



# 2015

ANNUAL REPORT



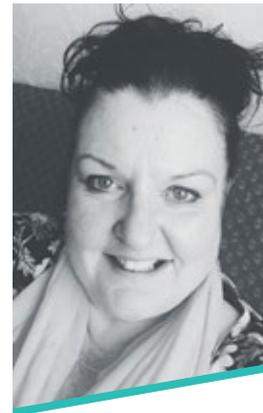
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## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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The children's sector faces huge challenges in terms of recent cuts to budgets. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind you all of the importance that Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) as an umbrella organisation plays.



**Marie Cavanagh**  
Chairperson

Firstly, in terms of building capacity within the sector, the organisation continues to develop a strong professional community of practice across the voluntary and community sector who are able to work effectively with children and young people; secondly, CiNI advocates and influences for positive change to ensure children and young people are a priority in government, highlighting emerging trends and engaging with politicians to deepen an understanding of the complex issues which children and young people face; the organisation continues to develop networks and work in partnership with others to share knowledge and collectively achieve positive social change for all children and young people. I, therefore, cannot emphasise enough that any further funding cuts will jeopardise the important work undertaken by CiNI and the rest of the children's sector today by reducing positive outcomes for those who use our services particularly children, young people and families living in some of the most disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland.

It is without doubt that the children's sector plays a critical role in the lives of children, young people and families. It is vital therefore that government continue to value and protect such services. Funding the children's sector should be seen as investing in prevention as the sector continues to deliver on early intervention and prevention at all levels.

CiNI will focus on the challenges ahead. The sector's long-term prosperity and potential will be hampered if we fail to address the level of funding cuts. We must continue to work alongside our partners across sectors (community, voluntary, statutory) and across communities to be part of the solution.

CiNI will continue to focus on areas in which we can contribute most and help to ensure positive and lasting change for all children and young people living in Northern Ireland.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

This annual report comes to you against the background of cuts to children's services, organisations that provide vital help for children, young people and their families.

Many children and young people continue to live in poverty with the 2020 statutory targets to end child poverty projected to be missed by a huge distance; youth unemployment is over 24%, underemployment of many graduates and the phenomenon of precarious work in the shape of zero hours contracts are changing the shape of the labour market, with many young people experiencing downward social mobility; children and young people are facing intense pressure and expectations through invasive aspects of the internet

and social media and mental health issues in young people are continuing to rise. These challenges continue to refocus us all in pursuit of our vision.

Our strategic vision is to make Northern Ireland a society where all children and young people are valued, treated fairly and are able to flourish. In order to achieve this vision, 2014-2015 has been a critical year. We continued to build on previous years to ensure that children and young people are firmly placed at the centre of policy making.



**Pauline Leeson**  
Chief Executive

## **Challenge inequality and facilitate the participation and inclusion of all children and young people.**

Through our work co-chairing the Child Poverty Alliance we continued to highlight the inequality faced by those in poverty. We were delighted to launch *Beneath the Surface: Child Poverty in Northern Ireland*. The publication was the result of commissioned work from experts on child poverty to highlight the extent and complexity of child poverty and inequality. Moreover, through Participation Network we continued to facilitate the participation of children and young people to ensure their voice was central in policy consultation and design.

## **Advocate and influence for positive and lasting change.**

The needs of children and young people do not simply begin and end along the lines of departmental portfolios. It is only through genuine, collaborative, co-operative and joined up working that the true opportunity to maximise scarce resources in

the best interests of children and young people can be achieved. Which is why we have been focusing our efforts this year on our Policy Calls to Action – a Statutory Duty to Co-operate and Children's Budgeting. Our work has focused on meeting with politicians, civil servants, the statutory sector and those within the community and voluntary sector to deliver a more cohesive and coherent response to policies affecting the lives of all our children and young people. We were delighted that the Children's Bill was laid before the Assembly during this period.

## **Build capacity within the children's sector through our regional learning and development programme.**

Our organisation continues to undergo a significant increase in numbers attending training and development as we continue to increase and develop the training courses we offer. During 2014/2015, over 1000 participants had completed training courses. We want to continue to create a sector which represents a strong

professional community of practice who are able to work effectively with children and young people. This volume of training represents a significant achievement against our objective to be a place where we continue to build the capacity and quality of services provided for children and young people.

