

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTRE

Using the law to promote, protect and realise children's rights

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2016-2017 has been a very significant and positive year for the Children's Law Centre. In August 2016 we completed the purchase of our new home "Rights House" on the Ormeau Road and October 2016 saw the huge "clear out" of 18 years acquisitions in preparation for the big move in November 2016. Between August and November 2016 Helen organised and co-ordinated all the necessary renovations which were required to meet our needs in our new home. The move was surprisingly stress free and smooth, again largely due to the excellent organisation skills of Helen and her team. I would also like to personally thank all staff for "mucking in" and going the extra mile to make the flit relatively easy. Now safely ensconced in Rights House we reflect on many happy and some poignant memories of our years in Philip House from the comfort of our newly renovated, bright and welcoming new home.

While moving into Rights House was the unrivalled high of 2016-2017 for the Children's Law Centre, a huge potential threat to children's rights presented itself in the form of the leave vote in the Brexit referendum on 23rd June 2016. Brexit will have significant implications for children living in the different jurisdictions in the UK. While the impact will be different in each of the UK jurisdictions, it is in relation to Northern Ireland that the potential for the most adverse impact on children is greatest.

As the only UK jurisdiction with a land border with an EU State the implications of a Brexit which does not take full cognisance of the daily reality of the lives of children living in NI and of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement will have far reaching impacts for children and young people in Northern Ireland. Therefore ensuring the protection of children's rights in any Brexit process was a significant focus of CLC's work in the last year.

Children in NI live their lives "across" the border. Their homes straddle the border. Traveller children move across the border with their families on a regular basis. Family farms span both



Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Children cross the border to attend school or hospitals as do their teachers and nurses.

There is concern, including among young people, that a hard Brexit will impact on the rights and legal entitlements of thousands of children in NI to access health, education and care services in the South. The Common Travel Area between Britain and Ireland together with EU free movement rights have ensured that Irish children living in the UK, and British children living in Ireland, have generally been able to access services on an equal footing. The Department of Education NI, for example, has confirmed that at least 600 school children live on one side of the border but attend school on the other side of the border. Children from NI commonly access critical and sometimes lifesaving services in the Republic of Ireland through a process known as Extra Contractual Referrals

facilitated by EU Healthcare Directives. These children often have complex needs including mental health needs. CLC supports vulnerable children to access these services. In the absence of ongoing cross-border measures children will be unable to access these crucial services. A hard Brexit will impact on the rights and legal entitlements of the thousands of children living in both jurisdictions to access health, education and care services.

The EU has very generously supported the peace

process including, but not exclusively, through funding. EU cross border funding for Ireland/NI, including Peace funding between 1994-2020, will total €2,759 billion. Many projects which support vulnerable young people have been and are funded through EU Peace and INTERREG Programmes. These have been critical in building peace, supporting young people in transitioning from conflict and preventing young people born post ceasefire from being drawn into paramilitary groups.

Brexit has the potential to create instability for Northern Ireland particularly in the border counties and pose security challenges for Westminster. The closing of border roads cutting off communities from their natural hinterland during the "conflict" often triggered violent reaction. Further, young people have told CLC that they still experience paramilitary threats and attacks in Northern Ireland. The potential reduction in funding to support vulnerable young people

Young people are extremely worried about Brexit and the need to recognise this jurisdiction as unique:

who may be at risk of such threats, coupled with the broader risks that Brexit poses to the peace settlement, raises serious concerns. This is precisely the time that human rights instruments are needed.

The human rights and equality provisions of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement were critical to building the peace post 1998. As a result of the Agreement, by ratifying and giving further effect to the European Convention on Human Rights, the UK Government put in place a legal framework that would help protect all people, including our most vulnerable children. The ECHR and other human rights instruments in the Agreement, including EU derived rights, cannot become a casualty of Brexit. Any undermining of the human rights and equality protections enjoyed as a result of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement threatens children's rights.

The Children's Law Centre has been leading in the children's sector in NI in championing the protection of children's rights in any Brexit settlement. Along with our friends at the QUB Centre for Children's Rights we convened a seminar at QUB in July 2016 followed by a public seminar "BREXIT - What does it mean for Children's Rights?" in December 2016. We have spoken at a range of conferences and meetings, including giving evidence at a "Making Brexit Work for Children" briefing in Westminster in September 2017.

Mindful of the fact that young people who were denied a vote in the Brexit referendum are the section of the population who are going to be most impacted upon by Brexit, with the support of the PSNI, CLC undertook research with young people to hear their views on Brexit.

The message from young people was clear. Young people are angry that they didn't get to vote in a decision that will impact their lives and dominate the political landscape for years to come. One young person commented "the Brexit vote was a decision made by an older generation that will impact the



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younger generation." They reported tensions within their own friendship groups and the drawing of old identity lines as a result of Brexit. "people are becoming polarised; it's becoming personal and young people are afraid to speak their views [on Brexit]". They also acknowledged tensions rising with minority groups such as migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers and the LGBT community. "To mark their arrival, 'Welcome' signs had been translated into their language to help the Syrian families feel welcome here. Once the Brexit vote happened, the same Syrian families were told to go back to their own countries. The atmosphere changed so quickly."

The issue of returning to the conflict and a border poll was raised at every consultation session that was held. The return

of a hard border was, in most instances, simultaneously equated with a return to violence in Northern Ireland. One pro-Brexit young person commented "people might fight for a while; they will soon get bored and go back to their own lives." Another young person commented: "This is a border area, renowned for policing and checkpoints. In the past there was conflict with the police. Could Brexit bring us back to a place we don't want to be in again?" While another said "A hard border will mean a return to violence in Northern Ireland." Young people recognised the protections and benefits afforded to them by virtue of being an EU citizen. They do not want to see a regression in relation to rights in Northern Ireland following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and they are keen to see domestic legislation, policy and practice keep up to the standard of other European countries as a basic minimum. They were worried that the Northern Ireland Assembly would not bring forward equality and rights based legislation without the encouragement of the European Union.

Young people are extremely worried about Brexit and the need to recognise this jurisdiction as different: "With the Troubles, the Peace Process and the Good Friday Agreement, people not from here, can't really know what it is like to live here. Our lives are in the hands of people that don't know our lives."

CLC and Youth@clc have been working very hard this year to ensure that the voices of NI children and young people are heard and taken into account in any Brexit negotiations and repeal process. We will continue to work to ensure that any Brexit deal between the EU and the UK recognises the imperative to protect the integrity of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement which has been critical in securing the rights of post 1998 children including their right to live in peace.

Paddy Kelly
Director

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

After 2 years searching, detailed planning and significant legal and financial challenges for CLC, including the requirement to become VAT registered, the CLC's Management Committee were delighted to oversee the Centre's move from its home of 18 years to its own premises "Rights House" on the Ormeau Road in November 2016. It is testimony to the commitment of staff that the move happened with minimal disruption of services for children and young people. Rights House provides CLC with a secure home and through rental income a source of additional funding to help the Centre in its work to deliver on children's rights. CLC's offices in "Rights House", which were expertly modified to suit CLC's needs under Helen's expert supervision, are welcoming and accessible to vulnerable child clients, their parents and carers, youth@clc and staff.

