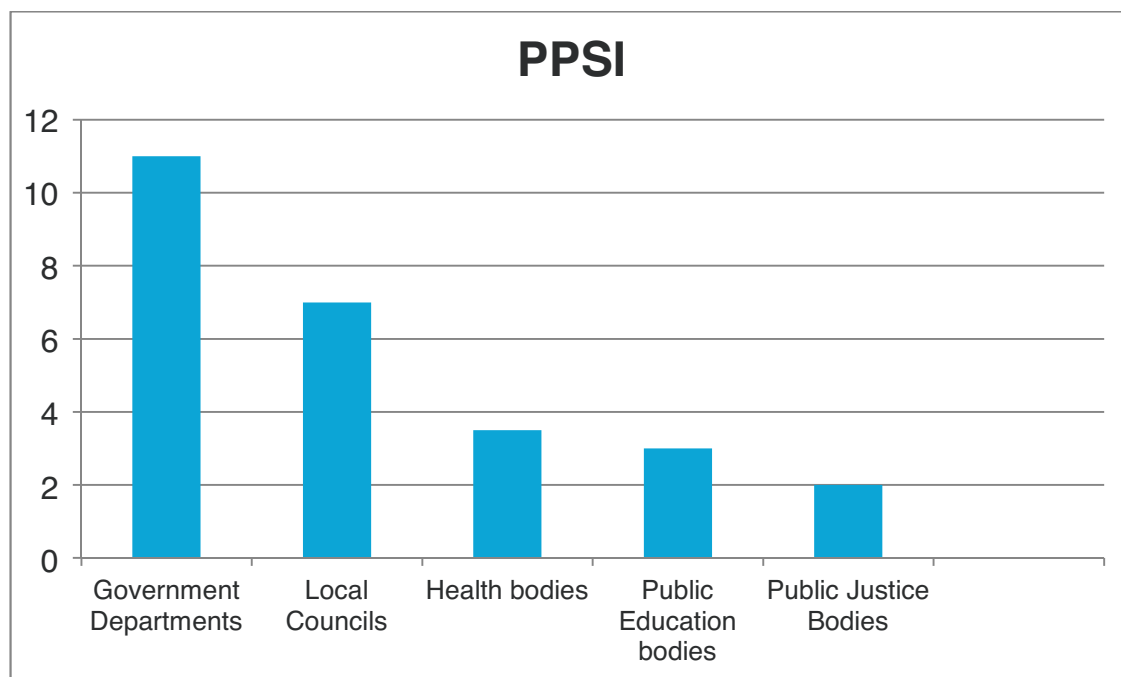
ensure policy officials know how to do this. The Participation Awards showed what can be achieved.”

OFMDFM Children and Young People’s Unit Spokesperson

Participation Policy Statement of Intent (PPSI)

11 out of our 12 Government Departments have endorsed the ‘Participation Policy Statement of Intent’ (PPSI) and all 12

provision of our UNCRC / Children’s Rights Training and the development of an overarching evaluation strategy to identify the short and long term benefits and impact of engaging with children and young people. This year an additional eighteen public bodies endorsed the PPSI, seven local councils, six public health bodies, three public education bodies and two public justice bodies.



departments have now completed a ‘Participation Review’ questionnaire. By public bodies endorsing the PPSI and completing the follow up questionnaire, this will enable us to get a real understanding of the levels and methodologies of participation in the public sector. It will help us identify and explore further the positive impact of their engagement with children and young people in the development of policies and practices.

Recurring recommendations include the need for appropriate staff to benefit from the

5. Impact and Corporate Performance

NICCY has strengthened its focus on ‘impact’ and corporate performance throughout the year, as is evident throughout this report.

Review of Legislation

In accordance with Article 24 of the 2003 Order the Commissioner undertook a (second) review of the legislation which governs the office in 2012/13. Professors Brice Dickson and Barry Fitzpatrick undertook this review of the legislation and

produced a report for the Commissioner based on a desk based review of the workings of the legislation, meetings with key staff in NICCY, meetings with the Commissioners in other jurisdictions and a meeting with representatives of the children's sector in Northern Ireland. Having received this report the Commissioner will consider the recommendations therein and will produce her own report to government in the 2013/14 business year.

Further work to enhance impact and corporate performance has included the following:

Brand Review

As part of a timely communications review on the Commissioner's 'brand', a report was commissioned on the organisation's corporate identity and brand awareness. The review addressed the current effectiveness, awareness and impact of the brand and produced recommendations on how this can be built upon. The report concluded, following an extensive examination of options, that the brand required updating and a 'strengthened' corporate identity and brand was produced. This will be implemented and rolled out in the 2013/14 business year.

Measuring online 'traffic'

In line with best practice the Commissioner has always evaluated her communications activity. This was further developed in the 2011-12 business year and was refined in order to provide further measures of impact.

One example was the introduction of 'Evaluate' software, to enable greater

tracking of media coverage on either individual activities or over a specified period of time. Communications staff have increased their understanding of Google Analytics to measure and assess visits and activity on the corporate website. In addition the Twitter feed and the in-built capabilities of the E-zine software were also used to track the use of these and resulting visits to the corporate website.

This, and regular tracking of the NI Assembly website for relevant issues and mentions of the Commissioner, means that on a monthly basis the Senior Management Team have a bespoke report on media, online and relevant political activity.

Corporate Governance

"The system by which organisations are directed and controlled" (Cadbury)

As a result of the initial strategic and operational review conducted by the Chief Executive during her first year, corporate governance, performance management and new work practice systems have been developed / updated / implemented.

The frameworks and supporting systems put in place are vital in NICCY, to ensure confidence in our financial systems, reporting, management, human resources, policies and procedures, work practice, administration, and strategic and operational planning. NICCY Staff have worked hard and are to be commended for their contribution to improving impact, focus on outcomes and corporate performance, thereby enhancing our effectiveness and efficiency.

Senior Management Team

NICCY has a Senior Management Team (SMT) comprised of the Chief Executive and the Heads of Legal and Investigations, Policy and Research and Communications and Participation. SMT has clearly defined terms of reference and conduct meetings on a regular basis, working to realise corporate and business organisational objectives in line with the legislative remit and function of the office.

Audit and Risk Committee

NICCY has an established Audit and Risk Committee, which is an independent advisory committee with no executive functions. The committee provides an independent oversight function to our work, and supports the Commissioner in discharging her role in relation to managing risk, internal control and corporate governance. This is managed by carrying out an independent appraisal of these areas and advising on the adequacy of procedures and processes in place and assurances received. The committee normally meets four times a year. The agenda and papers are circulated to members before meetings and minutes are taken of the committee's discussions, decisions and actions. Thanks are due to the outgoing committee comprised since June 2010 of the Chair, Mr Bob McCann, and members Ms Danielle McWall and Ms Julie Erskine. Our new incoming ARC Committee comprises Julie Erskine as the new Chair and new members, Mr Joe Campbell and Mr JP Irvine. We are delighted to welcome them on board.

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, LEGISLATIVE - 'PESTEL' CONTEXT

Political context

NICCY's work with the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly has continued, required as we are to keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law, practice and services as they impact upon children and young people. In relation to the Executive's Programme for Government (PfG), we will continue to monitor Government's implementation of this over the lifetime of the Assembly, now extended to 2016, challenging Government when legislation, policy or services are inadequate or ineffective.

We have/will maintain our positive working relationships with individual committees of the Northern Ireland Assembly, to ensure mutual understanding of key issues affecting children and young people.

We have continued constructive working relationships with the Commissioners in England, Scotland, and Wales, as well as that with the Children's Ombudsman in Ireland. We are members of the British and Irish Network of Ombudsmen and Children's Commissioners (BINOCC). This group meets independently but is also a sub-committee of the European Ombudsmen for Children (ENOC), of which we are a member. Further information about the role of this group can be obtained on its website www.ombudsnet.org.