**Illuminate the issues and identify evidence-informed solutions.**

Throughout 2014/2015, we provided policy briefings and responded to consultations across a range of government departments and statutory organisations on evidence-informed solutions. With our membership we will continue to innovate to find what works best for children and young people and then advocate for change. Our work will also continue as we work with members to influence government to embed the best approach to meet the needs of children and young people. Throughout the policy

section of this report you will find examples of our current work.

**Develop networks to share knowledge and collectively achieve positive social change for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.**

At a time of economic austerity, the challenge we have set ourselves is huge, but we know it is the right thing to do. It is incredibly inspiring to see the impact we can have when we share knowledge and work collectively for the best outcomes of all children. CiNI has continued to play a key role in the development of strategic relationships by co-chairing the Child Poverty Alliance, Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance, Early Years Strategic Alliance as well as positively contributing to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNi).



**Work in partnership with others to achieve our mission and vision.**

We know that to make faster progress in achieving our strategic vision, we have to work in partnership. Together we are working with government, the statutory sector, our membership and colleagues across the community and voluntary sector to ensure our work is having an impact. Last year we saw real progress in the Children's Bill being laid before the Assembly. We want to continue with our combined strength and solidarity to ensure children are kept at the heart of all policy making.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the impressive commitment, spirit and skills of CiNI Board members and staff during this year and the continued support of our funders. As we enter another year I urge you to join us in working together to achieve positive social change for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

# LEARNING



## Children's Services Training

CiNI continues to support the development of a strong professional community of practice across the voluntary and community sector who are able to work effectively with children and young people. This is done through our learning and development programme.

80 attending Designated Officer workshops.

We developed a new themed approach to training: Safeguarding, Disability and Diversity, Mental Health, Child Development and Staff Development which resulted in a noted increase in the number of applicants for all of these workshops.

## Internal Training Workshops

We have had another very busy year. During 2014/15 the training team has seen an increase in participants attending all workshops. Child protection and safeguarding workshops from Risk Assessment to Designated Officer continue to be in greatest demand with all our other workshops growing in popularity.

New subjects this year, selected after consultation with organisations and participants at training events included; Supporting Fathers, Diversity and Inclusive Approaches, Effective Communication Strategies with Children with Additional Needs, Disability Awareness, Music Therapy, Supervision for Supervisees, Youth Participation, Basic Drug Awareness, Eating Disorder Awareness, Self-Harm Awareness, The Dangers of Legal Highs, Child Sexual Exploitation, and Online Safety (CEOP). All of these subjects were very well attended and were positively evaluated.

In total 1030 participants attended training during 2014/2015. This figure includes 228 attending 11 child protection workshops and

## External Training Workshops

Demand for external training workshops has increased year on year. To facilitate this demand we delivered key workshops in venues around the country on a regular basis, continuing to meet member requests.

## Training Needs Analysis

In an effort to develop a sector wide comprehensive menu of learning and development, we conducted a Training Needs Analysis via Survey Monkey to all members. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the training offered and the quality of training delivered. Subjects requested to be included in future workshops included working to support LGBT youth and more input on children's rights. The information we have gathered will help us forecast future trends and stimulate innovation to meet the emerging needs of practitioners.

## Partnership Working

CiNI continues to support the joint working group with the Health and Social Care Trusts to drive cross-boundary training and co-operate working. We continue working in partnership with the training teams of the five trusts and Volunteer Now in relation to Keeping Safe training. We also continue to form strong links with a number of independent trainers with specific expertise

## Representation

Children's Services Training at CiNI is represented on many fora and committees including;

- » SBNI Education and Training Committee
- » BHSCT Keeping Safe Initiative, Accredited Trainer
- » Social Work Strategy, Shaping the future of the Voluntary Sector Committee
- » Social Work Strategy Implementation Group
- » NISCC Post Qualifying Partnership Committee (now PiP, Professional in Practice)
- » NISCC Evaluation Forum
- » Core Group Policy and Information Group

# INFLUENCING

CiNI continues to provide a comprehensive policy service which seeks to inform the development of public policy which impacts upon the lives of children and young people.

We also aim to influence the policy development and policy cycle agenda in a way which effectively promotes and represents the rights and needs of all children and young people in Northern Ireland. This is achieved through providing policy analysis and direction on public policy consultations, publishing policy briefings for members on important issues and hosting consultation workshops and member meetings.