Despite the necessity of having to close the CHALKY helpline for 2 weeks to facilitate CLC's move, it is noteworthy that CHALKY dealt with 2786 issues during the year, a 16% increase over the previous year with a significant number of issues relating to education and special education. The year on year increase in demand for CHALKY's services inevitably leads to concern that there is insufficient investment in services for vulnerable children and young people.

CLC's SENDIST project continues to provide information, assistance, advice and in some cases oral representation at SENDIST. We are struck by the huge volume of work undertaken by CLC in relation to children's right to access education. These statistics are testimony to the importance of CLC's work in securing children's right to education without discrimination. Importantly the children's stories behind these statistics speak to the life changing impact of this aspect of CLC's work. As a result of this work children with disabilities are able to access education along with their peers on a full time basis and without discrimination. It has also allowed children to access transport to enable travel to the school named in their statement and has paved the way for the return to school of children who have been out of education for extended periods. The impact of the work in



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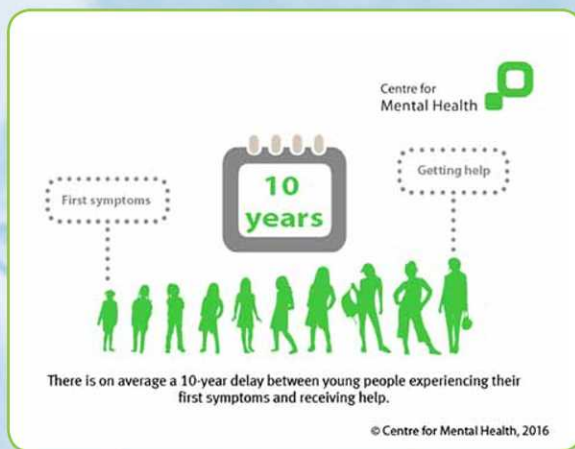
these instances and indeed across the spectrum of the education issues dealt with literally changes the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

One again this year CLC has represented in all Mental Health Review Tribunals involving children in this jurisdiction. Of considerable interest is the work undertaken by the Centre with the Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC). Following delivery of training to staff in the JJC, CLC has been receiving regular referrals from the Centre in respect of children, many of whom have mental health needs, who cannot perfect bail because they do not have a suitable address. Drawing on the judgement secured by the Centre in JR66, CLC staff have been successfully securing appropriate accommodation for these "children in need" alongside engaging with the relevant statutory bodies to address this systemic issue. The over representation of children with mental health needs in the criminal justice system coupled with a lack of appropriate accommodation for this group of vulnerable children means this issue is likely to remain a priority for CLC in the immediate future.

CLC remain committed to ensuring children, their parents and carers and professionals working with and for children know the law in relation to children's rights. Children and their parents/carers need to know that children have rights and what they are before they can realise them. The 500 adults and 160 children and young people who participated throughout the year in CLC training events, seminars, youth participation events and children's rights workshops are better equipped with the knowledge which will enable them to access the services they need and will be reassured that they are supported by CLC's legal advice and advocacy services.

Advocating for children's rights compliant policies has been challenging this year. After the May 2016 Assembly elections CLC had very positive engagement with government on key children's rights issues including with newly appointed Committee members and Ministers. We were encouraged by the evident will on the part of our elected representatives to address important issues which were presenting as serious problems for children and their families. However, political events in the Autumn of 2016 and the collapse of the Assembly and Executive in early 2017 leading to Assembly elections

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In March 2017 has slowed down progress in finding workable solutions to these problems. CLC have continued to engage constructively with those in the civil service charged with taking forward relevant policies but the absence of a functioning Assembly and Executive has mitigated against the taking of important decisions such as an increase in funding for child and adolescent mental health services and actions which are required to give effect to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's July 2016 Concluding Observations. The success of the work undertaken by CLC, youth@

clc and other colleagues and young people, in raising children's rights issues of concern with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is clearly evident in the number and nature of NI specific recommendations the Committee made. Critically these include issues reflecting calls to CHALKY and key issues raised directly with CLC by young people. Among the recommendations the Committee called on Government to set up a NI Youth Parliament, consider votes at 16, include under 16s in NI Age GFS legislation, include protections for under 16s in the protections provided for in the NI mental capacity legislation and address the issue of paramilitary violence against children in NI. Youth@clc are to be commended for prioritising in their work this year a campaign to encourage government to give effect to the Committee's recommendation in respect of child and adolescent mental health. We look forward to working with and supporting youth@clc, NI Youth Forum and Belfast Youth Forum in naming the "Elephant in the Room" and "Filling the Trunk" full of money for child and adolescent mental health services.

To say 2016-2017 has been a busy and momentous year for CLC is an understatement. We would like to thank all the staff, members of youth@clc, CLC's dedicated volunteers and all our funders and supports for making 2016-2017 a year to remember. The Management Committee have played a critical role in ensuring the major developments in the Centre which occurred this year and we wish to extend our thanks to them for giving so freely on their time. We are confident that this year's developments will allow CLC to continue to support and help thousands of vulnerable children in the years ahead.

Vivian McConvey and Suzanne Rice
Joint Chairpersons

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE UNIT

Wow! what a year for CLC, an office move, VAT registration, purchase of a building, tendering for funding contracts, becoming a "landlady" and just to top it all off new accounting requirements, so a whole new format for our annual accounts this year.

To say it's been busy would be a serious understatement – but our small and dynamic team:

Helen Rafferty - Head of Administration & Finance Unit
Sarah McAuley - Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Karen Tandon - Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

along with the rest of CLC staff, have managed to make huge gains in the last 12 months to provide a secure future for the Centre.

Thanks to a timely legacy grant from Atlantic Philanthropies which coincided with notice that our previous rented premises was to be demolished, we embarked upon finding a new home for the Centre. In August 2016 we completed on the purchase of our new home and took possession of a super new building and mortgage for our Ormeau Road premises - 'Rights House'. A few months of renovation work later, 1st November 2016, and we moved in to our lovely, bright, modern offices. As we have several units of office accommodation for rent to tenants, our move has not only helped to reduce our running cost but it has also given us the opportunity to secure the future of the Centre by providing an additional funding stream to benefit our work with children and young people.

Success with a new tender and our acquisition of property lead us, with the expert advice of our accountants, to becoming VAT registered from 1 April 2016. In addition to comply with legislation our audited accounts have been reformatted to comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102.

All the staff at CLC have worked incredibly hard in the past year including by being completely hands on with our office move. We are now well settled into our new home 'Rights House' and very much look forward to the year ahead which will be our 20th anniversary year. I am sure it will be equally exciting and continue to challenge us all as we continue to provide critical support to all children and young people throughout Northern Ireland.

