

Teenagers Here 2B Heard

Irish Association of
Young People In Care
(IAYPIC)



by Jo Costello and Catherine Carty

Teenagers Here 2B Heard

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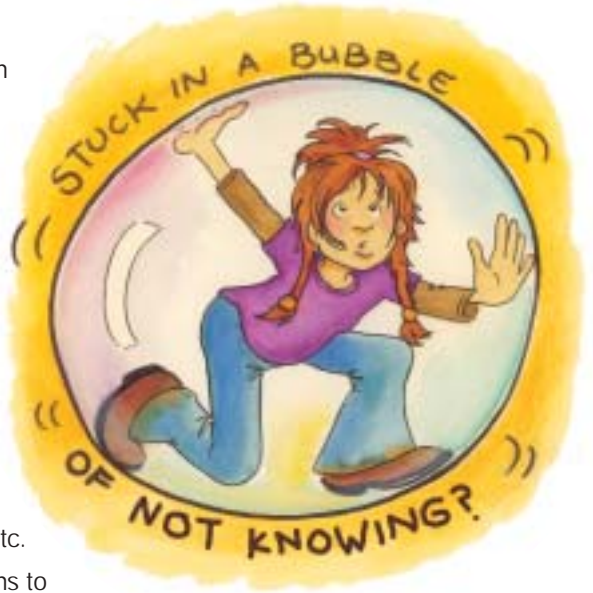
Hiya,

In this book we want to tell you about the Irish Association of Young People in Care (or IAYPIC for short), which is an organisation that has been set up for YOU. But first this is what Jennifer had to say...

// Staff should be prepared to work with children. They should really work with them and help them get over some of the things that have happened to them. They don't do this. They just expect us to get on with it. Parents don't explain to their children why they are coming into care – they're probably feeling too guilty to do this or they're not able, but no-one reasons with us and explains it all to us or helps us to understand it. "I wanted my social worker to reason with me when I came into care – to help me understand it and that never happened. //

Jennifer (19 years) went into foster care when she was 10 and then moved into residential care. She still had unanswered questions about her years in care and she had very strong views about this. She felt that there should be someone there to explain to children and young people what is happening, what things mean and should be able to answer their questions.

Often children and young people in care have loads of unanswered questions. They sometimes feel like they're stuck in a bubble of not knowing what's going on or what's going to happen to them. They live in care not knowing how long they are going to be living there, who is going to be looking after them, when will they see their family, where will they be for Christmas, etc.



Often they don't know the questions to ask to get the answers they need. They don't know that they have a right to the information they need and should get it without having to ask for it. Jennifer wasn't alone with what she had to say. Most of the children and young people that we spoke to while writing this book had the same thing to say. IAYPIC hopes it will be there to help young people in care ask the questions they want answers to.

The Irish Association of Young People in Care plans to:

- Give a voice to what young people with care experience are saying
- Tell young people with care experience and those who work with them about the rights of young people in care
- Give young people with care experience information, advice and support and
- Help people who work with young people in care to involve them more when decisions are being made about them.

Introduction to this book:

In this book we want to give a picture of the Irish Association of Young People in Care. Before we do this we thought you might like to know how many children besides yourself are in care in Ireland.

We thought it would be a good idea to tell you what we have been doing over the past 3 years. Part of IAYPIC's work has been talking to children and young people in care and in after-care. We also spoke with people who work with young people and also those who design services for young people in care. We will tell you what they had to say a little later on.

