A Northern Ireland Based Review
of Children and Young People’s Participation
in the Care Planning Process.

By
Northern Ireland Commissioner
for Children and Young People
(NICCY)

June 2006
**Acknowledgements**

NICCY wish to thank all those individuals and organisations whose contribution or participation made this review possible. Particular thanks are due to:

- All the children and young people who offered their views so freely and enthusiastically in both questionnaires and focus groups/interviews;

- VOYPIC: for the provision of training and the involvement of their peer researchers during the review;

- The Review Steering Group: for their guidance and willingness to share their expertise;

- Nominated Trust Liaisons: for their assistance in accessing review participants and their guidance throughout the process;

- All other Trust staff who completed questionnaires and/or participated in focus groups.

Your contributions are greatly valued.
# List of Contents

## Executive Summary

1

## Chapter One: Background to the Review

1.1 Introduction 4  
1.2 Rationale for the Review 4  
1.3 Objectives of the Review 5  
1.4 Policy Context 6  
1.5 Literature Review 7  
1.6 Looked After Children in Northern Ireland 8  
1.7 The Process of Review 9

## Chapter Two: Key Findings

2.1 Introduction 13  
2.2 The Principle of Involvement and Participation 13  
2.3 The Reality of Involvement and Participation 16  
2.4 Barriers to Children and Young People’s Participation in Care Planning 24  
2.5 Recommendations for the Improved Participation of Children and Young People in Care Planning and Reviews 33

## Chapter Three: Commentary and Recommended Action

3.1 Concluding Comments 37  
3.2 Recommended Action 38

## References

39