

Children's Law Centre

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020-21**



# Children's rights change children's lives



[childrenslawcentre.org.uk](http://childrenslawcentre.org.uk)

# Contents

<b>Director's Report</b>	Page 02
<b>Chairperson's Report</b>	Page 04
<b>Our Year in Numbers</b>	Page 06
<b>Our Impact at a Glance</b>	Page 07
<b>Youth Participation &amp; Advocacy</b>	Page 08
<b>Advice &amp; Information</b>	Page 10
<b>Legal Representation</b>	Page 12
<b>Policy</b>	Page 17
<b>Communications</b>	Page 19
<b>Admin and Finance</b>	Page 20
<b>Thanks</b>	Page 23



## Director's Report

**The year ended 31 March 2021 was a hugely challenging year for children and young people, with the impact of COVID-19 and the restriction on vital services in the response to COVID-19 being acutely felt, particularly by the most vulnerable children and families.**

This undoubtedly had an impact on work being carried out by the centre, with client needs escalating and the demand for our legal advice and representation services becoming more critical and complex. In turn, the work carried out across the full team of staff and volunteers also became more complex, with it becoming more important than ever to safeguard and vindicate the rights of the children and young people most severely impacted by the pandemic, meet escalating client needs, and face up to some unprecedented challenges.

The team at the centre was assisted in meeting the challenge head on with the addition of three new staff in the period. This included an additional Advice Worker in the advice team, a Youth Participation and Advocacy Worker and a Communications and Marketing Manager. The growth in staff reflects the increased ambitions and reach of the centre's work, adding to the two new immigration legal practitioners who joined the team in the previous period.

The continuing growth and development of the team, both in expertise and diversity of skills and experience further established the



Children's Law Centre as the leading children's rights organisation in this jurisdiction.

Despite the challenges, the need to support children and young people remained. The CHALKY free phone advice service continued to provide frontline specialist advice and assistance for children and young people throughout the pandemic. Thanks to the hard work and flexibility from a range of staff members, during remote working, there were only two days when the service was not available for children.

**'A hugely challenging year for children and young people, with the impact of COVID-19'**

## 'The increased profile and impact of the work strengthened the centre's ability to act as strong advocates for children and young people'

Beyond the centre's advice services, there was a significant and pronounced increase in the scale, complexity and importance of the tier three legal representation work carried out by the legal team, across education, mental health and immigration. Despite these challenges, the legal team continued to provide essential legal advice and representation to protect and vindicate the rights of children during the pandemic.

The centre positioned itself as a leading advocate for children in relation to restrictive COVID-19 measures.

Policy work for the centre continued to grow, with the increased amount of substantive policy work generated by a continuously sitting NI Assembly in this period. Engagement with decision makers led to positive policy interventions.

Leading the NGO sector through the UNCRC reporting process was a significant addition to this work, resulting in the submission of the NI NGO stakeholder report to inform the list of issues prior to reporting.

Youth@CLC continued to drive change within the centre on a number of levels by guiding the development of REE Rights Responder. This work led to a runners-up prize in the Pearson's World Changer Awards in

Business and Technology.

This continued excellent work was conducted throughout the pandemic despite the challenges around remote engagement and additional pressures on youth panel members.

Complimenting the continued improvements in digitisation, the centre launched a new 'Child Law Hub' website, as well as a new 'Live Chat' feature to the REE chatbot.

The centre established itself as leading advocates on key issues in the public domain. This included becoming a leading and vocal public authority on the impact that lockdown measures were having on children with complex needs and their families.

The work of the Administration and Finance unit also played a huge role in the continued and effective operation of the centre during this time. The work alongside funders, staff members, the senior management team, IT providers and the centre's management committee ensured minimum disruption, enabled the ability to adapt to new challenges, and provided a platform for the centre's work to meet the escalating needs of children and young people.

