

# CHILDREN'S LAW CENTRE

Using the Law to Promote, Protect and Realise Children's Rights

## RJ's Leaving Day

## Annual Report

### 2010/2011

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If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid your donation and we can claim back an extra 25% from your taxes for every £1 you donate. Donate securely on-line at [www.cafonline.org](http://www.cafonline.org) by selecting Children's Law Centre under "find a charity" or send your donation directly to Children's Law Centre, FREEPOST Bel3837, Belfast BT15 1BR. Children's Law Centre is a company limited by guarantee, No.NI33998 | Charity No. XR24365



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# DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I had the honour recently of recording a BBC appeal on behalf of the Children's Law Centre. We were very grateful that Carla, one of the young people we have had the privilege of assisting, agreed to help us raise awareness of CLC and as part of the broadcast she told her story. Carla is an inspiration to all of us. She reminded us all in the Centre why we advocate for and with children and for me personally it reinforced my commitment to continue to work to realise children's rights. Carla has kindly agreed to allow us to include her testimony in this year's Annual Report. I would strongly urge you to read it. It speaks volumes as to the reality of the lives of children who already face significant challenges and the struggle they face in accessing basic rights including the right to education.

Carla's story also reflects the growing concern we have in the Centre about the impact of the fiscal recession on our most vulnerable citizens, children. Vulnerable children including children with special educational needs, living with disabilities, with mental health needs, excluded from school, living in poverty, in contact with the criminal justice system and experiencing discrimination are increasingly being denied access to services or having their rights breached on the grounds of fiscal "necessity". The monthly increase in the number of calls to CHALKY, CLC's legal advice and information line and the fact that the calls cover the full range of legal issues throughout a child's life, bears witness to how children and their best interests have not been sufficiently centre staged when determining how, in these financially challenging times, we make the necessary cuts to balance the budget.

CLC has consistently raised, in our response to consultation on the budgets and in our engagement with decision makers, the need to equality proof budgetary decisions to ensure they do not differentially adversely impact on vulnerable children. In that engagement we have noted that the Criminal Justice Inspectorate have reported that many children in Woodlands JJC whom inspectors met were 'neither serious nor persistent offenders' but rather 'troubled children' and in Hydebank Wood YOC they observed that there was a 'high incidence of mental health needs in the young offender population'. Noting the CJ's reports we questioned and continue to question the economic wisdom of not investing in additional support to allow children to remain in school or not properly resourcing child and adult mental health services properly while spending £200,000 per year to detain a child in Woodlands JJC. To address the growing children's rights deficit while recognising the difficult economic environment, we have advocated strongly for our government to legislate for a statutory duty to cooperate to ensure early investment in children and to prevent, in some instances, the recourse to the costly engagement that is characteristic of the criminal justice system.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the last year was the brilliant and challenging "RJ's Leaving Day." Youth@clc, in partnership with Tinderbox Theatre Company researched, scripted and performed in the Grand Opera House over 2 nights in February 2011, a play which challenged our elected representatives and democratic structures as to how we really view and listen to the third of our citizens who are children and young people. In their own inimitable way youth@clc questioned those with responsibility on issues of economic priorities, youth unemployment, demonisation of children including by the media, genuine consultation, education and mosquito devices. Among those who heard their message were the Junior Ministers, the Minister for Justice, the Children's Commissioner, the Police Ombudsman, members of the PSNI and the Youth Justice Agency. So impressed were the Junior Ministers by the play that they extended an invitation for the play to be performed in Stormont. It remains to be seen if they will now act on the unequivocal message youth@clc gave.

2010 also saw the birth of two future members (we hope) of youth@clc; Aoibh Whelehan and Eile Quinn. Congratulations to Natalie and Shane and Christine and Declan.

The scope and scale of work undertaken by CLC staff and youth@clc over the last year has been phenomenal and very successful. Limitations of space prevent me reflecting even a fraction of that work. This report however speaks volumes of the commitment of the staff, young people, volunteers and Management Committee who are CLC. Margaret Mead's much quoted insight reflects the power that such commitment holds: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does."