Economic context

Given this ongoing period of economic recession and plans to reduce public sector expenditure, we are aware of growing concerns about frontline children's services. We will continue to monitor very closely the potential impact of such cuts to ensure that provision to the most vulnerable groups of children in Northern Ireland is protected. Child Poverty continues to impact upon the life opportunities and outcomes for our children and young people. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child agree that poverty is one of the main reasons children and young people do not always realise their rights. We will continue to work closely with OFMDFM to make sure the 'level of resource' ensures NICCY is 'fit for purpose' and enabled to deliver on agreed priorities. We had also been working with other OFMDFM sponsored Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) to identify and implement efficiencies and cost savings through closer collaboration and sharing of services.

Social context

Reducing social exclusion is, as with many in NI, a priority for NICCY. Arising for example from poverty, sectarianism, racism, heterosexism and/or discrimination against those living with a disability, which is a significant reality for some of our children and young people. This requires us to ensure that consistent approaches to equality and human rights protections are our 'key drivers'. We will continue to work with our partners in the various Human Rights and Equality bodies, here and externally, to promote social inclusion.

This year NICCY has continued to work against the demonisation and/or negative

stereotyping of children and young people, with our colleagues and NICCY's Youth Panel, in support of UN Committee's 2008 concluding observations and recommendations.

Technological context

Internally NICCY is progressing a new Management Information System (MIS) which will be more 'fit for purpose' as the needs and demands on all ALBs require accurate reporting and disaggregation of data to inform 'trend analysis' and to identify gaps and emerging issues. It is hoped this will be finalised and operational in the next business year.

Externally NICCY is aware of the growing plethora of online social media and networking sites. We had therefore commissioned an 'online communications review' for NICCY to address these challenges and utilise the opportunities presented by such developments. These are in process of implementation. We appreciate that our children and young people, as well as adults, continue to engage with these new technologies, shaping how they engage and interact with each other and wider society.

As always our priority is to ensure, as far as possible, that children and young people are safeguarded and protected. We recognise also that there can sometimes be a disparity between adult and young people's understanding/use of such media. Therefore we will work with relevant agencies and experts in this area, to incorporate recommended safeguards / protections into our policies and procedures and use of same.

Environmental context

NICCY is aware that we operate in a complex environment, much of which has been highlighted already. We will continue to be aware of the various ‘environmental factors’, financial, political, social, and indeed physical, which impact on our work and assess risk accordingly. We recognise that it is good practice for us to ensure effective controls within and across the organisation.

NICCY will always strive to ensure openness, transparency and accountability as we work towards ‘Safeguarding and Promoting the Rights and Best Interests of children and young people’.

Legislative Context

NICCY was established by the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. The Order outlines NICCY’s functions, duties and powers. The Commissioner’s duties and powers are set out in the Establishing Order and may be grouped under three main areas as follows:

- Promoting Children’s and Young People’s Rights – in promoting rights, the Commissioner must communicate effectively with children and young people and their parents/guardians/carers and must raise awareness of her functions, location of her office and how she may be contacted. She is also required to seek the views of children and young people in her work.
- Advising Government on the Rights and Best Interests of children and young people – both in response to requests from Government and proactively as the

Commissioner may determine. The Commissioner bases her work on an evidential base whether through research and/or matters brought to her attention. The Commissioner has the power to undertake service reviews, general inquiries, research or investigations into issues where she believes children and young people’s rights are being adversely affected.

- Addressing Breaches of Rights / Complaints and/or taking Legal Action – the Commissioner can deal with individual complaints from children and young people, or their parents / guardians / carers about any services from ‘relevant authorities’ that impact upon those under 18 years of age or under the age of 21 for those with a disability or who are ‘care experienced’.

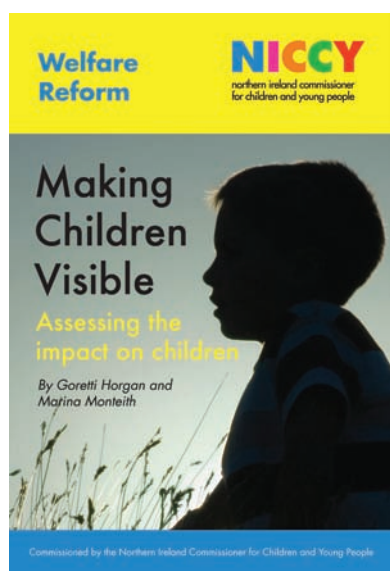
Other key areas of legislation, proposed legislation, policies and strategies as well as international recommendations such as concluding comments / general comments from the United Nations’ Committee reports, will have a major influence on the lives of children and young people within Northern Ireland. These are all areas ‘kept under review’ as statutorily required in terms of their ‘adequacy and effectiveness’.

Review of Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland

OFMDFM is required, as detailed within NICCY’s Management Statement and Financial Memorandum, to commission a comprehensive review of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland every three years. The next Review of the Office is to be conducted within the 2013-14 business year.

RESEARCH REPORTS 2012-13: A SUMMARY

One of the key ways of gathering evidence to inform NICCY's advice to government on issues affecting children's rights and best interests, is through conducting or commissioning research. Over 2012-13 NICCY launched six research reports, each with a set of focused recommendations.

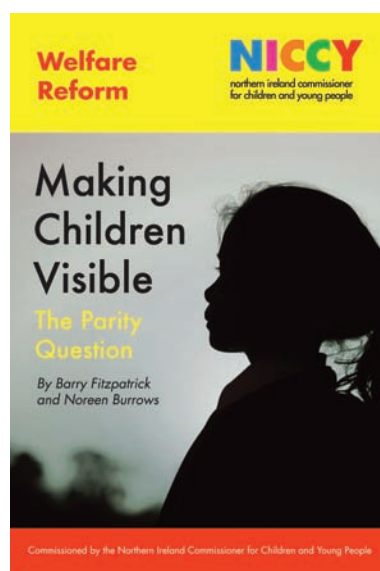


Welfare Reform: Assessing the impact on Children (April 2012), by G. Horgan and M. Monteith.

The Welfare Reform Bill contains a radical

package of reform, introducing a new integrated system of benefits, Universal Credit, as well as a range of important changes to the welfare system, including to the payment of housing benefit.

Recognising the significant impact these changes might have on children and young people, and their apparent invisibility in the debates in relation to Welfare Reform, NICCY commissioned a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) of the proposals. This reviewed both the effect of the forthcoming welfare reform changes, as well as the impact of the welfare reforms introduced since 2010 on children's right to a decent standard of living.



Welfare Reform: The Parity Question

(April 2012), by B. Fitzpatrick and N. Burrows.

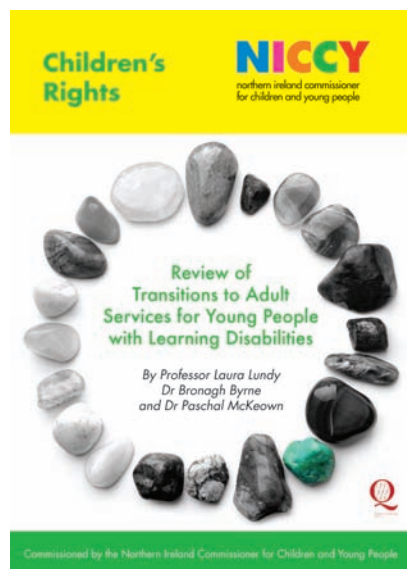
The second report commissioned on welfare reform

considered the background to the parity principle in Northern Ireland, exploring the range of arguments articulated as to the implications of breaking parity with Great Britain (GB), how these vary depending on specific policy areas in question, and the likely outcomes of breaking parity in relation to measures included in the welfare reform proposals in NI. The report reviewed a range of NI policy variations outside parity with GB, and identified the factors that would need to be taken into account when considering future variations. These were:

- Whether statutory provisions require parity;
- Whether variations from parity are desirable due to policy considerations;
- What the financial impact might be on the NI block grant and other expenditure; and
- Whether practical considerations, for example, compatibility of IT systems, preclude or limit variations from the GB systems.