**Paddy Kelly**  
Director



## Chairperson's Report



**The last year was undoubtedly the most difficult the Children's Law Centre has ever faced. Thanks to significant investment on the part of funders and the digitalisation programme CLC had already embarked upon, the centre moved smoothly to working from home in March 2020. No one at that stage foresaw that in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown, staff would be required to work from home for the entire year.**

CLC's management committee do not underestimate the challenges that this presented to staff having to balance work alongside family commitments, caring for children and other dependents and home schooling, all alongside the worry and fear about the health of family and friends. The personal stress and pressure that living in a pandemic presented to all of us and to our mental health and wellbeing cannot be ignored or overestimated.

Alongside their personal challenges, CLC staff were faced with an unprecedented increase in casework as children, young people and the families of our most disadvantaged

children were confronted with an immediate cessation of services which previously had been a lifeline for them and their children. As this report testifies, families were put in the invidious position where they were required to use chemical restraints as a last resort to protect their children. Families reliant on respite to enable them to support their vulnerable children were denied access when they needed it most. Children and young people were struggling with the impact of COVID-19, lockdown, the loss of their peer support and the challenges of home schooling, with already severely overstretched and under resourced mental health services fractured.

No one would deny that government faced significant and unparalleled challenges in an ever changing environment but, notwithstanding these challenges, CLC were deeply concerned by their failure to think about the impact their decisions would have on our most vulnerable children. This despite the fact that the statutory duty to give such consideration has existed for over 20 years.

**'We all owe CLC and their dedicated staff a huge debt of thanks for the incredible work they have done over the last year in the most difficult of circumstances'**

Thanks to CLC staff, and the legal challenges they brought, duty bearers reversed some of their most adverse decisions and began to think about children in their subsequent responses to the pandemic.

The long term impact of the pandemic on children and young people, and the services they access to realise their full potential, will not be fully appreciated possibly for years. What we already know however is that the pandemic has exposed the deficit in children's services across Executive Departments. The cracks have become gaping chasms. Post pandemic we cannot return to business as usual. We need to plan and invest to ensure children can access, without discrimination, the essential services they need and to which they have a right.

We all owe CLC and their dedicated staff a huge debt of thanks for the incredible work they have done over the last year in the most difficult of

circumstances. Children with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers, children with mental health needs, those denied their right to education and families denied essential support are among the many who benefited from the life changing work of the centre this year. Staff have, despite their own personal challenges, given so much to help the most vulnerable and at risk. On behalf of the management committee thank you all.

On behalf of all the committee I would like to thank our funders who responded so quickly and generously to help us meet the growing demand. Without them we would not have been able to meet the many significant challenges children faced in the last 12 months.

I would also like to thank CLC's management committee, who volunteered their time and considerable skills to support staff at a time when it was most needed. Their expertise and advice was critical when challenging decisions had to be made. They provided significant support when it was most needed.

Finally, as we emerge from the nightmare of the last year and hopefully rebuild to address the deficits in children's rights so brutally exposed by the pandemic, we should celebrate what a small group of dedicated people can and did achieve in the most difficult of times.

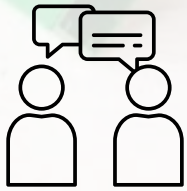
I will leave the last word to Tina, the mother of Lauryn who was one of our clients: "If it wasn't for the Children's Law Centre, I wouldn't be here. They have been my saving glory. Thank you so much."

**David Simpson**  
Chairperson

**'Children with disabilities, refugees and asylums seekers, children with mental health needs, those denied their right to education and families denied essential support are among the many who benefited from the life changing work of the centre this year'**

