

Children
in Northern
Ireland



**ANNUAL
REPORT**



VISION

Children in Northern Ireland's vision is to make Northern Ireland a society where all **children** are **valued**, are treated **fairly** and are able to **flourish**.

MISSION

To put **children at the centre** of policy making in Northern Ireland.



We will achieve our **vision**
and **mission** through our



Influencing



Learning



Collaboration



Sustainability



Effectiveness

5

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CEO REPORT**

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**STAFF & BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Chair & CEO Report



Children in Northern Ireland also stepped up as we worked with our community partners and members to deliver learning materials, food, medicines and essentials.

In a year that has seen significant challenges for us all, the coronavirus pandemic has impacted on the daily lives of children, young people and their parents. It has been filled with turmoil and potentially long-term damage for the foreseeable future.

Our sector stepped up to the challenge presented by the virus and provided a great response to need quickly and effectively. We all adapted to help communities, children, young people and families. Children in Northern Ireland also stepped up as we worked with our community partners and members to deliver learning materials, food, medicines, essentials as well as successfully campaigning to provide direct payment for those in receipt of free school meals.

Our Letters of Lockdown project captured the voices of children and young people during the Covid -19 crisis with the richness of their drawings, poems and letters reminding us of the impact of lockdown on their lives and the need to include their experiences as we move forward.

Many of you were on the ground responding to the needs presented, indeed many are still responding to the consequences of the pandemic. The commitment of the Voluntary and Community Sector once again shone through. Working in partnership is as strong as ever and continues to be the case as we Build Back Better.

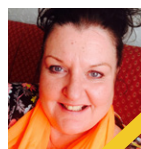
We were in a fortunate position to be able to move our training programme online which lead to minimum disruption to members who continued to receive professional development training on a regular basis. Our holiday hunger clubs also moved online and we also delivered activity packs, books and food to families. Our policy work moved to utilising innovative video discussions with politicians and civil servants as we continued to highlight the issues being presented. Our Regional Parenting Helpline Parentline NI received thousands of calls, with our professional support staff unwavering in their dedication to help parents.

Despite these challenges which we faced together, Children in Northern Ireland staff, our members and our supporters

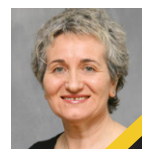
worked tirelessly. All gave their time, energy and talent to ensure we continued to operate.

We want to thank each and every one of you for what you have done this year. We have been through one of the toughest challenges and will continue to work together to Build Back Better by:

- » Providing an extensive range of learning and development courses for the children's sector
- » Through Parentline NI, provide advice, support and guidance to parents and carers
- » Ensure no child goes hungry through the Gets Active projects in Carrickfergus, Downpatrick, Limavady and Portadown
- » Advocating for a Right to Food and raising the issues faced by children with disabilities
- » Developing, delivering and cascading The Family Model training within the community and voluntary sector.



Marie Cavanagh
Chair



Pauline Leeson
Chief Executive

Learning & Development



CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRAINING

- ✓ 70 SESSIONS
- ✓ 1,308 TRAINED



1-2-1 ORGANISATION TRAINING

- ✓ 57 SESSIONS
- ✓ 613 TRAINED

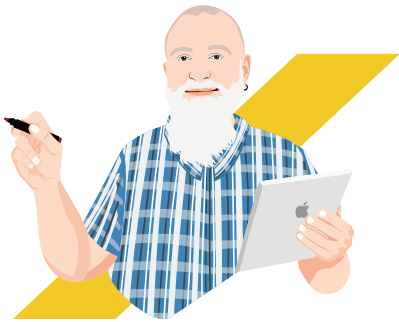


THINK FAMILY TRAINING

- ✓ 20 SESSIONS
- ✓ 186 TRAINED

This has been an unprecedented year and has required considerable adaptation and innovation to continue to meet the training and development needs of the sector. A move to the online format was quickly embraced by our trainers. One benefit of the move online has been the increase in the reach of our training and the range and numbers of participants attending. Online delivery may have limits in terms of efficacy and length of workshops, but it has proven accessible to a wide range of people across Northern Ireland and is certain to continue to be part of our toolkit.