The report found that, 'while it would not be practical to argue for a significantly different social security system for NI compared to GB, there is ample scope to retain existing

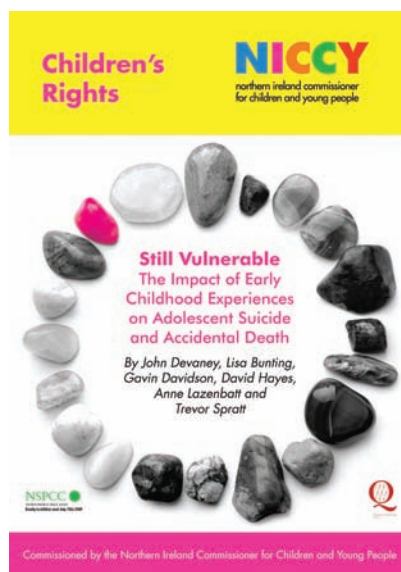
variations from the GB model and also further variations – ‘operational flexibilities’ to meet the particular circumstances of NI.’ It recommended that the NI Executive and Assembly should carefully consider preserving existing variations in welfare benefits as well as the extent to which the reforms and their implementation in NI could vary from that in GB.



Transitions to Adult Services for Young People with Learning Disabilities (September 2012), by Professor L. Lundy, Dr. B. Byrne and Dr. P. McKeown.

This scoping report, undertaken by Queen’s University Belfast in conjunction with Mencap, was commissioned in response to the ongoing concerns reported to NICCY about the transitions process for young people with learning disabilities and was published in September 2012. The Review maps current law, policy and service provision for young people with learning disabilities as they move from children’s to adult services across a range of areas including education, training, employment and health and social care. While the report did not involve empirical research, the authors did undertake a number of informal discussions with professionals, families and young people during the project. The Review found there were inconsistencies, weaknesses and gaps in the current system and highlighted that there are significant

differences in arrangements depending on the young person’s age, the school they attended, where they live and the nature of their learning disability.

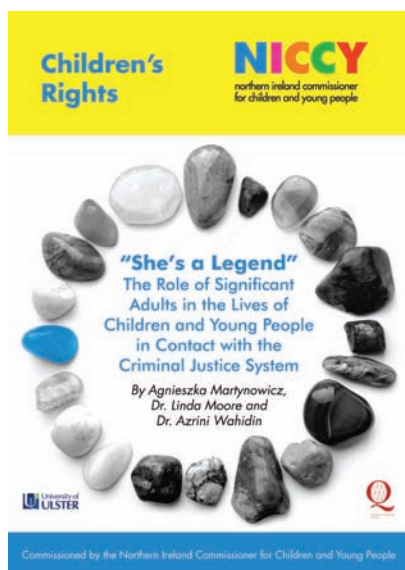


Still Vulnerable: The Impact of Early Childhood Experiences on Adolescent Suicide and Accidental Death (November 2012), by J. Devaney, L.

Bunting, G. Davidson, A. Lazenbatt and T. Spratt.

The ‘Still Vulnerable’ report, which was completed by Queen’s University Belfast and the NSPCC and published in November 2012, builds on NICCY’s work with the Health and Social Care Board and Safeguarding Board, in reviewing information concerned with the death or serious injury of a child where abuse is a known or suspected factor. This had identified a high proportion of reviews, which were undertaken following the death of a young person whether by suicide or accidental means. Still Vulnerable examined the growing evidence base on the enduring impact of adverse experiences on children’s lives and pays particular attention to the relationship between children’s exposure to multiple adversities, often experienced over a number of years, and their reduced resilience and increased vulnerability in adolescence. The research highlights that where children

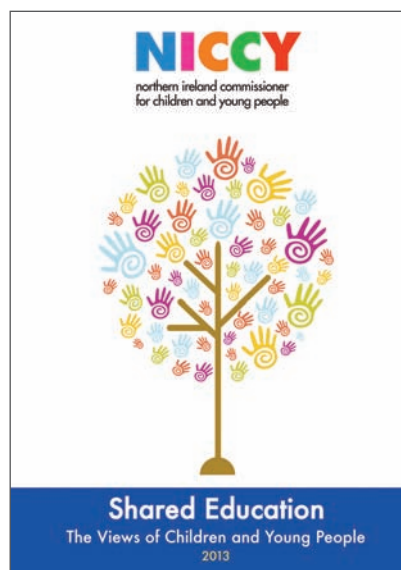
are subject to multiple adverse experiences this significantly increases risks to their physical and mental wellbeing, including risks of the worst outcome of suicide and early death in teenage years.



'She's a Legend'; the Role of Significant Adults in the Lives of Children and young people in Contact with the Criminal Justice System (December 2012), by A. Martynowicz, L. Moore and A. Wahidin.

A research project was successfully commissioned and completed by a research team from the University of Ulster and Queen's University Belfast. A report of the research findings was completed and launched in December 2012. The event was attended by 50 participants from a range of stakeholder agencies and statutory organizations and the Report was very positively received. The research provided young people who are in contact or 'at risk' of coming into contact with, the justice system, opportunities to share their experiences of the invaluable relationships with 'significant adults' in their lives and underlines the crucial importance of one-to-one support, mentoring, role models and the positive impact/s this can have on

young people's personal development, life choices and outcomes. The findings also demonstrate the vital contribution/s and roles of significant adults in supporting the implementation of the Youth Justice Review recommendations.



'Shared Education: the views of Children and young people' (April 2012), NICCY.

Following the commitment made in the Programme for Government

to establish a Ministerial Advisory Group to explore and bring forward recommendations to advance 'Shared Education' in Northern Ireland, the Commissioner offered to assist the Minister for Education by consulting with children and young people to explore their views and experiences. NICCY's intention was to seek to ensure that pupils' views were meaningfully incorporated into the Ministerial Advisory Group's report. The Minister accepted the Commissioner's offer, and NICCY therefore initiated a consultation with children and young people, conducted through surveys and focused workshops. A module of questions on shared education was commissioned by NICCY from ARK (the Queen's University Belfast and University of Ulster) for inclusion in the Kids' Life and Times and Young Life and Times surveys. Over 5,300 children and young

people completed these, providing valuable insights and perspectives. Researchers at NICCY also facilitated 38 workshops with over 750 pupils from a range of primary, post-primary, Irish medium, integrated and special schools. Pupils shared their views and experiences of shared education, offered helpful suggestions as to how shared education might be most effectively taken forward and provided feedback on area-based planning proposals.

Having published these six reports in '12-'13, we will continue to work in the final year of NICCY's Corporate Plan 13-14 to disseminate the findings and follow up on the recommendations within the reports.

Domestic, National and International Dimensions

NICCY has continued to work towards strengthening children's rights through the British/Irish Network of Ombudsmen and Children's Commissioners (BINOCC), the European Network of Ombudsmen and Commissioners (ENOC), through the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations (UN).

United Nations

Engagement has included submissions to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Children's Right to Health, UNCRC General Comment 15 on Article 24: and disseminated it to a range of key Health and Social Care stakeholders. Work is also being taken forward on General Comment 14 on Article 3, 'Best Interests' principle: work and on General Comment 17 on Article 31, 'Right to play...': where NICCY will be contributing to upcoming events in the next business

year, involving OFMDFM and Playboard and others.

NICCY has also engaged at this level in relation to its annual event in November (*see earlier*) when we had Kirsten Sandberg Member (now Chair) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child as our keynote speaker.

European Network of Commissioners

Contributions and information on children's rights related issues have also been provided to ENOC members on a range of issues including:

- Vetting and barring;
- Mental health;
- Physical punishment; and the
- 2012 ENOC Report on Youth Justice.