## Our Year in Numbers

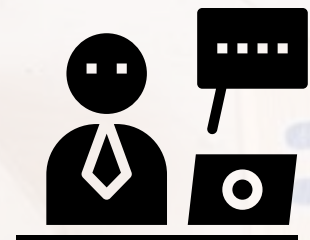
**2,341**



advice queries through CHALKY

**3,228**

visits to REE Rights Responder



**1** innovative live chat advice tool launched



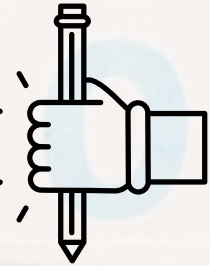
Proceedings commenced in

**12** new

Judicial Review cases

**28**

children represented at Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal



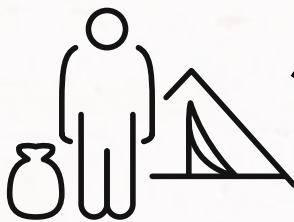
**25,048**

views of the new child law hub website



**3**

disability discrimination cases taken relating to education



**22**

unaccompanied asylum seeking children represented in their claim for asylum



**7**

children represented at Mental Health Review Tribunal



# Our Impact at a Glance



## Leaders in the sector

Led the NGO sector through the UNCRC reporting process by submitting the NI stakeholder report. The report was endorsed by 48 organisations and noted in an NI committee developing a bill of rights.



## Secured a vulnerable child action plan

The team at CLC successfully secured the development of a vulnerable child action plan to protect children during COVID-19, presenting solutions to the NI Assembly.



## Successfully challenged respite care decision

CLC commenced JR proceedings against a decision to re-purpose a respite care facility during COVID-19. The case was decided in our client's favour in 2021.



## Opposed weakening of child safeguarding

CLC successfully opposed the weakening of child safeguarding duties that were introduced through temporary COVID-19 regulations.



## Continually protected rights during COVID-19

The centre remained operational throughout the pandemic, ensuring children's rights were protected and vindicated during a time of need.



## Led opposition to post-primary transfer plans

CLC successfully argued that exam plans for 10 and 11 year olds would adversely impact SEN and mainstream children who missed school.



## Set standards for EUSS and asylum support

100% success in completed applications for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Set standards processing EUSS applications, identifying & completing all.



## Youth@CLC drive innovative change

Youth@CLC continued to drive change in the organisation by developing REE Rights Responder as well as testing and launching new a 'Live Chat' feature.



## Increased impact as children's rights leader

An increased number of important media interventions and online reach raised CLC's profile on key issues, with an improved position as a leading voice.



# Youth Participation & Advocacy

**Youth@CLC and the centre's youth participation and advocacy project had to deal with many new challenges arising from the pandemic. Most notably, the continuation of meaningful engagement to ensure the child's voice continued to be heard both within the organisation and externally with decision makers. Children and young people were also facing unprecedented demands and disruption to their lives at home, at school and in their community activities and pursuits.**

Despite these challenges, the panel continued to provide an important role in the centre's response to demands across all areas of our policy and legal work.

The youth panel also worked to guide and influence policy on key and topical issues, ensuring that the child's voice was being heard on matters affecting them. Some of the issues within the period ended 31 March 2021 included Brexit; mental health; Black Lives Matter; digital poverty; reasonable chastisement; school transport; free school meals and school selection.



The youth panel engaged with a variety of external organisations throughout the year, including a workshop alongside young carers in the development of young carers legal information on the website and social media, and took part in a consultation on the Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework.







**Youth@CLC, worked alongside the Youth Participation and Advocacy Worker, guiding the legal practitioners and testing scenarios to make improvements to the legal education content within REE, complementing new and easy to digest digital FAQs on the Child Law Hub website.**

The information offering within REE included a range of children's rights

issues, chosen and developed in collaboration with Youth@CLC. These included information on homelessness, employment rights, online safety and privacy, welfare benefits, mental health and general rights around legal ages.

In addition to this, further work was conducted to add a section on children's rights relating to police stop and search powers, and a range of new intents reacting to analytical information. This marks a new and innovative approach to digitising the centre's advice service through an agile way of working.

