

# CHILDREN'S LAW CENTRE

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

## Annual Report 2017/18



**ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM**  
Exploring young people's awareness of mental health in Northern Ireland



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# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**2017-2018** proved to be another exceedingly busy year for the Centre. The Centre's Freephone Advice Service (CHALKY) has continued to provide high quality legal advice and information to increasing numbers of children, young people, their parents and professionals working with children. As, in previous years the annual demand for the Centres advice services has grown. During the financial year ending March 2018 Children's Law Centre provided advice in respect of 3220 issues relating to children and young people's rights which is a 15.7% increase on the previous year's figures.



Issues raised by clients covered the whole range of legal issues presenting throughout a child's life, from the registration of births, family support and parental responsibility to welfare benefits and mental health. Queries in relation to education have increased particularly in relation to special education. Other major issues within the Education category included exclusions, admissions, school governance,



transport and discrimination. Family law, contact/residency, social security, medical treatment, mental health, disability, human rights, justice, homeless, immigration and care are among the many other children's legal issues on which advice has been sought. As in previous years children may present with one legal issue but on closer examination the presenting issues is only one of many legal matters

engaged e.g. children presenting as homeless may have mental health issues.

During the year CLC began the process of developing a technical solution to the challenge of delivering legal information to young people in a format that reflects the reality of the way young people live their lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This exciting innovative project, which it is hoped will go live in 2020, has the potential to revolutionise the way in which CLC delivers its advice services.

CLC continue to represent at Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunals (SENDIST) in strategic cases and also support parents to lodge cases with the SENDIST and self-represent. During the period CLC provided detailed strategic advice and representation in 29 Special Education Appeals to SENDIST and 2 Disability Discrimination claims at SENDIST, all of which were successful. In addition the Centre continues to represent children in the vast majority (approximately 95%) of Mental Health Tribunals involving children in this jurisdiction. There was a very significant increase (119%) in the number of cases requiring representation at tribunal or the issuing of High Court judicial review proceedings during this financial year. During the period the Centre again secured the LEXCEL quality control mark for its legal services.

## October 2017 saw the Children's Law Centre's new premises officially launched and named "Rights House".



Despite the absence of a functioning devolved legislative Assembly and Executive, the Centre, informed by the evidence from our casework, has continued to submit policy responses and engage in policy dialogue. Among the work undertaken by CLC staff is engagement with the Education Authority on a wide range of issues impacting on children's right to education, including on Home to School Transport Assistance. CLC's other policy engagement encompassed submitting policy responses to a range of decision makers and duty bearers including to the Department of Health in relation to the Adoption and Children Bill and to the NI Policing Board on their 5 year review of their Equality Scheme.

During 2017/2018 a total of 1074 people participated in 36 CLC training events, seminars, youth participation events and children's rights workshops; 624 adults and 450 children and young people. Among the issues covered were child and adolescent mental health, children in need, Brexit and children's rights, and Special Educational Needs.

During the year, following on from their UN Convention on the Rights of the Child engagement work on mental health issues in 2016, Youth@CLC, in partnership with Belfast Youth Forum and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, undertook a major piece of peer research and an associated campaign. The main focus of the work was to ensure that young people would have a meaningful say in shaping future mental health education and support services for children and young people across NI and, in particular, to address the ongoing stigma associated with poor mental health.

Brexit presents many serious challenges for the protection and vindication of children's rights. It was therefore a significant focus of the Centre's work over the last year. During the period the Centre undertook two pieces of research to assess young people's views and concerns about Brexit and to provide an opportunity to have their voices heard. In addition to numerous speaking and other engagements throughout the year, CLC in partnership with the Dublin based Children's Rights Alliance, with the support of Public Interest Law Project (PILS) and Public Interest Law Alliance (PILA), commissioned leading international law firm A&L Goodbody to undertake research. Their report "Selected legal aspects of the impact of Brexit on the rights of children across the island of Ireland" was published in December 2017.

October 2017 saw the Children's Law Centre's new premises officially launched and named "Rights

House". Rights House provides the Centre with a home and, through rental income, provides a secure source of additional funding to help the Centre in its work to deliver on children's rights.

The Children's Law Centre continues to present a quality jurisdictionally unique service to children, young people their families and carers and those who work with and for them. The increased demand for our services reflects the socio-economic impact of government cuts on children, especially the most vulnerable. The absence of a functioning devolved administration limits the opportunities to engage with policy and decision makers on the need to protect children's services. Meanwhile children are crying out for access to child and adolescent mental health services and many children with special education needs do not enjoy equal access to education. Regrettably we do not foresee the need for the Centre's service decreasing in the near future.

**Paddy Kelly, Director**



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As cuts to public services continue to reduce access to services for the most vulnerable children, the demand for the Children's Law Centre's (CLC) legal advice services continues to increase at an alarming rate. The almost 16% increase in the number of issues being raised with CHALKY on top of similar increases in previous years, speaks to the growing deficit in children's rights in this jurisdiction. Despite the very welcomed additional help from CLC's first ever apprentice solicitor, Emma Rose Duffy, who joined CLC's legal team this year, CHALKY is groaning under the weight of demand for its services. Regrettably the democratic deficit offers little prospect of abatement in the demand in the foreseeable future.

In the face of such challenges CLC staff are to be congratulated for the innovative work they have been undertaking this year to address young people's unmet legal needs by developing a technical solution to provide young people with legal information when they need it and in a format that reflects the way they live their lives. With the support of the Building Change Trust's Techies in Residence programme, Emma has been leading a small staff team who have been working with youth@clc and a "Techie" to develop a Chatbot which will deliver legal information in an interactive way 24/7 to young people on their phones. Having been developed in response to young people's call for legal information to be delivered online, the Chat Bot

will significantly increase CLC's direct reach to young people, especially the most vulnerable young people. The potential to improve children's lives using this technological solution is huge.

Youth@clc, in partnership with Belfast Youth Forum and NI Youth Forum, have again been leading the way in taking forward work on the 2016 UNCRC Committee's Recommendations to the NI Assembly and Executive. Their research with 1268 young people highlighted the imperative to challenge the stigma associated with poor mental health. Young people also demanded a say in shaping future child and adolescent mental health services.

The voices of the young people who took part in the research ground and echo the findings of the research report - "Elephant in the Room".



*"My experience has been telling my story over and over again, just to have it dismissed. There are only so many times that you are going to do that"*

*"People are afraid of being judged, being treated differently"*

*"I told them about the cuts on my arms, and they were like – here's the number for lifeline"*

The Report's recommendations cannot wait until there is a restoration of the devolved institutions. Civil servants need to act now. The consequences are much too serious for this report to be ignored.

CLC organised its first seminar focused on the potential implications of Brexit on children's rights in July 2016; a few weeks after the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. As exit day looms ever closer the intensity of CLC's work to raise awareness of the interface between Brexit and the lives of children in NI has increased. In addition to attending meetings with Ministers, Parliamentarians and key decision makers in Belfast, Dublin, London and Brussels, CLC's Director has spoken at a range of events across jurisdictions, including twice in the House of Lords. She has been given voice to the imperative to protect children's rights in NI and to ensure that both the Withdrawal and Future Relations Agreements guard against the diminution of children's rights; nor should they interfere with children's ability to live their lives and access services across the Border. It remains of concern to CLC that, despite best efforts, the full impact of Brexit on children in NI is not fully appreciated by many making decisions about children's lives and therefore CLC will keep focused on this important area of work in the coming months.

