

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**Children
in Northern
Ireland**



Children
in Northern
Ireland



2023



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

INFLUENCING

putting children at the centre of policy making

LEARNING

capacity building across the sector and innovating best practice

COLLABORATION

working with others to increase impact



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Chair & CEO Report

During a year that has presented a rising Cost of Living crisis for our children, young people and their families, Children in Northern Ireland and our members continue to work to place the needs and rights of children at the centre of our collective efforts to support families through difficult times.

We have reaffirmed our commitment to work alongside children and young people to listen and amplify their voices; to work alongside and support parents to enhance family life, and, to work alongside members and partners to deliver meaningful change at both a community and policy level.

We have achieved this by:

- » Expanding and developing the Learning and Development programme to include more Trauma Informed Practice particularly in Early Years
- » Strengthening the level of support to parents from Parentline with Expert Guest podcasts, peer support discussion groups and workshops
- » Developing Parent Participation under CYPSP with the recruitment of Parent Champions
- » Supporting 6 locality groups in Southern Trust alongside CYPSP to develop emotional wellbeing and mental health resources for children

and young people and a School Uniform Recycling Toolkit

- » Advocating for children, young people and parents through DFC Anti-Poverty and Disability Co-Design Groups and DOH Independent Review of Children's Social Care Review
- » Supporting our Youth Advisory Group to produce youth-led research on the impact of poverty and the cost of living crisis on children and their families
- » Delivering training on podcasts to the voluntary sector to encourage startups and producing animations on Parentline, CiNI and our Learning and Development programme to promote information and uptake of services by the children's sector

We would like to thank our members, staff, Board, partners and funders for their incredible support. We look forward to continuing to advocate for children, young people and their families and to work collaboratively in partnership with members and supporters to 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



CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRAINING
✓ 100 EVENTS
✓ 1,926 TRAINED



1-2-1 ORGANISATION TRAINING
✓ 100 SESSIONS
✓ 1,183 TRAINED



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



OF ATTENDEES RATED THE CONTENT, MATERIALS AND DELIVERY OF OUR CST TRAINING AS 4-5 OUT OF 5 (GOOD - EXCELLENT)



TRAINING FEEDBACK



**IT IS ONE OF THE
BEST ONLINE
TRAINING SESSIONS
I HAVE ATTENDED.**

DESIGNATED OFFICER

**SOME REALLY
INTERESTING
AND CREATIVE
EXPLANATIONS,
REALLY WELL
DELIVERED
AND CONTENT
ABSOLUTELY TOP
NOTCH. GREAT
SESSION.**

**RISK ASSESSMENT &
RISK MANAGEMENT**

**ALL CINI COURSES
ARE WELL
INFORMED AND
WELL DELIVERED.
ALL FACILITATORS
HAVE A NATURAL
ENGAGEMENT
STYLE THAT MAKES
THE LEARNING
EASIER.**

**GOOD PRACTICE
IN RECORDING &
REPORTING**

**TRAINING WAS
DELIVERED
AMAZINGLY,
TWO TRAINERS
WERE EXTREMELY
KNOWLEDGEABLE,
ANSWERED EVERY
QUESTION ASKED,
CREATED A SAFE
SPACE FOR LEARNING.**

**TRAUMA INFORMED
RELATIONSHIPS IN
PRACTICE**

Policy: What We Do



In August 2022, we appointed a new Policy Officer – Dr Ernest Purvis – and our holistic approach to influencing and collaboration has allowed us to focus on strategic objectives.

Members

- » Convened Child Poverty Alliance in November 2022 and March 2023 to discuss Social Security reforms.
- » Convened Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance in November 2022 and March 2023 to lead research on SEND reform.
- » Hosted Members' Events in October 2022 and February 2023 as part of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services.
- » Hosted Members' Event to reflect on 25th Anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.

Public

- » Publicised a range of evidence and reports on Social Media including our response to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry into the effectiveness of Political Institutions and Eurochild's 2022 report on children in need across Europe '(In) visible Children' - CiNI completed the country analysis for Northern Ireland.
- » Contributed to BBC Radio Foyle's Breakfast Show, highlighting key aspects of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in November 2022 and how spending decisions will impact children and families.

Officials

- » Contributed to the Anti-Poverty and Disability Strategy Co-Design Groups.
- » Engaged with the Review of Free School Meals and Uniform Grants Key Stakeholder Forum.
- » Engaged with the Review of Childcare Services and Early Education Key Stakeholder Forum.
- » Responded to the Department of Justice's public consultation on raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility.