Training Feedback



Ciarán Traynor

Learning & Development Officer

CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE

📅 06/07/2020

"The way that the training was tailored to the client group of Include Youth was very helpful and focused the mind. Kudos to Ciaran for making the online training so lively despite the absence of the participants being in the room."

THE DESIGNATED OFFICER ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

📅 12/08/2020

"It is obviously difficult to stay focussed for long periods and is unusual to train in such a sensitive topic in this way but it was delivered in an excellent manner and made it very relatable, engaging and useful to practice. Great job team CiNI."

CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE

📅 10/02/2021

BELFAST CIRCUS SCHOOL

"Ciaran is extraordinarily good at leading this type of training. I have been extremely impressed, and wasn't sure how it would translate to Zoom. But it was great; interesting, informative, well-balanced. Outstanding!"



ACES TRAINING

📅 18/02/2021

YOUTH INITIATIVES

"Ciaran was amazing at the way he delivered the training, definitely tried to connect with his audience which made the training a lot more enjoyable and easier to understand."

INTRODUCTION TO SUPERVISION MODELS & PRACTICE

📅 16 & 17/02/2021

"Absolutely brilliant training as always. The content was excellent and was well delivered, the pace of the training kept me interested and made it enjoyable. Well done to Ciaran and all at CiNI :-)"

RISK ASSESSMENT

📅 26/01/2021

WOMEN'S AID FERMANAGH

"I have really enjoyed the Training and commend Ciaran on his ability to inform staff on the topics, ensure engagement and his presenting style."

CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE

📅 18/01/2021

MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS – THE BASICS

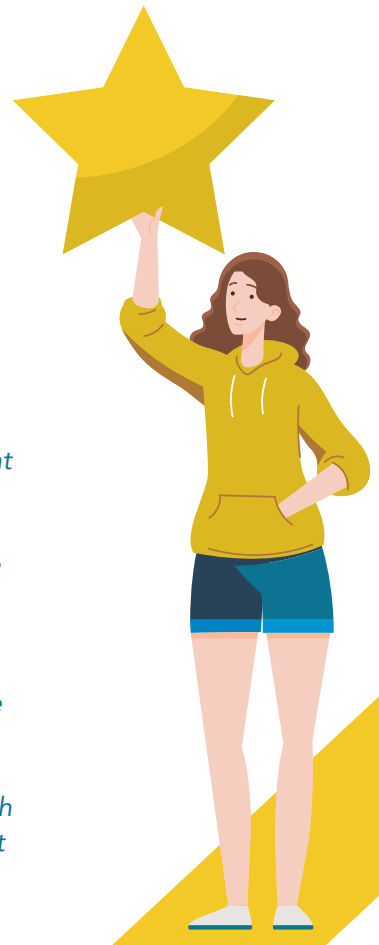
"I think I will be better at understanding the behaviour control my desire to get solutions there and then use the tools I have been given and hopefully improve my practice. I always find all CiNI training useful for building my knowledge base and improving my practice."

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

📅 16/03/2021

CUNAMH

"Fantastic training and delivery. Ciaran is excellent such sensitive issues and Ciaran always helps me be at ease and lighten the mood on such a delicate topic a truly gifted trainer. Thanks to Jen too on all her hard work sending the information through and dealing with other issues thanks to all involved much appreciated for being part of this training."



Associate Trainer Feedback



Andrea Kearns

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

📅 29/07/2020

"Thank you for providing this training - Andrea was very knowledgeable, attentive and flexible in her approach to the delivery of the on-line training."

SUICIDE AWARENESS

📅 20/01/2021

SPRINGBOARD OPPORTUNITIES

"Andrea was brilliant and patient. Very enjoyable training, can't wait to do more."



Adele Boyd

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT

📅 15/02/2021

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

"Really useful and enjoyable training really challenged me to think about the power we have as professionals others human rights and making decisions and that are in context and proportionate."

ADULT SAFEGUARDING

📅 08/01/2021

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

"Thankyou Adele has brilliant knowledge and delivery of the training was excellent."





Mustapha Ben Hassine

CHILD PROTECTION

📅 08/01/2021

COLIN NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

"The training was very well put together and was very impressive thank you very much greatly appreciated."

📅 25/11/2020

DEPAUL NI

"I thought that the training was even better online without distractions."