Youth Participation & Advocacy Project

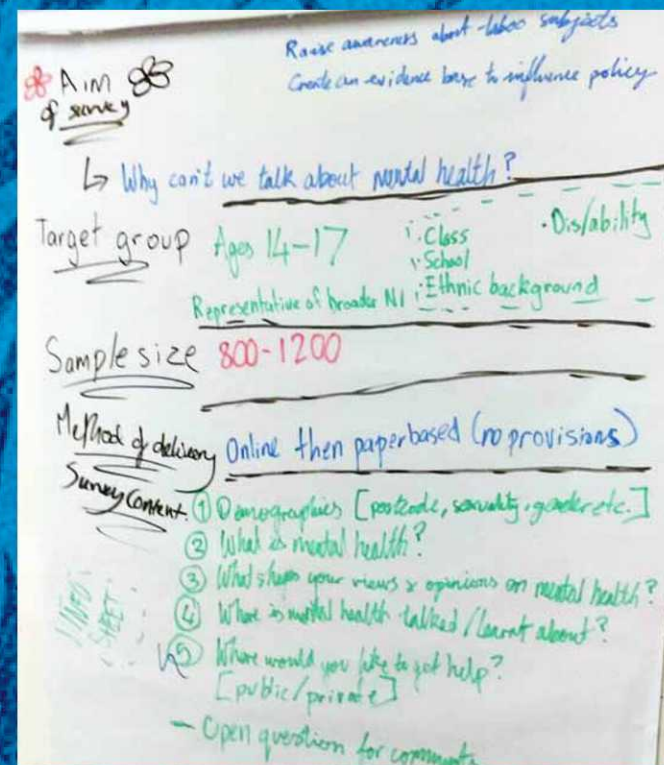
UN Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding Observations and Recommendations to the UK Government; July 2016

NI young people's participation in both the reporting and examination process in 2014 - 2015 clearly had a powerful and direct influence on the UN Committee's Concluding Observations and Recommendations to the UK Government in July 2016. This is clearly evidenced by the Committee's NI specific recommendations to the NI Assembly which included calling on Government to set up a NI Youth Parliament, consider votes at 16, include under 16s in NI Age GFS legislation, include protections for under 16s in the protections provided for in the NI mental capacity legislation and address the issue of paramilitary violence against children in NI.

Planning 'Elephant in the Room # fill the trunk' - Mental Health Awareness Campaign 2017

In response to concerns about deficiencies in mental health provision for children in NI raised by both the UN Committee in July 2016 and their peers in the City Hall follow on UNCRC youth engagement event in October 2016; Youth@clc, NI Youth Forum (NIYF) and Belfast Youth Forum (BYF) began planning a regional, youth led mental health awareness raising campaign in January 2017.

Campaign work began with a meeting on the 10th January 2017 between youth advocates, the then Junior Minister in the Executive Office, Megan Fearon MLA and the then Minister for Health's Special Advisor. The collapse of the NI Assembly less than a week later has prevented further engagement at a Ministerial level. Undeterred



"...young people from NIYF, BYF and youth@clc are planning to engage with hundreds of young people (aged 14 -18) across Northern Ireland through social media, an online survey and regional young people's events and focus groups, on issues impacting on young people's understanding and awareness of mental health issues ..."

during a weekend residential in July 2017 the mental health campaign steering group (representing youth@clc, NIYF and BYF), identified campaign aims, activities and projected outcomes to inform their funding application to Big Lottery's - Awards for All programme, which was successfully secured in September 2017. Over the next 12 months, a "youth steering group" (partnership of

young people from NIYF, BYF and youth@clc are planning to engage with hundreds of young people (aged 14 -18) across Northern Ireland through social media, an online survey and regional young people's events and focus groups, on issues impacting on young people's understanding and awareness of mental health issues and the barriers they face when seeking help when they need it.



The survey and youth engagement events will focus on:

- young people's views on mental health and the reasons for the ongoing stigma associated with poor mental health
- identifying existing sources of information on mental health for young people and whether these sources are reliable and/or helpful
- gathering young people's views on improving education on and awareness of mental health amongst both young people and adults e.g. teachers, the media and society as a whole

Through the research and their social media campaign, young people aim to firstly name the '**elephant in the room**' and achieve the following outcomes on behalf of

current and future generations of children and young people:

- change public perceptions of mental health by promoting greater awareness and understanding of mental health i.e. challenging negative perceptions, supporting positive, fact based, understanding and reducing the 'stigma'
- encourage and support more young people to seek help, if and when they need it

The online survey will go live in December 2017. Three youth engagement events are planned for Belfast, Derry and Newry between January - March 2018. Young people are planning to produce a report in April 2018 reflecting the views of their peers gathered through the survey and the engagement events with a view to engaging with key decision makers on young people's recommendations for the change needed to improve mental health education programmes and young people's access to early intervention support services.

Secondly, young people have identified that the '**elephant in the room**' is also Government's ongoing failure to adequately fund child and adolescent mental health services. Therefore findings and recommendations from their Report will also support young people's argument that Government urgently need to '**fill the trunk**' as required by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2016 recommendation to Government,

"Rigorously invest in child and adolescent mental health services and develop strategies at national and devolved levels, with clear time frames, targets, measureable indicators, effective monitoring mechanisms and sufficient human, technical and financial resources..."

(UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations and Recommendations to the UK Government, July 2016; 60(b)).

Giving Young People a Voice on Brexit

In early 2017 Youth@clc became involved in co-planning a cross border youth event, led by NICCY's Youth Panel and the Ombudsman for Children's Office in Dublin, on the potential impact of Brexit on all children and young people on the island of Ireland. This event will be held in Newry on the 10 November 2017. During 2017 - 2018 youth@clc will be engaging in further youth led research on the implications of Brexit for NI young people kindly funded by the Community Foundation for NI.



Policy Consultations with youth@clc

10 September 2016:

Department of Education consultation with youth@clc on the Children and Young People's Strategy 2017 - 2027.

16 February 2017:

CLC consultation on Children and Young People's Strategy with youth@clc to inform CLC's response to the Department of Education.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

DURING 2016/2017 OVER 500 ADULTS PARTICIPATED IN CLC TRAINING EVENTS AND SEMINARS AND 160 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN YOUTH PARTICIPATION EVENTS AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WORKSHOPS.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LEGAL SEMINARS: OCTOBER 2016 - DECEMBER 2016

This year, once again, CLC hosted a well received series of legal seminars at the Inn of Court, attended by members of the legal profession as well as professionals advocating on behalf of children and young people from the statutory and voluntary sectors. Highlights from this year's training calendar included a presentation by Monye Anyadyke-Danes QC on 'Using the UNCRC in Domestic Legal Practice' on the 23 November 2016.

Consistent with previous years, feedback from 2016/2017 participants attending these events was very positive. In particular participants found the seminars to be:

"...clear and straightforward...all really useful...practical and informative for real life practice..."

Some participants noted that they benefitted most from:

"...expertise of tutors ... materials provided ... excellent knowledgeable speakers ..."

finding out my legal rights as a parent regarding the statementing process ..."