Politicians

- » Facilitated a Cross-Party Meeting at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, to resolve issues faced by children and families seeking asylum and forced to stay in contingency accommodation.
- » Submitted detailed evidence to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee at Westminster highlighting the negative impact of political instability on children and young people.
- » Briefed a range of individual MLAs on issues related to children and young people.

Policy: Youth Advisory Group

Working closely with delivery partners, including youth clubs and family centres across Northern Ireland, we continue to provide a range of food and activity programmes aimed at tackling disadvantage and food insecurity throughout school holiday periods.

In September 2022, we established a Youth Advisory Group comprised of young people from the four 'Gets Active' areas: Limavady, Carrickfergus, Downpatrick and Portadown. In December 2022, the group began a youth-led peer research project, to gather data and evidence around the impact of poverty and the cost-of-living crisis on children and their families.





About the Gets Active Youth Advisory Group

WHO are the YAG?

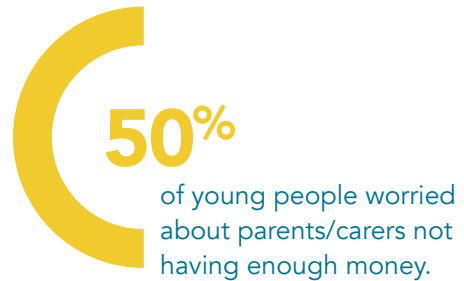
- ✓ 13-18 years old
- ✓ Based at Gets Active clubs/ centres
- ✓ Youth Leaders and Peer Mentors

WHAT does the YAG do?

- ✓ Meet regularly to discuss holiday food and activity programmes
- ✓ Look at ways to better support children and young people impacted by poverty.

WHAT

were the main findings
of their research?



50% using less heating and 30% cutting back on food.



15% have skipped meals and 20% unable to concentrate in school because of hunger or worries about money and food.





Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

Locality Planning

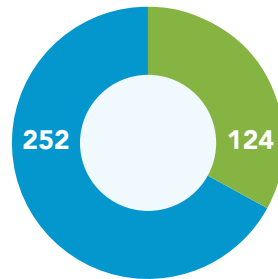
A snapshot of Southern Area LPG Meetings across 2022-2023

31

LPG meetings

376

practitioners attended



● statutory representatives
● community & voluntary groups represented



I'm finding the meetings an absolutely brilliant way of connecting with other organisations.



The LPG is a high-energy vehicle for partnership working. Without it, many people would have missed out on the benefits of emergency provisions during the pandemic.



I am able to network with other organisations that I might not know existed if it wasn't for my involvement in the LPG.



'FYI' newsletter restores faith in the availability of services/ support for our children/young people and their families.



Key Successes During 2022/23



SCHOOL UNIFORM RECYCLING TOOLKIT

A practical resource for schools in the Mid Ulster Area.



CAN WE TALK

An event, in partnership with Mid Ulster LPG, to showcase support for emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.



SUMMER IS COMING

Directory highlighting summer activities in the Southern Area.



Scan this QR code to access the above resources and reports, along with all our information and latest edition of our fortnightly 'FYI' newsletter.



Digital Transformation

In September 2022, our Digital Transformation project entered its second year, funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund from The National Lottery Community Fund. Key deliverables were as follows:

Animation



After the successful completion of the Parentline animation, we launched it during Parenting Week with the assistance of Health Minister Robin Swann. Our next project was an animation showcasing our training services, promoting and explaining the ethos behind training at CiNI. Our final animation will be CiNI focused as a whole, covering our mission and values as well as the services we provide.

Branding

Our podcast studio is in the process of being rebranded and upgraded to allow for better visual recording, and additional guests.



Parentline Podcast



The Parentline podcast has continued to deliver relevant, useful and topical episodes on a monthly basis. Kerry McLean hosts each episode. Our 'Parenting through' series has been an opportunity to hear the rich and often challenging and emotional stories of parents, and we have also delivered an excellent range of hugely popular episodes from our partnerships with experts in the field.



