

what children and young people care about...

Issues raised by children and young people with our Office in 2008



introduction

As Ombudsman for Children, I have statutory responsibility to promote the rights and welfare of all children and young people up to the age of 18 living in Ireland. As set out in Section 7(1)(e) and Section 7(2)(a) of the Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002, I have a mandate to consult with children and young people and to highlight issues relating to the rights and welfare of children that are of concern to children themselves.

In the past five years my staff and I have met with literally thousands of children and young people and heard from many more. In 2008 we met children and young people in a variety of ways including through school visits to our Office, through focus groups set-up to develop a deeper understanding of the different issues that are important to children, as well as hearing from children and young people through our complaints and policy work. Taken together, the issues highlighted in this booklet illustrate the diversity of lived experience among children and young people living in today's Ireland.

This document sets out many of the views and concerns children have raised with us in 2008.



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Issue: Alternative care

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Placement		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience of difficulties with placements in care 		Young person (details not known)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child does not wish to be moved from his current care placement 	Voice and being heard	Boy, Offaly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young person concerned about his treatment by hostel staff 	Health and Safety	Boy, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young person unhappy with her care placement. She feels that her voice has not been heard in the decision-making process relating to her placement 	Voice and being heard	Girl, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young person is unhappy with his foster home placement. He believes his voice and wishes are not being heard in the decision-making process relating to his placement 	Voice and being heard	Boy, Leitrim
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young person is unhappy with the HSE's decision to change his placement. He does not feel that his wishes are being taken into account and likes it where he is, i.e his current placement 	Voice and being heard	Boy, Dublin
Access to/contact with family		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to siblings in care by a young person who is also in care 	Family	Boy, Cavan

Aftercare		
▪ Aftercare plan for young person in care		Girl, Longford
▪ Young person in care is unhappy at the level of aftercare support provided by the HSE		Girl, Cork
▪ Young person unhappy with level of aftercare support. Has applied for funding for a laptop, but had not received any notification		Boy, Waterford
Supports		
▪ Young person in care unhappy with relationship with staff and outcome of a complaint she made to the HSE against a staff member		Girl, Dublin
Complaints		
▪ Complaint form in residential home difficult to understand, and lack of confidence that a complaint, once made, will be followed up		Boy, Dublin
Care orders		
▪ Young person concerned about the interviews she and her four siblings had with Social Work Department regarding their care orders. She felt the questions were leading and their opinions were not taken into account		Girl, Galway

Issue: Asylum

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Support		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question about whether the OCO offers help to young people who are asylum seekers 		Group of young people, girls and boys, approx. 16-18 years old, Dublin
Hostel accommodation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “[the hostel] is nice, but we need more food to eat and [to] get the playgrounds fixed and more people to get toilets so their children don’t get infections or diseases... the heaters are bad... I do not know if the heaters are still working.” 	Health	Child living in hostel accommodation for asylum seekers

Issue: Discrimination

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Stereotyping		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative stereotyping of young people by other people living in the local community, in particular members of the Gardai, retailers and shop assistants. The main cause of these negative attitudes is the anti-social behaviour of a minority of young people in the community. No one seems able to engage effectively with these young people and other young people feel disempowered and fearful to do anything themselves. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attitude of older people to younger people is very bad. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
Services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services seem to focus mainly on people living in Dublin. What about people, including children and young people, living in rural areas? 		Group of young people, girls, Limerick

Issue: Disability

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Supports		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can OCO help young people with mild to severe learning disabilities? 		Group of young people, girls and boys, approx. 16-18 years old, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information about <ol style="list-style-type: none"> entitlements to the Disability Allowance, reasons why young people with mild GLD might be refused the allowance and are not always given an explanation for not being granted the allowance 	Standard of living Information	Group of young people, girls and boys, approx. 16-18 years old, Dublin

Issue: Early childhood care

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are good child-minding facilities for younger children in the local community. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin

Issue: Education

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Value of education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education is important for getting a job later on. 		Children, girls and boys, Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone needs an education so they can get a job and so they can have a good life. 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin
Access to education and schools		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question about educational opportunities for young people living in care 	Alternative care Information	Group of young people, girls and boys, approx. 16-18 years old, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does every child have the right to education? 	Non-discrimination	Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's good that there are schools in the area and so close to where children and young people live. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children with special needs should have the right to education because they need education and there aren't teachers to teach them. 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin

Transition from primary to post-primary education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's important to support children with the challenges associated with making the transition from primary to post-primary school. 		<p>Group of young people, girls, Cork</p> <p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Cork</p>
Curriculum		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Query about Irish language exemption scheme and difficulties of getting a re-assessment at Senior Cycle if you have been assessed as capable of studying the language 		<p>Young person (other details not known)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex education needs to be provided at post-primary level. Young people may not feel comfortable talking about issues like contraception and STDs with their parents and it is difficult to access information and support by other routes if you are living in a rural community. Sex education at post-primary level would help provide young people with the information they need to make safe choices and decisions. 		<p>Group of young people, girls, Limerick</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaint from young person that the number of PE classes in school is inadequate 		<p>16 year old girl, Cork</p>

Facilities		
▪ Poor school facilities		5th class children, girls and boys, Dublin
▪ “We are not happy with our small bus... some of the seatbelts are broken... Fix the seatbelts on the bus... We would like a bigger school car park.”	Safety and Protection	Group of children, girls and boys, Clare
Policies, Procedures, Practices		
▪ Child suspended from school and allegedly refused redress by the school		15 year old boy, Dublin
▪ Using a peer-mediation approach to combat conflict among young people in school	Safety and Protection Health	Group of young people, girls, Dublin
▪ The need to promote a culture of inclusion among the whole school community in order to combat bullying among young people	Safety and Protection Health	Group of young people, boys, Clare
▪ School handling of allegations of bullying	Safety and Protection Health	16 year old girl, Dublin
▪ Complaint from a group of second level students concerning their school’s code of behaviour and, correspondingly, unfair suspensions for “superficial reasons” such as haircuts and make up.		Group of young people, Dublin

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young person concerned that another student in his school was suspended for unfair reasons and that a teacher's word was taken over other student(s) involved. 		Young person, male, Mayo
Inter-school relationships		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need to counterbalance competitive inter-school relationships (e.g. in the context of sport) by fostering cooperation and collaboration between school communities 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin
Exams		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The stress exams cause among young people and the need to support young people to develop ways of managing exam stress 	Health	Group of young people, girls, Cork
Class size		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complaint about class size arising from the loss of a teacher 		Child, male, Limerick
Uniform		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We'd like to change the school uniform – either have none or have a summer and a winter uniform so we're more comfortable. 		Group of children, girls and boys, Clare
Extra-curricular activities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be good to have better school tours. 		Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be good to have homework clubs in school. 		<p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pride in the school having been awarded two green flags 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Tipperary</p>
<p>OCO's activities re: education</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the OCO doing in the whole area of education? 		<p>Group of young people, girls, Limerick</p>

Issue: Employment

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Supports		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much can a young person on Disability Allowance earn in a part-time job? 	Information	Group of young people, girls and boys, 16 to 18 years old, Dublin
Jobs for young people		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be more ways for young people to make money - e.g. house cleaning, dog walking 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
Conditions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people have the right to be safe and to be paid fairly if they work. 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin

Issue: Family and community

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Parental separation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Query about whether child-friendly information is available for children and young people about parental separation and when their parents are separating or getting divorced 	Information	Young person, girl, Cork
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children and young people should have the right to choose who they want to live with. 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin
Family		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's good to have your family and relatives all together. 		Child, boy, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children have the right to have a family and a home because everyone needs shelter and a family to care for you. 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young person expressed concern on behalf of her sister in relation to the actions of a social worker. Allegedly, the social worker has not helped the child's return from the care of her father to the care of her mother. 		Young person, girl, Dublin

Community spirit		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong community spirit in the area – “the majority of people are nice, they know you and are helpful”; “there is nice friendly people”, “there are a lot of events that involve the whole community”. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There should be a better general sense of togetherness in the community – people getting to know other people better in the area. It would be good if there were more community centres. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is good to have neighbours and to live near family and friends – “My family cares for me”; “everyone is nice in my parish”; “we have a place to come home to each day”; “there are lots of kids”; “people in our community are friendly”. 		Group of children, girls and boys, Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “the people are kind and helpful” 		Child, Tipperary
Rural isolation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “I want more neighbours” 		Child, Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “I’d like somewhere to go as I live in the middle of nowhere and I get bored.” 		Child, Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “St Mary’s Park was the best place I ever lived because I had lots of friends.” 		Child, Limerick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “I would like if there were more children my age living near me” 		Child, Tipperary