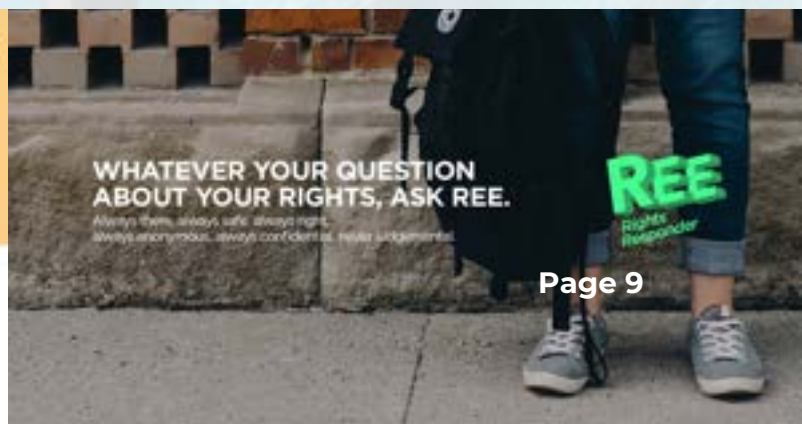
**Youth@CLC held a series of topical project workshops that focused on the types of issues young people were facing at the time.**

These workshops and discussions included:

- Rights during a pandemic.
- What is lobbying?
- Brexit.
- Mental health.
- Black Lives Matter.
- Tackling digital poverty.
- Remote education during lockdown.
- Rural poverty.
- Ending the defence of reasonable chastisement.

The group became involved in a number of campaigns around children's rights issues, working collaboratively with other organisations, including:

- Internet access for all.
- Young carer's rights.
- Free school meals.



## Advice & Information

**During the financial year ended 31st March 2021, the advice service dealt with 2,341 issues. Advice queries and support covered a wide range of legal issues that impacted on children's lives, with the advice team once again providing high quality, specialist legal advice and information to children, young people, parents, carers, guardians and professionals working with and on behalf of children in the most difficult of circumstances.**

Reflecting a continuing trend, the majority of queries through CHALKY remained education focused, amounting to almost 60% of all contacts made. Of these education queries, the majority related to special education, again demonstrating a continuing trend and reflecting on the specialism held by the centre in this area.

It was notable that the seriousness of the denial of rights experienced by those children with SEN was evident. The impact of the pandemic was also seen through an increase in examination and school admissions queries, many of which were linked to the ongoing disruption in children's access to education and the changes to school examination and admissions procedures during COVID-19.

Beyond education, the advice team offered a broad range of support and information on a wide range of children's rights issues. Family law queries accounted for over 16% of the total, including contact, residence and family support.



Almost 5% of the issues dealt with related to mental health, with children's access to timely mental health assessments, treatment and community based therapeutic services becoming another major area of concern during the pandemic.

Over 8% of CHALKY queries related to care, with placement and homelessness featuring as recurring rights issues impacting on children.

**'The impact of the pandemic was also notable through an increase in examination and school admissions queries'**



## CHALKY Impact on Children's Lives

Last year CHALKY, our freephone advice line, dealt with 2,341 children's rights issues. This included queries relating to:



**1,401**

Education



**379**

Family Law



**41**

Human Rights  
& Justice



**192**

Care



**106**

Mental Health



**212**

Other Issues

"My mum contacted CLC because I was being bullied in school for years. They really listened to me, believed me and most importantly gave me the support I needed which helped me during a very difficult time. The help I got from CLC meant that things got better for me and now I am studying for A-Levels. CLC gave me a voice when I most needed to be heard"

- Young CLC Client -

**Complimenting the CHALKY free phone advice service in the period ending 31 March 2021 was REE Rights Responder. REE is a chatbot created by Youth@CLC, alongside legal experts, to offer free, confidential and accurate legal information for children aged 13 – 17. Launched in November 2019, the service was visited by 3,228 users between 01 April 2020 – 31 March 2021, with 19,260 messages sent and received in the bot over the course of 4,466 individual conversations.**

A new 'Live Chat' feature was added to the digital advice service, enabling children and young people to make direct digital contact with a live legal adviser within the advice team directly from a handheld device. This represents a more efficient and effective response to the needs and modern lifestyles of children and young people, providing them with information where they are most likely to access it and in a way that relates to their communication preferences.