TAILORED CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EVENTS FOR ADULTS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

TRAINING AND EDUCATION | APRIL 2016 - 31 MARCH 2017

DATE	COURSE/EVENT
17.05.16	UNCRC workshop – Primary School
2.06.16	Children's Rights in Social Work Practice
29.06.16	Special Educational Needs Seminar
18.07.16	Youth Conference Workshop
10.09.16	DE Consultation on Children's strategy with Youth@clc
19.10.16	SEN Information Event for Parents
27.10.16	'What You Say Matters' - UNCRC Youth Engagement Event
10.11.16	Workshop on Strategic Litigation
16.11.16	UNCRC Briefing Seminar
1.12.16	SEN Information Event for Parents
6.12.16	Brexit Seminar - What does it mean for Children's Rights?
16.01.17	Briefing on Homeless Young People for JJC Managers
16.01.17	Consultation workshop on Children's Strategy with youth@clc
21.02.17	Presentation on Children's Rights in Education for QUB PGCE Students
21.03.17	Implications of Brexit for Children and Young People - West Belfast Partnership Board Event

TRAINING CALENDAR EVENTS

DATE	COURSE
5.04.16	Advocating on behalf of Children in Need
18.05.16	Children's Education Rights
15.06.16	Rights of Homeless Young People
12.10.16	Children in Need
9.11.16	Children's Rights in Education
23.11.16	Using the UNCRC in Domestic Legal Practice
7.12.16	Special Educational Needs
22.03.17	Special Educational Needs



Staff - Children's Law Centre

Emma Campbell

John Patrick Clayton (Left May 2016)

Rachel Hogan

Paddy Kelly

Claire Kemp (Joined June 2016)

Liam Mackle

Gatherine Maguire

Sarah McAuley

Deirdre McMahon (Left April 2016)

Eamonn McNally

Helen Rafferty

Kathryn Stevenson

Karen Tandon

youth@clc Members

Tara Grace Connolly

Sophie Bell

Jay Morrison

Francesca Drumm

Ronan Cunningham

Laurie Kennedy

Josh Wallace

Eimear O'Keefe

Aoibhinn Graham

Maeve McFall

Rachael Mc Murragh

Sarah Hand

Ziphius Lilith Mackin

Emilija Budryte

Aron Hughes

Marcus Chapman

Pearse Smith

Maria Thompson



CHALKY Volunteers

Enya Boyce

Amy Brown

Meadbh Killen

Sophie Malatesta

Jay Morrison



Management Committee

Lisa Bunting

School of Social Work, QUB

Anne Marie Kelly

MKB Law

Vivian McConvey

VOYPIC

Chris Quinn

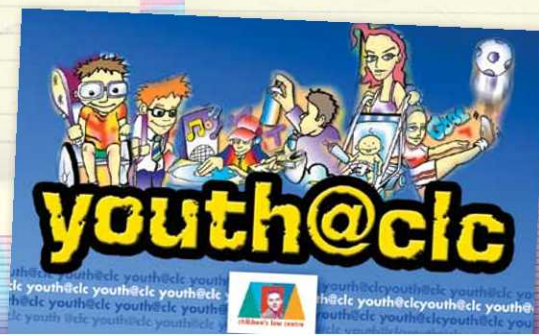
NIYF

Suzanne Rice

McKeown Solicitors

David Simpson

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership



Following extensive research in 2014 – 2015 with NGOs and 900 children and young people across NI, including an online young people's survey, the Children's Law Centre, youth@clc and Save the Children submitted the NI NGO Alternative Report and 'Our Lives in Our Words - NI Young People's Report', to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in June 2015. In April 2016, in response to the Committee's request to the UK government for additional information, CLC and Save the Children submitted an additional report "NI NGO Additional Information in Response to List of Issues UK". These reports, along with the UK State Report informed the fifth periodic UK UNCRC examination.

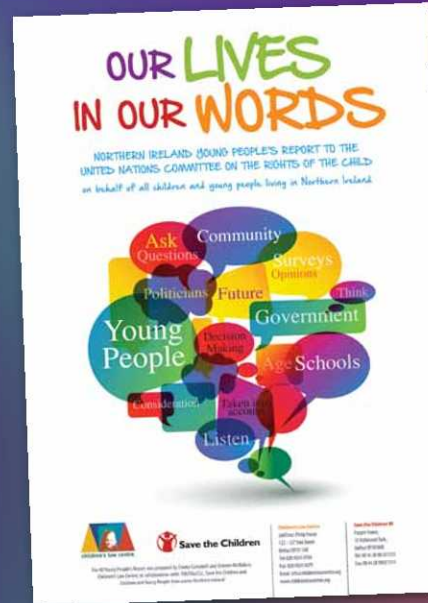
Young people from youth@clc and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, along with staff from CLC and Save the Children attended the UK Examination in May 2016. At the examination, youth@CLC were provided the opportunity to engage directly with the UN Committee to highlight issues faced by young people living in this jurisdiction.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child subsequently published their Concluding Observations and Recommendations in July 2016. The Children's Law Centre were pleased to see a number of Northern Ireland specific recommendations including:

- Expedite the enactment of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, agreed under the Good Friday Agreement.

- Expedite the finalisation of a child rights indicator framework.
- Prohibit the use on children of electrical discharge weapons, such as Tasers, attenuating energy projectiles (in Northern Ireland) and any other harmful devices and systematically collect and publish age-disaggregated data on their use in order to monitor the implementation of such prohibition.
- Ensure that secure accommodation in Northern Ireland is only used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time, address the reasons for repeated or lengthy stays in such accommodation and develop alternatives to secure accommodation.
- Abolish the practice of unregulated admission tests to post-primary education in Northern Ireland.

In November 2016, CLC organised a briefing event in Parliament Buildings to consider the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations and Recommendations as they apply to Northern Ireland and reflect on what action might be needed



to give effect to them and is so doing improve children's lives. The event also provided duty bearers and NGOs with an opportunity to reflect on how the UN Committee's Recommendations can inform future law and policy making in Northern Ireland, with a view to improving outcomes and therefore children's lives.

The 2016 election to the Northern Ireland Assembly were held in May 2016. Following the election CLC met with newly appointed Ministers and Committee chairs to highlight CLC's key concerns relating to the delivery of children's rights.

The new Programme for Government was published for consultation at the end of May, and work was ongoing from May – December 2016 to respond to the draft Programme for Government framework, the draft Programme for Government and specific delivery plans. CLC attended and contributed to a series of engagements with senior stakeholders in respect of specific delivery plans.