22/02/2021

MID ULSTER COUNCIL

"Great course to further my knowledge and well explained in many ways."



Irene McCready

DESIGNATED OFFICER

📅 27 & 28/01/2021

LIBRARIES NI

"Very well delivered session. Irene made it very interesting and informative. The group sessions were very helpful and everything was explained thoroughly."

22/03/2021

ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY COUNCIL

"Very informative, I enjoyed the interactive sections in particular."

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

📅 19/02/21

LIBRARIES NI

"Irene was excellent at giving examples, there was a lot of information but she made it easy to follow and relevant. She also gave me more confidence to report any incidents."

CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE

22/03/2021

ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY COUNCIL

"A very hard subject to talk about, but this was handled very professional and compassionately."



David Gillen & Ciarán Traynor

INTRO TO TRAUMA INFORMED RELATIONSHIPS IN PRACTICE

📅 8/10/2020

"Very powerful first hand testimony that gave a great insight into the approach that practitioners should take when working with clients who have experienced trauma and how Aces do not dictate how you can live your adult life."

Think Family Model



The Think Family Model



**Sarah Watt &
Stephanie Harvie**

📅 19/11/2020

"Thank you for this very valuable training which we have already brought into our work and we feel it will come into increasing relevance this year as we support families in Lagan Valley Vineyard Home Support work."

📅 23/10/2020

"Really enjoyed the training today's trainers were excellent."

Mental Health & Wellbeing Think Family Project



**Andrea Kearns
& Adele Boyd**

📅 16/09/2020

"The training was outstanding. I would like to thank both the trainers for their skills, expertise & delivery. They made a complex issue over a long day very enjoyable."

📅 26/11/2020

"Excellent trainers with extensive knowledge and it was great interactive online training. thank you."

📅 7/12/2020

"This course was really well put together and delivered in an engaging and accessible manner. The breakout rooms gave participants a real opportunity to actively think through the issues being discussed."

26/11/2020

"Brilliant training, would recommend to my colleagues."

Managing Challenging Behaviours




Richie Campbell

📅 29/03/2020

"Richie was really excellent and easy to connect with. Thank you."

"The trainer had a very relaxed yet very informative method of delivery."



In Feb 2020 CiNI secured funding from the HSCB in order to continue to provide **The Family Model** training and also to develop and deliver a training programme on **Introduction to Mental Health** as this had been consistently identified as a gap from participant feedback.

Response to this new training programme has been very positive and to date we have delivered the Introduction to Mental Health to 83 participants:

“The training was outstanding. I would like to thank both the trainers for their skills, expertise & delivery. They made a complex issue over a long day very enjoyable.”

Due to the success of the Think Family training delivered by CiNI, resources were made available to CiNI in Dec 2020 to develop and deliver of a range of **practitioner workshops to introduce greater knowledge of the adversities, life events and mental health issues**



83

INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL HEALTH
DELIVERED TO 83 PARTICIPANTS

that can impact upon families. A new range of training programmes are being developed to meet these requirements such as Grief and Loss, Estranged parents, adolescents and mental health, sexual orientation and gender identity issues, parental mental ill health, substance abuse and mental health. This will be targeted at the voluntary and community sector and within each programme there will be a focus on mental health, family focused practice, relevant community resources in addition to links to The Family Model and other related training provided by CiNI. We will commence delivery of these exciting new training initiatives in April/May of this year.



**THE TRAINING WAS
OUTSTANDING. I WOULD
LIKE TO THANK BOTH THE
TRAINERS FOR THEIR SKILLS,
EXPERTISE & DELIVERY.
THEY MADE A COMPLEX
ISSUE OVER A LONG DAY
VERY ENJOYABLE.**



Influencing & Collaboration

We engage in advocacy and policy initiatives with bipartisan support to ensure that we working effectively.