# Legal Representation

**Across education, mental health and immigration, legal proceedings were commenced in an unprecedented twelve new judicial review cases. This was in addition to ongoing litigation continued from the previous year.**

The centre's legal practitioners showed great determination to ensure challenges around continued access to justice were met during a significant time of need for our child clients. This included adjusting to different modes of hearing at Tribunal and working with the Health and Social Care Board and the Home Office to ensure that child immigration client meetings and Home Office interviews could be conducted at the centre's offices in a child-friendly environment with effective risk mitigations in place. This ensured cases could continue to progress throughout lockdown.



## In focus: children's rights and the pandemic

The Centre positioned itself as a leading advocate for children in relation to restrictive COVID-19 measures. Successful outcomes included the issuing of temporary continuity of education directions from the Department of Education to regulate access to supervised education for all vulnerable children during lockdowns; guidance issued to schools regarding synchronous and asynchronous approaches to remote learning; and the publishing of a four tier contingency plan to cover a variety of lockdown scenarios with the aim of protecting children.

The centre's legal expertise was called upon by a number of standing committees in the NI Assembly to assist in the scrutiny of legislation in relation to COVID-19, particularly in the areas of health and education. Without these interventions, along with first hand knowledge of issues impacting children, the voices of some of the most marginalised children and young people would not have been heard during COVID-19.





**Lauryn, a 17-year old person with autism, severe learning difficulties and mood disorder loved to walk. When the first lockdown began, her school closed and with it all the support she gets.**

Lauryn's mother, Tina, recalled the impact lockdown had on her daughter and the help she received from the Children's Law Centre.

"Lauryn is my daughter and the pandemic has brought our family close to breaking point. It didn't have to be this way. If the government had fulfilled its legal obligations to us... we would not be beaten and bruised.

"We would not have had to go to our neighbours to explain that it's her attacking us, not us attacking her. She would not have been put on a new cocktail of drugs as a last resort to manage her behaviour. We would

not have had to hold our daughter down on the floor every day to try and stop her banging her head as hard as she can."

Lauryn had always been on medication to help her sleep, but during the lockdown she had been chemically restrained. Her consultant psychiatrist indicated that this chemical restraint would not have been necessary if she had the structure and routine of school.

Tina sought help from CLC who had assisted children like Lauryn during the pandemic, including in three judicial review cases where decisions in response to COVID-19 failed to comply with statutory equality duties, breached human rights and were not made in the best interests of children.

Lauryn's mum reflected on the help she received from the CLC legal team: "If it wasn't for the Children's Law Centre, I wouldn't be here. They have been my saving glory. Thank you so much."

### Outcome

CLC secured a specialist school placement for Lauryn through the Education Authority, along with Health and Social Care Trust family support. CLC also then assisted Lauryn with a smooth transition to adult services to include specialist respite.

**'If it wasn't for the Children's Law Centre, I wouldn't be here'**  
Lauryn's Mum

**The Centre remained exceptionally busy in the area of special education needs, ensuring children were able to vindicate their right to educational inclusion and the avoidance of disability discrimination.**

The impact of COVID-19 on the education system and the associated impact this had on children in mainstream and special education was of major concern for the centre. In particular, the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and successive lockdowns had a major detrimental impact on children by reducing access to education and SEND provision, including adult assistance, specialist education support services and therapies.

The centre intervened in a number of key areas, highlighting the negative impact on children's rights and severe adverse impacts on vulnerable children, including children with SEND. A number of key issues were raised, including access to remote learning or supervised education when access to schools was restricted during lockdown, the lack of a vulnerable child action plan to mitigate against the impact on children, the use of chemical restraint to address challenging behaviour, access to allied health therapies, and concerns around examinations and post-primary transfer.

### Key trends and issues in education cases



Provided representation in three disability discrimination claims by assisting disabled children who were denied full-time access to school.



Ensured the full access to education through successful challenge of the exclusion of disabled children from school trips.



