## The Office of the Children's Commissioner Business Plan 2014 – 2015





This plan will tell you what work we will do this coming year and how we will spend the £2.9 million the Government has given us to do our work.

#### Who we are and what we do



We protect and promote children's rights.



We **listen** to children and young people to **learn** from their views and experiences so we can **share them with decision-makers** like the Government.



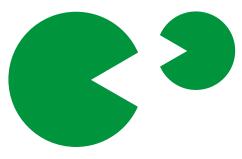
We **speak up** for all children and young people, especially those who might need additional help or support.



Everyone at the Office of the Children's Commissioner works hard to **make sure all adults listen** to the views of children and young people.



The Children's Commissioner's job was created by a law called the **Children Act 2004**. The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC) is also a really important document that guides our work.



#### Who has contributed to our Business Plan?

Amplify and Young Amplify, the Children's Commissioner's advisory groups of children and young people

MPs and members of the House of Lords

Children's charities and organisations that represent and work with children and young people

Young people from our participation network:

Children in care and care leavers

Children and young people seeking asylum

Children and young people in custody



# These are the things we are going to work on.

We will help and advise children in or leaving care, living away from home or who get social care services.

We will launch a new website in summer 2014.

We will look at how the Government's budget and changes to legal aid (money for people who cannot afford lawyers) affect the rights of children and young people.

We will look at the changes the Government has made to education to see whether or not these have helped children and young people.

We will listen to the experiences of children and young people on the use of segregation (being kept on your own) in youth prisons and look at data on how it is used.

We will work with children and young people who go to school away from home to see how their schools make sure they are happy and healthy.

We will run the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day.

We will look at how health, housing and education can help younger children aged 0 to 5 whose families are poor.

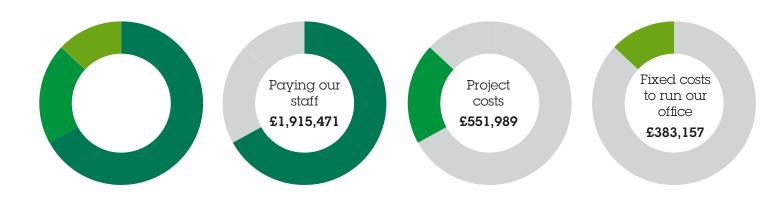
We will carry on with our work on child sexual exploitation in groups and gangs (CSEGG) and try out some of the things we suggested in last year's final report to see if they make things better for sexually exploited children and young people. We will also start to look at child sexual abuse in families.

We will help children who are refugees or asylum seekers and will publish a report about some of these young people.

We will find out how easy it is for children and young people to complain if something goes wrong in school.



### What will we spend our money on?



#### How we will work with children and young people

We meet them in places where they live, play, learn or are detained.

We make sure what they say is included in our work.

We work with groups of children and young people who are in care, live away from home or receive help from social services.



We have two children and young people's advisory groups, Amplify and Young Amplify.

Amplify run their own projects and this year they will work on mental health.

We work with a group of organisations, schools, colleges and local authorities across England.

We are starting a work experience programme for young people.

#### Find out more and get in touch

If you would like to read the full business plan, you can find it on our website.

Do get in touch with us if you would like more information about what we do.

#### The Office of the Children's Commissioner

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Promoting and protecting children's rights in England

We can also provide advice, assistance and representation for children and young people who are receiving social care services, in or leaving care, or living away from home.

Advice, assistance and representation freephone: 0800 800 5792

This phone number is free from a landline, but may cost from a mobile.