## Consultations, Briefing Papers & Reports

Relaying the views of our membership to policy makers is important. Our responses to policy consultations and briefings are available to read in the Policy Section of our website. During 2014/2015 we responded to the following:

### Consultations

- » Special EU Programmes Body: European Territorial Co-operation 2014-2020
- » Department of Justice: Mental Capacity Bill (NI)
- » Department for Finance & Personnel: Draft Budget 2015-2016
- » Department of Justice: Extension of offence in Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- » DHSSPS: Active Ageing Strategy
- » Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Disability Action Plan
- » DHSSPS: Framework for Children and Young People
- » Department of the Environment: Guidance for the operation of community planning
- » Department of Justice: Draft Victim Charter
- » Office of the First & Deputy First Minister: Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People
- » Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2019/21

### Briefing Papers

- » Childcare: Bright Start
- » EU Recommendation for Investing in Children
- » Evidence to the Committee of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister on the Children's Bill
- » Evidence to the Education Committee on the SEND Bill

### Reports

- » Beneath the Surface: Child Poverty in Northern Ireland
- » UK Alliance: EU Recommendation Investing in Children
- » Supporting Parents in a Digital World
- » Whiterock Children's Centre: Evaluation of Child Poverty Conference

## European Policy Influence

CiNI are the National Network Partner for Eurochild in Northern Ireland. Highlights this year have included attending meetings with the European Ombudsmen for Children (ENOC) in Edinburgh to lobby for ENOC to conduct a study on the impact of austerity on children and young people; National Partner Meetings in Brussels; management board meetings contributing to Eurochild 5 year development plan; continuing to contribute to the publication prepared by an ad-hoc coalition of EU networks for alternative country-specific recommendations (CSRs). The National Partner Network meeting on 24th September included a roundtable on Championing Children's Rights in the European Parliament. At this event four political groups agreed to propose an Intergroup on children's rights and well-being. The Intergroup was approved on 11 December 2014 for the Parliamentary term 2014-2019. This new Intergroup aims to promote children's rights and ensure that the best interest of the child is taken into account in EU internal and external action. It will bring more visibility to children's rights and can play a key role in mainstreaming the rights of the child across the work of

the Parliament. Northern Ireland MEPs Jim Nicholson and Martina Anderson have signed up to the Intergroup.

CiNI will continue to make our voice heard, via Eurochild, pushing for more social inclusion measures and social impact assessment procedures when macroeconomic decisions are being made.

## Policy Sub-Group & Calls to Action Campaign

CiNI's Policy Sub-Group continues to provide a channel for members to share their knowledge and experience to develop positions on key policy areas. This year we have continued to focus on our Calls to Action campaign. CiNI together with several of our members presented evidence to the OFMDFM committee on the need for a Statutory Duty to Co-operate. We continued to emphasise these calls in our advocacy work holding meetings with politicians, civil servants and key stakeholders.

## Children are Unbeatable Campaign

CiNI continue to be part of the Children are Unbeatable Campaign. This Alliance is part of a UK-Wide campaign to change the law for children to have the same protection from being hit that all adults have, as well as promoting non-violent ways of managing children's behaviour. We were delighted to welcome Dr Penelope Leach – one of the world's leading parenting experts – to Belfast to offer local parents and childcare practitioners advice and guidance on positive parenting. The event was part of the Children are Unbeatable! Alliance which CiNI chairs. The event gained support from the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People.

## UK Alliance for Investing in Children

The UK Alliance is part of a wider Joint Action led by the EU Alliance for Investing in Children coalition and is made up of partners from Children in Wales, Children in Scotland, Children England and Children in Northern Ireland. At a time when more than 3.5 million children in the UK face poverty and social exclusion, the UK Alliance for Investing in Children is pushing for full implementation of the European Commission Recommendation "Investing in Children - Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage" within the UK.

This year we held a conference to highlight areas of good practice in tackling child poverty from across the UK, and discussed how to take the child poverty agenda forward in the future, thereby improving the quality of life of children and young people in the UK and Europe. The event was held in Cardiff with key note speaker The Rt Hon. Baroness Shephard of Northwold - Deputy Chair of the UK Social Mobility & Child Poverty Commission.

