

Children
in Northern
Ireland

20

**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

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STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Chair & CEO Report

In a year that has presented post Covid challenges for our children, young people and their families in their communities and schools, Children in Northern Ireland and our members have worked tirelessly to place the needs and rights of children at the centre of Recovery. The relentless optimism of the children’s sector continues to send a message of hope to parents who are struggling with the rise of child and food poverty and support to families to connect with their children and look after themselves through difficult times.

Children in Northern Ireland is deeply committed to supporting members and working closely with partners to deliver meaningful change in communities for children, young people and their families.

We have achieved this by:

- » Expanding the scope and depth of our Learning and Development courses for the children’s sector both face-to-face and online
- » Increasing the level of support to parents from Parentline NI with Podcasts, Workshops and Discussion Groups with additional support for Minority Ethnic communities
- » Delivering Parental Participation under CYPSP to engage and empower parents and enhance inclusion in planning and policy for families

- » Supporting CYPSP through Locality Planning to encourage partnerships in communities which strengthen participation and connections at a local level
- » Advocating for the Right to Food and delivering 5 Holiday Hunger projects across NI
- » Collaborating through Child Poverty Alliance and Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance for robust policy change through Expert Panels and Co Design

This year we have secured Dormant Accounts funding to invest in a Digital Transformation project which will be used to communicate more effectively with our members, children, young people and their families as well as focusing on developing digital tools to increase our information sharing capacity including an Animation for Parentline NI.

We would like to thank our members, staff, Board, partners and funders for their incredible support. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively in partnership to ensure that we make NI a society where all children are valued, treated fairly and are able to flourish.



Marie Cavanagh
Chair
Pauline Leeson
Chief Executive

Learning & Development

This has been a successful year in terms of the numbers of people from a diverse range of organisations we have reached through training.

We also continue to expand the scope and depth of the training we offer. We have incorporated the learning from moving our service online and adapting to remote delivery. Our range of tools and menu of workshops are tailored to the needs and preferences of the sector, and we have gradually returned to face-to-face sessions as part of our ongoing review and flexibility.



TRAINING FEEDBACK

CHILD PROTECTION L2 CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN

"You have been (and are) a great support to our Organisation and Staff in providing your knowledge and experience to us so that we in turn provide the highest level of support services for our Children, Young People and their Families."

DESIGNATED OFFICER

"I have completed this course many times over the years and I can honestly say this has been the best."

//
**THIS IS
PROBABLY THE
BEST TRAINING
I HAVE EVER
ATTENDED."**

**TRAUMA INFORMED
RELATIONSHIPS IN
PRACTICE
SIMON COMMUNITY**



**OF ATTENDEES RATED
OUR CST TRAINING
OVERALL AS 4-5 OUT OF 5
(GOOD - EXCELLENT)**



**TRAINING
DELIVERED**
✓ 250 EVENTS
✓ 3,239 PARTICIPANTS

Influencing & Collaboration

We engage in advocacy and policy initiatives with cross-party support to ensure that we can achieve our strategic objectives.

Our Alliances



Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance



Child Poverty Alliance

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
- » Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland
- » Education Authority
- » Health & Social Care Board
- » Health Trusts
- » All Political Parties
- » Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- » Equality Commission
- » Independent Mechanism for Northern Ireland
- » Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY)

Policy Consultation & Engagement



Responded to 10 policy consultations



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



Impact

Thanks to this work and our community partners, fewer children faced hunger this year.