Represented 28 children at the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal, securing statutory assessment and specificity in statements.



Pre-action correspondence issued in four cases where there was a failure to provide children with access to special education during lockdown.



Challenged school failures to make reasonable adjustments to ensure access to education for children with a visual impairment.



Represented children to ensure they were not denied access to specialist education provision due to a lack of suitable transport.



**Strategic litigation in relation to mental health issues increased significantly in the period ending 31 March 2021. With five judicial review cases continuing from the previous period, the centre commenced proceedings in a further nine judicial review cases.**

This marked increase reflected the serious negative impacts on children as a result of the pandemic and, in particular, the increased restriction on access to specialist mental health services. Although many of the issues dealt with during this period had been identified by the centre as systemic problems before the pandemic, the additional pressure of the emergency response during COVID-19 took matters beyond crisis point.

During this period, the centre

provided ongoing specialist legal representation in five judicial review cases relating to the failure to secure suitable accommodation and community support packages for severely disabled children, resulting in delayed discharge from a specialist children's mental health hospital following completion of treatment.

New judicial review proceedings were commenced in relation to reduced access to temporary respite facilities due to the repurposing of the facilities by the Trust. This led to a failure to meet the assessed needs of severely disabled children.

The centre also provided legal advice or representation at the Mental Health Review Tribunal in seven cases.

### Tackling systemic issues in health and social care



#### Delayed Discharge

CLC solicitors continued to represent severely disabled children who were being prevented from leaving specialist mental health hospital care due to a failure to provide sufficient support that meets their complex needs.



#### Temporary Respite Care

CLC initiated legal proceedings on behalf of severely disabled children against the decision to repurpose a temporary respite care facility during COVID-19.

**The immigration case work load in the centre continued to grow, with the immigration unit having been newly established in the previous year.**

Key work focused around a range of issues, including asylum, human trafficking of children, discretionary leave to remain, citizenship, data privacy rights for asylum seeking children and provisions for determining an asylum claim in circumstances where a child is not medically fit to be interviewed by the Home Office.

The centre represented 22 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the period ended 31 March 2021, the majority of UASCs in this jurisdiction. Six of those were granted asylum during that period, while a further twelve were granted in the following period. Others remained ongoing.

With around 40% of UASC clients referred to the centre being identified as potential child victims of human trafficking, the immigration unit relied on a number of key legal interventions to protect them from harm. These included the requirement to instruct consultant psychiatrists, a trafficking expert and a torture expert.

In the period ending 31 March 2021, immigration practitioners in the centre commenced proceedings in two judicial review cases and issued pre-action correspondence in relation to the Home Office Welfare Interview Form and Home Office interviews.

### EU Settlement Scheme

**The centre continued to assist children in care with their registration for settlement under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), as the deadline for applications approached.**

Around 70 children were assisted in their applications in the period ended 31 March 2021. The centre also challenged criminality provisions relating to EU children requiring status under the EUSS.





# Policy



The CLC policy team resumed the responsibility of leading the NGO sector in this jurisdiction through the 2022 UNCRC reporting process, including submission of the Northern Ireland NGO stakeholder report to inform the list of issues prior to reporting.

The centre responded to around twenty consultations during the period ended 31 March 2021, ensuring children's rights issues were included in decision makers policy development. There were a number of notable successes and interventions that achieved positive outcomes on children's rights issues.

## Key policy issues and achievements



Continued engagement with the sector on equal protection for children from corporal punishment at home.



Guided the new Mental Health Champion on a range of mental health issues facing children and young people.



Led promotion of collaboration between health and education under the Children's Services Co-operation Act.



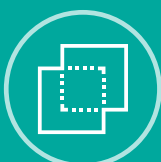
Ensured incorporation of the UNCRC was considered in discussions around a bill of rights in this jurisdiction.



Opposition to the PSNI's use of spit and bite guards on children and their use of stop and search powers on children.



Responded to twenty consultations, ensuring children's rights were included in decision making.



Engagement with a range of stakeholders on the establishment of a regional care and justice campus.