The UK Alliance organised a series of animation videos after workshops with children and young people. Hazelwood Integrated Primary School from Newtownabbey took part. A full set of animation videos can be seen here: [www.childreninwales.org.uk/resource/poverty-animation/](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/resource/poverty-animation/)

We were very pleased to be part of the a report which outlines the principle legislation, policies and programmes for tackling child poverty and breaking the cycle of disadvantage in the four nations that comprise the United Kingdom (UK), namely England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, and contextualises them against the poverty target within the Europe 2020 framework and the European Commission (EC) Recommendation on Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage. It also provides some examples of best practice from across the four nations as case studies, so these can be shared by partners across the UK. The report can be downloaded from the CiNI website.

## Day of Reflection: Healing Through Remembering

CiNI have been working in partnership with the cross-community organisation Healing Through Remembering (HTR) to raise awareness of the Day of Reflection. The Day of Reflection which takes place on 21st June each year provides a voluntary opportunity for everyone to reflect on the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and on the future.

It is a day to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict, to reflect on our own attitudes, on what more we might have done or might still do, and to make a personal commitment that such loss should never be allowed to happen again.

The date was chosen following thorough research into possible dates for such a day. This highlighted that there is no single date in the calendar year which is not the anniversary of the death of at least one person in relation to the conflict.

It was felt that 21 June, the summer solstice and the longest day of light, was a symbolically important day. The hours of light and dark could be seen as a symbol of the hope and pain in our society. The day's significance is related to a naturally occurring event and nature makes no distinction between races, creeds or political perspectives.

CiNI has engaged in conversations with organisations and individuals working in the children's sector and with young people themselves to discuss their perspectives on the Day of Reflection and hopes for the future.

### Summary of Activities

- » Attended 'Towards a Better Future' Conference organised by the Victims and Survivors Service, discussions with members of the victims and survivors forum, academics and other individuals in the children's sector.
- » Facilitated discussion at Methodist College Law Conference with 17 young people from various schools across Northern Ireland on issues relating to dealing with the legacy of the conflict.
- » Held meetings with FASA and the NEET Forum to discuss the Day of Reflection.
- » A page was designed on the CiNI website which was dedicated to the Day of Reflection. This outlined the reasoning behind the day and highlighted ways to get involved including resource materials.
- » A blog was also written on the Day of Reflection and placed on the CiNI website. The blog was also shared by Start 360 and Eurochild.
- » Day of Reflection leaflets are on display in the CiNI office and have also been brought out to groups participating in training.
- » More information on the Day of Reflection is available on our website: <http://www.ci-ni.org.uk/day-of-reflection>

## Child Policy Information Service

The Child Policy Information Service (CPIS) provides weekly and fortnightly briefings on policy and legislation impacting upon the lives of children and young people.

The service provides a weekly Political Update which compiles the latest news from the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive, informs on live consultations and Committee meetings, summarises press releases from all political parties and includes questions, debates and motions from Westminster. It also provides a fortnightly e-Brief which includes news, research and statistics, consultation responses, upcoming events and a political review section.

Commenting on these briefings one member said; *"The content contained in the CPIS briefings is excellent, up to date and very relevant to my work. The layout is very clear and modern and easy to access. Having sections that include analysis on current reports, policy responses, research, statistics and also a political review, is extremely*

*useful. I would like to thank CiNI for a great resource that I will use within my role, and plan to use as a tool to support the learning of the young people within the NEET Youth Forum"*

We offer a one month free trial of the service which organisations can access before committing to a yearly subscription. This provides an excellent opportunity to experience and sample the service.

The CiNI Guide to Government is an excellent tool in assisting members in their lobbying work as they can access the most up to date information on Government Ministers, Departments and Assembly Committees.

CiNI have almost 3,000 followers on Twitter and are closing in on 1,000 Facebook Likes. Our increasing profile on social media continues to play a key role in the dissemination of our work and supporting our membership. We will continue striving to increase our potential audience and ensure our key messages are heard.

## COLLABORATION

### Child Poverty Alliance

CiNI co-chair the Child Poverty Alliance with Save the Children. The Alliance has some 60 organisations that came together in 2008 to raise awareness of child poverty and to campaign to end child poverty within Northern Ireland. We are an inclusive coalition committed to a child rights, evidence based approach.