Engagement & Collaboration with:

- » Joint Forum
- » Department of Health
- » Department of Justice
- » Department for Communities
- » Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership
- » All Party Group on Children and Young People
- » Children's Future Food Inquiry
- » Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland
- » Education Authority
- » Health & Social Care Board
- » Health Trusts
- » All Political Parties
- » Northern Ireland Human Right's Commission
- » Equality Commission
- » Independent Mechanism for Northern Ireland

Our Alliances



Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance



Child Poverty Alliance

Policy Consultation & Engagement



Responded to 15 policy consultations



Representation on **Anti-Poverty Strategy Co-Design Group** & **Disability Strategy Co-Design Group**

Social Media Engagement



7714 followers



6838 followers



1300 followers



15,000 views



Mission

Ensure the **right** to adequate **food** is realised for all children, young people and their parents by ensuring physical and economic access at all times to adequate **food**.

Impact

Thanks to this work and our community partners, fewer children faced hunger this year. Our focus is on more than just feeding a child but empowering them by providing physical activities, education and after-school support. We are building a sustainable solution to ensure children are empowered, for generations to come.



570

Attendees



570

Meals served



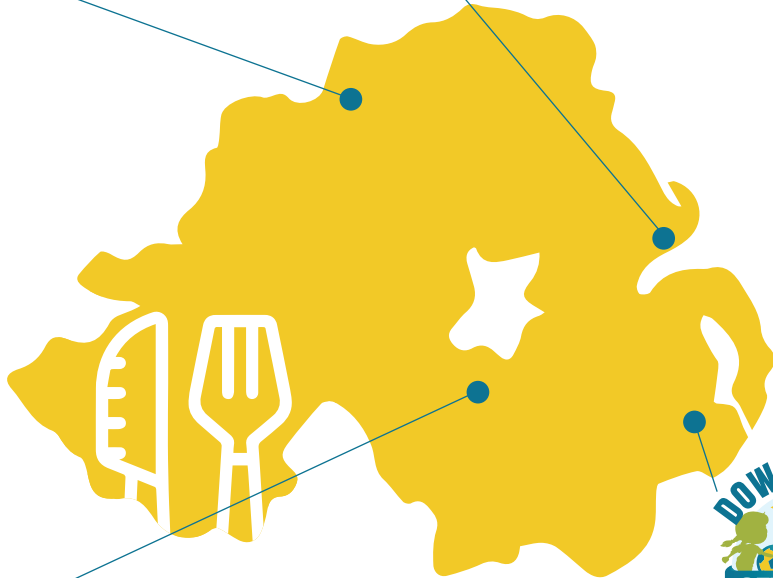
2400

Attendees



3000

Meals served



1200

Attendees



1500

Meals served



2000

Attendees



2000

Meals served





Advice . Support . Guidance

Mission

Every parent will feel **valued, respected** and **nurtured** on every call and are encouraged to both spend time **connecting** with their children and treating themselves with **care** and **compassion**.

Despite the unprecedented circumstances in the delivery of a front facing service during a global pandemic, Parentline NI rose to the challenge and in year 2 achieved 77% calls/webchat/email contact and 90% face to face contact against the annual targets.