While not specifically linked to Brexit the issue of the citizenship of looked after children who are neither

SILENCE

Irish or British citizens has been brought into sharper focus by the UK's imminent departure from the EU. CLC became aware, through its legal work, that citizenship of looked after children of non-British or Irish citizens may not be being considered by Health and Social Care Trusts. CLC have been working to raise awareness of the need for Trusts to undertake an audit to determine the number of children who fall within this category and to make appropriate applications for relevant children for whom they have responsibility. CLC staff are to be congratulated for ensuring that this group of particularly vulnerable children do not fall through the net with far reaching consequences for them once they reach 18.

In the midst of a busy work year CLC staff celebrated 2 new arrivals. We would like to extend congratulations to Claire and Paul on the birth of their son Daniel. We would also like to congratulate Meadhbh and Jason on Aibhinn's birth.

Meanwhile, while we were delighted to celebrate with our dear colleague Karen and Sudhir on the occasion of their wedding we were very sorry when Karen decided to leave CLC in December 2017. She is greatly missed. We wish her well in her future career.

As always we are deeply indebted to all our funders. The content of this report demonstrates that your investment in the work of CLC has enabled the organisation to touch the lives of thousands of children and young people. It has facilitated CLC working with vulnerable children and young people to enable them to enjoy their childhoods and to realise their full potential. In some circumstances it has literally saved children's lives. Your trust in CLC's work has allowed us to change children's lives and the lives of their families. Thank you for enabling us to do this work.

Thanks are also due to everyone in CLC who have worked so hard this year in the promotion and protection of children's rights; Staff, Management Committee, Youth@clc and Volunteers. Your tireless commitment means that, despite the often daunting challenges they face, very many children's lives and the lives of their families have been improved and enriched as a result of the support they have received from the Children's Law Centre.

**Anne-Marie Kelly**, Chairperson

# Administration and Finance Unit

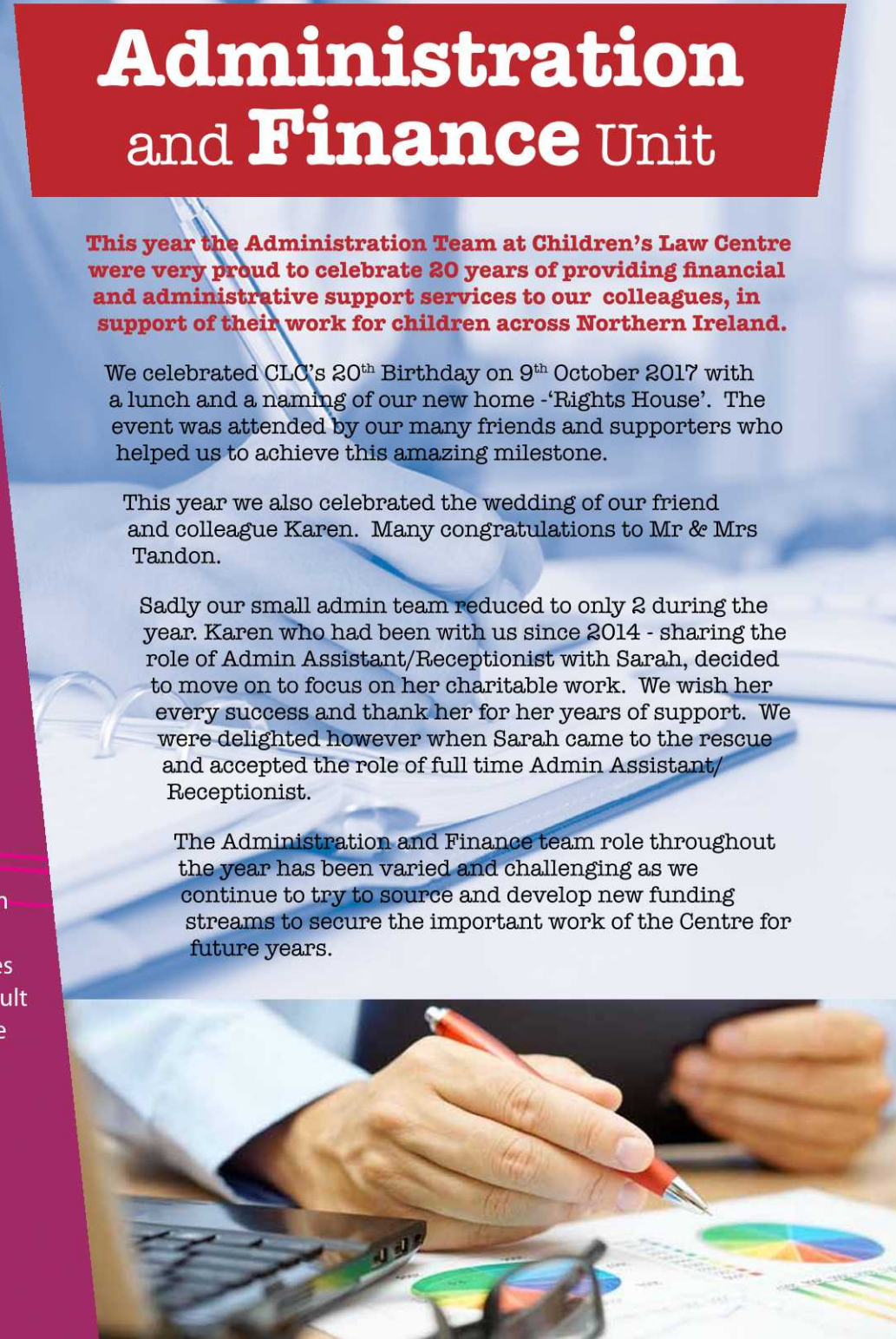
**This year the Administration Team at Children's Law Centre were very proud to celebrate 20 years of providing financial and administrative support services to our colleagues, in support of their work for children across Northern Ireland.**

We celebrated CLC's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 with a lunch and a naming of our new home - 'Rights House'. The event was attended by our many friends and supporters who helped us to achieve this amazing milestone.

This year we also celebrated the wedding of our friend and colleague Karen. Many congratulations to Mr & Mrs Tandon.

Sadly our small admin team reduced to only 2 during the year. Karen who had been with us since 2014 - sharing the role of Admin Assistant/Receptionist with Sarah, decided to move on to focus on her charitable work. We wish her every success and thank her for her years of support. We were delighted however when Sarah came to the rescue and accepted the role of full time Admin Assistant/Receptionist.

The Administration and Finance team role throughout the year has been varied and challenging as we continue to try to source and develop new funding streams to secure the important work of the Centre for future years.