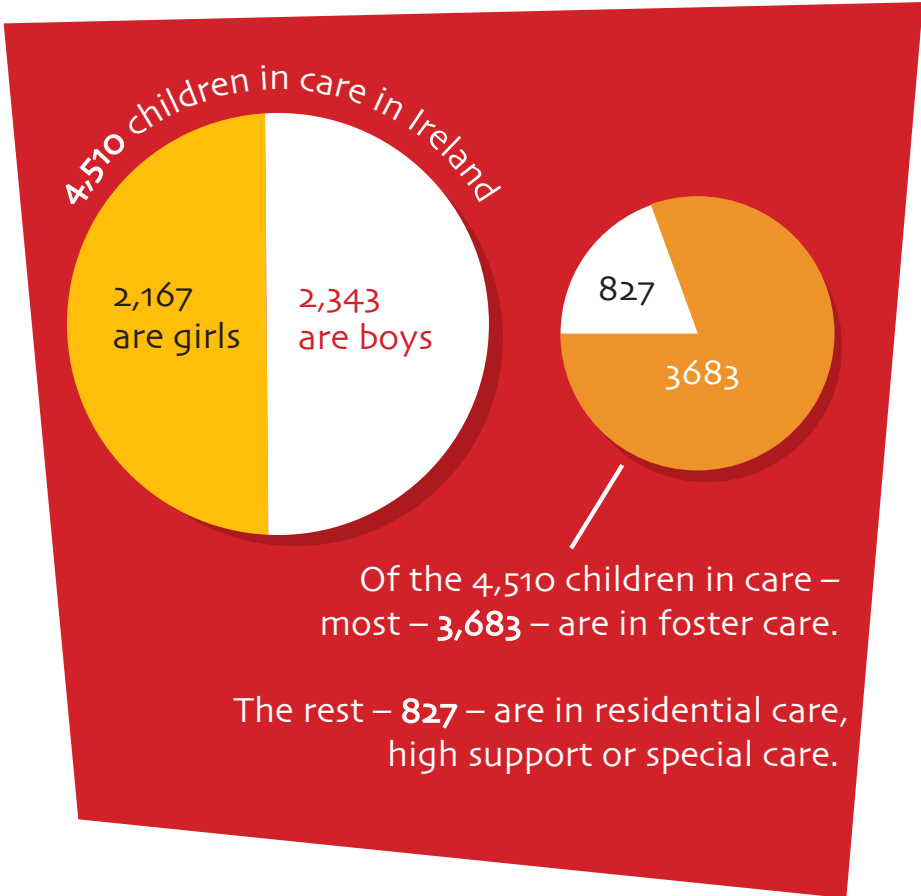
Then there's a section telling you what the aims or plans of this association are and how we're going to achieve these aims. Finally we want to show you a diagram of who will be working in IAYPIC and where you might fit into that.

Our hope is that those working with young people will find ways of involving them in their care. More importantly though we hope that through this association, children and young people will know more about their rights and will find ways to get more involved when decisions are being made about them.



Where's everyone?

We thought you might like to know how many children and young people are in care at the moment in Ireland, and whether they are in foster care or residential care or secure care.



If you'd like to see where they all live and who has responsibility for providing services to them, go to the back of this book where there is a map of Ireland telling you where these 4,510 children and young people live.



What IAYPIC has been doing over the past 3 years ...

The thing that young people said most often when we met with them was that they didn't feel involved in decisions being made about them or that what they had to say wasn't taken seriously. Because of this, we decided within IAYPIC to concentrate on 2 areas which would hopefully help young people to participate more in issues relevant to them. The 2 areas were:

1. Working with young people directly
2. Working with organisations that work with young people in care

1. Working with young people directly:

We organised events and meetings and invited young people to participate. Some examples of this work include:

Consultation Days

Focus Groups

Working Groups

Consultation Days

For these we organised groups of young people to come together to talk about important issues to do with being in care. Here are some examples of these days:

Athlone	A day was organised for the Department of Health and Children where young people came together from all over Ireland to discuss issues that were important to them.
Dublin	A day was organised in Dublin for children in foster care to talk about what the important issues are in foster care.
Dun Laoghaire	Children and young people in residential care in the East Coast Area Health Board came together to work on a complaints system for residential care.
West of Ireland	Young people in both residential and foster care came together over 3 days to discuss what it's like to live in care.
Cavan	A day was organised in Cavan where all young people in residential and foster care were invited to talk about issues relevant to care. There was a huge turnout of young people from all over the North East of Ireland.