90%

FACE TO FACE CONTACT AGAINST THE ANNUAL TARGETS

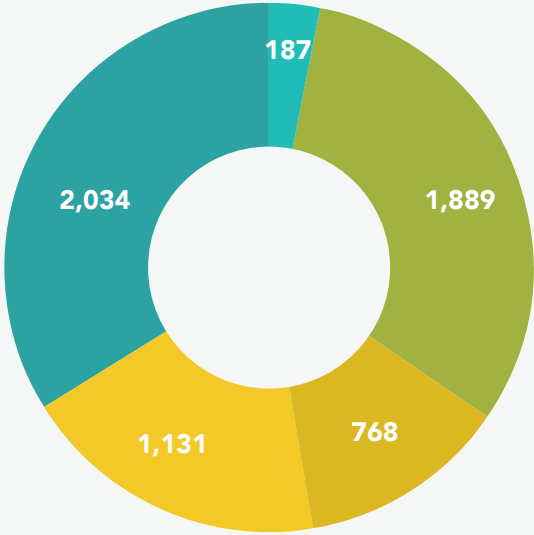


77%

CALLS/WEBCHAT/EMAIL CONTACT AGAINST THE ANNUAL TARGETS

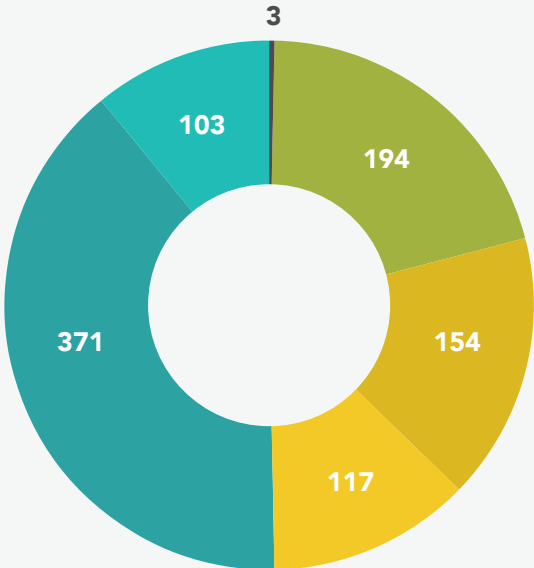
Issues by Category

- Behavioural
- Emotional
- External States
- Health
- Harmful/abusive



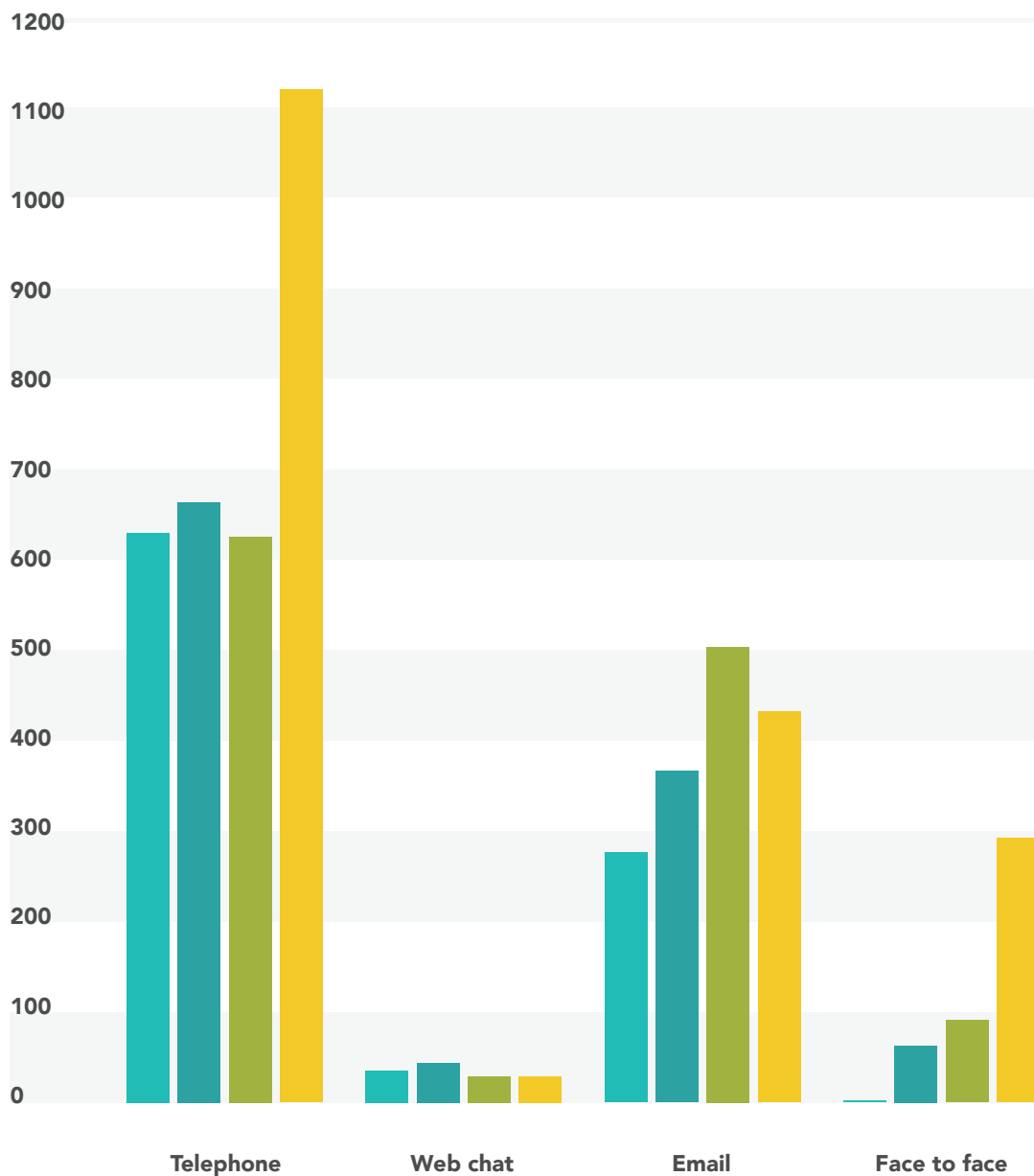
Contacts by Trust Area

- Belfast HSCT
- SEHSCT
- WHSCT
- NHSCT
- SHSCT
- Other



Contact by Media Type

- Quarter 1
- Quarter 2
- Quarter 3
- Quarter 4





Podcasts

The delivery of regular podcasts over the past year on topical parenting issues has been significant in promoting the profile of Parentline NI. Guest speakers have been interviewed in their area of expertise such as:

- » **Fatherhood**
Ibe Sesay (Parentline NI ambassador)
- » **Relationships and Sexuality**
Relate NI
- » **Caring responsibilities**
Carers NI
- » **Money Management**
Advice Space
- » **School life after lockdown**
Dr Glenda Walsh, Head of Early years Education
- » **Importance of Reading**
Book Trust NI
- » **Navigating Christmas**
Parentline NI, Head of Service
- » **Mental Health during Lockdown**
Prof. Siobhan O'Neill, Mental Health Champion