# Youth Participation & Advocacy Project

## ELEPHANT in the ROOM - Youth Led Mental Health Awareness Campaign; 2017- 2018

Following young people's engagement work with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on mental health issues in 2016, a youth led partnership between Belfast Youth Forum, Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Youth@clc formed a peer advocacy group in May 2017 - the Youth Mental Health Committee (YMHC). Ronan Cunningham, Eimear O'Keeffe and Maria Thompson represented youth@clc on the YMHC. Their primary goal was to ensure that young people across Northern Ireland could have a meaningful say in shaping future mental health education and support services for children and young people in NI. They particularly wanted to address the ongoing stigma associated with poor mental health.

**OUR AIMS**

We wanted to find out what young people in NI thought and knew about mental health, in particular:

- Where young people get their information about mental health and how do they rate this?
- What actions they think our government should take to promote positive mental health and well-being in society?
- How young people view mental health and how does this impact on their ability to speak about it?
- Where would young people like to go to receive mental health information & support?

**MENTAL HEALTH THE FACTS**

- Mental illness is the largest cause of ill health in NI\*
- It is estimated that approximately 45,000 children and young people in Northern Ireland have a mental health problem\*
- More than 20% of young people here are suffering 'significant mental health problems' by the time they reach 18\*
- Childhood experiences like poverty, addiction in families and trauma experienced within families are linked to the emergence of mental health issues at a young age\*
- There is a relationship between ill mental health rates and the legacy of the conflict, which continues to impact young people through trans-generational trauma\*
- NI has the highest rates of suicide in the United Kingdom\*
- Suicide rates in the most deprived areas of NI are three times higher than in the least deprived\*

Elephant in the room

- the lack of accessible mental health education/information and advice available to young people through school and other sources,
- the negative impact of stigma associated with having poor mental health e.g. preventing young people from seeking help when they need it,
- government's ongoing failure to provide for adequate education, strategies and services to combat the rising number of young people affected by mental ill health, self-harming and suicide; despite the overwhelming evidence of unmet need that has been repeatedly presented by NGOs, practitioners and children and young people in recent years.

## June 2017 - May 2018; Gaining Support for Campaign Activities

YMHC members gained support for their campaign from a wide range of decision makers and influencers across all sectors and political parties through meetings and social media – including though twitter #ElephantintheRoom #FilltheTrunk



**ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM**

Exploring young people's awareness of mental health in Northern Ireland

At a residential in July 2017, YMHC members identified key issues to be addressed through their awareness raising campaign 'Elephant in the Room';

## January - March 2018; Elephant in the Room Survey - Do you Know about Mental Health?



The YMHC developed an online questionnaire through survey monkey targeted at young people (aged 14-17 years). The survey was live from January 2018 – March 2018. A total of 1,117 young people completed the survey from across NI.

Survey themes focused on:

- Young people's understanding of the concept of mental health
- Sources of information on mental health available to young people through e.g. the media, school, online etc. and how these sources inform and influence their understanding of mental health

- How often young people talk about and/or hear mental health being discussed
- Young people's ideas on the most effective ways of increasing awareness of mental health among their peers

## March - April 2018; Mental Health Focus Groups

Following on from the survey, the YMHC ran a series of focus group workshops in Belfast, Derry, Newry and Ballymena to discuss the findings of the survey with other young people to inform their final Report *'Elephant in the Room – Exploring young people's awareness of mental health in Northern Ireland'*; which was launched in October 2018. A total of 151 young people participated in the focus groups which were held in:

- NEWRY - Canal Court Hotel; 15 March 2018
- BELFAST - City Hall; 20 March 2018
- BALLYMENA - Amplify; 11 April 2018
- DERRY - Nerve Centre; 26 April 2018

Findings from the survey and focus groups strongly supported the view that there is a prevailing culture of silence around mental health which continues to prevent many young people from talking about issues impacting negatively on their lives and accessing the support they need.



## 2018 - 2019; Future Elephant in the Room Campaign Work

Following the launch of their Report on the 4 October 2018, the YMHC plan to challenge this culture of silence and stigma exposed by their research through an ongoing social media campaign and direct engagement with decision makers on young people's recommendations including, on the need for better mental health education in schools and improved access to mental health support and information for children and young people. A copy of the full research report and the youth accessible summary version of *'Elephant in the Room – Exploring young people's awareness of mental health in Northern Ireland'*; October 2018 can be downloaded from CLC's website [www.childrenslawcentre.org](http://www.childrenslawcentre.org)



# Giving Young People a Voice on Brexit

## Consultation with Children and Young People on Brexit

### November 2017; Cross Border Brexit Conference for Young People

Participation by young people in the Brexit debate continued in 2017 when Pearse Smith and Aron Hughes represented youth@clc on a youth planning committee for 'Our Brexit Too: Children's Rights, Children's Voices' - a cross-border youth conference supported



by NICCY and the Ombudsman for Children's Office in Dublin. This event was held in the Canal Court, Newry on the 10 November 2017. Following on from the Newry conference, Pearse and Aron accompanied the NI Children's Commissioner on a series of Brexit youth

engagement events in Brussels and London in early 2018 and engaged with key EU and UK Brexit negotiators on NI and ROI raising young people's concerns on the implications of Brexit for children's rights. On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Aron addressed an Irish Government organised Civic Dialogue in Dundalk attended by leaders of most of the main parties on the island of Ireland and the EU Chief Negotiator on Brexit, Michel Barnier. At a meeting with Michel Barnier Aron raised the concerns of young people about the threat Brexit posed to their future. Subsequently in an excellent article in the Belfast Telegraph Aron gave public voice to those concerns;

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/if-16-and-17-year-olds-could-vote-wed-not-be-in-a-brexit-mess-right-now-37053546.html>



CLC were commissioned by the PSNI to consult with children and young people on their views and concerns relating to the potential impact of Brexit on their lives. The subsequent report published in June 2017 'Consultation with Children and Young People on Brexit' examined potential impacts under 4 themes:

- Cultural impacts of Brexit
- Policing, security and criminal justice
- Travel and free movement
- The border

A total of 54 young people (aged 15-18 years) participated in 7 consultation workshops conducted across NI. Participating groups were: youth@clc, My Life, My Say, Cheer Youth Centre, Ballymoney, Include Youth, Gender Jam, Youth Action and Reach Me Fermanagh and the Rainbow Project, Derry. The majority of the young people at that time expressed frustration at being excluded from the referendum and fear relating to the potential implications of Brexit for young people in NI. They felt young people in NI would be most affected by the UK leaving the EU.