'Parenting through....' episodes:

- » Dealing with bereavement and grief
- » Having a child with a long term illness
- » Teen Pregnancy
- » Childcare costs
- » Eating disorders

'Expert Guest' episodes:

- » Emotional Literacy with Connor McCafferty of Zest NI
- » Autism Next Steps with Rebecca McCullough of Eden Consultancy
- » Healing Childhood Trauma with Lisa Cherry
- » Parenting in a Digital World with Wayne Denner
- » ADHD: The Facts and More with Rebecca McCullough of Eden Consultancy

Social Media Engagement



7,956
followers



5,532
followers



1,245
followers



1,138
followers



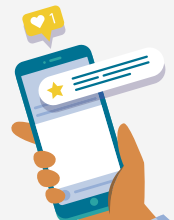
8,302
followers



22,074
total views



391
visits





Advice . Support . Guidance

MISSION

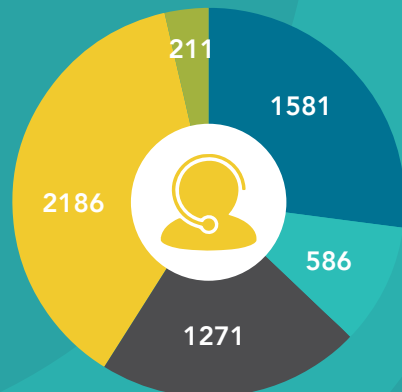
Every parent will feel **valued, respected and nurtured** on every call and are encouraged to both spend time **connecting** with their children and treating themselves with **care and compassion**.



PRESENTING ISSUES CATEGORIES

Issues that parents have sought support with;

- Behaviour
- Emotional
- External States
- Health
- Harmful





122%

ACHIEVEMENT ON TARGETS FOR ALL CONTACTS:

Annual Target:
5000

Parents reached:
6311 across NI

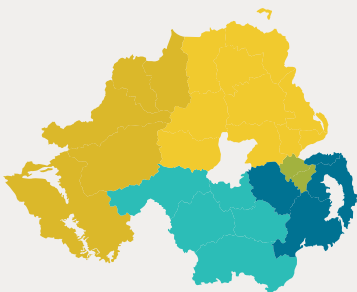
131%

FACE TO FACE CONTACT:

Annual Target:
500

Parents reached:
656

GEOGRAPHICAL REACH PER TRUST AREA



- Northern: **1816**
- Belfast: **1553**
- South Eastern: **1205**
- Western: **879**
- Southern: **858**

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT



Contact with Parentline NI prevented;

2184 calls to Health Care professionals

1986 calls to schools/EA

913 calls to social services

SIGNPOSTING



567 parents were signposted to other local services



WORKSHOPS

1757 parents registered
20 online workshops delivered



PODCASTS

7000 downloads

#3 Ranked number 3 in the best parenting podcasts in the UK

DISCUSSION GROUPS (PEER SUPPORT)

68 parents reached
4 separate discussion groups





REFERRALS

107 received and responded to within 5 working days – no waiting lists

ACCREDITATION

Awarded 'outstanding' accreditation by Helpline Standards



“ We really appreciate Parentline’s capacity to ‘hold’ parents whose children are on our waiting lists.”

Mindwise, Professional

“ I’m sorry getting emotional. You are the first to ask me how I’m feeling in all this. That means so much.”

Parent

“ Thank you for all your help and support, it was really beneficial and you really helped me through some difficult weeks.”

Parent



Parent Participation

- ✓ Networking and introduction of service with 12 voluntary, charity and statutory organisations including outcomes groups and locality planning groups across NI
- ✓ Developed resources: such as infographics, animations, top tips posters and flyers
- ✓ Held 7 events that included 35 parents, 2 young people and 10 professionals from parent led organisations. Reached approximately 250 parents through ASD Cafes
- ✓ Supported Parent-led sub group to create a parental resource
- ✓ Recruited 10 Parent Champions and facilitated a training event
- ✓ Supported parents in collaboration with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to develop storyboards

KEY OUTCOMES



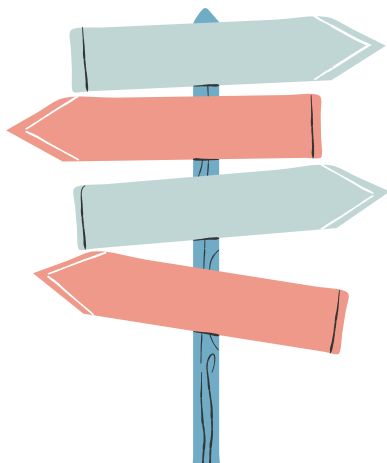
Directly engaged with **35** parents with varied parenting experiences including those from minority ethnic communities, those living with a loved one in prison and parents who have children living with neurodiversity.