I am in no doubt CLC's commitment over the last year has helped to change the world in which children in this jurisdiction live.

*Paddy Kelly*

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Reading the Children's Law Centre's Annual Report for this year I am again struck and impressed by the amount of work the Centre has undertaken across the broad spectrum of issues which impact on children's lives from education to justice, mental health to employment; in fact everything relating to children from birth to adulthood. It is to the Centre's credit that their professionalism and the quality of their work; legal, policy, training, youth@clc, across such a range of children's rights concerns commands such respect from colleagues in the political, public, private and voluntary sector.

The Centre was very honoured to have deliver its 2011 Annual Lecture, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Marta Santos Pais. The lecture, which was chaired by Mr Justice Treacy, was on "Protecting Children from Violence, a Human Rights Imperative." Speaking in the Bar Library to an audience of Judges, duty bearers, senior civil servants, lawyers and NGOs, I was struck by Professor Santos Pais's comment that "Violence against children reminds us all of a serious governance gap we have failed to address so far." In the context of the defence of reasonable chastisement remaining on the statute books in this jurisdiction her conclusion that "Joining hands together, the protection of children from violence can evolve from being a concern of a few into a priority of society as a whole." will I am confident continue to motivate CLC to advocate for equality of protection for children.

It is testimony to the quality of CLC's work that in a time of cut backs the demand for the excellent training delivered by CLC has risen in the past year. The training the Centre delivers is informed by the work of CLC's legal unit and the policy work of the Centre. It highlights the issues in respect of which CHALKY receives the most calls and therefore where children's rights are not being realised. The training gives duty bearers as well as children, parents and advocates a better understanding of not only what those duties are but how they should be respected. This was clearly evident in the first rate accredited training delivered over the last year on Special Educational Needs and Mental Health which was attended by parents, social workers, teachers, lawyers and advocates.

An area of children's rights work in which CLC has consistently advocated for compliance by duty bearers with their domestic and international human rights obligations has been in respect of youth justice. The realisation of the provision in the Hillsborough Castle Agreement in February 2010 of a review of 'how children and young people are processed at all stages of the criminal justice system, including detention, to ensure compliance with international obligations and best practice', has been a major focus for CLC over the last period. In its evidence to the Justice Committee on 4 November 2010 CLC focused on it's concerns that the process initially proposed by the Minister was neither what was provided for in the Hillsborough Castle Agreement or what was required to ensure government's compliance with their obligations under both domestic and international human rights standards and best practice. In the context of the Minister having taken on CLC and others concerns and making some changes to his initial proposals for the review, CLC made a very detailed and comprehensive submission to the Youth Justice Review Team and I would recommend that submission to all who are committed to promoting the rights of children in this jurisdiction. In taking forward the Youth Justice Review CLC will I know remain committed to working with government and others to ensure the promise in the Hillsborough Castle Agreement of a children's rights compliant youth justice system is delivered with the immediate priority of ensuring children are no longer detained alongside adults in Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre in breach of the UNCRC and the UN Committee's Concluding Observations.

Finally, I would like to pay a special thanks to the administrative personnel in the Centre. The efficiency with which the office is run would suggest a large Administration and Finance Unit. The reality is quite different. Not only have the small admin. team continued to provide a quality service but they have done so ever mindful of the need to make savings and cut costs.

*Anne Marie Kelly*



2010/2011 was an extremely busy year for the Legal Unit in CLC. The impact of the fiscal cuts on public spending has clearly resulted in an increase in the demand for



our services. We are particularly conscious of what appears to be cuts in services for children with additional needs in education. Given that this jurisdiction is facing at least 4 years of austerity measures in respect of government spend, we are seriously concerned that the most vulnerable in our society, disadvantaged children, will disproportionally bear the brunt of cuts to public services. We will continue to qualitatively and quantitatively monitor over the coming period the calls to and demand for CLC's legal service and advocate to ensure that children receive the critical services to which they have a right and which in some cases can literally save their lives.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) Representative continues to provide legal advice about children's rights to access special educational provision which will meet their needs and their right to protection from disability discrimination in education. She provides legal representation in strategic cases at the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST). The issue of the "voice of the child" under Article 12 of the UNCRC was a strong feature of the casework taken to SENDIST this year, when one of our young clients attended a tribunal to successfully enforce her right to education. The following are examples of the casework undertaken by the SENDIST Representative.

