

What now?

NICCY is asking the Government to make Advocacy Services available for children and young people with disabilities.

If you have any questions, get in touch with us:

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**You can also contact us by minicom on 028 9031 6393.
Please contact NICCY if you require alternative formats**



REVIEW OF ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS



Introduction

All children and young people have the right to say what they want and have this taken seriously when people are making decisions that affect their lives.

Having someone to speak up for you or helping you to speak up for yourself is called **Advocacy**.

What did we want to find out?

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) wanted to find out if disabled children and young people with complex needs are able to have their say, and if there is anybody who helps them to do this.

We also wanted to find out

What services are available for children and young people with disability who have complex needs to have their voice heard in decisions that affect their lives?

How did we do this?

We asked the views of:

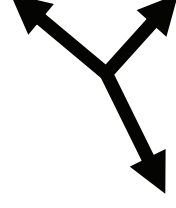
- Disabled children and young people with complex needs
- Parents and carers
- Professionals in health, education, such as teachers and social workers.

What did we find out?



Disabled children and young people with complex needs need support at different times in their lives. They need some one to tell them what services and benefits they should have and how to get these.

Children and young people living in some parts of Northern Ireland have people to help them have their say, but those in other areas do not.



Some children and young people believe their parents can speak on their behalf or help them to speak out for themselves

Things could be better if

All disabled children and young people with complex needs had someone they could rely on to help them have their say and give them information when they need it.