Led in protecting children from COVID-19 policies, including successfully securing a vulnerable child action plan.

**In December 2020, CLC compiled and submitted the NI NGO stakeholder report as part of the 2022 UNCRC reporting process. The list of issues prior to reporting painted a bleak picture in relation to children's rights in Northern Ireland.**

The report demonstrates a systemic failure to incorporate the principles of the UNCRC within legislation, policy and practice. This has left children's rights in this jurisdiction far behind internationally recognised standards.

Speaking at the time of the launch, CLC Director Paddy Kelly said: "The NI Executive is failing children and young people in this jurisdiction. There has been a complete failure to make progress on concluding observations and recommendations since the previous examination by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This has led to systemic failures, with no comprehensive framework to provide strong protections for children's rights here.

"The current situation for children is grave and the Children's Law Centre is seeing this daily in our work. We need to see immediate action to address these problems ahead of examination in 2022."

### Consultation responses: putting the UNCRC at the heart of policy engagement

- Hate crime legislation review, successfully arguing for the inclusion of age.
- Temporary COVID-19 regulations, raising child safeguarding concerns.
- COVID-19 vulnerable children and young people plan, secured by CLC.
- Draft mental health strategy 2021-2031.
- Multiple SEND framework consultations, leading the sector on the issue.
- Establishment of a regional care and justice campus.
- Programme for government outcomes framework.
- Use of live links in court proceedings, ensuring further consultation.
- Retention of DNA and fingerprints.
- Educational underachievement review.
- Framework to tackle harm from substance abuse.
- Draft modern slavery strategy 2021-22.
- COVID-19 policing powers, raising concerns around spit and bite guards.
- Strategy to support women and girls in the justice system.
- Domestic abuse and family proceedings bill.



# Communications

**The year 2020-21 saw a number of new developments for CLC in relation to communications, marketing and media impact, with the launch of the new 'Child Law Hub' website and the employment of a new communications role in the organisation.**

Usage of the website increased rapidly, with monthly users increasing from below 900 in September 2020 to over 3,000 in March 2021. The website offered new resources for children, young people, guardians and professionals, while increasing the centre's reach. CLC's social media presence continued to grow in the same period, both in reach and impact.

The improved public profile of the centre ensured an increased level of influence during a time of great need for children and young people. The ability to identify issues early through the legal work, develop policy solutions and increase the centre's impact ensured that the importance of children's rights was not ignored.

The increased profile and impact of the work strengthened the centre's ability to act as strong advocates for children and young people, ensuring their voice was being heard during public discourse on key issues affecting them.

## Impact: a leading position in the sector



**The Children's Law Centre led the campaign to abandon post-primary transfer tests for ten and eleven year old children during COVID-19.**

The centre combined its early knowledge of frontline issues, legal expertise and public position within the sector to lead the calls to abandon steadfast plans to assess young children during the pandemic.



CLC co-ordinated a sustained media campaign and a public letter signed by 25 charities to raise concerns around discrimination, the mental health impact on pupils and their health and safety during the pandemic. In January 2021, on the day of the letter, a main exam board scrapped examination plans.



## Admin & Finance

**The year 2020-21 was hugely challenging for the admin and finance team at CLC. Ensuring the safety of staff and clients took centre stage at the initial stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, including rapidly arranging for remote working. Thankfully the process of digital transformation had already begun, leaving CLC well placed to quickly adapt.**

Increased work with funders to ensure the vital work of the centre could continue was also critical and allowed the advice, legal, policy and participation work to continue.

Continued work and collaboration with the management committee and others ensured the smooth operation of the centre's activities through challenging circumstances.