*"I was a part of the steering committee of the It's Our Brexit Too; Children's Rights, Children's Voices conference which gave young people a chance to have our say.*

*Our findings can be summed up in a quote from one young person: "The Brexit campaign was a 'British Exit' and didn't address Northern Irish issues."*

*In my opinion Brexit could be disastrous to our peace arrangements, our economy and our everyday life. Just 20 years on from the Good Friday Agreement, we are reminded how far we have come from our troubled past and that young people like myself have had the privilege to grow up in a country free from war.*

*However, now with Brexit being forced upon citizens from all over Ireland, this Agreement is under threat of falling apart and moving us backwards."*

**"If 16 and 17-year-olds could vote, we'd not be in a Brexit mess right now".**

Aron Hughes, Youth@clc

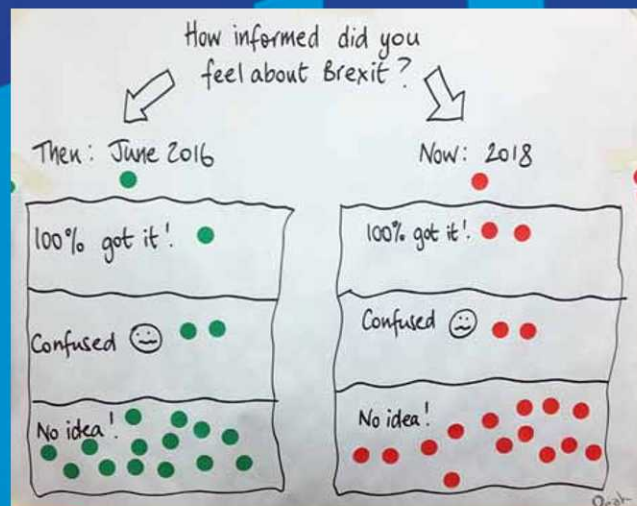




**January - June 2018; Greatest Impact - Least Heard; Hearing Young People's Voices on Brexit**  
(Community Foundation NI - Brexit Dialogue Fund)

*"Remember it's our future. Our future will depend on your decisions."*

In June 2018, CLC published **'Greatest Impact - Least Heard; Hearing Young People's Voices on Brexit'**. A copy of this report can be downloaded from CLC's web site [www.childrenslawcentre.org](http://www.childrenslawcentre.org). The report represents the views of 103 NI young people aged 14 -18 who



participated in consultation workshops between January - March 2018, facilitated by the CLC's Sessional Youth Support and Development Worker.

During the workshops young people engaged in discussion on the extent to which they were aware of Brexit, their views on how Brexit might impact on children's lives in NI and their views on how to achieve the best 'Brexit deal' for children and young people in NI. Participating groups were;

- Armagh Youth Council,
- Newry and Mourne Youth Council,
- Shantallow Youth Centre,
- Pilot's Row Youth Club in Derry,
- Romanian Roma Community Association NI (RRCANI),
- Polish Language, Culture & Affairs (POLCA),
- Belfast City Council Youth Forum,
- Let Youth Lead from Cliftonville
- Youth@clc.

In their own words:

- "It was kind of a stupid idea."*
- "Remember it's our future. Our future will depend on your decisions."*
- "It's not about them; it's about us as well."*
- "We are going to be the ones in future who have to deal with their decisions."*
- "Is it too late for a second referendum?"*
- "Remember it's our home."*
- "Parents ask 'God help' us to stay in Northern Ireland."*
- "I hope we will get to live here, here is better than Romania"*
- "My parents want and hope for me to do something with my life over here"*
- "Feel sad about Brexit because they will make us leave"*
- "Would English people want us to leave NI?"*



*"When we are informed and learn more about it, it makes us want to be more involved in what's happening with everything around it."*

*"Lots of adults in the dark about what it is - there should be a scheme for adults [to learn about Brexit] because they don't know anything either."*

Coming out of the workshops CLC also developed accessible educational materials on Brexit as a resource for the development and delivery of further workshops for children and young people in schools and youth groups.

**'Greatest Impact - Least Heard; Hearing Young People's Voices on Brexit'** - Young People's Key Messages and Recommendations for Government:

Young People identified a series of key messages and recommendations for government on how to prevent Brexit having a negative impact on their lives now and in the future.

1. Young People called for more child friendly and accessible information and education on Brexit to be made available to all young people through a range of channels - schools, online etc. on an ongoing basis up to and after 'exit day'.

***"We need to know what we are giving up...in easy to understand language"***

2. Young people are clearly calling for a second referendum on the final Brexit deal and for 16 and 17 year olds to be able to vote in that referendum.
3. A number of young people felt that the potential impact on Ireland and NI was totally ignored during the referendum campaign and felt that the wishes of people in NI are still being ignored. Young people expressed deep concern that Brexit might mean 'losing' the Good Friday Agreement and as a consequence the protection of equality rights and maintenance of the peace process.
4. Young people have called for clarity and more accessible information on arrangements for EU and non-EU migrants post Brexit as a matter of urgency. Young people from the Polish and Roma communities told us their parents urgently need clear accessible information and legal advice on their citizenship status post Brexit, translated in their own language. It was clear from our discussions with the Roma children that, because no one is telling them otherwise, many Roma families living in NI are fearful that Brexit means they will have to return to live in Romania after March 2019. Young Polish and Roma people were also worried that family members living in their country of origin would not be able to visit them post-Brexit and they were seeking advice on behalf of their extended families in relation to this issue.
5. Polish young people in the workshops expressed concerns about a potential rise in racist hate crimes post Brexit. To counter this young people felt that there was a need for Government to run public awareness campaigns promoting diversity and non-discrimination.
6. Young people were also concerned there might be an inequality of rights post Brexit dependant on whether you identified as Irish or British.

***"Will there be a difference inter-railing on an Irish passport versus a British passport?"***

***"No one should be forcing you to give up your British citizenship."***

7. They discussed issues around citizenship post Brexit and recognised the need to protect the EU rights of children who are Irish citizens born in NI as well as Irish citizens living in the UK or British citizens living in Ireland.
8. Other key messages coming through loud and clear from the young people included the need to maintain/protect current arrangements for:
  - A 'soft' border in the island of Ireland,
  - The Common Travel Area between Ireland and the UK,
  - Cross border education,
  - Erasmus and EU Peace funds
  - European Health Insurance Card
  - Access to EU medical and scientific research networks
  - No return to cross border roaming charges.

## **Developing a Digital Legal Information Service for Young People**

### **Phase 1 - Techies in Residence Programme**

The Techies in Residence programme is an initiative of Social Innovation NI, managed by the Building Change Trust and is funded by Comic Relief. Techies in Residence harnesses technical expertise from Northern Ireland's leading technology firms to support new social innovation projects developed by local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector organisations.

CLC made a successful application to the Building Change Trust's 'Techies in Residence' Programme in January 2018

to develop a digital legal information service for 13 - 17 year olds; the first of its kind in NI. The impetus to develop this project was in response to young people telling CLC that we need to make rights more directly accessible to young people generally and in particular vulnerable young people who don't have adults advocating for them, don't know they have rights, are not contacting CHALKY directly and are therefore not receiving the legal interventions and services they need to improve their lives.

### **March - June 2018;**

During March - June 2018, CLC participated in the Techies in Residence programme, facilitated and supported by Innovate NI. Working with a 'Techie' CLC developed a prototype online Chabot which can provide:

- Level 1 basic legal information on areas of NI law relevant to the lives of a broad range of children and young people;
- Level 2 legal information providing quick, easy pathways to further bite size chunks of legal information in pdf format for those who need more specific information relevant to their particular circumstances
- Quick easy pathways to connect young people directly to CLC's CHALKY service and/or to signpost them to other agencies and/or emergency hotlines where needed.

### **Phase 2 - Techies in Residence Seed Fund Phase**

### **July - November 2018;**

After successfully securing a seed fund grant from Building Change Trust, CLC have continued to work with a Tech developer, a team of volunteers and youth@clc on the further development of a legal Chabot in the hope of going live with this service in 2020.