- Refusal to issue a statement of special educational needs following statutory assessment - CLC drafted a very detailed case statement for the SENDIST. The NEELB agreed to provide a statement, including 15 hours classroom assistance and 4 hours of 1-to-1 teaching support per week. The child was also placed in his school of preference. The SENDIST recorded the outcome as a successful appeal.
- Appeal against content of statement - This case went to full hearing and the Tribunal ordered the NEELB to provide an additional 4 hours of learning support assistance per week at school for a child with dyslexia.

- Appeal against content of statement – In this very complex case a detailed settlement was agreed through negotiation with the Board. The appeal was subsequently withdrawn from the SENDIST.

The following outcomes were secured for the child:

- 25 hours classroom assistance and 5 hours supervisory assistance per week
- Classroom assistant to receive training from the NEELB's Autism Support Service
- Access to a differentiated curriculum to take account of the child's superior cognitive ability
- 1-to-1 OT provision quantified and defined as educational provision in Part 3 of the statement
- OT review following current block of therapy
- An individualised sensory diet for home and school to be implemented by an OT
- The child's Individualised Educational Plan (IEP) to be re-designed and a separate behaviour plan to be devised by the school
- Refusal to conduct a statutory assessment - CLC provided advice and support on lodging a Notice of Appeal with the SENDIST. The WELB agreed to conduct a statutory assessment of the child's special educational needs. The case was settled prior to hearing and the outcome was recorded as a successful appeal by the SENDIST.

JR30: In the case of JR30, the judge issued declarations in June 2010 and a full written judgment on 3rd September 2010. This case challenged the WHSCT for its failure to conduct timely assessments and make appropriate provision for children diagnosed with Autism and the challenge was upheld by the High Court. The Court held that the Trust had failed to meet its statutory duties to 'children in need' under the Children (NI) Order 1995 both in relation to the individual applicant in the case and to all of the children with autism who were awaiting assessment of their needs by the Trust.

The following High Court cases are ongoing at the Centre:

- A High Court Writ has been issued in respect of 16 year old girl who

is claiming damages for breach of her Article 8 rights under the European Convention of Human Rights.

- Legal aid has been secured to obtain counsel's opinion in respect of a potential claim for damages for a breach of a child's Right to Education under Article 2, Protocol 1 of the European Convention of Human Rights and/or an educational negligence action. CLC provided legal advice and representation in this case and secured a specialist school placement in an ASD Unit. However, the child was out of school and not receiving adequate educational provision for a prolonged period of time prior to this placement being secured.
- CLC is acting for a young person in ongoing judicial review proceedings relating to a decision by WHSCT to reduce the young person's care package on the basis that the decision taken was procedurally unlawful and in breach of the rules of natural justice. We are awaiting a Leave hearing in respect of this matter.

Although formal legal proceedings were not issued in some cases, there were a number of significant outcomes impacting on individual children's lives achieved. The following are examples:

- **Respite provision secured for a child with Autism** - The Trust had offered respite sessions over a year in a residential respite facility for children with complex needs. The Trust subsequently withdrew this offer. CLC intervened on behalf of the child and a respite package was negotiated whereby the child was provided with a befriending service for four weeks followed by inclusion in the Early Years Programme with the provision of three afternoons per week in an after schools club, funded by the Trust. The child also secured planned weekend activities and residential respite sessions as well as access to Summer Camp activities at a specialist facility and use of 'time out' emergency respite provision in times of family crisis.
- **Emergency accommodation for a homeless young person** - The SEHSCT had refused to provide emergency accommodation for a child in need under Article 21 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and presenting as homeless. Following intervention by CLC, the



Trust provided accommodation for the individual child and agreed to review all cases in relation to 16 and 17 year olds who have requested emergency accommodation.