Workshops

Recurring themes picked up in calls to the helpline triggered the idea of running a series of informative workshops for parents.

- » **Top Tips for Talking:**
Facilitated by one of our Parenting Support Officer's, a qualified Speech and Language Therapist were very well received.
- » **A back to basics series:**
Offering 1:1 support on specific topics such as anxiety, managing behaviour, surviving separation and managing the transition back to school.



I just wanted to get in touch to say thank you so much to your support worker for getting in touch with advice for me. She was absolutely fantastic and gave me some very useful information and insights. She was so professional and knowledgeable around child mental health and has reassured me about my son and given me lots to think about going forward. Honestly can't thank you enough.

Mum of 3 teenagers

I can't express the relief I feel now that I have spoken with you, I can see my situation is a lot clearer now.

Mum to 3 kids under 16

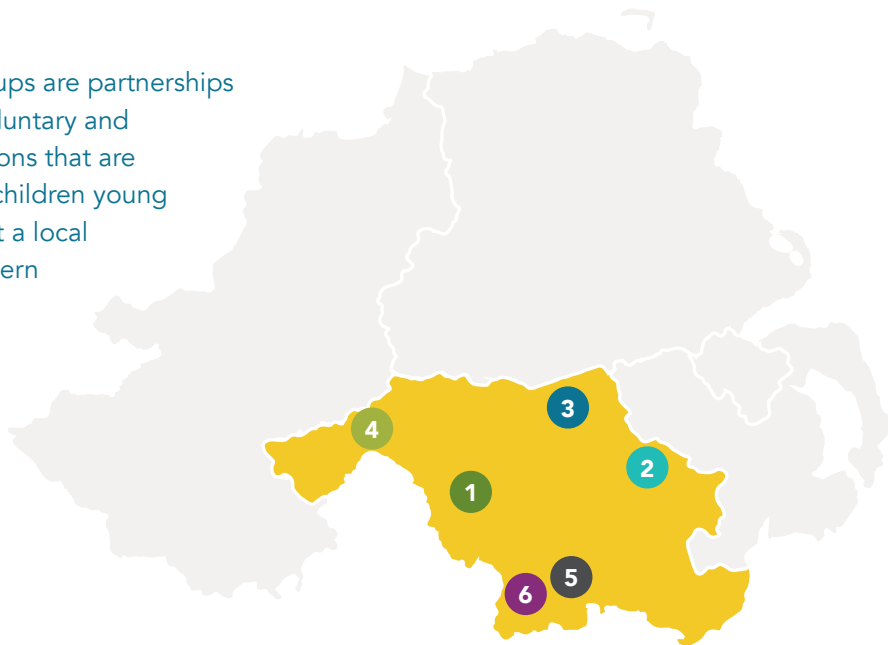
I had no idea this support was available to Dads, now I know what I need to do to increase contact with my kids.