In December, the Children's Law Centre and the Centre for Children's Rights QUB organised a seminar "*BREXIT - What does it mean for Children's Rights?*" The seminar focused on the potential impact of Brexit

on children's rights in NI. Attendees heard from Helen Stalford, Professor of Law at the University of Liverpool and Director of the European Children's Rights Unit who assessed the potential implications for children. Claire Archbold, Deputy Departmental Solicitor, Departmental Solicitor's Office, Department of Finance, provided an outline of the implications for legislation in Northern Ireland. Tanya Ward Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance based in Dublin provided a Southern perspective in relation to the implications for children and Dr Simon Hoffman, Wales Observatory for the Human Rights of Children, University of Swansea provided analysis from a Welsh perspective. CLC continues to highlight issues and concerns relating to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union as they relate to children in this jurisdiction, including by producing a series of briefing papers outlining potential impacts of Brexit on children and young people and undertaking research to ensure children's voices are heard as part of the Brexit discourse.

The Department of Education launched the cross departmental draft Children and Young People's Strategy in December 2016. CLC engaged with the Department of Education prior to publication of the draft Strategy, during the consultation period and continue to do so to ensure that children's rights are enshrined in the new Children's Strategy.

The New Year saw the collapse of the Northern Ireland Assembly followed by an Assembly election in March 2017. CLC attended a number of election hustings, engaging with MLA candidates to highlight key issues impacting on children and young people. Although a new government has yet to be formed in NI, CLC continues to engage with key stakeholders, including Senior Civil Servants, the police, and a range of Inspection Bodies to ensure children's rights continue to be a central consideration for decision makers and rights monitoring.

Consultation responses 2016-2017

- Department of Justice's Consultation on Statutory Time Limits (April 2016)
- Department of Education's Consultation on the Draft Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations (May 2016)
- The Executive Office's consultation on draft Programme for Government Framework (July 2016)
- Department of Health's draft Looked After Children Strategy (Pre-consultation) (December 2016)
- Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (January 2017)
- Programme for Government EQIA (January 2017)
- Delivery Plans – Programme for Government
- Delivery Plans (Safer Communities, Mental Health, Looked After Children, Justice proposed outcomes) – January 2017
- PSNI Youth Justice Policy instructions (January 2017)
- NIPB Corporate Plan 2017 - 2020 (January 2017)
- NIPB Policing Plan (January 2017)
- Department of Health consultation on Criteria for Reconfiguring Health & Social Care Services (February 2017)
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homelessness Strategy (February 2017)
- Department of Education consultation - Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 (March 2017)
- Department of Health consultation on Adoption and Children Bill (March 2017)
- Submission to Joint Committee on Human Rights Inquiry: UK's record for protecting the Human Rights of Children (October 2016)
- Department of Health's consultation on Protect Life – Suicide Prevention Strategy (October 2016)
- Department of Justice's consultation on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy (November 2016)
- Department for Communities consultation on Proposals for provision of strategic support to voluntary and community sector in NI (2017 – 2021) (November 2016)
- NICCY Corporate Plan (December 2016)

CHALKY

ADVICE SERVICE

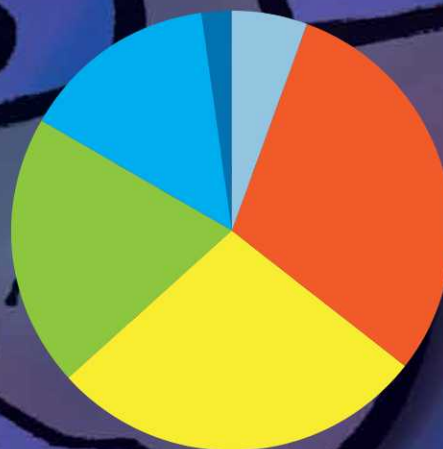
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The Centre's CHALKY advice service has continued to provide high quality legal advice and information to increasing numbers of children, young people, their parents/carers and professionals working with children. During the year from April 2016 to March 2017 the service dealt with some 2786 issues, an increase of over 16% from the previous year.

Issues raised by clients covered the whole range of legal issues throughout a child's life, from the registration of births, family support and parental responsibility to welfare benefits and mental health. Education issues continued to grow as an area of work accounting for 62% of all issues raised. Special Education is the issue we dealt with most within this category accounting for 37% of the overall issues total. Other major issues within the Education category included, Exclusions raised 59 times, Admissions, raised 91 times and discrimination 57 times. Family Law issues accounted for 18% of the total issues with Contact/ Residence issues (237) accounting for just under half the total. The General category accounted for 13% of the total with some of the main issues being Social Security (34), Medical treatment (29), Mental Health (47), Disability (20). Human Rights and Justice accounted for 2% of the total and the Care category 5%. There were 111 requests for information during the year.

There were a total of 2786 issues raised with the chalky advice and information service in the year from April 2016 to March 2017.



CHALKY Issues April 2016 - March 2017

Care	5%
Special Education	37%
Education	25%
Family Law	18%
General	13%
Human Rights/Justice	2%



LEGAL SERVICES for CHILDREN *and* YOUNG PEOPLE

This year, as has been the pattern in the past number of years, there has been a continuing rise in demand for the legal advice and representation services provided by CLC. CLC has assisted many children with disabilities and their parents/carers to access a broad range of education, health and family support services. We have provided specialist legal representation to young people at the Mental Health Review Tribunal and have negotiated community based support for children following their discharge from hospital to allow them to re-integrate safely back to living at home with their families or in supported accommodation in community settings. We continue to experience a huge demand in requests for specialist legal advice and representation around children's special educational needs assessments and provision, including the securing of specialist school placements and children's access to additional educational support services from the Education Authority while attending mainstream schools. The following are examples of CLC's strategic legal casework throughout the year:

JUDICIAL REVIEWS/ COURT PROCEEDINGS:

Judicial review application relating to the failure by a Health Trust to provide access to short break services for a disabled child

The applicant in this case is a young child with Autism and significantly challenging behaviours who requires 2:1 support at all times. At the time that the judicial review proceedings were commenced, the Applicant was on the waiting list for short-break provision at a Trust facility, identified by the Trust as the appropriate provider following a UNOCINI assessment carried out in late 2015. The Trust provided direct payments to the family as an interim arrangement but no respite facility was available at the time to meet the child's needs.

CLC issued pre-action correspondence in this case. The matter was listed for a leave hearing, which was

adjourned to allow negotiations to take place between parties. Regular access to overnight respite services have since been provided to the Applicant by the Trust and following a fresh UNOCINI assessment, the Trust agreed to increase funding for direct payments on a weekly basis for community based family support.

CLC also initiated pre-action correspondence in three education related matters which may have been challenged by way of judicial review. Each case was resolved by CLC without recourse to legal proceedings in the High Court:

Failure by Education Authority to fully implement a SENDIST Order

CLC issued a pre-action protocol letter to the EA advising them that we were instructed to take a judicial review challenging its failure to implement an

agreement reached during SENDIST proceedings in which CLC had acted as legal representative. The case was resolved by CLC's SENDIST Representative without recourse to further legal proceedings.

The child concerned was a primary school child with significantly delayed numeracy and literacy skills impacting on access to the school curriculum and the child's self-esteem. They were due to transfer to secondary education in September 2016. Agreement had been reached just prior to the SENDIST hearing that the child would receive literacy support to address the specific literacy difficulties, including 10 hours adult literacy support and 2 hours direct teaching support per week, such support to be reviewed in anticipation of the child's transition to secondary school.