- **Employment dispute concerning a 16 year old young person** - We secured payment of withheld wages on behalf of a 16 year old young person from a previous employer. CLC also challenged the employer in relation to their legal responsibilities in relation to the employment of registered school pupils as provided under Articles 135 – 148 of the Children (NI) Order 1995 and the Employment of Children (NI) Regulations 1996. Regulation 6 requires employers to notify the relevant Education and Library Board (ELB) about the particulars of each child in their employment and the ELB will then issue an employment card for each child in their employment. It is an offence to employ children contrary to the provisions of these regulations.
- **School reinstatement and interim provision secured pending statutory assessment** – This case concerned a 15 year old young person who has a diagnosis of Autism and had been suspended from school due to aggressive outbursts associated with his diagnosis. The school was considering a school expulsion as they had no support and were unable to cope with the child's behaviour. Following CLC's intervention, the ELB agreed to provide classroom assistance as an interim measure pending completion of a statutory assessment of the child's special educational needs. The child was re-instated in school.
- **Referral to Musgrave Park Hospital and CAMHS** – CLC intervened on behalf of a 15 year old young person who had sudden onset disability due to a rare and degenerative condition which had made the young person wheelchair dependent. The child was given priority for assessment by a consultant and referred to MPH for treatment and consideration for surgery. The child was also referred to CAMHS for an assessment and treatment to assist her in coping with her disability.
- **Assessment of young people with ASD traits prior to transition to adult services** – CLC successfully represented in two cases where young people (aged 15 and 17 years) were referred for assessment by BHSCT. Both boys were then diagnosed to be on the autistic spectrum. These challenges by CLC most certainly influenced a decision by the BHSCT to set up a Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast to carry out late ASD assessments for adolescents within this age bracket.
- **Request for Direct Payments** – CLC requested an assessment for direct payments by the BHSCT. Although the family did not qualify for direct payments, the Trust paid a one-off Carer's Grant of £300 to the family.

# Carla's Story



**H**ELLO my name's Carla and I'm 13. I've got cerebral palsy but I'm lucky because I only have physical difficulties. I can walk a bit with help. I love horse riding, swimming and I've even been skiing on the Olympic run in Whistler in Canada. I was in a sit-ski and it was amazing!

I've always gone to an ordinary school and I was doing really well until they took my physical help away at the beginning of P7. No-one was allowed to help me walk anymore and I ended up sitting in my wheelchair all day at school. Suddenly my marks were awful, compared to what they had been and I was in a real panic because it was only seven weeks to my transfer test. My mum ended up teaching me at home and I was delighted to get an A.

However when I went back to school things were the same. They said that nobody could help me get around because of health and safety. I felt like everybody mattered except me and although I knew it wasn't right for me to sit in the same position for hours on end, that's really what happened.

I'd always had physio exercises in school and walking and I knew that if I had to spend almost my whole school day sitting I wouldn't do well because I was uncomfortable and when you're uncomfortable you can't concentrate. I want to be a journalist or an RE teacher and you need to go to university for that. I thought that if things continued as they were I would never have the chance. It was a hopeless situation.

Then we found out about the Children's Law Centre and when we phoned up they said they might be able to help. We went for meetings there and they said what was happening to me wasn't fair and they would try to do something about it.

And that's what's happened. There was a lot of hard work and effort by lots of people in the Children's Law Centre, legal stuff, lots of letters and meetings and a Tribunal. We even thought we'd have to go to Court, but thankfully it's all been sorted out and now a Physio. Assistant will be coming into my school twice a week to help me.

Honestly, if it wasn't for these marvellous people my future would be horrible. Now at least I know that if I work hard enough, I have a chance of becoming a journalist one day, which is my dream.

