

Children
in Northern
Ireland



A PLAN FOR **CHILDREN,**
YOUNG PEOPLE
& **FAMILIES**

2026
▼
2031

**WHO
WE
ARE**



Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI)
is an organisation
that works to

make life better

for children, young people and families.

We work with over 130 organisations
across Northern Ireland that support children,
young people, parents and carers.

We believe children and young people should
be heard, respected and treated fairly.

*We: listen to
children and
young people*

*We: support
parents and
families*

*We: speak up
about issues
affecting children*

*We: help
organisations
work together*

*We: campaign
for change*

*We: share
information,
advice and
support*

WHY WE NEED THIS PLAN

Lots of children, young people and families in Northern Ireland are facing

difficult challenges right now

Many children are ...



... waiting too long for health or mental health support



... struggling with stress, anxiety or loneliness



... living in poverty



... worried about online safety



... finding school difficult



... unable to access the support they need

Families are also under pressure because of rising costs and long waiting lists for services.

We believe things need to change.

That is why we have created this plan for the next five years.



HOW WE CREATED THIS PLAN



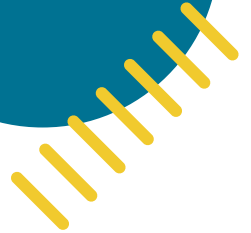
This plan was shaped by:

- CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
- PARENTS AND CARERS
- CINI STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS
- ORGANISATIONS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



We **LISTENED CAREFULLY**

to people's experiences, ideas and hopes for the future.



VISION +
MISSION



vision

**We want all children,
young people and
families to:**

- ♥ FEEL SUPPORTED
- ♥ BE LISTENED TO
- ♥ BE TREATED FAIRLY
- ♥ FEEL SAFE AND HEALTHY
- ♥ HAVE THE CHANCE TO ENJOY LIFE AND REACH THEIR POTENTIAL



VISION +
MISSION



mission

We will:



MAKE SURE
CHILDREN
AND YOUNG
PEOPLE'S VOICES
ARE HEARD



SUPPORT
ORGANISATIONS
WORKING WITH
CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES



WORK TO IMPROVE
SERVICES, POLICIES
AND SYSTEMS



STAND UP FOR
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



WHAT MATTERS TO US

EVERYTHING WE DO IS GUIDED BY OUR VALUES.
WE ARE:

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LED

We believe children have rights and should be treated fairly.

COLLABORATIVE

We work together and include others.

COMPASSIONATE

We care about people and understand that life can be difficult.

EVIDENCE INFORMED

We use research, data and lived experience to guide our work.

IMPACTFUL

We want to make a real difference.

INCLUSIVE

We want everyone to feel welcome, respected and included.



OUR

priorities

FOR 2026–2031



**OUR
PRIORITIES
FOR
2026–2031**



Empowering Children, Young People and Families

WE WILL:

- ✓ help children and young people share their views
- ✓ involve parents and carers in shaping services
- ✓ support families through Parentline NI
- ✓ create helpful resources, podcasts and workshops
- ✓ develop projects that help young people build confidence and skills

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE:

- ★ children and young people feel listened to
- ★ parents feel supported and informed
- ★ more people know where to get help
- ★ young people gain confidence and opportunities

OUR
PRIORITIES
FOR
2026–2031



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Building a Stronger Children's Sector

WE WILL:

- ✓ support organisations working with children and families
- ✓ provide training and safeguarding support
- ✓ share information and good practice
- ✓ bring people together to learn from each other

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE:

- ★ organisations feel more confident and supported
- ★ staff have better skills and knowledge
- ★ services for children improve

**OUR
PRIORITIES
FOR
2026–2031**



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Speaking Up and Creating Change

WE WILL:

- ✓ campaign for better policies and services
- ✓ use research and lived experience to influence decision-makers
- ✓ work with politicians and partners
- ✓ highlight issues affecting children and families

**WHAT SUCCESS
WILL LOOK LIKE:**

- ★ children's voices influence decisions
- ★ policies improve children's lives
- ★ decision-makers listen to evidence and lived experience

**OUR
PRIORITIES
FOR
2026–2031**



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Working Together and Communicating Clearly

WE WILL:

- ✓ help organisations work together
- ✓ share learning and ideas
- ✓ improve how we communicate
- ✓ promote the work of our members
- ✓ raise awareness of issues affecting children and families

**WHAT SUCCESS
WILL LOOK LIKE:**

- ★ stronger partnerships
- ★ better sharing of information
- ★ more people hearing children and young people's voices

**OUR
PRIORITIES
FOR
2026–2031**



Making Sure CiNI Stays Strong

WE WILL:

- ✓ make sure CiNI is sustainable and well run
- ✓ support staff wellbeing and development
- ✓ improve our digital systems and security
- ✓ grow our income so we can continue our work

**WHAT SUCCESS
WILL LOOK LIKE:**

- ★ CiNI remains strong and sustainable
- ★ staff feel supported and valued
- ★ we can continue helping children and families in the future

OUR
PROMISE



we promise to...

*... listen to
children and
young people*

*... keep
improving
what we do*

*.... work
alongside
families and
communities*

*... work towards
a Northern
Ireland where
every child can
thrive*

*... challenge
unfairness and
inequality*



Thank you to everyone who helped shape this plan. Together, we can build a better future for children, young people and families across Northern Ireland.

**thank
you**



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