On the strength of this agreement, the SENDIST Appeal had been withdrawn by the child's parents. The school



appointed 2 retired teachers to deliver literacy sessions on 2 separate days of the week. One of the teachers appointed had no specific experience on teaching children with literacy difficulties. The EA appointed a different teacher from its service for children with Specific Learning Difficulties to take the child for literacy support teaching for the additional 1 hour per week.

A revised final statement was issued including 10 hours additional adult assistance plus 2 hours direct teaching per week; access to ICT equipment and training and support in the use of assistive technology. The EA's learning support service agreed to ensure implementation of the child's statement.

School Transport provision

CLC issued a pre-action protocol letter to the EA advising them that we were instructed to take a judicial review challenging its failure to fund and specify the provision of full-time school transport on a child's statement to enable travel to and from the school named in Part 4 of the child's statement, which was a Grammar School. The child was due to commence Year 8 in September 2016.

Transport had been offered by the EA for the child to attend another school closer to the home address, which the parents argued was not suitable to meet their child's special educational needs. The EA were only willing to part-fund transport to the school of first preference. The child concerned has Asperger's Syndrome and complex medical needs. The child's mobility is significantly restricted due to her medical needs. She also has social and communication difficulties and anxiety associated

with her Asperger's Syndrome. The EA responded to the pre-action letter by conceding that the Grammar School was a suitable school and agreeing to pay for full-time home to school transport.

The statement was also amended to specify the level of classroom assistance that the child would receive in school.

Dispute relating to school placement for a statemented child

CLC issued a pre-action protocol letter to the EA advising them that we were instructed to take a judicial review challenging its failure to provide a suitable primary school placement for a child in a specialist Social Communication Unit (SCU) by 1st September 2016 despite the availability of Educational Psychology recommendations confirming the need for a specialist SCU placement. The child had been out of school for a prolonged period of time and had not received any educational provision from the start of the new school term.

Following the issue of the pre-action correspondence a settlement was agreed for a phased reintegration to the child's original mainstream primary school with additional educational support. As part of the settlement the child received a full-time classroom assistant in school and 2 hours 1:1 teaching support per week. It was further agreed that the child would have a sensory assessment by a multi-disciplinary early years team. It was further agreed that the EA's Educational Psychologist would provide assistance with the child's phased transition back to school with

training and support being offered to school staff to meet the child's educational needs. As a back-up plan, the child was placed on a waiting list at a Social and Communication Unit at a special school. Happily, the re-integration to the mainstream school was successful.

The child's amended statement was finalised following liaison between CLC and Senior EA staff. Detailed provision was made to include a sensory diet implemented in school; communication between an Occupational Therapist and the school; designated adult assistance and weekly numeracy teaching support

MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CLC continues to provide free specialist legal advice, assistance and in some cases representation at the Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT) for children and young people in respect of their appeals against detention under the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986. Examples of representation provided during this period include:

Statutory review for a child awaiting specialist placement outside NI

CLC are working with a detained patient with learning disabilities and co-occurring mental health needs. The child has been deemed too complex for the services within Northern Ireland and requires an extra contractual referral to a specialised medium secure unit outside NI. CLC provided representation



relating to an automatic referral to the Mental Health Review Tribunal to have the young person's detention reviewed after a period of one year. The detention was affirmed pending placement. CLC has continued to advocate on behalf of this young person in relation to contact with siblings whilst in hospital and in relation to the planning for the future placement. CLC's Mental Health Solicitor has been attending monthly review meetings and is actively involved in negotiations with the Trust.

Challenges against detention

CLC filed an appeal on behalf of a young inpatient at Beechcroft Regional Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Unit. The tribunal hearing was adjourned with consent for a period of 6 weeks. In the intervening period the young person's health improved and they were re-graded to a voluntary patient. The appeal to the tribunal did not proceed. CLC attended and supported the young person at their hospital discharge planning meeting (DPM) and it was agreed that they would reside in supported accommodation with access to community support services from the Trust. CLC's Mental Health Solicitor negotiated a package of community support, including a speedy referral to Adult Mental Health Services.

CLC has previously raised concerns regarding the late filing of psychiatric reports and social circumstances reports for young people challenging their detentions in Tribunal proceedings. In this case, there was a recurrence of the problem and CLC highlighted the

detrimental implications of same in writing with the Tribunal Secretariat. CLC is particularly concerned by the potential impact on a child's access to justice. Unreasonable delays in filing of reports place the appellant's legal representative under considerable time pressure in reading papers and preparing for an appeal hearing. It is important that sufficient time is given for proper consultation with clients as part of the case preparation process especially when clients are vulnerable and may have additional needs.

CLC was also instructed to file an appeal against detention on the basis that the young person detained had no diagnosed mental health condition as specified within the grounds for detention contained within the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986. The young person was re-graded as a voluntary patient by her consultant and the matter did not proceed to full hearing. The young person was subsequently detained a second time before leaving hospital. There was no appeal against the second detention.

CLC also represented a young person who was detained in an adult mental health facility for a period of one month prior to admission to Beechcroft CAMHS Unit. The young person decided to withdraw the appeal before the hearing. CLC again raised concerns with the Tribunal Secretariat regarding the late filing of a psychiatric report and the social circumstances report by the social worker in this case. The young person was further assisted by VOYPIC's Young Person's Advocate at Beechcroft to request a change of hospital consultant. A new consultant was appointed.

CLC remains concerned about the number of detentions of young people which are re-graded to voluntary status following an application for appeal to the MHRT and prior to the full hearing. The frequency of this practice occurring in our casework raises concerns as to the appropriateness and/or lawfulness of detention in some cases. In addition, CLC's young clients have expressed apprehension and unease regarding the broader implications of having to declare detentions for hospital treatment on their future life chances including education, employment, training and travel opportunities.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER HEALTH RELATED CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN:

Delayed discharge patient requiring community based health and education provision

CLC is currently working with a child with complex health and care needs who is a detained mental health patient. She is a delayed discharge patient awaiting an appropriate community placement. CLC are working with the family and the Trust to arrange an appropriate placement that can meet her care and educational needs for the remainder of childhood and are working with the transition team to secure a placement for when she turns 18.

Requirement for a bespoke community based placement and Dispute in respect of interim arrangements

CLC is working with a life limited child with extremely



complex care needs. The child requires care and supervision 24 hours per day. The child concerned was inappropriately placed by the Trust and had been awaiting the creation of a bespoke placement for some time.

CLC attempted to negotiate with the Trust to provide this child with an appropriate level of care and support to allow her to return to the care of her family pending the identification of an appropriate longer-term placement. Following protracted inter-party negotiations the case could not be resolved and CLC obtained legal aid on behalf of the child to issue judicial review proceedings against the Trust for its failure to make provision for the child. This case is ongoing.