I felt that no-one listened to me and that because I was only a child I was just stuck with what adults decided for me. But the Children's Law Centre stood up for me and now I know that my opinion does count after all. So at the start of this disastrous experience I was very shy and terrified to speak up for myself but now I have no fear. I want other children to know that if you have a major problem or if you think something's not fair, never be afraid to contact the Children's Law Centre. They will be there for you no matter what.





**FREephone 0808 808 5678**

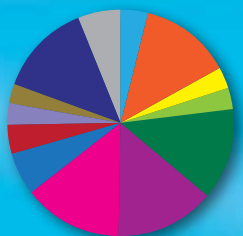
**'CHALKY' Freepost BEL 3837 Belfast BT15 1BR**

**Email: [chalky@childrenslawcentre.org](mailto:chalky@childrenslawcentre.org)**

CLC's CHALKY advice service has continued to provide legal advice and information to increasing numbers of children, young people, their parents and professionals working with children. From April 2010 to March 2011 the service dealt with some 2016 issues, an increase of 2.6% on the previous year. Issues raised by clients covered the whole range of legal issues throughout a child's life, from the registration of births and parental responsibility to benefits and accommodation options for 16 and 17 year-olds. Education issues accounted for 34.1% of all issues raised with Special Education the issue we dealt with most within this category, accounting for almost 13% of the overall issues total. Other major issues within the Education category included, Admissions, raised 79 times, bullying, 64 times and school exclusion, 46 times. Family Law issues accounted for 28.2% of the total issues with Contact/ Residence issues (292) accounting for over half the total. The General category accounted for 22.1% of the total with some of the main issues being Social Security (76), Child Protection (58), Mental Health (51) and At What Age? (31). Human Rights and Justice issues accounted for 6.3% of the total and the Care category 3.8%. There were also 111 (5.5%) requests for information during the year.

**General Issues April 2010 - March 2011**

Care	4%
Special Education	13%
Admissions	4%
Bullying	3%
Other Education	13%
Contact/Residence	14%
Family Law	14%
Information	6%
Social Security	4%
Mental Health	3%
Child Protection	3%
General	13%
Human Rights/Justice	6%



# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

**Despite the economic downturn, participation in this year's calendar of training events, seminars and presentations has far exceeded expectations. Over 1000 adult stakeholders including from the legal profession, statutory and voluntary agencies, policy makers and MLAs as well as over 200 children and young people attended CLC's training and education events over the past year.**

Our training events continue to raise awareness of the duties and responsibilities placed on government and public bodies by their ratifying the UNCRC in 1991, as well as their obligations to children under the ECHR, Equality Law and other domestic legislation. In particular, over the past year and in line with our strategic priorities, we have continued to highlight the ongoing deficit in "rights based" service provision for children and young people with Mental Health issues, Special Educational Needs and other types of disability.

In response to the continuing demand for information and guidance on the rights of children and young people with ASD, we ran two seminars on ASD this year - one in Belfast and one in Omagh. Both events were well attended including by parents and legal advocates. Several participants commented that the update on recent case law and in particular the implications of JR30 for all parents of children with ASD seeking the service provision from the Trusts, was extremely useful in informing their own advocacy work.

During 2011 we held two training events in Law Society House, which were well attended by both the legal profession and practitioners from the Health and Social Care sector. In February 2011, Siobhan Keegan QC provided us with an excellent update on and analysis of recent case law relating to the child's right to participate in legal proceedings in this jurisdiction. Also during this event, a "care experienced" young person spoke of her experience of feeling voiceless in both the care and the legal system, until VOYPIC enabled her voice to be heard through their independent advocacy service for children and young people in care. A number of solicitors and barristers commented, after this

event, that in addition to finding the update on case law from a QC "invaluable", hearing the views and experiences of this young person and in particular the obstacles she had to overcome in the legal system was particularly beneficial.

The second event held in Law Society House in June 2011, looked at the rights of "Children in Need" and included a review of recent case law relating to service provision presented by Ciaran White BL. In particular, this seminar examined the impact of JR30 in underlining the Trusts' statutory duty to carry out assessments of need for carers of disabled children.