Issue: Freedom of movement

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Public transport		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ There's good and cheap public transport available.		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin

Issue: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Spirituality		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The challenge young people face in finding time and space for prayer, reflection and self-awareness		Group of young people, boys, Dublin

Issue: Health

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Mental Health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for information and education programmes within formal education to support young people to understand and cope with mental health issues and as one approach to tackling levels of suicide among young people 	Education Information	Young person, boy, Mayo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the OCO doing in relation to young people and mental health? 		Young person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damaging effects of low self-esteem and the importance of supporting positive self-esteem among young people 		Group of young people, girls, Donegal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Importance of promoting positive self-esteem and self-image among teenage girls 		Group of young people, girls, Cork
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need to raise awareness of the prevalence of depression among young people and to support young people to take practical steps to develop their physical and mental health 	Information	Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friends and good relationships with peers are really important. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Clare

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friends are important. Having friends nearby is a really good thing about where we live: <p>“I love my friends”</p> <p>“I like where I live because I love all my friends down in my Nana’s”</p> <p>“One thing is good, to play with my friends after school”</p> <p>“I don’t want to change the Island because all my friends are here”</p>		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Limerick</p>
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Bullying

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the OCO doing any work focused on helping young people who may feel bullied in areas where they live? 	<p>Safety and Protection</p>	<p>Group of young people, girls and boys, 16 to 18 years old, Dublin</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child concerned that behaviour of a group of girls in her school may have turned to bullying 	<p>Safety and Protection Education</p>	<p>Young person, girl</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need to raise awareness among young people of the negative effects of bullying and to combat bullying by and of young people in schools and communities 	<p>Safety and Protection Education Information Ibid</p>	<p>Group of young people, girls, Clare</p> <p>Group of young people, girls, Cork</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Importance of raising awareness of bullying as a serious problem facing young people and of supporting victims of bullying to speak up and seek help 	<p>Safety and Protection Information</p>	<p>Group of young people, girls, Cork</p> <p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Wicklow</p>
<p>Alcohol and drug use</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have young people been consulted about the age at which they can legally purchase alcohol? 	<p>Voice and being heard</p>	<p>Young person (details not known)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need to educate younger teenagers about the risks associated with excessive alcohol consumption 	<p>Education Information</p>	<p>Group of young people, boys, Cork</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a drug problem, under-age drinking and serious vandalism problems in our local community. 		<p>Group of young people, boys and girls, Dublin</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children have the right to be safe from drugs because you can die from them. 		<p>Group of young people, girls, Dublin</p>
<p>Clean environment</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The pipes and drains in parts of the town need to be fixed to prevent overflow of sewage and flooding. 	<p>Safety</p>	<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin</p>
<p>Health services</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health is important and people need to have access to health services. It would be good to have a health centre in Kilmaley. We need the Ennis regional hospital to be like Limerick, Galway and Dublin. 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Clare</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaint made by deaf young person concerning the HSE’s failure to replace her broken hearing aid. 		Child, girl, Galway
Hospital care		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are good things about being cared for in this hospital: the nurses are nice, the place is warm, the food is good and nice, the service is good, and the nurses and doctors look after you. Ways of making it better include: having more parking spaces at the hospital, having all-day visiting hours, having different wards for different age groups, having fans in the wards and having your own room. 		Young person, boy, Dublin

Issue: Identity

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Nationality		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right of child in care to have an Irish passport 	Alternative care	Young person, girl, Donegal
Name		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child wishes to change her name by deed poll without consent of both parents because one of her parents is not involved in her care 	Voice and being heard Family Discrimination	Young person, girl, Dublin

Issue: Information

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Protection from harmful information		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Negative influence of the media on young people’s self-image/body image and corresponding physical and mental health 	Health	Group of young people, girls, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Influence of the media on young people’s self-image and body image, corresponding pressure on young people to conform to certain types and considerable spending by young people in order to do so 		Group of young people, girls, Louth