Engagement with a young person in relation to leaving and aftercare planning

CLC advocated on behalf of a young client with Asperger's Syndrome who wished to have her wishes and feelings taken into account when planning for transition from her placement in a residential children's home into adulthood. The case ended in a satisfactory resolution and the young person has since transitioned to privately rented accommodation. She will also continue to benefit from leaving and aftercare entitlements as a former looked after child.

Funding secured for adaptation of a family home for a disabled child

CLC advocated on behalf of a family with the Trust and the Housing Executive (NIHE) to secure funding

for a loft conversion so that suitable bedroom accommodation could be provided for a disabled long term foster child. A Disabled Facilities Grant had been secured from the NI Housing Executive and the Trust was providing a top up payment to part fund the improvement works. There was a dispute around the building contractor's ability to complete the works. The matter was resolved and the work has now commenced at the family home.

EXAMPLES OF CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH JUSTICE:

Article 21 referrals for emergency accommodation from and on behalf of young people in Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC)

During the past year, CLC have received increasing referrals from JJC staff on behalf of young people who have required legal advice and representation as the Trusts have failed to identify suitable accommodation to enable the young people to make successful applications for bail pending disposal of their criminal proceedings. All of these cases have been resolved following CLC's intervention with the relevant Trusts. It is of particular concern that some of these children have been looked after children who have been previously known to the Trust (HSCT) and in some circumstances accommodated by the Trust prior to detention at JJC. The Trusts are not consistently following the regional good practice guide agreed as a joint protocol between the NIHE and the HSCTs when assessing these young people's accommodation needs under Article 21 of the Children (NI) Order 1995.

In addition to representing individual young people on this issue, CLC submitted a detailed policy response to the NIHE's consultation on its Homelessness strategy for Northern Ireland 2017-2022: "Ending Homelessness Together" in February 2017. We were most concerned by the invisibility of homeless children and young people within this strategy and highlighted the duties to homeless 16 and 17 year olds under Article 21 of the Children (NI) Order 1995 in our response. The response is available in the members section of CLC's website www.childrenslawcentre.org

Further, in response to the recent surge of referrals from Woodlands, CLC accepted an invitation in March 2017 to provide a legal training session with the Senior Management Team at Woodlands on the legal requirements placed on the NIHE and HSCTs under Article 21 of the Children (NI) Order 1995. The training delivered by CLC staff was designed to up-skill key management staff within the JJC and to highlight the procedures to be taken under the joint protocol by front line staff in order to meet young people's accommodation needs when released from JJC and also to secure a suitable bail address for young people when applying for bail.

Advice and assistance provided to a Looked After Child regarding a Youth Engagement Clinic

This issue arose in respect of a client who is resident in a children's home. The young person was arrested and processed in a police station without access to an independent appropriate adult and without legal advice from a solicitor. The young person has a history



of mental health needs and a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome. The circumstances around the arrest were that the client was on a short break foster placement and had arrived at the foster placement after the agreed time. The children's home contacted the police who attended the foster family home and made the arrest there. At the point of contact with CLC, a referral had been made for the young person to attend a Youth Engagement Clinic and they were awaiting notification of a date to attend.

CLC made a referral to a solicitor in private practice who attended the Youth Engagement Clinic with the young person. The young person was assisted to make a complaint to OPONI (Police Ombudsman) about the police handling of the case. CLC also provided advice to the young person around planning for independent living and access to leaving and aftercare services when the young person is ready to leave care.

Advice and assistance provided to the mother of a disabled young person who was issued an informed warning by the PSNI following a Youth Engagement Clinic (YEC)

The circumstances in this case relate to a mother who contacted the PSNI (on the advice of social services) when her teenage child hit out at her in the family home. The child has a diagnosis of Autism and displays challenging behaviour at home. When contacted by the mother requesting crisis intervention, Social services 'out of hours' team had recommended that she phone the PSNI as they were unable to offer any immediate crisis assistance.

The police processed the incident as a criminal incident; carried out an investigation and a Youth Engagement Clinic was offered by the PPS as a diversionary disposal. The young person attended the YEC and accepted an informed warning which gave rise to a criminal record.

The mother and young person had no access to independent legal advice prior to or during the YEC. The mother was treated as an 'appropriate adult' attending with her child at the YEC although she was the alleged victim in the incident (contrary to guidance). This case was successfully resolved by CLC following the issue of a pre-action letter to the PSNI and the PPS. The Crown Solicitors Office has confirmed that the informed warning will be withdrawn and the young person will not have a criminal record.

CLC was concerned that this situation was triggered by the lack of crisis intervention available at the family home when the mother requested social services support, and could have been avoided had preventative measures and/or earlier intervention been introduced by the Trust, including access to community CAMHS support for the young person and other family support services. In the aftermath of the incident reported, the PSNI contacted social services to ask them to initiate an assessment for family support.

Following CLC's involvement a CAMHS referral was made and community based CAMHS provision commenced. CLC made additional referrals to the National Autistic Society (NAS) and Autism NI so that the family may avail of local support services and parent networks in their local area. CLC has also

provided advice around a special educational needs assessment in this case.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

Tribunal representation at SENDIST

CLC provided detailed advice and representation in 27 Special Education Appeals this year. 12 appeals related to refusals by the Education Authority to carry out statutory assessments; 4 were in respect of refusals to issue a statement following assessment and 11 appeals were in respect of the content of the final statement, including school placements.

Many of the children for whom we act in relation to SENDIST appeals are presenting with increasingly complex health, social, emotional and communication needs, sometimes manifesting in extremely challenging behaviours as well as specific learning difficulties and educational support needs. We are experiencing increasing barriers to securing specific and quantified health provision within children's statements. Therefore, CLC often engages constructively with health as well as educational professionals to secure suitable provision within a child's statement so that they can fully access the curriculum, participate in inclusive education and reach their maximum potential. CLC also provides regular SEN Training sessions throughout the year, which are attended by health care professionals, social workers, parents and carers, SENCOs and education providers.

The SENDIST representation service at CLC is in



exceptionally high demand. Outcomes for children include the following:

Refusal to carry out a statutory assessment

CLC successfully represented a child with dyslexia/ASD who had been out of school for a prolonged period of time following transfer to secondary education. Following CLC's intervention, the EA conceded the appeal and agreed to carry out a SA.

Refusal to carry out a statutory assessment

This case concerned a 'Looked after child', with a history of very poor academic attainment. The child's Social Worker contacted CLC for advice and support. There were a number of changes of SW appointed to the child and this meant that appeal rights had already lapsed on a statutory assessment appeal to SENDIST. CLC advised the SW to request a fresh statutory assessment. The second request was turned down by the EA. CLC drafted the Notice of Appeal for the Social Worker who was not confident on the appeal procedures. The EA conceded the appeal and the child will now receive a statutory assessment after 2 previous refusals.

Appeal against refusal to issue a statement together with a Disability Discrimination Claim against the EA

CLC assisted with a SEN appeal against the EA's refusal to issue a statement and simultaneously filed a disability discrimination claim in relation to the EA's failure to take reasonable steps to ensure equal access to education. The SEN appeal was conceded and a

proposed statement was issued including provision of designated adult assistance for the child. Provision was put in place with immediate effect, pending the issue of a final statement.