In light of the UK Government's ratification of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2009 and given the fact that the UK's first report to the UN Committee is due in July 2011, next year's Calendar will continue to focus on "Children in Need" and their families, but with a particular emphasis on the developing role of the UNCRPD in supporting legal advocacy work.

## Feedback from other training events included:

*"I found the information on the Code of Practice and the 5 stages extremely helpful...it will help me support parents."*  
(Special Educational Needs on 20 October 2010);

*"The Information pack was a useful resource... excellent focus on explaining children's right in terms of the UNCRC and the ECHR in relation to NI..."*  
(Child's Right to Family Life and Privacy on 23 February 2011);

*"This training gave me a clear appreciation of the key current issues and the timetable for changes. It was very useful to see the Children's Law Centre's children's rights perspective on what is happening..."*  
(Introduction to Mental Health Law on 10 May 2011)



# POLICY WORK

**During 2010 - 2011, the policy function at CLC has continued to focus on ensuring that children and young people in Northern Ireland have their rights upheld, respected and protected through influencing the development of Government policies and legislation which will impact on children's lives. One of the ways in which the CLC's policy work aims to influence Government policies and legislation is through making responses to important consultation documents. Some of the key response made in 2010 - 2011 included responses to the:**

- Department of Justice Consultation on 'Local Partnership Working on Policing and Community Safety' - **April 2010**
- Department of Justice's Consultation on the Statutory Special Measures to Assist Vulnerable and Intimidated Witnesses to give Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings - **May 2010**
- Court Service on its Consultation on Court Boundaries in Northern Ireland - **May 2010**
- Department of Justice's Pre-Consultation on the Development of a Future Community Safety Strategy - **August 2010**
- The Five Boards' Consultation on the Draft EQIA of the Provisional Criteria for Initiating Statutory Assessments of Special Educational Need and for Making Statements of Special Educational Need - **September 2010**
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's Consultation on its Equality Impact Assessment of the Mental Capacity (Health, Welfare and Finance) Bill - **October 2010**
- Democratic Unionist Party's Consultation on Education Issues - **November 2010**
- Department of Education's Consultation on its Early Years (0-6) Strategy - **November 2010**
- Department of Justice's Equality Impact Assessment for a proposed Justice Bill (Northern Ireland) - **November 2010**
- Prison Review Team's Review of the Prison System in Northern Ireland - **December 2010**
- Access to Justice Review Team on its Agenda and Discussion Papers on the Access to Justice Review in Northern Ireland - **January 2011**
- Northern Ireland Executive's Consultation on its Draft Budget 2011 - 2015 Including Responses to the Draft Allocations and Savings Proposals of the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety, the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister and the Department of Social Development - **February 2011**
- Northern Ireland Executive's consultation on its Budget 2011 - 2015 Draft Strategic Equality Impact Assessment - **February 2011**
- Northern Ireland Law Commission's Consultation Paper Bail in Criminal Proceedings - **February 2011**
- Northern Ireland Executive's Child Poverty Strategy - **February 2011**
- Independent Review Team's Review of the Youth Justice System in Northern Ireland - **March 2011**

The input of youth@clc continues to be invaluable and integral to CLC's policy work. Detailed consultation exercises were carried out over the last year involving youth@clc and views expressed by members informed and were included in the Centre's responses including to the Northern Ireland Executive's Child Poverty Strategy, the Department of Justice's Pre-Consultation on the Development of a Future Community Safety Strategy and the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister's Consultation on a Play and Leisure Policy for Northern Ireland. youth@clc submitted a second young person specific CLC response to the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety's Consultation on its Equality Impact Assessment of the Mental Capacity (Health, Welfare and Finance) Bill.

A list of all of CLC's written consultation responses, as well as a number of summary responses, can be accessed on the CLC's website – [www.childrenslawcentre.org/submissions.htm](http://www.childrenslawcentre.org/submissions.htm)

CLC also provided briefing papers on a wide range of key children's rights issues which were disseminated to partner organisations, politicians, international bodies and speakers, Independent Human Rights Institutions, Members, youth@clc and children and young people. CLC attended all of the 5 main political party conferences and made representations to political party members, both at local and central Government level as well as Northern Ireland Executive level, with regard to proposed and actual policy and legislative issues which impact on the lives of children and young people.