Poverty affects people of all ages, but children are the single most affected group. Children living in poverty experience deprivation, social exclusion and vulnerabilities. They face multidimensional challenges that create various life-long difficulties. Poverty also denies children their rights and weakens their

physical, psychological and intellectual development. It is against the background of a predicted sharp increase in child poverty levels by 2020 that we commissioned experts in the field of child poverty and inequality to contribute to the publication of *Beneath the Surface – Child Poverty in Northern Ireland*. The report was launched in Parliament Buildings and gained support from Gary Lightbody from Snow Patrol who wrote the Foreword.

The next year we will be focusing on producing an action plan with 'Asks' to inform government policy and priorities in the next Programme for Government.



## All Party Group on Children & Young People



**Chris Lyttle MLA**  
Chair of APG

CiNI are the Secretariat to the All Party Group on Children and Young People (APG) which is chaired by Chris Lyttle MLA. The APG provides a forum to enable cross party discussion and co-operation on issues affecting children and young people but it's also about raising the profile of children's issues and to work with the children's sector to facilitate better co-ordination on children's issues inside and outside government.

The APG this year hosted a the launch of *Beneath the Surface: Child Poverty in Northern Ireland* with representation from Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Junior Minister McCann and Education Minister O'Dowd. This created an excellent opportunity for people from all sectors to explore the complex issues surrounding child poverty and discuss the potential solutions. As part of our work on collaboration, the group also hosted a presentation by Steven Agnew MLA on the Children's Bill to introduce a Statutory Duty to Co-operate. Working closely with the children's sector, the APG received presentations from DHSSPS on childcare for children with disabilities, OFMDFM on Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People and separately on the new co-design process of the forthcoming Children's Strategy and representation from the Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner on child rights legislation.

The All Party Group for Children and Young People will continue to create opportunities to explore issues affecting children and young people and to explore solutions based on evidence informed practice.

## Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance

Children and young people with disabilities are largely invisible in many strategic policy initiatives. They tend to fall between disability services and children's services and therefore their unique and specific circumstances and needs as children with disabilities are often overlooked. This can result in children with disabilities and their families becoming invisible when key decisions are made about establishing the need for, planning and delivering services, including public services. CiNI co-chair the Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance (CDSA) together with Disability Action (NI).

This year the group launched *The State of SEN Statements: The Case for Specification and Quantification* which has received excellent reviews from parents as well as practitioners. The group also presented evidence to the Education Committee on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Bill.

## Locality Planning (Southern Area)

There are seven Locality Planning Groups working across the Southern Area including Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Dungannon, Newry (Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance), Rural Dungannon and South Armagh. A key focus of each locality group is to improve the outcomes for children and young people. Young people, parents and communities are encouraged

## Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

The CYPSP is a multiagency strategic partnership, consisting of the leadership of all key agencies across statutory, voluntary and community sectors who have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Northern Ireland. The CYPSP has been developed and supported by HSCB to support the Children's Services Planning process.

There were three meetings of CYPSP in 2014/15. These took place on 3 June 2014, 20 October 2014 and 13 February 2015. The meetings of the CYPSP looked at the following:

- » Work of the Outcomes Groups and the role of the Outcomes Groups in modelling different ways of working across agencies and sectors
- » Work of the Locality Planning Groups
- » Work of the Regional Subgroups
- » Engagement and linkages between CYPSP and Delivering Social Change
- » Engagement and linkages between CYPSP and Early Intervention Transformation Programme
- » Engagement and linkages between CYPSP and OFMDFM in developing the new Children's Strategy
- » Review of the 2011-2014 CYPSP Plan
- » Preparation of the 2014-2017 Plan
- » Children's Bill
- » Work of the Family Support Hubs
- » Update from the Children's Commissioner
- » Memorandum of Understanding with SBNI

to play an active role in both identifying and addressing local needs in partnership with statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations.

In June 2014, a new locality group was launched in Craigavon, covering the main settlements of Portadown, Craigavon and Lurgan together with the surrounding areas. The group seeks to address the main areas of need for children and young people and includes membership from local schools, voluntary organisations and statutory agencies.

In 2014, six stakeholder events were organised to give local children, young people, parents and practitioners the opportunity to have their say on the issues within their area. These views, together with statistical data, helped identify the key areas of need to be taken forward by each locality group.