Facilitated parent led discussion groups resulting in the development of parental peer support via Whasapp.



Recruitment of Parent Champions and Passionate Parents.



Even over Zoom I felt I could really engage with the group and it was nice to speak with other members of the group and engage in discussion."

Parent Champion



Look forward to the next steps in how I can contribute to this amazing initiative as a passionate parent to a teenage trans son, currently waiting for ASD and ADD diagnosis (4 yrs wait)."

Parent

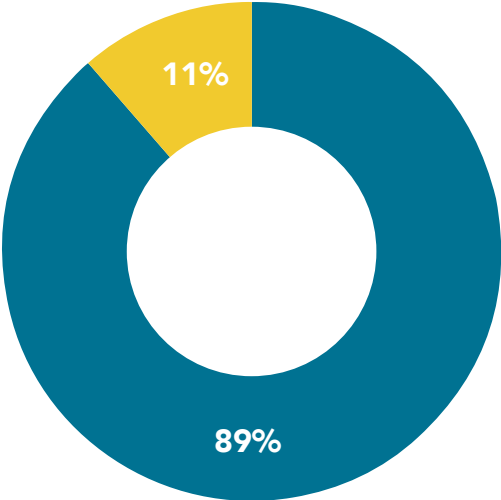
Finances

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME

for the
year ended
31st March 2023

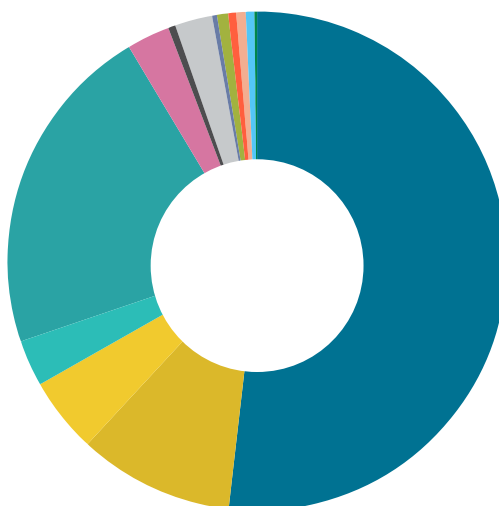
INCOME	AMOUNT
● Grants	£943,624
● Other Income	£121,184
Total Funds	£1,064,808



EXPENSES

for the
year ended
31st March
2023

EXPENSE	AMOUNT
● Salaries, Pensions & Social Security	£546,760
● Legal, Professional & Trainers	£106,151
● Property Rent & Upkeep	£51,639
● Publications & Promotion	£31,667
● Project Materials	£228,280
● IT Expenses	£29,474
● Stationery, Printing & Postage	£4,913
● Utilities	£25,673
● Room Hire & Catering	£3,214
● Travel Expenses	£7,645
● Sundries & Other	£5,411
● Training & Recruitment	£6,569
● Insurance	£5,868
● Subscriptions	£1,768
Total Expense	£1,055,032
Net Income	£9,776



CiNI Staff & Board of Directors 2022/23

STAFF

Pauline Leeson	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Ernest Purvis	<i>Policy Officer</i>
Roger Gowdy	<i>Finance & Office Manager</i>
Ciarán Traynor	<i>Learning & Development Officer</i>
Susan Wallace	<i>Learning & Development Officer</i>
Darren Curtis	<i>Locality Development Officer</i>
Jenny Groves	<i>Training Coordinator</i>
Joanne Patterson	<i>Locality Programme Support Officer & Office Coordinator</i>
Laurel Littlewood	<i>Digital Marketing & Engagement Coordinator</i>
June Onyekwelu	<i>Head of Service, Parentline NI</i>
Tricia Monroe	<i>Service Manager, Parentline NI</i>
Olivia Garrett	<i>Service Manager, Parentline NI (Maternity Cover)</i>
Gemma Robinson	<i>Service Coordinator, Parentline NI</i>
8 Parent Support Officers	
2 Community Connectors	
3 Parent Participation Workers	

BOARD MEMBERS

Marie Cavanagh	<i>Chairperson</i>
Paul Morgan	
Alison Beattie	
John Hunsdale	
Brenda MacQueen	
Liam Hannaway	
Michele Janes	



Children in Northern Ireland



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



Delivered by
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND**