# TRAINING & EDUCATION

During 2017/2018 a total of 1,074 people participated in 36 CLC training events, seminars, youth participation events and children's rights workshops and focus groups; 624 adults and 450 children and young people (nearly double the numbers from last year).

## 2017 - 2018 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LEGAL SEMINARS

In December 2017 CLC delivered a seminar to the Public Prosecution Service on 'Children, Policing and PACE', which included a presentation by Seamus McIlroy Director of Legal Services, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. Following on from the success of this seminar, the PPS requested three further seminars for all regional staff working on cases involving young people on children's rights and mental health law. These seminars were delivered in March and April 2018 and were well received by the PPS. Elements of the training that participants found most useful included;

"...how the system works in practice...useful to know of forthcoming Mental Capacity Act..."

## TRAINING CALENDAR

DATE	COURSE
26.04.17	Children in Need
24.05.17	Intro to Special Educational Needs
21.06.17	Rights of Homeless Young People
28.06.17	Special Educational Needs – New Legislative Framework
1.07.17	SEN – Sound Deaf Society
9.07.17	SEN for Sencos in schools
6.09.17	SEN for Shine
15.11.17	Advocating on Behalf of Children in Need
22.11.17	Rights in Education
6.12.17	Children, Policing and PACE

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

DATE	COURSE/EVENT
20.04.17	Brexit Consultation Workshop with youth@clc
26.04.17	Roundtable Event – Public Interest Litigation Services
17.05.17	My Life My Say - Brexit Café discussion
1.06.17	Brexit Consultation Workshop with young people
6.06.17	Brexit Consultation Workshop with young people
9.06.17	Brexit Consultation Workshop with transgender young people
26.06.17	Brexit Consultation Workshop with young people
4.07.17	Brexit Consultation Workshop with young people
9.08.17	Special Educational Needs
9.10.17	CLC Annual Lecture
25.10.17	Children's Rights Workshop - Holy Rosary Primary School
28.10.17	Survey Writing Workshop for Youth Mental Health Advisory Committee
2.11.17	Nigerian Community NI
7.11.17	Survey Writing workshop for Youth Mental Health Advisory Committee
8.11.17	Children's Rights Workshop
9.11.17	Parents' Dyslexia Support Group
16.11.17	Survey writing workshop for Youth Mental Health Advisory Committee
17.11.17	SEN workshops
27.11.17	Survey writing workshop for Youth Mental Health Advisory Committee
5.12.17	Survey writing workshop for Youth Mental Health Advisory Committee
13.12.17	Presentation on Strategic Litigation
15.03.18	Elephant in the Room - Mental Health Focus Group; Newry
20.03.18	Elephant in the Room - Mental Health Focus Group; Belfast
28.03.18	Mental Health - A Children's Rights Approach for Public Prosecution Service

# CLC Consultation Responses

1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018



## APRIL 2017

- Department of Justice Targeted Consultation on the Introduction of a Statutory Registration Scheme for all Providers of Publicly Funded Legal Services in Northern Ireland

## MAY 2017

- Response to the Education Authority Consultation on the Online application for Home to School Transport Assistance
- Response to the Northern Ireland Policing Board's 5 Year Review of Equality Scheme
- Response to Adoption and Children (Northern Ireland) Bill

## JUNE 2017

- Consultation with Children and Young People on Brexit

## SEPTEMBER 2017

- Response to Public Prosecution Service: Development of Youth Justice Policy consultation

- Briefing for Westminster on the potential impact of Brexit on children and young people in Ireland, North and South - Prepared in collaboration with Children's Rights Alliance (ROI)
- CLC Response Re: Consultation on a Bill of Rights

## OCTOBER 2017

- CLC Response to PSNI Youth Justice Reform Re: Body Worn Video Privacy Impact Assessment
- CLC Response to Public Prosecution Service on Development of Youth Justice Policy Consultation
- CLC Response to BHSCT Good Relations Strategy - 'Healthy Relations for Healthy Future 2' 2017-2022

## DECEMBER 2017

- 'Selected legal aspects of the impact of Brexit on the rights of children across the island of Ireland' A research paper compiled by A&L Goodbody on behalf of the Children's Rights Alliance and the Children's Law Centre

## JANUARY 2018

- Response to Briefing on Northern Ireland Budgetary Outlook 2018 - 2020
- Response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's Public Consultation on the Report: Section 75 - Acting on the evidence of public authority practices

## FEBRUARY 2018

- Response to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust: 'Improving health and wellbeing and reducing health and social inequalities' 2018/19 - 2020/21 Corporate Management Plan

## MARCH 2018

- Response to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland's Consultation on its Strategic Plan 2018- 2022
- Response to Department of Health 'Disability Action Plan and Equality Action Plan'

# CHALKY

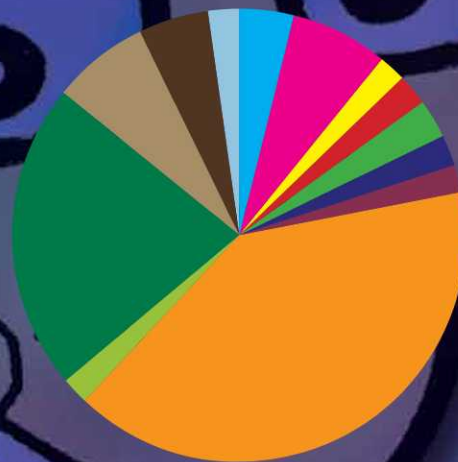
## ADVICE SERVICE

**FREEPHONE 0808 808 5678**

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

The Centre's CHALKY advice service has continued to provide high quality legal information, advice and representation to increasing numbers of children, young people, their parents and professionals working with and for children and young people. During the year from April 2017 to March 2018 the service dealt with some 3220 issues.

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 64% of all issues raised. Special Education is the issue we dealt with most within this category accounting for over 39% of the overall issues total. Other major issues within the Education category included, Exclusions raised 72 times, Admissions raised 68, School Governance raised 105 times, Transport 86 times and Discrimination 85 times. Family Law issues accounted for 15% of the total issues with Contact/ Residence issues (227) accounting for just under half the total. The General category accounted for 14% of the total with some of the main issues being Social Security (49), Medical treatment (34), Mental Health (69), Disability (22). Human Rights and Justice accounted for 2% of the total and the Care category 5%.



### CHALKY Issues April 2017 - March 2018

Family Law	4%
Contact Residence	7%
Parental Responsibility	2%
Human Rights/Justice	2%
Information	3%
Mental Health	2%
Social Security	2%
Special Education	40%
Admissions	2%
Other Education	22%
General	7%
Care	5%
Family Support	2%



# LEGAL SERVICES for CHILDREN *and* YOUNG PEOPLE

CLC has experienced significant exponential growth in the demand for CLC's Legal Service this year. During the year, CLC has assisted many children with disabilities and their parents/carers to access a broad range of education, health and family support services. CLC has provided specialist legal representation to young people at the Mental Health Review Tribunal and has negotiated community based support packages for children following their discharge from hospital. We have also experienced a steady rise in requests for specialist legal advice and representation around special educational needs assessments and provision, including children's access to suitable school placements. The following are examples of CLC's legal work during the year.