81

Attendees



68

Meals served



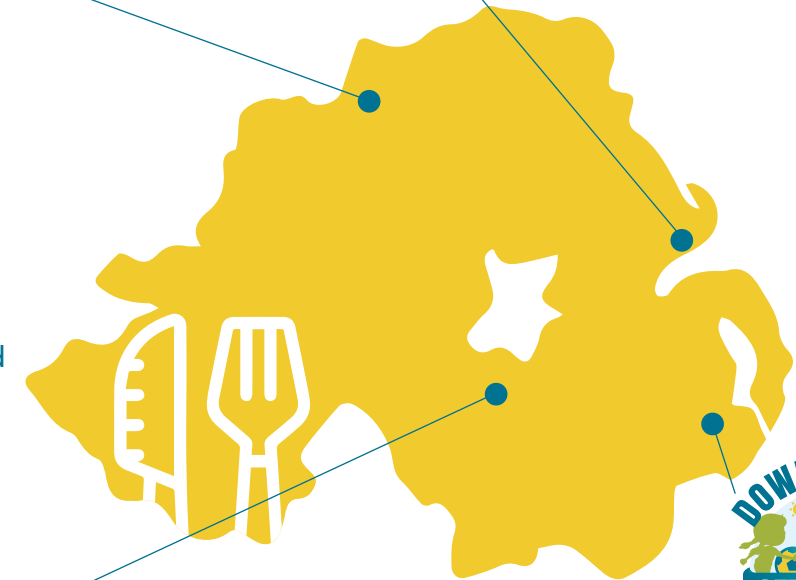
569

Attendees



5,719

Meals served



581

Attendees



6,242

Meals served



743

Attendees



6,854

Meals served

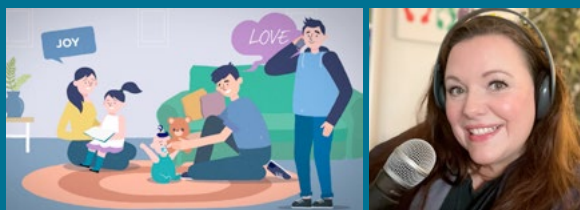


Digital Transformation

In September 2021, CiNI were successful in securing Dormant Accounts funding from The National Lottery Community Fund NI for a new Digital Transformation project.



Animation



An animation was designed, produced and launched for Parentline NI. The animation is an innovative and current way to engage with our audiences and enables us to share the Parentline NI message across all social platforms, the CiNI website, CiNI Connect newsletter, and at meetings and events. Three more animations are in the pipeline to showcase more areas of CiNI's work.

Infographics

We are now regularly posting infographic resources sharing information on relevant topics, as well as reporting statistics on current areas of success or concern from the sector. We also share feedback from our service users on their experience of our training services, and our Parentline NI helpline.



Parentline Podcast

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 by local journalist and broadcaster, Kerry McClean, in their area of expertise such as:



- » Formative Years Series: Fussy Eating; Toileting, Sleep; Managing Transitions.
- » Teen Series: Communicating and connecting, Talking Tricky Topics,
- » Managing exam results
- » Starting Primary School
- » Anxiety Based School Avoidance
- » Parenting Allsorts: Same sex dads; Kinship care
- » Autism



CiNI website


Our new website was launched in March 2022 with a streamlined, uncluttered feel, allowing clear and easy functionality for booking training, displaying news stories and communicating the services of CiNI and Parentline NI.



Social Media Engagement

 An illustration of a hand holding a smartphone with a notification bubble, positioned in the top right corner of the social media engagement section.

  7579 followers	  4500 followers
  1148 followers	  762 followers
  8113 followers	  18,200 views

 We have recently started posting our content on **LinkedIn** and resharing and engaging with content from our contacts in the sector.

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**.

As Year 3 (April 2021-March 2022) was approaching and we gratefully received news that there would be an extension to the contract for another year. Raising the profile of the helpline regionally through social media platforms, podcasts, live promotional events and the delivery of workshops has paid dividends with regard to call volume as evidence in this report concluding the year with 112% of the annual targets met across both calls, webchats and emails; and 112% of the annual targets met for face to face support.

Parentline was able to explore the experiences of parents from minority ethnic (ME) communities in accessing parent support, and engage with ME community groups. Parentline translated information in the form of a flyer into 6 different languages. Two bilingual staff, one whose first language is Polish and the other Arabic, will develop this early work further with helpline support as a short-term pilot for those communities in their first language.