NICCY has also ensured we disseminated information / recommendations by ENOC to NI stakeholders as and when we received them.

Our work through European Network of Youth Advisors (ENYA) continues following work with young people involved in youth justice / care / custody settings.

Council of Europe

NICCY continues to monitor implementation of its 'Participation recommendations' by members and took part in a high level conference on 'Child Poverty and Social Inclusion' organised by one of Northern Ireland's three MEPs, this also entails ongoing liaison with colleagues in Brussels. Following on the briefing to CoE Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the 1st year of this corporate plan, (as part of its UK

country visit regarding the first round evaluation of the implementation of the CoE Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings) NICCY is taking forward work on 'separated children' (see *earlier*).

British Irish Network of Ombudsman and Commissioners

Quarterly meetings are held on a rotational basis by BINOCC members and opportunities for collaborative working is promoted. These include:

- Input in relation to children's and young people's rights and legislative developments in each jurisdiction (most recently NICCY's Annual Event);
- Joint reporting of UK Commissioners in relation to UK State Party Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- RCPCH Health Care standards in secure care;
- Immigration and asylum matters, particularly concerning separated children having provided joint evidence to the JCHR Inquiry on Separated Children earlier this year; and
- Joint delegations of UK Commissioners in relation to a range of 'common issues of concern' e.g. welfare reform proposals and the impact on child poverty.

Commissioner's Concluding Remarks

As we enter our 10th Anniversary Year, it is increasingly apparent that the evolving context in which we have been, and indeed will be working, was and will be, challenging - not least due to the impacts of economic recession.

Now more than ever it is vital that there is a strong voice for, and indeed from, our children and young people, particularly those who are most marginalised, disaffected and/or vulnerable, who will hold Government and others to account on how they deliver for/to them.

I and those within my office continue to commit ourselves to being that strong voice and to using our resources effectively to champion the rights and best interests of children and young people with Government/Government Agencies and to work with public legislators, policy makers and stakeholders in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to ensure that children and young people can live the safe, healthy and fulfilled lives we all wish to see across our society.



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
03 October 2013



REMUNERATION REPORT

REMUNERATION REPORT

Remuneration Policy

The remuneration of the Commissioner and the Chief Executive is approved by the Minister for Finance and Personnel following independent advice from the Review Body on Senior Salaries. Further information about the work of the Review Body can be found at <http://www.ome.uk.com>.

The Director of Equality and Strategy Directorate in the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister assesses the performance of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, whilst the performance of the Chief Executive is assessed by the Commissioner for Children and Young People, using the formal appraisal system adopted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The remuneration of senior civil servants is set by the Minister for Finance and Personnel. The Minister approved a restructured SCS pay settlement broadly in line with the Senior Salaries Review Board report which he commissioned in 2010. The commitment to a Pay and Grading Review for SCS was the second phase of the equal pay settlement approved by the Executive.

Service Contracts

The appointment of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is made by the First Minister and deputy First Minister under Article 5 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NI) Order 2003, and in accordance with the recruitment code of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The terms and conditions are as set out in Schedule 2 to the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NI) Order 2003.

Patricia Lewsley was appointed as Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland on 8th January 2007 for a four-year period. On 8th January 2011 she was reappointed for a further four year period.

The other members of the Senior Management Team are direct employees of the Commissioner; the appointments, which are permanent, are analogous to grades in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) with terms and conditions that are very similar but not necessarily identical to those that apply to the NICS.

Salary and Pension Entitlement (*audited*)

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the Commissioner and Senior Management.

2012-13 2011-12

Commissioner	Salary £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Salary £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)
P Lewsley (Commissioner)	80 - 85	0	75 – 80	100

2012-13

2011-12

General Management	Salary £'000	Bonus Payments	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Salary Payments	Bonus	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)
M McCafferty (Chief Executive appointed 01/02/2012)	60 - 65	0	0	05-10 (full year equivalent 55-60)	0	0
G Campbell (Chief Executive until 30/06/2011)	0	0	0	10-15 (full year equivalent 55-60)	0	0
M Kinghan (Head of Communications and Participation)	50 – 55	0	0	50 – 55	0	0
A Tennant (Head of Policy & Research)	45 – 50	0	0	45 – 50	0	0
M Simpson (Head of Legal & Casework)	50 – 55	0	0	45 – 50	0	0
Band of Highest Paid Staff Member's Total Remuneration	80 - 85			75 - 80		
Median Total Remuneration	28,433			27,115		
Ratio	2.8			2.9		

Salary

'Salary' includes gross salary; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation and any gratia payments.

This report is based on payments made by the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland and thus recorded in these accounts.

Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the HM Revenue & Customs as a taxable emolument. The Commissioner and other members of the Senior Management Team did not receive any benefits in kind during the year ended 31st March 2013.

Bonuses

Bonuses are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses relate to the performance in the year in which they become payable to the individual. The bonuses reported in 2012-13 relate to performance in 2012-13 and the comparative bonuses reported for 2011-12 relate to the performance in 2011-12.

Pension Entitlement (*audited*)

	Accrued pension at age 60 as at 31/3/13 and related lump sum £'000	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at age 60 £'000	CETV at 31/3/13 £'000	CETV at 31/3/12 *** £'000	Real increase in CETV £'000	Employer contribution to partnership pension account Nearest £100
Commissioner						
P Lewsley	0 – 5 No lump sum	0 – 2.5 No lump sum	36	13	18	0
General Management						
M Kinghan (Head of Communications and Participation)	20 – 25 No lump sum	0 – 2.5 No lump sum	408	378	7	0
M Simpson (Head of Legal & Casework)	0 – 5 No lump sum	0 – 2.5 No lump sum	46	29	12	0
M McCafferty (Chief Executive)	0 – 5 No lump sum	0 – 2.5 No lump sum	19	1	14	0

*** The actuarial factors used to calculate CETVs were changed in 2012/13. The CETVs at 31/3/12 and 31/3/13 have both been calculated using the new factors, for consistency. The CETV at 31/3/12 therefore differs from the corresponding figure in last year's report which was calculated using the previous factors.

Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Pension arrangements

Pension benefits are provided through the Northern Ireland Civil Service pension arrangements which are administered by Civil Service Pensions (CSP). Staff in post prior to 30 July 2007 may be in one of three statutory based 'final salary' defined benefit arrangements (classic, premium, and classic plus). These arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. From April 2011 pensions payable under classic, premium, and classic plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). Prior to 2011, pensions were increased in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index (RPI). New entrants joining on or after 1 October 2002 and before 30 July 2007 could choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality 'money purchase' stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account). New entrants joining on or after 30 July 2007 are eligible for membership of the nuvos arrangement or they can opt for a partnership pension account. Nuvos is a 'Career Average Revalued Earnings' (CARE) arrangement in which members accrue pension benefits at a percentage rate of annual pensionable earnings throughout the period of scheme membership. The current rate is 2.3%. CARE pension benefits are increased annually in line with increases in the CPI. For 2013, public service pensions will be increased by 2.2% with effect from 8 April 2013.