## **MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

CLC continues to provide free 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.

During the year, CLC provided specialist legal advice and representation in 14 applications to the tribunal relating to children. 5 cases proceeded to full hearing and CLC provided representation at each hearing. In 3 of the cases the young person was supported by CLC to give oral evidence at the hearing in support of their application against hospital detention. Of the 14 challenges, 7 were withdrawn by the applicant prior to hearing; 4 were unsuccessful on appeal and 3 were successful, ultimately leading to a discharge from hospital treatment.

In some cases, children have continued to be detained following a tribunal review. In such circumstances, CLC has proceeded to assist their families in pursuing community based packages of support following the appeal. Through our involvement in these cases, CLC has significant concerns around delays in discharge planning and difficulties in securing suitable accommodation and support packages for children when they leave hospital. It is our experience that some children have been and are being subjected to unreasonable delays in leaving hospital and that transition planning is not being commenced at an early stage. This is particularly concerning when a child presents with a complex history of mental health needs and learning disability, has been in hospital for a lengthy period of time and their needs are unlikely to vary before their discharge from hospital when they reach 18 years.

Examples of some of the Mental Health Review Tribunal appeals where CLC has provided legal representation include the following:

**Appeal against detention** - CLC was instructed to initiate an appeal against detention on behalf of a 17 year old hospital patient who had been detained in the regional CAMH Unit. Following advice received, the patient decided not to proceed with the application and the appeal was withdrawn. CLC continued to provide advice and support to the young person and their family regarding treatment and care planning. The young person was subsequently placed at a specialist facility in England because they needed a medium secure unit and there is no suitable facility in Northern Ireland.

The young person's family also received advice and support from CLC regarding their child's entitlement to a Looked after Child (LAC) Allowance. Having been detained in hospital for assessment and treatment the



parents were advised that their child should have been made a LAC from 3 months after the date of detention for assessment and 13 weeks later become eligible for looked after allowance payments. The Trust agreed that the child was a LAC but refused to backdate the LAC allowance from the initial date of entitlement. CLC challenged this underpayment. The full back payment was reimbursed to the family following CLC's intervention and the young person shall continue to be entitled to an allowance when in hospital in England and will be eligible to receive leaving and after care payments once they reach 18 years.

**Appeal against detention** – CLC provided representation at the Mental Health Review Tribunal hearing. The child concerned has a severe learning disability, challenging behaviour and violent outbursts. The outcome of the appeal was that the patient's status changed from detained to a voluntary patient on the direction of the Tribunal. It was ordered that the child would remain in hospital until a future fixed date when they would return to live with their family with a comprehensive community support package in place from the Trust. CLC continues to monitor the placement to ensure that effective supports and services are in place in accordance with hospital discharge planning, including family respite services and home to school transport.

**Appeal against detention** – CLC provided legal advice and support, including representation at the MHRT hearing. The young person was supported to provide oral testimony at the hearing. The Tribunal directed that the child continue to be detained for hospital treatment.

**Appeal against detention** – The appellant was re-graded to voluntary patient status before the hearing. CLC attended hospital discharge planning meetings and negotiated with the Trust to secure a community support package which enabled the child to return to live with their grandmother. CLC also provided advice and assistance to the child by working with the Education Authority to identify a suitable educational placement.

During the last 12 months CLC has been successful in negotiating suitable transitional arrangements for a return to the community or supported living for a number of 17 year olds when leaving hospital after a period of mental health care. CLC has supported the young people and their families through the hospital discharge planning processes and secured suitable community placements and support packages from the Trusts before the young people reach adulthood and have to move on.

### **Children's Immigration Status**

A systemic issue linked to looked after children's Immigration status was identified in one of CLC's mental health cases. The Appellant child is a foreign national who has been residing in NI and is a looked after child in the care of the Trust. CLC identified that no application for Citizenship had been made by the Trust on the child's behalf. CLC alerted and assisted the child's social worker to make an application to the Home Office for a Certificate of Citizenship on behalf of the minor child.

CLC is concerned that there is a broader systemic issue

highlighted by this case and that there is a need for training, advice and support on Immigration Law/ Citizenship for those working with looked after children who are not British or Irish and whose immigration status has not been confirmed.

CLC has recommended that an audit of all looked after children who are not British or Irish should be conducted as a matter of urgency by each of the Trusts and prior to withdrawal from the EU under Brexit.

### **JUDICIAL REVIEW - Health**

CLC has initiated and represented children in a small number of strategic judicial review cases in the High Court over the last 12 months. Some cases are still ongoing.

#### **Judicial review against a Health Trust for failing to provide suitable accommodation and community support to a delayed discharge minor patient**

This case concerns a 16 year old child with Autism, learning disability and co-occurring mental health needs who was detained in a CAMH Unit and whose mother approached CLC for advice around the child's detention and discharge planning processes. The young person was deemed medically fit for discharge by the professionals working with them at the Unit. However, the patient's discharge was delayed by approximately 8 months as the Trust was struggling to find accommodation and a support package to meet the young person's needs.



CLC issued pre-action correspondence on the young person's behalf and the Trust reverted within a matter of weeks to confirm that a placement had been identified and would become available at a fixed date in the future. CLC was involved in negotiations and planning meetings resulting in a phased transition to the new placement. It was agreed that staff in the new accommodation would be trained by the staff team at the CAMH Unit who had treated and cared for the young person and were familiar with their needs. This case was resolved with CLC's intervention and without recourse to formal legal action. CLC kept the case under review until the young person had successfully transferred from hospital to the community.

**Judicial Review against a Health Trust for failing to provide a bespoke community based placement and to support interim home care arrangements for a disabled child**

CLC was instructed to issue proceedings on behalf of a life limited child with extremely complex care needs. The child required care and supervision 24 hours per day having initially been inappropriately placed in hospital by the Trust for a prolonged period while awaiting a bespoke community placement. CLC attempted to negotiate with the Trust to provide the child with the appropriate level of care and support to allow her to return to the care of her family at home pending confirmation of the community placement. The Trust was unwilling to accede to the family's request.

In May 2017, CLC issued judicial review proceedings. Following detailed negotiations between parties interim care arrangements were made for the child to be

accommodated between hospital and the family home.

In July 2017, the Applicant commenced a community placement with a care plan which allowed the child to spend time at home. The family were provided with a support package and nursing care whilst the child was at home. However before the case was fully resolved the child sadly passed away.

**OC and LH's Applications [2018] NIQB 34**

CLC was asked by Counsel for one of the Applicants to provide a letter of support/written submission on behalf of the Applicant (OC) in these judicial review proceedings.

The case deals with the Trusts statutory duties under Article 21 of the Children (NI) Order 1995 to provide sufficient and suitable emergency accommodation and support services to children aged 16 and 17 when applying for bail.

CLC submitted an affidavit detailing CLC's previous legal representations on behalf of a homeless young person in the case of **JR66's Application 2012 NIQB 5** and our recent experience in managing similar fact cases: From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017, CLC's Free phone advice line (CHALKY) dealt with 86 issues on behalf of homeless (Article 21) children. Our advice line has dealt with an additional 39 issues on behalf of young people who are resident within Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre during the same period. CLC also provided our views on the public interest issues raised in the case relating to the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for children in need.