Issue: Law

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
An Garda Síochána		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to take steps to promote positive relationships between young people and the Gardaí 		Group of young people, girls, Waterford
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's good that a new garda station is being built in our local community. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
Crime in local community		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There should be less crime and more gardaí on the streets. For families it's a hostile environment. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
Law		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do the same laws apply to adults as to children? 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child law in Ireland? What rights do children have in Irish law? 		Group of young people, girls, Limerick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is happening about the proposed referendum on children's rights? 		Group of young people, girls, Limerick

Issue: Play, leisure and recreation

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Support		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the OCO doing to improve play facilities for young people living in the Dublin area? 		Group of young people, girls and boys, 16 to 18 years old, Dublin
Community facilities/services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local environment and facilities are not child-/youth-friendly - park dangerous, broken glass, community centre for adults only, not enough for young people to do. We would like bowling, a youth club with organised activities, hip hop classes, a running track, a clean park, and less traffic. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, 16 to 18 years old, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are not enough things for young people to do in the local community. We need for better facilities and affordable activities for young people. 		<p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin</p> <p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Clare</p> <p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Clare</p> <p>Group of young people, girls, Limerick</p> <p>Young person, girl, Dublin</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children need better and safe places to play - “Kids are runnin’ around the streets and it’s dangerous. They shouldn’t have to do that. If they only had a place to go to that everyone would enjoy. Many little children don’t come out because they wouldn’t be allowed because of all the robbed cars that are around going too fast. There isn’t much places for cars to park just outside the houses and it makes the road smaller. Kids would all the time run out in front of the cars and would get hurt. Kids would be afraid to go out because the lads are not nice to them or bullying them, e.g. pushing and fighting.” 	<p>Safety and Protection</p> <p>Health</p>	<p>Young person, girl, Dublin</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local playgrounds for children are not always clean or safe – graffiti, broken glass, space used by older young people for drinking, etc. These areas should be maintained better and more done to make sure they are safe places for children to play. 	<p>Safety and Protection</p> <p>Health</p>	<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need to raise awareness among young people of existing affordable sporting and recreational opportunities available to them in their local community ▪ It would be good to have a community newsletter for people to advertise local facilities that are available to young people 	<p>Health Information</p> <p>Health Information</p>	<p>Group of young people, boys, Wexford</p> <p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Waterford</p> <p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More facilities are needed for young people, including youth cafés, to help combat drinking, drug use and anti-social behaviour among young people 	Health	Group of young people, girls, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for youth café in local community 		<p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Clare</p> <p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Galway</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for better play facilities for children and a youth club or youth café for young people in the local community 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's important children can play together. It's good to have playgrounds and green spaces in the community where children can play. 	Health	Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why do so many children not have the right to play at home and abroad? 		Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leisure facilities and amenities for families and children are generally good. There are good festivals and sports facilities. There are lots of safe parks, green spaces and wide, open spaces for children to play. It's near to the city centre and there are shops. However, "there are no places for young people to hang out in, somewhere warm without having to do anything." Facilities are overpriced (e.g. the cinema and the zoo). There should be more clubs for non-athletic people, e.g. art or book clubs, supervised movie nights. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are good leisure facilities where we live for people in our community – a field for horse riding, a good golf course, three pitches, a football and hurling team. But it would be good to have more safe places to play (e.g. a park and a playground with swings and slides) and to have a social place to play and a youth club. It would be good too if there were more things to do. 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Clare</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Island should be cleaned up so it's a better and safer place for children to play: ▪ "Get the horses out of the Island and out to the country. They ruin the field" ▪ "Nothing is good about the Island. I want ... the fields cleaned and the bank gone because it's full of rats. Make the horses gone. I want a park." ▪ "Change the Island into a better place. Get the horses out ... because they ruin the field." ▪ "I want to change ... all the rats." 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Limerick</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Where I live there is no place to play. This is the thing I want to change. For there to be more space to play." 		<p>Girl, Limerick</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are some good facilities in the community. There is a need for a dedicated play area in the village that's in a safe place and has different areas and facilities for toddlers, young children and older children. Recreation space for young people is also needed. 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Tipperary</p>
<p>Natural Environment</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are happy living in the countryside – the fresh air, fields and wild animals, lots of space and nature around, having big lands and fields to play in. Living in the country is good for our animals too – a “lot of space for my dog to run”; “I like the way my cat can climb trees, run everywhere and dig”. 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Clare</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are good things about living in the countryside – the fresh air, scenery, the mountains, trees, plants, green areas, lakes, wild animals, etc. However, more needs to be done to deal with litter and pollution (e.g. pollution of the river). 	<p>Health</p>	<p>Group of young people, girls and boys, Clare</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We like living in the countryside “I love where I live because it's in the country ... and we have lots of space for ourselves, our pets” “I love living here. It's so calm. In the city it's not as good as living out here.” 	<p>Health</p>	<p>Group of primary school children, girls and boys, Tipperary</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The green spaces and the beach are good for children and families, but the beach needs to be cleaned up. 	<p>Health Safety</p>	<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More bins are needed on the street and on the beach. 		Group of young people, boys and girls, Dublin
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Issue: Safety and protection