Employee contributions are determined by the level of pensionable earnings. The current rates are as follows:

Members of classic:	
Annual pensionable earnings (full-time equivalent basis)	New 2013 contribution rate before tax relief
Up to £15,000	1.50%
£15,001-£21,000	2.70%
£21,001-£30,000	3.88%
£30,001-£50,000	4.67%
£50,001-£60,000	5.46%
Over £60,000	6.25%
Members of premium, nuvos and classic plus:	
Annual pensionable earnings (full-time equivalent basis)	New 2013 contribution rate before tax relief
Up to £15,000	3.50%
£15,001-£21,000	4.70%
£21,001-£30,000	5.88%
£30,001-£50,000	6.67%
£50,001-£60,000	7.46%
Over £60,000	8.25%

Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum (but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum). Classic plus is essentially a variation of premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per classic.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of classic, premium, and classic plus and 65 for members of nuvos. Further details about the CSP arrangements can be found at the website www.dfpni.gov.uk/civilservicepensions-ni

Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the CSP arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Signed by:

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

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
03 October 2013



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under Schedule 2 11 (1) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has directed the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland and of its total comprehensive expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* and in particular to:

- Observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Accounting Officer of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has designated the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland as Accounting Officer of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's assets, are set out in *Managing Public Money NI* published by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Signed by:



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
03 October 2013



GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland (NICCY) is a Corporation Sole. The role was established under The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. The Office of the Commissioner is an executive non departmental public body funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

The Accounting Officer of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) has designated me as the Accounting Officer for NICCY. In this role I am personally responsible for propriety and regularity in the management of public funds for which I have charge and for the day to day operations and management of NICCY.

The relationship between NICCY and OFMDFM is set out in NICCY's Management Statement and Financial Memorandum (MSFM) as agreed with OFMDFM and DFP. The MSFM also sets out my role and responsibilities as Accounting Officer which include:

- Establish, in agreement with OFMDFM, the Commissioner's corporate and business plans in support of the Department's wider strategic aims and current Programme for Government objectives and targets;
- Ensure compliance with the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy;
- Ensure that a system of risk management is maintained to inform decisions on financial and operational planning and to assist in achieving objectives and targets;
- Ensure that adequate internal management and financial controls are maintained by the Commissioner, including effective measures against fraud and theft; and
- Sign the accounts and be responsible for ensuring that proper records are kept relating to the accounts and that the accounts are properly prepared and presented in accordance with any directions issued by the Ministers, OFMDFM, or DFP.

There have been no Ministerial Directions given during the period under review.

Framework / Instruments of Governance

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI).

The system of governance, internal control and risk management I have put in place is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide high and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

As Accounting Officer I retain ultimate responsibility for the organisation's system of internal control, providing clear direction and ensuring that effective risk management and governance processes are embedded throughout the organisation and that they are regularly reviewed. I am however supported by my Chief Executive Officer, Senior Management Team and Audit and Risk Committee.

I have appointed an Audit and Risk Committee who take responsibility for oversight of the risk management process. They endorse the organisation's risk management strategy/policies and review the corporate risk register to provide challenge and advice in a non executive capacity. Attendance of members for meetings held in the period under review is as follows:

- Bob McCann (Chair) 4 out of 4
- Julie Erskine (Member) 4 out of 4
- Danielle McWall (Member) 3 out of 4

The Audit and Risk Committee members undertake an annual evaluation of the committees effectiveness and performance. The Terms of Reference for the Audit and Risk Committee were reviewed, updated and agreed on 13 March 2013.

Highlights of the Audit and Risk Committee's Annual Report are set out below:

The Audit and Risk Committee commented that the present Chief Executive took up her appointment in February 2012 and with that appointment, she inherited ongoing issues which led to a very unsettled period. Several key members of staff were absent due to long term illness leading to the situation where the Chief Executive had to take on considerable extra duties and reorganise the work of the office to ensure that NICCY continued to operate efficiently and effectively throughout this period. The committee stated that it was to the Chief Executive's credit that she had ensured that the difficulties had not materially affected the workings of the office. The ARC members would however be concerned that situation would not be sustainable if it were to continue.

The Audit and Risk Committee commented that as part of the "review of shared services", NICCY (based on a business case approved by OFMDFM) agreed to vacate its former offices in Millennium House in Belfast and to move to Equality House. It was agreed, that as part of this move, NICCY was to transfer its lease to another OFMDFM sponsored NDPB. They went on to state that despite the best efforts of all concerned, all of NICCY's responsibilities under that lease have not yet been transferred, leading to a number of ongoing issues which were referred to in the NIAOs Report to Those Charged With Governance for the 2011/12. The committee stated that it may well be referred to again in the Report to Those Charged With Governance for 2012/13.

The Chief Executive of NICCY has delegated authority for day to day staff and financial management. The Chief Executive reports directly to me and is performance managed via regular 1-2-1 meetings and an annual appraisal process. The Chief Executive ensures appropriate monitoring and management of significant risks identified by SMT and oversees risk management procedures.

The Senior Management Team comprises the Commissioner, Chief Executive, Head of Communications and Participation, Head of Legal and Casework and Head of Policy and Research. The Senior Management Team is responsible for exercising management of the Commissioner's functions and activities, leading on and delivering my strategic vision, policies and services to the public and other stakeholders. Terms of Reference have for SMT been agreed and have been updated during the period under review. The Senior Management Team has formal meetings twice every month that are chaired by the Chief Executive.

These meetings are the forum where consensus is sought, however ultimate decision making responsibility resides with myself. No strategically important decisions can be made without my approval. There has been a 70% attendance rate for SMT meetings held in the period under review.

It is the role of the Chief Executive to line manage Heads of Department effectively, to ensure that their respective outputs are of a high standard. This is achieved via the performance management and evaluation framework that is in operation, regular 1-2-1 meetings, quarterly assurance statements provided by the Heads of Departments and the annual appraisal process. I am content that these systems and processes are working effectively and as a result I am satisfied that the quality of data and information provided by my Senior Management Team, upon which I base my decisions, is of a high standard.

The Chief Executive has recently conducted a strategic and operational review of NICCY. The majority of recommendations from this review were implemented in the period under review with those outstanding scheduled to be rolled out in the 2013-14 business year.

The Senior Management Team meet formally with members of their own respective teams to steer and lead on strategically important areas of work at a departmental level.

A “Whistle Blowing” Policy is in place for concerns where the interests of the Commissioner’s office itself are at risk. This policy has been developed to support staff, including myself, in raising any serious concerns they may have, and provides a reporting framework and reassurance to staff that they will not be victimised as a result of using this policy.

Finally as Accounting Officer I am cognisant of the document “Corporate Governance Code in central government departments: Code of good practice.” In discharging my duties in relation governance within NICCY I have been in full compliance with the guidance in the period under review.

Capacity to Handle Risk

As Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland, I have developed a robust structure and system for overseeing the risk management process within NICCY and for ensuring that objectives and risks have been identified alongside a range of organisational controls to manage and mitigate these risks.

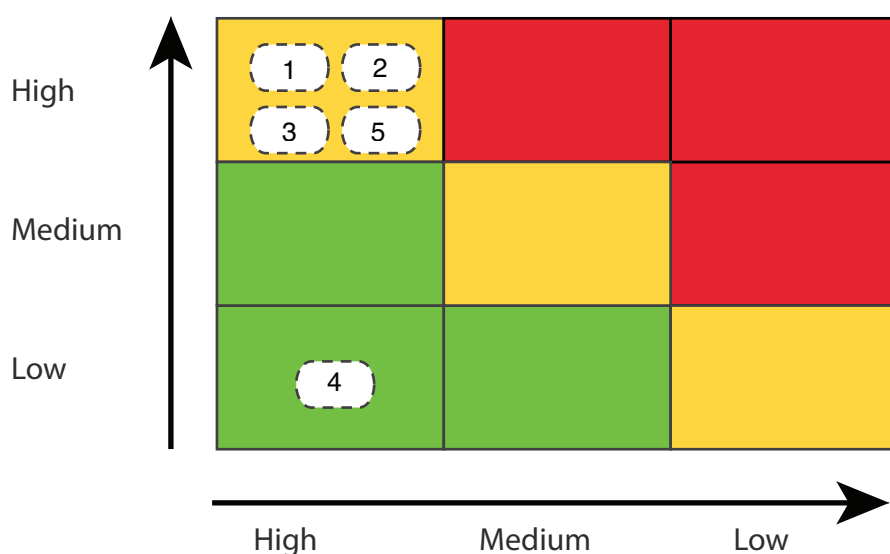
Key members of the senior management team and other staff members have been trained in risk management best practice to identify and assess risks which might impact on corporate or business plan objectives.