Staff and young people continue to meet with Ministers, political advisers and elected representatives and provide evidence to Assembly Committees and regular briefings to politicians and their advisers. CLC provided written and oral evidence to the Department of the Environment's Committee on its Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill and to the Department of Justice's Committee on the Justice Bill (Northern Ireland) and on the Independent Review of Youth Justice in Northern Ireland.

CLC's Policy Officer works in partnership with other relevant organisations and makes an active contribution to membership bodies and events. Groups on which CLC's Policy Officer represents the CLC include the Equality Coalition, Children in Northern Ireland's Policy Sub-group, Save the Children's Child Poverty Alliance, the Department of Education's Traveller Education Taskforce, Action Prisons, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Consultative Forum and the All Party Assembly Group on Children and Young People.

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE UNIT

**C**LC is supported by a small team of finance and administration staff: Helen Rafferty - Head of the Administration and Finance Unit and Ann-Marie McLaughlin and Cathy Johnston who job share the post of Receptionist/Administration Assistant. The Team is also supported by Stephanie McIlroy, P.A. to the Director and Head of Legal Services.

There have been many challenges during another very busy year at the Centre. Because of reduced grant funding and staffing levels the team has worked very effectively in reducing expenditure and assisting with fundraising and diversification of income. The Administration Team provided essential financial planning and reporting structures, assisted with planning of CLC annual events including training events, seminars and lectures and has supported the administrative needs of the full CLC Team, assisting them to work efficiently to help improve the lives of children and young people throughout Northern Ireland.



## Staff - Children's Law Centre

Sara Boyce (left 30.06.10)  
 Emma Campbell  
 Victoria Graham (left 03.03.11)  
 Aine Hargey  
 Rachel Hogan  
 Cathy Johnston  
 Paddy Kelly  
 Liam Mackle  
 Anne Marshall (left 04.06.10)  
 Anna McBeigh  
 Stephanie McIlroy  
 Ann-Marie McLaughlin  
 Patricia McLaughlin (left 23.12.10)  
 Eamonn McNally  
 Christine Quinn (started 13.04.10)  
 Helen Rafferty  
 Kathryn Stevenson  
 Natalie Whelehan  
 Claire Bradley (Sessional Youth Worker)



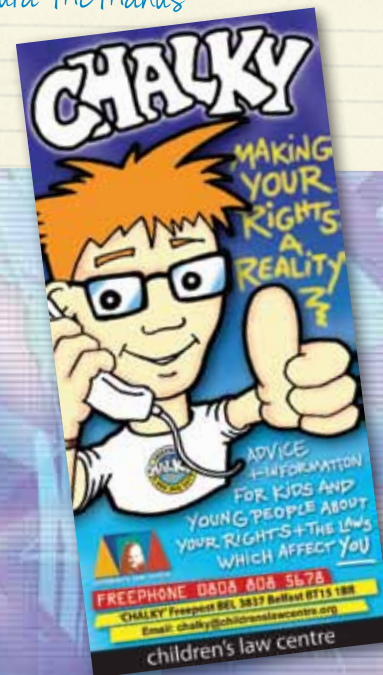
## youth@clc Members

Nicholas Hammond  
 Rebecca Henderson  
 Niamh Kerr  
 Christopher Maguire  
 Niamh McAllistair  
 Frank McCaughey  
 Caitlin McManus  
 Anna Monaghan  
 Helen Monaghan



## CHALKY Volunteers

Rosalind Dunlop  
 Peter Gaffney  
 Andrew Kirke  
 Victoria Williamson  
 Margaret Fine  
 Laura McManus



## Management Committee

Gráinne Brady,  
 Sheridan and Leonard, Solicitors  
 (left December 2010)