Seperated dad

Southern Area Locality Planning Groups 2020-21

Locality Planning Groups are partnerships between statutory, voluntary and community organisations that are working with and for children young people and families at a local geography; the Southern Area Locality covers:

- 1 Armagh
- 2 Banbridge
- 3 Craigavon
- 4 Dungannon
- 5 Newry
- 6 South Armagh



During 2020-21,
we have engaged
with...



817

Practitioners



305

Children & Young People



370

Community Groups



35

Parents/carers

Successes during the year:

- ✓ **Leading on Our Journey Through Disability:** an interagency co-production with parents to improve support services for families with a child with a disability
- ✓ **Production of Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Resource:** listing support services for children and young people across the Southern region
- ✓ **Hosting 5 Introduction to Infant Mental Health workshops** in conjunction with SHSCT and Oak Psychological Services
- ✓ **Fortnightly production of e-bulletin FYI:** information on activities and opportunities for children, young people and parents
- ✓ **Weekly editions of FYI and Daily Updates** to enhance support to families and member organisations during lockdown
- ✓ **Continued involvement with Portadown Gets Active:** tackling Holiday Hunger during holiday periods.



Above: Our Journey Through Disability Report
Right: Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health resource



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 NI.



The CYPSP supports vulnerable families through a Northern Ireland wide early intervention infrastructure. The CYPSP partners are committed to supporting this model. The model consists of the Family Support Hubs, the Locality Planning Groups, Outcomes Groups and the network of early intervention services.

The Partnership supports:

5

**Outcomes
Groups**

23

**Locality Planning
Groups**

29

**Family Support
Hubs**

In 2020/21 CYPSP agreed the prioritisation of four key areas of work priorities in relation to the early intervention needs of children and families. These overlapping priorities informed strategic planning and collaborative action at Outcomes Group and Locality Planning levels.

1. Children's mental health and emotional wellbeing, in particular but not exclusively children in the 5-10 age groups;
2. Early intervention support for children with disabilities and their families;
3. Support to children whose wellbeing is being affected by disruption to their schooling;
4. Contribution to strategic cross departmental actions in response to food and fuel poverty, as well as locality based service responses.

A focus on these priorities and associated actions is driving the Children's Services planning process for 2021, and will contribute to formation of the next three year Children's Services Plan for 2021-2024.

CiNI was instrumental in supporting the recruitment of a new cohort of Comm/Vol/BAME partners for the 2021-2024 planning period.

A core principle of CYPSP is co-production and putting children, young people and families at the centre of planning and design of services with work underpinned where possible by the voice of young people and parents through co-production - Our Journey Through Disability and Voice of Young People are two major pieces of co-production work agreed and signed off by CYPSP during 2020/21.



The engagement of voluntary and community organisations in the work of CYPSP is critical to its success. The area based planning infrastructure supported by CYPSP is set out in the next table:-

GROUP	LEVEL	MEMBERSHIP	FOCUS
CYPSP	Regional Level (Northern Ireland)	Partnership of senior regional leaders across all sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention • Integrated planning and commissioning • Informed by/and inform individual organisational business, corporate and community plans • Participation and co-design • Improving outcomes for children and young people
Outcomes Groups	Sub-regional level (co-terminus with HSC Trust)	Partnership of senior Trust level leaders across all sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention • Building preventative places • Improving outcomes for children and young people
Locality Planning Groups	Locality (neighborhood/ locality)	Practitioners and front line managers from across the statutory, voluntary and community Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention • Building preventative places • Improving outcomes for children and young people

The Partnership continues to support a multi-agency information system to improve the use of data in planning and commissioning. CYPSP has developed a multi-agency information system to support integrated planning based on Outcomes Based Accountability.

The CYPSP Information Team has supported the Family Support Hubs and Locality Planning to develop report cards to reflect the significant impact of their work.