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Safety in the community		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The local community is dangerous for children and young people - drinking, bonfires, cars being burned out, no security 		Group of young people, girls and boys, 16 to 18years old, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There needs to be more traffic lights and lollipop ladies to manage traffic so roads are safer, including around the school. Traffic lights should change more slowly. 		Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's peaceful where I live. There's no war. 		Girl, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be better if there was less traffic in the area. More road crossing points for children are needed. 		Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "It's hard to break into my house because it's in the middle of nowhere." 		Girl, Clare

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The roads aren't very safe. There should be "more footpaths to get places", "a pedestrian crossing outside the school", "zebra crossings", "traffic lights" and the hedges along the roads should be cut "in case cars hit someone". 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Clare</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "I want less robberies near my house." 		<p>Child, Clare</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Road safety is an issue in our local communities. It's dangerous to walk along the rural roads in our area because of speeding cars. There should be somewhere safe for younger children to play in the housing estates where they live because the cars make it dangerous for children to play on the road. 		<p>Group of young people, girls, Limerick</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerns about road safety – roads are poor; cars drive too fast; footpaths along the roads as well as a roundabout and zebra crossing in the village are needed to make it safer for children and other people living in the community. 		<p>Group of children, girls and boys, Tipperary</p>
<p>Welfare</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerns about the sexualisation of children and its effects on children and young people 		<p>Group of young people, girls, Cork</p>

Relationships		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children and young people have the right to have safe friendships. 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin

Issue: Standard of living

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Young people's spending habits		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to combat levels of discretionary spending among young people by supporting their understanding of the importance of budgeting and saving and their capacity to do so. 		Group of young people, boys, Dublin
Housing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Houses should be built for homeless people – “look after people who are homeless” – and there should be homes for Travellers who want them. 		Group of children, girls and boys, Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children have a right to have shelter and a home because bad things can happen at night and any time. 	Safety and Protection	Group of young people, girls, Dublin

Poverty		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There should be a “better life for the poor” and we should “make sure all children and families have enough food”. 		Group of children, girls and boys, Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wealth is important. It means you can do things, have your needs met and access services. 		Child, Clare
Poverty		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young person unhappy because he is not receiving welfare payments and, as a result, he is unable to pay for his prescription medicine. 	Health	Young person, boy, Dublin

Issue: Voice and being heard

Details	Related Issues (if any)	Information re: Children and Young People
Alternative care		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child allegedly changing care placement and not consulted about it 	Alternative care	Young person, boy, Offaly
Court proceedings		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complaint from child that judge is not listening to his voice/views in the context of custody proceedings concerning him 	Family Justice Best interests of the child	Child, boy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children and young people should have the right to have a voice and be heard in court proceedings affecting them because you should have the right to speak up for yourself. 		Group of young people, girls, Dublin
Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people's views are not being taken seriously in school and there is no mechanism (e.g. student council) to support students to share their views and participate in decision-making on school matters that interest and concern them, 	Education	Group of young people, girls and boys, Dublin

Local community		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How can young people have an effective voice in their local community so they can take part in making positive changes to their local community? Who should young people share their views with and to look for support with making changes? 		Group of young people, girls, Limerick
General/Other		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could children get the chance to vote for our next President? 		Group of children, girls and boys, Dublin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listening to children is really important if you're to understand children. 		Group of children, girls and boys, Clare