Margaret Burke  
 Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Theresa Donaldson  
 NI Legal Services Commission  
 (left August 2010)

David Hayes  
 Queen's University, Belfast

Anne Marie Kelly  
 MKB Russells, Solicitors

Mairead McCafferty  
 West Belfast Partnership Board

Vivian McConvey  
 VOYPIC

Margaret Monaghan  
 Belfast Education and Library Board  
 (left December 2010)

Paddy Mooney  
 Include Youth (left December 2010)

Therese Moran  
 Belfast Education and Library Board  
 (from December 2010)

Patricia O'Kane  
 Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency

Maura Ruoppolo  
 Edwards and Co, Solicitors

David Simpson



# Financial information for the year ended 31 March 2011



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) for the year ended 31 March 2011

	2011 Unrestricted Funds £	2011 Restricted Funds £	2011 Total Funds £	2010 Total Funds £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds:</b>				
Voluntary income:				
Donations and grants	8,375	-	8,375	9,480
Investment income	7,460	-	7,460	11,157
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</b>				
Grants received	-	557,497	557,497	575,929
Other income	17,918	12,430	30,348	46,640
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>33,753</b>	<b>569,927</b>	<b>603,680</b>	<b>643,206</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Charitable activities	41,960	627,427	669,387	675,161
Governance costs	1,497	1,023	2,520	2,438
Total resources expended	43,457	628,450	671,907	677,599
<b>Net incoming resources for the year</b>	<b>(9,704)</b>	<b>(58,523)</b>	<b>(68,227)</b>	<b>(34,393)</b>
Transfer between funds	16,476	(16,476)	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>6,772</b>	<b>(74,999)</b>	<b>(68,227)</b>	<b>(34,393)</b>
Total funds brought forward at beginning of year	144,349	178,426	322,775	357,168
<b>Total funds carried forward at end of year</b>	<b>151,121</b>	<b>103,427</b>	<b>254,548</b>	<b>322,775</b>

The above Statement of Financial Activities includes all information as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 and includes all recognised gains and losses.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

There is no difference between the net outgoing resources for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The company has no other recognised gains or losses and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

## BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	23,233	29,952
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	17,693	30,268
Cash at bank and in hand	219,321	269,642
	237,014	299,910
<b>Creditors - amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(5,699)</b>	<b>(7,087)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>231,315</b>	<b>292,823</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>254,548</b>	<b>322,775</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted funds	151,121	144,349
Restricted funds	103,427	178,426
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>254,548</b>	<b>322,775</b>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**A complete set of the Children's Law Centre audited accounts for 2010/2011 is available on request.**

## INCOMING RESOURCES

	2011 Unrestricted Funds £	2011 Restricted Funds £	2011 Total Funds £	2010 Total Funds £
<b>Voluntary income:</b>				
<b>Donations and grants</b>				
Donations	8,375	-	8,375	9,480
	8,375	-	8,375	9,480
Activities for generating funds:				
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Bank interest	7,460	-	7,460	11,157
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</b>				
<b>Grants received</b>				
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	-	71,969	71,969	71,969
Health and Social Care Board	-	109,985	109,985	111,339
Save the Children	-	12,500	12,500	18,000
Comic Relief	-	6,000	6,000	18,000
Dept of Education	-	-	-	53,400
The Atlantic Philanthropies	-	296,000	296,000	296,000
Children in Need	-	23,248	23,248	7,221
Big Lottery Fund	-	5,020	5,020	-
The Atlantic Philanthropies/NICVA	-	30,000	30,000	-
Belfast City Council	-	800	800	-
NIE	-	1000	1,000	-
Tesco Charity Trust	-	975	975	-
	-	557,497	557,497	575,929
<b>Other Income</b>				
Sales	15,727	-	15,727	13,493
NI Legal Services Commission income	-	12,430	12,430	33,147
Miscellaneous income	2,191	-	2,191	-
	17,918	12,430	30,348	46,640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,753</b>	<b>569,927</b>	<b>603,680</b>	<b>643,206</b>