One of the main objectives of this locality approach is to encourage positive working relationships between organisations to deliver better outcomes for children and young people. This is evident in the range of activities and events organised in the Southern Area over the past 12 months including 'Tooth Fairy' events, 'Risk Taking Behaviour' seminars, 'Online Reputation Matters' information sessions, 'Youth and Employability' fair, 'Music Therapy' sessions and 'Engaging Effectively with Parents' workshops.

The role of the locality groups are vital in alleviating need within local communities, especially given the impact of unprecedented budget cuts to local services and organisations. The groups provide an important mechanism through which service providers and users can work effectively, with limited resources, to bring about better outcomes for Children and Young People in the Southern Area.

## Participation Network

During the past year the Participation Network has continued to develop work in supporting a range of decision makers to engage effectively with children and young people, their parents and carers. This work is underpinned by the ASK FIRST standards, developed by the Participation Network and endorsed by the Office of the First & Deputy First Minister and the Health and Social Care Board. Examples include:

- » Producing young person friendly versions of policy documents for a range of government Departments
- » Designing and undertaking a consultation with young people on public awareness materials related to Child Sexual Exploitation for SBNI
- » Designing and facilitating a consultation with groups of young people as part of the Marshall Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation for RQIA
- » Consumer testing videos highlighting Child Sexual Exploitation with groups of young people for SBNI and Barnardo's
- » Developing a comprehensive engagement strategy for SBNI.

## Children's Order Advisory Committee (COAC)

CiNI has been represented on the Children's Order Advisory Committee (COAC) by Kathryn Stevenson, Head of Legal Services at the Children's Law Centre, throughout the reporting period. COAC Meetings were held on 16th October 2014, 15th January 2015 and 14th May 2015.

Since January 2013, COAC has been chaired by His Honour Judge Maguire, Judge of the Family Division in the High Court in Northern Ireland. At the May 2015 meeting it was announced that a new Chair will be appointed in advance of the October 2015 meeting. CiNI wishes to pay tribute to Mr Justice Maguire's leadership and commitment to protecting and promoting the best interests of children in family law practice during his tenure as Chair of the Committee.

During this reporting period, a number of key initiatives have been developed and implemented under the recommendation and guidance of COAC, as follows:

### Home on Time Regional Concurrent Planning Project

This project is one of a number which has received funding for 3 years under

the Early Intervention Transformation Programme. Concurrent planning is an alternative approach to securing permanence for a very small number of vulnerable young children in care.

### Care Proceedings Court Pilot Project commenced

The Pilot will be funded by the DHSSPS and project managed by the HSCB with the support of a multi-disciplinary Steering Group, which shall be co-chaired by the Department of Justice and the DHSSPS and will run in the Western and South Eastern Trust areas. The pilot aims to identify areas for improvement, including the need for changes in practice and any future legislative reform to minimise unnecessary delay in care proceedings.

### Use of Personal Education Plans in the family courts

COAC were asked to consider whether courts should have sight of the full PEP or if Section 7, which includes educational targets and planning for review at the LAC meeting, would be sufficient in most cases. Sample PEPs were provided by the Trusts for consideration by members of COAC. COAC agreed to adopt the use of Section 7 in Family Court proceedings.

### PSNI Guidance for service of Non-molestation Orders on Minors

COAC was previously advised that the PSNI had issued informal guidance to its officers stipulating that there should be liaison with social services prior to service of Non-Molestation Orders on minors to ensure that a social worker or appropriate adult was present when Orders were served. The PSNI had deferred issuing formal written guidance until a wider review of public protection had been completed. In the meantime, COAC wrote to the PSNI requesting that Force Service Procedures be issued without delay to ensure that young people received appropriate support when Orders were served. The PSNI have now issued new guidance and are working with the Trusts to sign off and implement new service procedures to safeguard children.

### Provision of social work assessments in relation to Bail Applications

A senior High Court Judge has requested that arrangements be put in place for social services to carry out risk assessments in some categories of criminal cases and to report to the Courts in bail applications to ensure that there is no foreseeable risk of harm to children residing at addresses which bail applicants are proposing as bail addresses. COAC asked the Trust representative to identify a mechanism for requesting reports in such circumstances. Work is ongoing in this area.