CLC successfully provided legal representation for a contested claim of disability discrimination against the EA. The child had been on a significantly reduced school day. School and parents maintained that they had consistently asked the EA for more help and resources to facilitate the child's full time attendance. Since the date of issue of the final statement the child has been able to attend school full-time. The SENDIST panel decided that the EA had discriminated against the child in the exercise of its functions under the 1996 Order, because although it possessed a wealth of evidence about the child's significant difficulties, and exclusions from school, it failed to issue a statement of SEN, with the effect that the child was treated in a substantially different manner to classroom peers and the opportunity to access education was severely restricted. A declaration of discrimination was made and the EA was ordered to make written apology to the child and parents.

Appeal in respect of content of statement and school placement

CLC negotiated a working document with the EA including agreement on placement at a special school commencing in September 2016. In the interim, the child received home tuition until the end of June, followed by a phased re-entry to school with full-time 1 to 1 adult assistance. It was further agreed that the

child would repeat a school year as they had been out of the formal school setting for some time. CLC's SENDIST Representative made a written application to the SENDIST to have the working document made an Order by consent and the parties were not required to attend for an oral hearing.

Appeal against content of statement

CLC negotiated a settlement on behalf of a child prior to hearing. The appeal was in relation to non-specification of hours of classroom assistance within the statement. A working document was produced by the EA and the statement was amended to include dedicated full-time adult assistance for the child. The SENDIST recorded the outcome as a successful appeal.

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN EDUCATION CASES:

Although formal legal proceedings were not issued in these education related matters, significant outcomes were achieved which have had and continue to have a very real impact on children's lives:

School transport provision secured for child attending special school

The child's placement commenced in September 2016 with a phased start. As school hours increased there was no flexibility of approach by the EA around with the child's home to school transport. CLC successfully intervened on the child's behalf and secured school transport by taxi with a one to one escort.



School suspension redacted and statutory assessment agreed

The case concerns a teenage child, who was experiencing difficulties in school and was on an unofficial suspension for fighting with another pupil. Following negotiations by CLC, the suspension has been lifted and the child reinstated in school. The EA also agreed to carry out a statutory assessment. The young person has engaged with CAMHS and has been referred for assessments.

Resolution of a dispute around school access arrangements and an application for a remark/uplift in a GCSE Exam

This case concerned a long standing client with Autism to whom CLC has provided ongoing support throughout their secondary education. The young person was denied access to a laptop during a GCSE exam and felt this had a negative impact on exam performance. The school had applied for access arrangements including extra time and a

separate examination room but had omitted to make arrangements for a laptop to be available for the exam. The outcome was that the school agreed to ensure a laptop was available for future exams and to apply for special circumstances to try and obtain an up-lift in the original exam mark. CLC also contacted the ASD service and they agreed to discuss further potential access arrangements, suitable modes of working and reasonable adjustments with the child's school.

Education Other than at School (EOTAS) placement secured for a child who was out of school

CLC were particularly concerned as the child in this case was studying for GCSEs. The child had been offered a limited amount of home tuition and to be placed on a waiting list for EOTAS provision. CLC successfully intervened on the child's behalf and negotiated for the child to be given priority consideration for a placement at an Educational Guidance Centre. The placement was secured. Arrangements were put in place for continuing study on some GCSEs at technical college and to complete a Princes Trust Award Scheme.

Primary school placement and reassessment of need secured for a child in specialist foster care

CLC was contacted by a social worker requesting assistance in securing a school placement following a transfer from another Trust area. The child had previously been statemented when starting nursery but is now in Year 5. The original statement was for Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties but the child now has significant numeracy and literacy difficulties when compared to peers. The EA had consulted with a number of local schools around placement but could not find a school to admit the child. The EA were offering a package of support to the schools. CLC intervened with the EA on the child's behalf and raised concerns about the lawfulness of the school admission refusals and requested a reassessment of the child's needs as the advices to the statement were so out of date. A school placement has since been secured in a mainstream primary school. The EA is providing a package of support, including one-to-one adult assistance in school.

Financial information for the year ended 31 March 2017



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) for the year ended 31 March 2017

	2017 Unrestricted Funds £	2017 Restricted Funds £	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	2,056	-	2,056	1,295
Charitable activities	18,936	671,855	690,791	528,264
Investments	11,310	-	11,310	552
Exceptional movement in pension provision	49,883	-	49,883	153,192
Total income	82,185	671,855	754,040	683,303
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	23,331	536,147	559,478	537,547
Total expenditure	23,331	536,147	559,478	537,547
Net income before transfers	58,854	135,708	194,562	145,756
Transfers between funds	(484)	484	-	-
Net income before other recognised gains and losses	58,370	136,192	194,562	145,756
Net movement in funds	58,370	136,192	194,562	145,756
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	(64,093)	151,140	87,047	(58,709)
Total funds carried forward	(5,723)	287,332	281,609	87,047



A complete set of the Children's Law Centre audited accounts for 2016/17 is available on request.

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	189,783	14,804
Investment property	270,000	-
Total tangible assets	459,783	14,804
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	10,972	15,884
Cash at bank and in hand	197,887	235,236
	208,859	251,120
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	(43,830)	(7,451)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	165,029	243,669
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	624,812	258,473
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after one year	(227,943)	-
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES	396,869	258,473
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(115,260)	(171,426)
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES	281,609	87,047
CHARITY FUNDS		
Restricted general funds	287,332	
Unrestricted general funds	99,372	97,168
Designated funds	10,165	10,165
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	(115,260)	(171,426)
Pension reserve		
Total unrestricted funds	(5,723)	(64,093)
TOTAL FUNDS	281,609	87,047

INCOME

	2017 Unrestricted Funds £	2017 Restricted Funds £	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
Income from donations and legacies	2,056	-	2,056	1,295
Donations				
Investment income	220	-	220	552
Bank interest	11,090	-	11,090	-
Rental income	11,310	-	11,310	552
Exceptional movement in pension provision	49,883	-	49,883	153,192
Movement in pension provision				
Income from charitable activities				
Grants receivable				
Department of Health	-	53,977	53,977	71,969
Health & Social Care Board	-	146,905	146,905	115,635
Atlantic Philanthropies	-	179,994	179,994	210,000
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	7,905
OFMDFM	-	6,300	6,300	-
Department of Education	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Xchange C03	-	-	-	7,500
BBC Children in Need	-	28,200	28,200	26,790
American Ireland Fund	-	1,994	1,994	6,994
St Anne's Cathedral Belfast	-	-	-	800
Allen Overy Foundation	2,500	-	2,500	-
Atlantic Philanthropies Capital Project	-	200,000	200,000	-
Department of Health Advocacy Course	-	4,485	4,485	-
Other income				
Income from legal work	5,030	-	5,030	11,735
Membership and training	11,386	-	11,386	18,766
Sale of publications	20	-	20	170
TOTAL	82,185	671,855	754,040	683,303