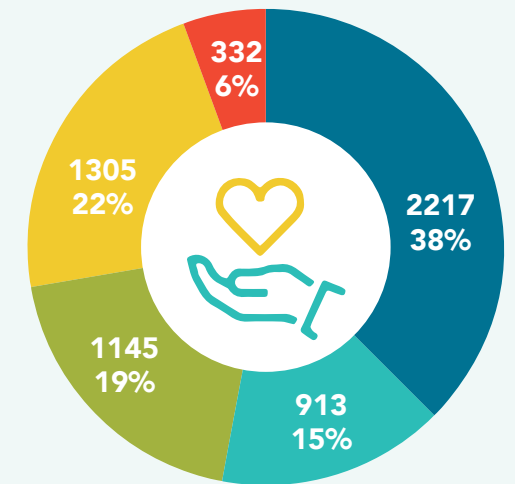
Activity

TOTAL: 7510
TARGET: 6700* (112%)
**5000 calls and webchats,
1200 letters and emails,
500 face to face appointments.*



Parentline User Issues by Category

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



Workshops

Recurring themes picked up in calls to the helpline triggered the idea of running a series of informative workshops for parents. The workshops were followed up by a podcast and resources.

A series of workshops included:

- » Formative Years (sleep, fussy eating, toileting and managing transitions);
- » Teen Series: communicating and connecting, Talking Tricky Topics;
- » School Series: Starting primary school, anxiety based school avoidance.
- » Neurodiverse series including sessions on ASD and ADHD



New Midwifery Resource

Parentline hosted a midwifery student from QUB on placement and developed 'Expecting in 2022' resources for expectant and new parents.



Discussion Groups – peer support

Discussion groups were facilitated over the summer months following up on the demand for the summer survival suitcase resource. Parents found the discussion groups beneficial for sharing stories and offering and receiving advice from parents with similar experiences.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IT WAS REALLY BENEFICIAL AND YOU REALLY HELPED ME THROUGH SOME DIFFICULT WEEKS. YOU DO A GREAT JOB WITH YOUR ENCOURAGING AND MOTIVATIONAL WORDS!"

Conclusion

I am sure you will agree that year 3 has indeed been a **'bumper'** year at Parentline. The helpline is going from strength to strength with increased activity and support across all target areas.

The staff team is strong and experienced offering excellent advice, support and guidance to parents on a range of issues currently affecting them.

As Head of Service, I am delighted with the progress and service delivery this year and proud of the achievements that have been innovative and responsive. I look forward to supporting parents in NI into the next year and beyond.

June Onyekwelu
Head of Service

Parent Participation Service

The parent participation contract has been operational with CiNI from 4th January 2022 managed by Parentline NI head of service, with one part time member of staff from the previous contract provider transferring across under TUPE regulations. This reporting period from January 22- March 22 has been one of induction, training and forming.

An interesting and informative direct participation event facilitated with Arabic speaking parents from the N.I. Family Muslim Association exploring their experiences of the education system in NI. The feedback report was completed and an infographic of the key points were captured in an innovative way.

Connections have been made with a number of voluntary organisations such as NIFMA, YALLAA, NIACRO, JoinHer and statutory personnel from the Outcomes and locality planning groups.

Southern Area Locality Planning Groups 2021-22

Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) are partnerships between statutory, voluntary and community organisations working with and for children young people and families at a local level. Their work focuses on early intervention to improve outcomes for children and young people.

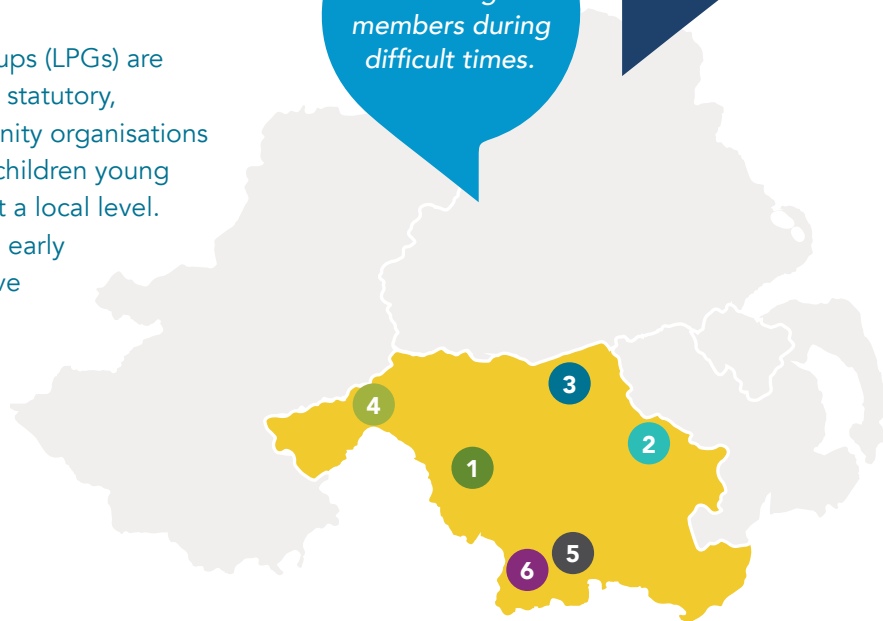
There are 6 LPGs in the Southern Trust area.