At the onset of Covid 19 at March 2020, the CYPSP Information Team were able to adapt quickly and utilise online functionality by facilitating and developing a number of key resources:

- ✓ Covid 19 Delivery Service Guide
- ✓ CYPSP Online Covid 19 Support & Resources
- ✓ CYPSP Online Venue Locator
- ✓ CYPSP Online Translation Hub Service
- ✓ CYPSP Children's Resource Pack
- ✓ Relaunch of Parent Support Page



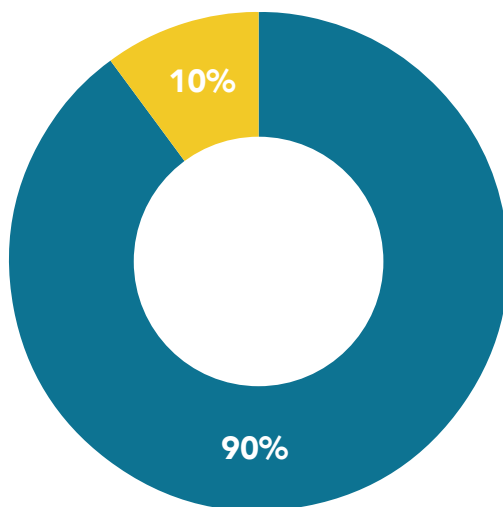
Finances

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME

for the
year ended
31st March 2021

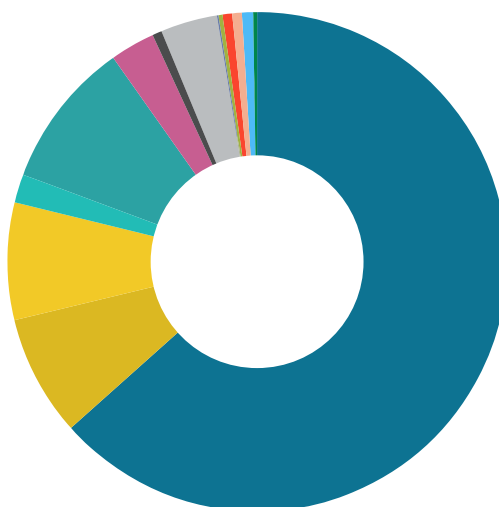
INCOME	AMOUNT
● Grants	£760,817
● Other Income	£85,613
Total Funds	£846,430



EXPENSES

for the
year ended
31st March
2021

EXPENSE	AMOUNT
● Salaries, Pensions & Social Security	£435,968
● Legal, Professional & Trainers	£53,922
● Property Rent & Upkeep	£52,200
● Publications & Promotion	£12,687
● Project Materials	£65,658
● IT Expenses	£20,001
● Stationery, Printing & Postage	£4,209
● Utilities	£25,340
● Room Hire & Catering	£597
● Travel Expenses	£1,846
● Sundries & Other	£4,307
● Training & Recruitment	£4,220
● Insurance	£5,010
● Subscriptions	£1,734
Total Expense	£687,699
Net Income	£158,731



CiNI Staff & Board of Directors 2020/21

STAFF

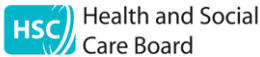
Pauline Leeson	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Ellen Finlay	<i>Policy Officer</i>
Roger Gowdy	<i>Finance & Office Manager</i>
Ciarán Traynor	<i>Learning & Development Officer</i>
Joan Broader	<i>Change Co-ordinator Think Family</i>
Darren Curtis	<i>Locality Development Officer</i>
Jenny Groves	<i>Training Co-ordinator</i>
Katy Lynn	<i>Think Family Administrator (left July 2020)</i>
Kerry O'Hagan	<i>Locality Development Administrator</i>
Joanne Patterson	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
June Onyekwelu	<i>Head of Service, Parentline NI</i>
Nichola Greene	<i>Team Lead, Parentline NI (left March 2021)</i>
7 Parent Support Officers	
2 Community Connectors	

BOARD MEMBERS

Marie Cavanagh	<i>Chairperson</i>
Josephine Marley	<i>Vice Chairperson</i>
Alison Beattie	
John Hunsdale	
Brenda McQueen	
Liam Hannaway	
Michele Janes	



CHILDREN IN NORTHERN IRELAND
THANKS OUR FUNDERS FOR THEIR
CONTINUED SUPPORT



**Children
in Northern
Ireland**



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