## Accounts Overview

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations and legacies	506	-	506	1,409
Charitable activities	35,698	962,786	998,484	654,248
Investments	38,191	-	38,191	35,543
Movement in pension provision	61,138	-	61,138	1,827
<b>Total income</b>	<b>135,533</b>	<b>962,786</b>	<b>1,098,319</b>	<b>693,027</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	37,582	653,189	690,771	593,750
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>	<b>97,951</b>	<b>309,597</b>	<b>407,548</b>	<b>99,277</b>
Gross transfers between funds	141,431	(141,431)	-	
<b>Net income for the year / Net movement in funds</b>	<b>239,382</b>	<b>168,166</b>	<b>407,548</b>	<b>99,277</b>
Fund balances at 01 April 2020	38,087	357,915	396,002	296,725
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>277,469</b>	<b>526,081</b>	<b>803,550</b>	<b>396,002</b>

A complete set of CLC's audited annual accounts  
is available on request.

## Accounts Overview (continued)

	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Intangible assets		52,613		43,204
Investment assets		259,137		251,223
Investment properties		214,000		214,000
		525,750		508,427
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	78,119		191,321	
Cash at bank and in hand	510,071		43,314	
	588,190		234,635	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(109,334)		(64,280)	
Net current assets		478,856		170,355
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		1,004,606		678,782
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>		(170,810)		(186,168)
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>				
Defined benefit pension liability	30,246		96,612	
		(30,246)		(96,612)
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>803,550</b>		<b>396,002</b>
<b>Income funds</b>				
Restricted funds		526,081		357,915
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>				
Designated funds	10,165		10,165	
General unrestricted funds	297,550		124,534	
Pension reserve	(30,246)		(96,612)	
		277,469		38,087
		<b>803,550</b>		<b>396,002</b>



# Thanks



**The Children's Law Centre would like to thank its hard working staff, youth panel, volunteers and management committee for their continued and unrelenting commitment to protecting the rights of children.**

Their hard work and commitment ensured children's rights, welfare and safety were not ignored in the implementation of COVID-19 policy measures. Children are, without doubt, better off because of it.

The centre's funders continued to show a great deal of support and flexibility to allow the adaptation of new ways of working through COVID-19. This helped ensure the CLC team was able to focus on and meet the increased demand on the service.

## Staff

- Emma-Rose Duffy (Solicitor)
- Diane Hammond (Advice Worker)
- Rachel Hogan (Special Education Needs Representative)
- Paddy Kelly (Director)
- Claire Kemp (Policy Officer)
- Liam Mackle (Advice Manager)
- Catherine Maguire (Advice Worker)
- Sarah McAuley (Admin Assistant / Receptionist)
- Maria McCloskey (Immigration Solicitor)
- Eamonn McNally (Mental Health Solicitor)
- Sinead McSorley (Youth Participation and Advocacy Worker)
- Barbara Muldoon (Immigration Solicitor)

- Sam Nelson (Comms & Marketing Manager)
- Helen Rafferty (Head of Admin & Finance Unit)
- Kathryn Stevenson (Head of Legal Services)

## Youth@CLC

- Julie Donnelly
- Niamh Edgar
- Morgen Henderson
- Alexander Horsman
- Chris Magee
- Jay Martin
- Orla McGinnity
- Hollie McHugh
- Tiana O'Brien
- Conor Reilly
- Saorla White

## Management Committee

- Yvonne Campbell
- Katherine Edgar
- Chris Quinn
- Paula Rodgers
- David Simpson
- Alicia Toal
- Kathryn Wilson

## Funders

- Department of Health
- Health and Social Care Board
- Youth Justice Agency
- Department of Education
- Home Office
- BBC Children in Need
- Esmee Fairbairn
- Legal Education Foundation
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Lotteries Community Fund
- Access to Justice
- The Baring Foundation
- Department of Justice - ARCS

## **Children's Law Centre**

Rights House  
2nd Floor  
127 - 131 Ormeau Road  
Belfast, BT7 1SH

Tel: 028 9024 5704

Fax: 028 9024 5679

Email: [info@childrenslawcentre.org](mailto:info@childrenslawcentre.org)

Charity Registration No. NIC101148

Company Registration No. NI033998 (Northern Ireland)



[childrenslawcentre.org.uk](http://childrenslawcentre.org.uk)