These are:

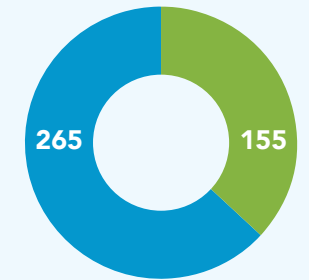
- 1 Armagh
- 3 Craigavon
- 5 Newry & Mourne
- 2 Banbridge
- 4 Dungannon
- 6 South Armagh

I really appreciate these meetings and the connections and information they give me. Also, as facilitators, Darren and Joanne are so friendly. It makes it a pleasure to attend them.

Thanks for maintaining the members during difficult times.



A snapshot of Southern Area LPG Meetings across 2021-2022



- statutory representatives
- community & voluntary groups represented

'FYI' Newsletter

In order to strengthen contacts, participation, engagement and connections in the region, Southern Area Locality Planning collate flyers, posters and announcements promoting relevant events, opportunities, programmes and initiatives which are then shared through 'FYI' Newsletter.



"A great platform for networking and sharing activities across the area."

"This is a brilliant resource and is very much appreciated by my colleagues. They give information from it to service users and it's helpful for knowledge of training available."

"FYI just keeps getting better, well done. Very clear and easy to navigate... Love the new look!"



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
ACCESS OUR INFO. HUB
<https://linktr.ee/CYPSPLocalityPlanning>

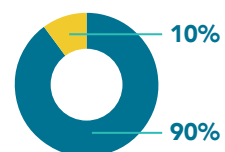


Finances

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME

for the year ended
31st March 2022



INCOME	AMOUNT
● Grants	£825,311
● Other Income	£96,754
Total Funds	£922,065

EXPENSES

for the year ended
31st March 2022

EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Salaries, Pensions & Social Security	£489,891
Legal, Professional & Trainers	£77,245
Property Rent & Upkeep	£50,483
Publications & Promotion	£21,345
Project Materials	£136,810
IT Expenses	£27,966
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£5,271
Utilities	£26,096
Room Hire & Catering	£1,186
Travel Expenses	£2,559
Sundries & Other	£6,369
Training & Recruitment	£3,167
Insurance	£5,432
Subscriptions	£1,834
Total Expense	£855,654
Net Income	£66,411

CiNI Staff & Board of Directors 2021/22

STAFF

Pauline Leeson

Chief Executive

Roger Gowdy

Finance & Office Manager

Ciarán Traynor

Learning & Development Officer

Jenny Groves

Training Coordinator

Darren Curtis

Locality Development Officer

Joanne Patterson

Locality Programme Support Officer & Office Coordinator

Ernest Purvis

Policy Officer

Laurel Littlewood

Digital Marketing & Engagement Coordinator

June Onyekwelu

Head of Service, Parentline NI

Tricia Monroe

Service Manager, Parentline NI

Gemma Robinson

Service Coordinator, Parentline NI

8 Parent Support Officers

2 Community Connectors

3 Parent Participation Workers

BOARD MEMBERS

Marie Cavanagh

Chairperson

Paul Morgan

Alison Beattie

John Hunsdale

Brenda McQueen

Liam Hannaway

Michele Janes

**CHILDREN IN NORTHERN IRELAND
THANKS OUR FUNDERS FOR THEIR
CONTINUED SUPPORT**



Delivered by
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND**



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Ireland**

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