A Risk Management Policy and Corporate Risk Register is in place to define NICCY’s system for managing risk. The corporate register includes for each identified risk, the risk rating, business implications, controls and responsible owners and details any further action required to fully manage each risk. NICCY’s Audit and Risk Committee has oversight of the initiatives taken by executive officers to promote risk management throughout the organisation. Risk management is a standing agenda item at senior management team meetings and I meet monthly with members of my senior management

team to review and update NICCY's risk management processes and the corporate risk register. Alongside the corporate risk register, each department within NICCY has its own specific risk register which is reviewed on a monthly basis as a regular agenda item at departmental team meetings. The departmental risk registers link directly with the corporate risk register and business plan. The corporate risk register details the following key business risks:

- Failure to deliver on agreed Corporate and Business plan objectives due to the absence of staff, under performance, industrial action and/or failure to recruit and retain appropriately skilled staff;
- Failure to ensure effective systems, internal controls and ICT protocols are in place and are being implemented, including business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements;
- Failure to protect the reputation of NICCY;
- Failure to maintain and further develop best practice governance arrangements to maximise efficient, effective and economical use of NICCY resources in order to deliver corporate and business objectives; and
- Failure to adequately manage necessary changes in respect of required savings / cuts to annual budget.

When plotted on to the heat map according to residual controlled risk, these risks result in an organisational risk profile as follows:



Specific controls in place and further actions required are contained within NICCY's Corporate Risk Register.

I report on risk management to OFMDFM on a quarterly basis and keep OFMDFM apprised of any changes and/or developments to the Corporate Risk Register. OFMDFM has also designated a liaison officer who attends each quarterly meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. I confirm that I have reviewed the governance, internal control and risk management arrangements which are operational within NICCY.

My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- The work of the Internal Auditors as part of the annual internal audit cycle;
- The work of the Northern Ireland Audit Office and comments made by them in their Report to Those Charged with Governance;
- The work of the Audit and Risk Committee including observations made and advice given at ARC meetings throughout the year; and
- The quality, timeliness and relevance of outputs from the Chief Executive and Heads of Department within the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland throughout the year;

The progress observed in the implementation of recommendations stemming from various reports throughout the year and subsequent analysis of observed progress against expected.

The Internal Audit annual assurance report in respect of the year ended 31 March 2013 provided an overall level of assurance of Substantial in relation to the adequacy of the systems of control in place within the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland and their operation throughout the period under review. The areas under review for year 2012-13 were as follows:

Audit Area	Assurance Rating
Procurement	Substantial
Legal Processes	Satisfactory
Stakeholder Engagement	Substantial
Research	Substantial

Whilst there have been no significant issues arising in the period under review. An action plan has been drawn up to address all weaknesses identified during the audit processes and I have given priority to improving the internal control environment and will ensure that all recommendations are implemented accordingly. Updates on the implementation of

audit recommendations are provided to the Department via quarterly Stewardship Statements.

Information Security Risk Management

In business year 2011-12 NICCY received, as part of work carried out by its Internal Auditors, a limited level of assurance in respect of Data Protection and Freedom of Information. Since then NICCY has worked closely with the Internal Auditors to address the issues that were raised in their report. A follow up review in March 2012 showed that all of the issues originally identified, had been addressed and a number of changes to NICCY's internal policies and procedures had also been implemented in order to strengthen their overall assurance rating.

This work has been further reinforced by a recent visit from the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) where our data protection practices and in particular, the security of personal data and records management were looked at in detail. The ICO confirmed that NICCY had good practices within the office and were encouraged to see that NICCY were particularly cognisant of their data protection and records management responsibilities. The ICO also noted that NICCY had good internal policies and procedures including a clear data protection policy and a comprehensive information security policy that links to other information security related policies.

I can confirm that in 2012-13 there were no lapses in data security.

Review of my own effectiveness

In order to review and ensure my own effectiveness as Accounting Officer I go through an annual appraisal process with the Director of Equality and Strategy Directorate within the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. This meeting provides an opportunity for the Department to raise any issues in relation to my performance and if necessary put in place arrangements to address any problems. No issues were raised in my most recent appraisal.

Furthermore, I have quarterly accountability meetings with officials from the Department. In preparation for these meetings a checklist of NICCY's governance and risk management arrangements will have been completed to inform discussions at these meetings. During the four meetings held in the period under review there were no exceptions or issues noted.



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
03 October 2013



THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 March 2013 under the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. These comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My responsibility is to examine, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my certificate.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on Regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on financial statements

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's affairs as at 31 March 2013 and of the net expenditure, cash flows and changes in taxpayers' equity for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's directions made under the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003; and
- the information given in the Director's Report and the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with Department of Finance and Personnel's guidance.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kieran J Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'K' and 'D'.

*KJ Donnelly
Comptroller and Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1EU
07 October 2013*



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	Notes	2012-13 £	2011-12 £
Expenditure			
Staff Salaries and Commissioner's Fees	2	(1,065,837)	(957,999)
Operating Costs	3	(275,924)	(555,424)
Programme Costs	4	(128,271)	(119,344)
Depreciation & Amortisation	5, 6	(103,059)	(121,263)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Expenditure before Loss on Disposals		(1,573,091)	(1,754,030)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Expenditure		(1,573,091)	(1,754,030)
		<hr/>	<hr/>

All amounts above relate to continuing activities.

	2012-13 £	2011-12 £
Other Comprehensive Expenditure		
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of Property Plant and Equipment	2,869	2,223
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of Intangibles	71	236
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Comprehensive Expenditure	(1,570,151)	(1,751,571)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The notes on pages 67- 84 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

	Notes	2013 £	2012 £
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant & equipment	5	85,425	163,010
Intangible assets	6	4,198	2,197
Total non-current assets		89,623	165,207
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	8	1,331	175
Other current assets	8	15,800	54,234
Cash & cash equivalents	9	96,661	147,560
Total current assets		113,792	201,969
Total Assets		203,415	367,176
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	(24,755)	(78,831)
Other liabilities	10	(81,158)	(114,692)
Total current liabilities		(105,913)	(193,523)
Non-current assets plus net current assets less current liabilities		97,502	173,653
Assets less liabilities		97,502	173,653
Taxpayers' Equity			
General Reserve		82,150	161,241
Revaluation Reserve		15,352	12,412
		97,502	173,653

The financial statements on pages 62 – 66 were approved by the Commissioner:

The notes on pages 67- 84 form part of these accounts.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia Lewsley-Mooney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
03 October 2013

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	Notes	2012-13 £	2011-12 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net deficit after interest		(1,573,091)	(1,754,030)
Adjustment for non-cash transactions:			
Depreciation & Amortisation	5,6	103,059	121,263
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	5	0	0
Decrease/(increase) in trade receivables	8	37,278	2,373
(Decrease)/increase in trade payables	10	(87,610)	73,758
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(1,520,364)	(1,556,636)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	5	(21,147)	(16,886)
Purchase of intangible assets	6	(3,388)	(3,290)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(24,535)	(20,176)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Grant-in-Aid received from OFMDFM		1,494,000	1,563,000
Net Financing		1,494,000	1,563,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(50,899)	(13,812)
Cash and Cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	9	147,560	161,372
Cash and Cash equivalents at the end of the period	9	96,661	147,560

The notes on pages 67- 84 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN TAXPAYERS' EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	Revaluation Reserve £	SoCNE Reserve £	Total Reserves £
Balance at 01 April 2011	9,953	352,271	362,224
Changes in Taxpayers' Equity 2011-12			
Grant-in-Aid received from Parent	0	1,563,000	1,563,000
Comprehensive Expenditure for the year	2,459	(1,754,030)	(1,751,571)
Movements in Reserves	2,459	(191,030)	(188,571)
Balance at 31 March 2012	12,412	161,241	173,653
Changes in Taxpayers' Equity 2012-13			
Grant-in-Aid received from Parent	0	1,494,000	1,494,000
Comprehensive Expenditure for the year	2,940	(1,573,091)	(1,570,151)
Movements in Reserves	2,940	(79,091)	(76,151)
Balance at 31 March 2013	15,352	82,150	97,502

The notes on pages 67- 84 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 11 (1) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and in accordance with the 2012-13 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context.

Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

1.1 Accounting Convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

1.2 Funding

The activities of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland are fully funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. Income from other sources is immaterial. Permission must be sought from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister before non-grant income can be applied to the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's activities. Non-grant income for which departmental approval to use is not forthcoming is surrendered to the Consolidated Fund.

Grant-in-Aid received, used to finance activities and expenditure which support the statutory and other objective of the Commissioner for Children and Young People are treated as financing. It is credited to the General Reserve because it is regarded as contributions from a controlling party.

1.3 Expenditure

All expenditure on goods and services fall within the ambit of the Grant-in-Aid and complies with the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's Financial Memorandum and government purchasing requirements.

1.4 Property, Plant and Equipment

The property, plant and equipment additions are fully funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

The cost of all property, plant and equipment has been restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end. The revaluation surplus or loss, net of the corresponding adjustment to accumulated depreciation, is credited to the revaluation reserve.

A capitalisation threshold of £500 is applied.

1.5 Intangible Assets

The intangible asset additions are fully funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

The cost of all intangible assets has been restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end. The revaluation surplus or loss, net of the corresponding adjustment to accumulated depreciation, is credited to the revaluation reserve.

A capitalisation threshold of £500 is applied.

1.6 Depreciation and Amortisation

Depreciation and Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset evenly over its expected life as follows:

- Furniture and Fittings 10 years
- Fixtures 10 years
- Office Equipment 3 years
- IT Equipment 3 - 4 years
- Intangibles 3 - 4 years

1.7 Financial Instruments

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand.

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables do not carry any interest and are recognised and carried at the lower of their original invoiced value and recoverable amount. Provision is made when there is objective evidence that the asset is impaired. Balances are written off when the probability of recovery is assessed as being remote.

Trade and other payables

Trade payables are not interest bearing and are stated at their nominal value.

1.8 Pension Costs

Past and present employees are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI). The defined benefit scheme is unfunded and is non-contributory

except in respect of dependants' benefits. The Commissioner for Children and young people for Northern Ireland recognises the expected cost of these elements on a systematic and rational basis over the period during which it benefits from employees' services by payment to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payments of future benefits is a charge on the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI). In respect of the defined contribution schemes, the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland recognises the contributions payable for the year.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up-to-date actuarial valuation was carried out on 31 March 2010 and these details are available in the PCSPS (NI) resource accounts.

1.9 Value Added Tax

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is not registered for VAT.

1.10 Investments

The Commissioner does not undertake any investment activities.

1.11 Inventories

The value of inventories of consumables is immaterial and the Commissioner does not attribute a value for inventories in the accounts.

1.12 Operating Leases

Operating Lease costs are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure as incurred over the period of the lease.

1.13 Operating Segments

The Accounting Officer considers the Commissioner for Children and Young People as one operating unit in making decisions. Management information is generated on a holistic basis for the organisation.

1.14 Staff Costs

Under IAS19 Employee Benefits, all staff costs must be recorded as an expense as soon as the organisation is obliged to pay them. This includes the cost of any untaken annual leave and flexible time owed as at the year end.

1.15 Provisions

The Commissioner for Children and Young People makes provision for liabilities and charges where, at the Statement of Financial Position date, a legal or constructive liability exists (that is a present obligation from past events exists), where the transfer of economic benefits is probable and a reasonable estimate can be made. Where the time value of money is material, the provision is discounted to its present value.

1.16 Adoption of new and revised standards

Management has reviewed new accounting standards that have been issued but are not yet effective, nor adopted early for these accounts. Management consider that these are unlikely to have a significant impact on the accounts in the period of initial application.

2. Staff numbers and related costs (including Commissioner)

	2012-13	2011-12
	£	£
Commissioner Fees	108,430	98,712
Staff Salaries	957,407	859,287
	<u>1,065,837</u>	<u>957,999</u>

2(a) Commissioner Fees

	2012-13	2011-12
	£	£
Commissioner Fees	80,361	79,566
Social Security Costs	8,884	8,719
Pension Costs	19,185	10,427
	<u>108,430</u>	<u>98,712</u>

2(b) Staff Costs including Commissioners Fees

			2012-13	2011-12
	Total	Permanent staff	(Agency & seconded)	Total
	£	£	£	£
Wages and Salaries	845,379	822,136	23,243	785,466
Social Security Costs	68,720	68,720	0	58,255
Other Pension Costs	151,738	151,738	0	114,278
Total Net Costs	<u>1,065,837</u>	<u>1,042,594</u>	<u>23,243</u>	<u>957,999</u>

Pension Arrangements

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS(NI)) is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but the Commissioner for Children and young people for Northern Ireland is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. A full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2010. Details can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation (www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk).

For 2012/13, employers' contributions of £151,738 were payable to the PCSPS(NI) (2011/12 £114,278) at one of three rates in the range 18.0 to 23.5 per cent (2011/12: 18.0 to 25.0 per cent) of pensionable pay, based on salary bands.

The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. No employees of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland took up this option.

No employees retired early on ill-health grounds during 2012-13.

The Commissioner's salary includes taxable benefits in kind but does not include a performance related bonus in accordance with the Commissioner's contract. The Commissioner is a member of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) on the same basis as all other members of staff. At 31 March 2013 the Commissioner has served 27 months of her second 4 year term. At the year-end she would have been entitled to compensation for premature loss of office amounting to the equivalent of 6 weeks gross salary.

2(c) Average Number of Persons Employed

The average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed during the year was as follows:

			2012-13	2011-12
	Total	Permanent staff	(Agency & seconded)	Total
	£	£	£	£
Commissioner	1	1	0	1
General	19.5	18.5	1	20.5
Management	4	4	0	3.5
	24.5	23.5	1	25.0

2.1 Reporting of Civil Service and Other compensation schemes – exit packages

There were no redundancy or other departure costs paid by NICCY for the year ending 31 March 2013.

3. Operating Costs

	2012-13	2011-12
	£	£
Rentals under operating leases	66,584	246,855
Service Charge	7,492	39,060
Rates	28,842	66,938
Electricity	9,944	21,259
Cleaning	0	5,881
Travel & Subsistence	10,476	7,452
Staff Recruitment	7,278	4,619
Staff Training	13,137	21,345
Postage	1,774	2,983
Telephones	9,132	19,750
Hospitality	298	206
Audit – external	11,295	12,230
Insurance	689	1,994
Miscellaneous	7,975	8,843
Office Consumables	8,427	11,585
Annual Contracts	62,860	49,996
Legal Costs	1,332	14,550
Corporate Services	28,389	19,878
	<u>275,924</u>	<u>555,424</u>

4. Programme Costs

	2012-13 £	2011-12 £
Communication & Participation	43,052	39,138
Legal & Casework	35,567	38,778
Policy & Research	49,652	41,428
	<u>128,271</u>	<u>119,344</u>

5. Property, Plant & Equipment

	Information Technology	Office Equipment	Furniture	Fixtures	Total 2013
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£	£
At 01 April 2012	138,189	93,066	109,832	808,364	1,149,451
Additions	20,620	0	527	0	21,147
Disposals	(33,298)	(53,649)	0	0	(86,947)
Revaluation	15,098	841	1,913	13,656	31,508
At 31 March 2013	140,609	40,258	112,272	822,020	1,115,159
Depreciation					
At 01 April 2012	134,634	91,309	82,555	677,943	986,441
Charged in year	7,289	883	11,227	82,202	101,601
Disposals	(33,298)	(53,649)	0	0	(86,947)
Revaluation	14,561	833	1,438	11,807	28,639
At 31 March 2013	123,186	39,376	95,220	771,952	1,029,734
Net Book Value at 31/03/13	17,423	882	17,052	50,068	85,425
Net Book Value at 31/03/12	3,555	1,757	27,277	130,421	163,010
Asset financing:					
Owned	17,423	882	17,052	50,068	85,425
Financed Leased	0	0	0	0	0
On-balance sheet PFI contracts	0	0	0	0	0
Net book value at 31/03/13	17,423	882	17,052	50,068	85,425

During the year ended 31 March 2013, property, plant and equipment were restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end.