**The OC and LH judgment** was issued on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Judge Keegan declined to declare an absolute prohibition on hotel/bed and breakfast accommodation in cases of this nature. However, the Judge stressed that the use of this type of accommodation should be rare, restricted and heavily monitored. The circumstances when such accommodation may be utilised will depend on the characteristics of the juvenile involved and each case must be rigorously assessed by Trusts going forward. The case was also noted to have served a very useful purpose in highlighting the fact that policy should be recirculated on the basis that current Trust policy places clear restrictions on the use of bed and breakfast/hotel accommodation.

Judge Keegan also recorded in her judgment an acknowledgement of thanks to all of the interested organisations involved in the case stating that she was struck by their commitment to improving practice in this area for the benefit of the young people concerned. The full judgment may be found at: <https://www.judiciary-ni.gov.uk/sites/judiciary/files/decisions/OC%27s%20%28A%20Minor%29%20Application%20and%20LH%27s%20%28A%20Minor%29%20Application%20In%20the%20matter%20of%20a%20decision%20by%20a%20Health%20and%20Social%20Care%20Trust.pdf>





## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

### JUDICIAL REVIEW - Education

Over the past year CLC initiated pre-action correspondence to the Education Authority (EA) in five education related matters. We further initiated one pre-action letter to the SENDIST for its failure to list a Tribunal for hearing, the delay having a detrimental impact on the disabled child who was the subject of proceedings. Three cases are ongoing. Three of the cases were resolved in favour of the Applicant and without recourse to legal proceedings in the High Court. The issues in these cases were:

**Failure by the SENDIST to list a case for hearing. The appeal was against a refusal to carry out a statutory assessment.** The case was part-heard and adjourned to a date to be set. The delay in hearing was impacting on the parents/child's access to justice and detrimentally impacting on the child's access to a SEN assessment prior to commencement of a new school year.

Outcome: The SENDIST listed the matter for hearing in September 2017 and the EA conceded the appeal prior to hearing. A statutory assessment was completed and a statement issued by the EA.

**Failure by EA to specify and quantify special educational provision on an amendment notice**

The case moved on and CLC negotiated full time 1-to-1 adult assistance which was specified in the child's final statement. Provision is in place and continues to be monitored.

**Failure by the EA to provide a specialist school placement for a child who cannot be managed in mainstream school**

Resolution was reached with short to medium term placement in a specialist learning centre. This is kept under regular review with the aim to re-integrate to a mainstream school once sufficient progress is made.

### TRIBUNAL REPRESENTATION AT SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY TRIBUNAL (SENDIST)

CLC remains the sole provider of free legal representation at SENDIST appeals in Northern Ireland. Many of the children for whom we act in relation to SENDIST appeals present with a complex range of health needs. We have seen a significant rise in the numbers of children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and communication and language support needs as well as educational needs. In addition we have been experiencing increasing barriers to securing specific and quantified health provision within children's statements to ensure their access to education. The lack of a cohesive and coordinated approach between health and education to identify children with SEN at the earliest opportunity, to carry out timely assessments and meet their needs through the SEN framework places greater pressure on parents to pursue such services for their children through their local Health Trusts. CLC is increasingly concerned by the number of appeals which relate to non-specification of provision of adult assistance within children's statements and the exponential growth in demand for special school

and learning support unit placements for children which, is not being met by current Education Authority resources. Each academic year we are experiencing more challenges relating to children in unsuitable school placements or lengthy delays in securing specialist school placements leaving children without access to education for prolonged periods.

The SENDIST representation service at CLC is in exceptionally high demand. During this period CLC provided detailed advice and representation in 29 Special Education Appeals to SENDIST, broken down by issue as follows:

- Refusal of Statutory Assessment - 15
- Refusal to issue a statement after statutory assessment - 1
- Content of statement/school placement - 13

All 29 SENDIST appeals lead to successful outcomes for the children. 24 of the cases were conceded by the Education Authority and settled prior to the full hearing. CLC provided representation at 3 hearings and parents were advised and supported by CLC to self-represent at the 2 remaining appeals, and did so successfully. CLC remains concerned by the high proportion of appeals which are conceded by the Education Authority at or shortly before the Tribunal. This often happens without an additional evidential basis for the change in decision by the Authority from the information available when the initial decision was taken. This perpetuates unjustifiable delay in the commencement of educational assessments and access to specialist provision for children with SEN.



We also provided advice and representation in two Disability Discrimination Claims before the SENDIST. Both cases were against schools and resulted in declarations of disability discrimination and apologies to the Claimant.

CLC secured positive educational outcomes in 23 additional cases without recourse to formal legal proceedings. Outcomes achieved for children with SEN include the following:

- 5 cases involving failure by the Education Authority to provide school transport for statemented children - all resolved
- Allocation of a new classroom assistant to a statemented child from the EA's behaviour support school
- Reduction in specified hours of one to one adult support for a child when transitioned to new school to study for A-Levels; no reassessment of needs – resolved when hours reinstated and new assistant employed (Pre-appeal)
- Securing a specialist school placement for a statemented child; amended statement issued with school named and classroom assistance specified on statement (Pre-appeal)
- Qualified Teacher for the Visually Impaired (QTVI) appointed to provide sensory support – weekly 1-to-1 support for the child who used braille to access the curriculum; training for teacher; and provision of resources to support learning
- 2 cases where CLC successfully negotiated specification and quantification of 1-to-1 adult assistance and IT assistance in children's statements (Pre-Appeal)
- Successfully negotiated uplift in the number of hours of classroom assistance allocated to a statemented pupil when moved from Primary 3 to Primary 4 and was consequently attending school for an additional hour per day (20 hours increased to 25 hours per week).
- Protracted negotiations to secure a special school placement for a statemented child; amended statement issued with school named.
- Online learning support provision secured for a child with Autism who suffered severe anxiety and could not tolerate the school environment. The Education Authority agreed to fund access to GCSE learning in 3 subject areas via an English company. The student can now access interactive learning with a live classroom and can engage verbally by sending live messages or just listen to lessons.
- Special school placement secured for a child; included in an amended statement. The child had been attending mainstream primary school on reduced timetable and was being taught in isolation with a 1-to-1 assistant.
- 2 separate cases involving disability discrimination against children with visual impairment – Following CLC's intervention, reasonable adjustments were put in place by the Education Authority and each child's school to support the child's learning needs; the adjustments were included in a revised statement.
- CLC intervened to support a child who was being bullied in school. The child moved school and the case has been referred to the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) to investigate the schools procedural failures in addressing the bullying behaviours.
- Secured a phased return to education via home education with ongoing support from the child's mainstream secondary school. The child was also referred to CAMHS and specialist medical support services
- CLC attended an Annual Review of child's statement and negotiated change of placement to a special school
- CLC involved in securing a specialist educational placement for a child who had been excluded from special school. The education placement was negotiated as part of a hospital discharge plan.