### Protocol for Concurrent Care and Criminal proceedings

COAC is considering whether this protocol should be extended to include concurrent criminal and private children's order proceedings. It is likely that a sub group of COAC will be established to take this work forward in the coming year.

### Revision of COAC Best Practice Guidance

Since December 2012, the COAC Best Practice Guide has been published on the Northern Ireland Court and Tribunal Service website. The Guidance is currently being revised and updated by an experienced family law barrister. A Review Panel has also been set up to assist with this process, which includes a member of the judiciary, a representative for the Trusts, NIGALA, the Bar Library and the solicitors profession.

The link is as follows:

[www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/Publications/Family\\_Law\\_and\\_Childcare\\_Literature/Documents/p\\_COAC\\_Best-Practice-Guide/COAC-Best-Practice-Guidance.pdf](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/Publications/Family_Law_and_Childcare_Literature/Documents/p_COAC_Best-Practice-Guide/COAC-Best-Practice-Guidance.pdf)

If you would like to know more about the work of the Children's Order Advisory Committee or wish to raise any issues with the Committee please contact Pauline Leeson at Children in Northern Ireland (Tel: 028 9040 1290) or Kathryn Stevenson at the Children's Law Centre (Tel: 028 9024 5704).

## FINANCES

### BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st  
March 2015

FIXED ASSETS	31/3/15	31/3/14
Tangible Assets	£3,391	£ 3,300
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	£154,993	£114,329
Cash at bank and in hand	£122,077	£176,992
	<b>£277,070</b>	<b>£291,321</b>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	-£43,294	£-36,616
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	£233,776	£254,705
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	£237,167	£258,005
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>£237,167</b>	<b>£258,005</b>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	£100,407	£104,846
Restricted Funds	£136,760	£153,159
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£237,167</b>	<b>£258,005</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31st March 2015

INCOMING RESOURCES	31/3/15	31/3/14
Grants Receivable	£363,167	£382,744
Other incoming resources	£83,908	£78,609
<b>Total</b>	<b>£447,075</b>	<b>£461,353</b>
RESOURCES EXPENDED	31/3/15	31/3/14
Costs of generating voluntary income	£ 20,386	£30,971
Salaries, pensions & social security	£277,932	£265,277
Insurance	£1,018	£1,118
Light and heat	£4,101	£4,099
Telephone	£5,464	£5,437
Stationery and Printing	£14,121	£9,272
Sundries	£1,296	£1,065
Training and Seminars	£6,195	£5,910
Property Rent and Upkeep	£45,441	£44,688
Room Hire and Catering	£13,472	£16,426
Postage	£3,157	£4,042
Computer Expenses	£3,853	£3,664
Motor and Travel expenses	£9,176	£11,878
Legal and professional fees	£51,718	£51,990
Bank Charges	£217	£202
Subscriptions	£478	£1,132
Internet	£5,827	£13,921
Fixtures and fittings	£233	£256
Computer Equipment	£1,308	£2,653
Auditors	£2,520	£2,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>£467,913</b>	<b>£476,401</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<b>-£20,838</b>	<b>-£15,048</b>

# CINI STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

## CINI STAFF

Pauline Leeson CBE	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Stephanie Patterson	<i>Learning &amp; Development Officer</i>
Ellen Finlay	<i>Policy Officer</i>
Roger Gowdy	<i>Finance &amp; Office Manager</i>
Melissa Adair	<i>Children's Services Training Coordinator</i>
Ruairi Rowan	<i>Policy Assistant</i>
Julie Bolton	<i>Locality Development Officer</i>
Nuala Haughey	<i>Children's Services Planning Administrator</i>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie Cavanagh	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Gingerbread</i>
Jo Marley	<i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Bryson Care</i>
Donnie Sweeney	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>NIACRO</i>
Ian Sutherland	<i>South Eastern Trust</i>	
Michelle Harris	<i>Michelle Harris</i>	
Joy Poots	<i>Inner City South Belfast Sure-Start</i>	
John Hunsdale	<i>Ascort</i>	
Muriel Bailey	<i>Parenting NI</i>	
Fionnuala McAndrew	<i>Health and Social Care</i>	
Catriona Regan	<i>Banbridge District Council</i>	



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