As at 31 March 2013 NICCY held assets with a Net Book Value of £43,014 on its balance sheet pertaining to fixtures and fittings and furniture left at the Millennium House property for which NICCY still holds the lease. NICCY is deriving no value or benefit from these assets and intends to transfer them to the new occupants of Millennium House, the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS). VSS have indicated that they will take on the fixtures & fittings and furniture assets that remain in Millennium House once the lease has been transferred to them. The accounting treatment NICCY has adopted surrounding this issue is consistent with the principles set out in the FReM pertaining to merger accounting in the public sector whereby NICCY will continue to hold the assets and depreciate them until the lease is transferred to VSS at which point the assets will be transferred to VSS at their carrying value without being adjusted to fair value.

Cost or valuation	Information Technology £	Office Equipment £	Furniture £	Fixtures £	Total 2012 £
At 01 April 2011	132,893	88,894	108,725	791,797	1,122,309
Additions	5,582	2,636	0	8,668	16,886
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation	(286)	1,536	1,107	7,899	10,256
At 31 March 2012	138,189	93,066	109,832	808,364	1,149,451
Depreciation					
At 01 April 2011	114,262	88,894	70,850	591,087	865,093
Charged in year	20,618	879	10,983	80,836	113,316
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation	(246)	1,536	722	6,020	8,032
At 31 March 2012	134,634	91,309	82,555	677,943	986,441
Net Book Value at 31 March 2012	3,555	1,757	27,277	130,421	163,010
Net Book Value at 31 March 2011	18,631	0	37,875	200,710	257,216
Asset financing:					
Owned	3,555	1,757	27,277	130,421	163,010
Financed Leased	0	0	0	0	0
On-balance sheet PFI contracts	0	0	0	0	0
Net book value at 31/03/12	3,555	1,757	27,277	130,421	163,010

6. Intangible Assets

	Information Technology Software	Software Licences	Total 2013
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£
At 01 April 2012	104,736	42,825	147,561
Additions	2,000	1,388	3,388
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluation	3,436	1,405	4,841
At 31 March 2013	110,172	45,618	155,790
Amortisation			
At 01 April 2012	103,436	41,928	145,364
Charges in year	671	787	1,458
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluations	3,394	1,376	4,770
At 31 March 2013	107,501	44,091	151,592
Net Book Value at 31 March 2013	2,671	1,527	4,198
Net Book Value at 31 March 2012	1,300	897	2,197
Asset financing:			
Owned	2,671	1,527	4,198
Financed Leased	0	0	0
Contracts	0	0	0
Net Book Value at 31 March 2013	2,671	1,527	4,198

During the year ended 31 March 2013, intangible assets were restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end.

	Information Technology Software	Software Licences	Total 2012
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£
At 01 April 2011	99,243	40,055	139,298
Additions	1,950	1,340	3,290
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluation	3,543	1,430	4,973
At 31 March 2012	104,736	42,825	147,561
Amortisation			
At 01 April 2011	99,243	33,437	132,680
Charges in year	650	7,297	7,947
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluations	3,543	1,194	4,737
At 31 March 2012	103,436	41,928	145,364
Net Book Value at 31 March 2012	1,300	897	2,197
Net Book Value at 31 March 2011	0	6,618	6,618
Asset financing:			
Owned	1,300	897	2,197
Financed Leased	0	0	0
Contracts	0	0	0
Net Book Value at 31 March 2012	1,300	897	2,197

7. Financial Instruments

As the cash requirements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) are met through Grant-in-Aid provided by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with NICCY's expected purchase and usage requirements and NICCY is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

8. Trade receivables and other current assets

a. Analysis by Type

	2012-13	2011-12
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Trade receivables	0	0
Other receivables	1,331	175
Prepayments	15,800	54,234
	<u>17,131</u>	<u>54,409</u>

Intra-Government Balances

	2012-13	2011-12
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Balances with other central government bodies	0	0
Balances with bodies external to government	17,131	54,409
	<u>17,131</u>	<u>54,409</u>

9. Cash and cash equivalents

	2012-13	2011-12
	£	£
Balance at 1 April	147,560	161,372
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	(50,899)	(13,812)
Balance at 31 March	<u>96,661</u>	<u>147,560</u>

The following balances at 31 March were held at:

Commercial banks and cash in hand	<u>96,661</u>	<u>147,560</u>
Balance at 31 March	<u>96,661</u>	<u>147,560</u>

10. Trade payables and other current liabilities

a. Analysis by Type

	2012-13	2011-12
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Taxation and social security	42,731	37,573
Trade payables	24,755	78,831
Accruals	38,427	77,119
	<u>105,913</u>	<u>193,523</u>

b. Intra-Government Balances

	2012-13	2011-12
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Balances with other central government agencies	13,295	63,780
Balances bodies external to government	92,618	129,743
	<u>105,913</u>	<u>193,523</u>

12. Provisions for liabilities and charges

There were no provisions for liabilities and charges as at 31 March 2013. At 31 March 2012 there were no provisions for liabilities and charges.

13. Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 31 March 2013. At 31 March 2012 there were no capital commitments.

14.1 Commitments under Leases

Total future minimum lease payments under operating leases are given in the table below for each of the following periods:

Buildings

	2012-13	2011-12
	£	£
Not later than one year	0	22,072
Later than one year and not later than five years	0	0
Later than five years	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>22,072</u>

Since moving to Equality House in October 2011, the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland no longer occupies Millennium House, a property for which it still holds the lease. The lease is in the process of being reassigned but until such time as the lease has been reassigned NICCY has a legal commitment to meet all costs under the terms of the lease. However, it has been agreed with the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister that any costs associated with the lease, payable after 31 March 2012, would be met by the department, currently £286,936 until the end of the lease term in May 2014. The amount of £22,072 disclosed for year 2011-12 relates to a prepayment made in year 2011-12 that relates to year 2012-13 as costs associated with the lease were paid quarterly in advance.

14.2 Finance Leases

There were no Finance Lease commitments as at 31 March 2013. Similarly, at 31 March 2012 there were no Finance Lease commitments.

15. Commitments under PFI Contracts

There were no PFI contracts as at 31 March 2013. There were no PFI contracts as at 31 March 2012.

16 Other financial commitments

There were no other financial commitments as at 31 March 2013. There were no other financial commitments as at 31 March 2012.

17. Contingent liabilities disclosed under IAS 37

There were no contingent liabilities as defined under IAS 37 as at 31 March 2013.

18. Related Party Transactions

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). OFMDFM is regarded as a related party. During the year the Commissioner had various material transactions with OFMDFM (£1,494,000) and one other body for which OFMDFM is regarded as the parent body, the Equality Commission (£141,213) of which £2,000 was outstanding at year end.

In addition, the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland has had a small number of transactions with other government departments and other central government bodies.

During the year neither the Commissioner, members of the Audit and Risk Committee, Senior Management nor other related parties have undertaken any material transactions with the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

19. Events after the Statement of Financial Position Date

There were no events after the Statement of Financial Position date up to the date of approval of these accounts impacting upon the commission.

These accounts were authorised for issue on 7 October 2013.

NOTES





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