## Staff - Children's Law Centre

- Paddy Kelly**  
Director
- Kathryn Stevenson**  
Head of Legal Services
- Helen Rafferty**  
Head of Administration & Finance Unit
- Claire Kemp**  
Policy Officer
- Emma Campbell**  
Training Co-ordinator
- Liam Mackle**  
Advice Manager
- Catherine Maguire**  
Advice Worker
- Rachel Hogan**  
SENDIST Representative
- Eamonn McNally**  
Mental Health Solicitor
- Emma Rose Duffy**  
Apprentice Solicitor (Joined May 2017)
- Sarah McAuley**  
Receptionist & Admin Support
- Karen Tandon**  
Receptionist & Admin Support (left Dec 2017)
- Sessional Youth Support and Development Worker**  
**Amanda Stewart**  
January 2017 - May 2017
- Anna Grindle**  
December 2017 - April 2018

## youth@clc Members

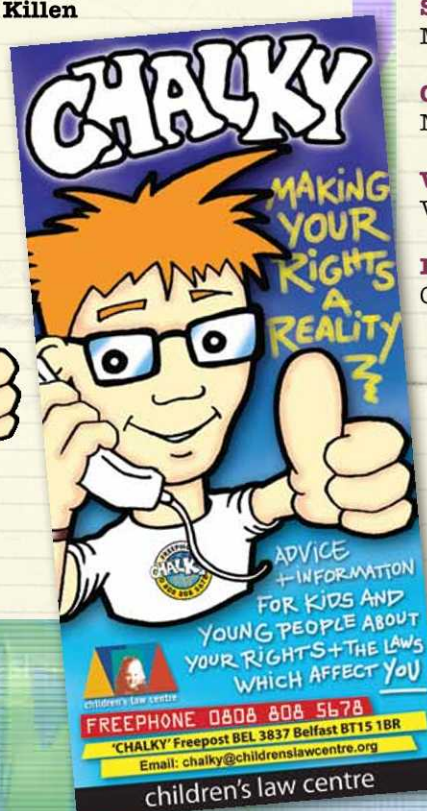
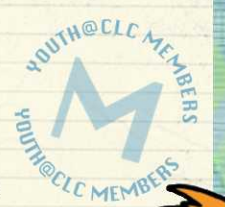
- Youth@clc Members**  
**April 2017 - March 2018**
- Ronan Cunningham**
  - Laurie Kennedy**
  - Josh Wallace**
  - Eimear O'Keefe**
  - Aoibhinn Graham**
  - Maeve McFall**
  - Rachel Mc Murragh**
  - Sarah Hand**
  - Ziphius Lilith Mackin**
  - Emilija Budryte**
  - Aron Hughes**
  - Marcus Chapman**
  - Pearse Smith**
  - Maria Thompson**
  - Dasha Krasnodembskaya**
  - Katie Kerr**
  - Jennifer McAlpin**

## CHALKY Volunteers

- Volunteers List**
- Leah Moore** 10 week student placement with Youth Advocacy and Participation Project February - April 2018.
  - Meadhbh Killen**

## Management Committee

- Anne Marie Kelly**  
MKB Law
- Lisa Bunting**  
School of Social Work, QUB
- Suzanne Rice**  
McKeown Solicitors
- Chris Quinn**  
Northern Ireland Youth Forum
- Vivian McConvey**  
VOYPIC
- David Simpson**  
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership





**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) for the year ended 31 March 2018**

	2018 Unrestricted Funds £	2018 Restricted Funds £	2018 Total Funds £	2017 Total Funds £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	1,545	-	1,545	2,056
Charitable activities	72,595	407,842	480,437	690,791
Investments	19,017	-	19,017	11,310
Exceptional movement in pension provision	2,336	-	2,336	49,883
<b>Total income</b>	<b>95,493</b>	<b>407,842</b>	<b>503,335</b>	<b>754,040</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	111,880	451,512	563,392	559,478
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>111,880</b>	<b>451,512</b>	<b>563,392</b>	<b>559,478</b>
<b>Net income before transfers</b>	<b>(16,387)</b>	<b>(43,670)</b>	<b>(60,057)</b>	<b>194,562</b>
Transfers between funds	(446)	446	-	-
<b>Net income before other recognised gains and losses</b>	<b>(16,833)</b>	<b>(43,224)</b>	<b>(60,057)</b>	<b>194,562</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(16,833)</b>	<b>(43,224)</b>	<b>(60,057)</b>	<b>194,562</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	(5,723)	287,332	281,609	87,047
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>(22,556)</b>	<b>244,108</b>	<b>221,552</b>	<b>281,609</b>



A complete set of the Children's Law Centre audited accounts for 2017/18 is available on request.

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 2018**

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible assets	187,379	189,783
Investment property	270,000	270,000
<b>Total tangible assets</b>	<b>457,379</b>	<b>459,783</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	40,356	10,972
Cash at bank and in hand	81,519	197,887
	121,875	208,859
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(36,527)</b>	<b>(43,830)</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>85,348</b>	<b>165,029</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>542,727</b>	<b>624,812</b>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due after one year</b>	<b>(214,722)</b>	<b>(227,943)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES</b>	<b>328,005</b>	<b>396,869</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(106,453)	(115,260)
<b>NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES</b>	<b>221,552</b>	<b>281,609</b>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>		
Restricted general funds	244,108	287,332
Unrestricted general funds	73,732	99,372
Designated funds	10,165	10,165
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	(106,453)	(115,260)
Pension reserve		
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>(22,556)</b>	<b>(5,723)</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>221,552</b>	<b>281,609</b>

**INCOME**

	2018 Unrestricted Funds £	2018 Restricted Funds £	2018 Total Funds £	2017 Total Funds £
<b>Income from donations and legacies</b>				
Donations	1,545	-	1,545	2,056
<b>Investment income</b>				
Bank interest	58	-	58	220
Rental income	18,959	-	18,959	11,090
	19,017	-	19,017	11,310
<b>Exceptional movement in pension provision</b>				
Movement in pension provision	2,336	-	2,336	49,883
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
<b>Grants receivable</b>				
Department of Health	-	53,977	53,977	53,977
Health & Social Care Board	-	156,905	156,905	146,905
Atlantic Philanthropies	-	-	-	179,994
OFMDFM	-	-	-	6,300
Department of Education	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
BBC Children in Need	-	14,100	14,100	28,200
American Ireland Fund	-	3,994	3,994	1,994
Atlantic Philanthropies Capital Project	-	-	-	200,000
Department of Health Advocacy Course	-	-	-	4,485
Esmee Fairbairn	-	50,000	50,000	-
The Legal Education Foundation	-	23,306	23,306	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	-
Police Service Northern Ireland	-	5,000	5,000	-
Community Foundation	-	7,560	7,560	-
Allen & Overy Foundation	-	3,000	3,000	2,500
Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All	-	10,000	10,000	-
<b>Other income</b>				
Income from legal work	62,779	-	62,779	5,030
Membership and training	9,616	-	9,616	11,386
Sale of publications	200	-	200	20
	72,595	407,842	480,437	690,791
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95,493</b>	<b>407,842</b>	<b>503,335</b>	<b>754,040</b>