Focus Groups

We visited young people in residential centres. These focus groups happened in the early stages of the association setting up. We wanted young people's opinions about setting up such an association.

Working Groups

We worked with young people in groups to prepare presentations for conferences and to work on responses to reports or give views on policy documents. Young people have also travelled to various places to present at conferences both in Europe and at home in Ireland.



2. Working with organisations that work with young people in care:

This was done with organisations in this country and in other countries. By doing this we hoped to raise the issues and particular needs of young people in care.

Examples of this work include:

Talking to the **Department of Health and Children**
The National Children's Office
The Irish Social Services Inspectorate
Health boards around the country
Residential centres and meeting with the staff
Irish Foster Care Association

...All the time looking at ways to involve young people in care more.

We also spoke to other young people's organisations in

Northern Ireland – Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC)
Scotland – Who Cares? Scotland
England – A National Voice
Wales – Voices from Care
Australia – Create
Canada – Youth in Care Network

When talking to people in these organisations we were able to share information with them. We were able to find out what kind of work they were doing and told them what we were doing. We've visited some of these organisations over the past 3 years and young people from their organisations have visited here meeting young people in care in Ireland. You'll find addresses for these organisations' websites at the back of this book.



What the young people said...

As part of our work over the past 3 years we have spoken to many young people who had a lot to say about care issues.

Meetings were held with 5 groups of young people in residential care in the Dublin area. We also met with young people in foster care and with a number of young people outside of Dublin. We wanted to find out what young people thought about a national association being set up for them.

Most of the young people wanted to talk about their own experience of being in care – what went well, what they felt didn't work and what they felt should be changed for other young people coming into care.

The following are some examples of what young people had to say when we spoke to them. Their names have been changed to protect their identity.

About there not being enough places for children, Linda (18) said

// There should be more places for young people to live in. They should be divided into places for 7-12 year olds; 12-15 year olds and 15-18 year olds. 18 year olds shouldn't be in with 7 year olds. It's not fair – the older person gets treated like the 7 year old so that there is hassle about bedtimes etc., but the older person isn't treated like an adult and that leads to problems in the long run. Older young people feel mistrusted and feel that they are being treated like children. //

Another girl, Mandy (12), said

// I didn't want to go to a foster home. I was too scared, but they brought me and I wouldn't go in – all they said was that it was a waste of petrol. They didn't respect my feelings. They didn't expect me to have feelings. Because you're in care the staff think that you don't care who you are or what you feel. //

All of the young people we spoke to had something to say about staff, both staff in the residential centre and social work staff. One girl, Jennifer (19), said

// The staff are too young. In my unit some of the staff are 19.

They are the same age as me and come into the unit telling me what to do when I've been living there all my life. It's my home and they forget that. The staff shouldn't be the same age as the children and young people they are working with. //

Another girl of 13 said,

"I wrote a letter to a social worker's boss and said to her that my social worker wasn't listening to me or having respect for me – I said to her that I didn't want her anymore – then I got a new social worker."

Mary (12) had this to say about staff,

"They did a scrapbook with all the changes in my life – but it messed me up, and made me feel happy."

Mary (12) also talked about having a key-worker...

"I think the key-worker system is brilliant – I think you should have 2 – I think they should be more inclined to be with the child."

About key-workers...

Tammy (19) from outside Dublin said

"Something that I found very difficult to deal with in care was, you were allocated a key-worker who would usually attend all your reviews and when possible your meetings. This person was not necessarily a staff member you held a good relationship with, and I feel that it would be more beneficial to the young person if they were allowed to participate in the choosing and allocation of a key-worker."

and she went on to say,

"Staff don't treat you badly – it's just like a normal house. You get treated well. You don't get hit. You get attention. They let you have a say about your food. If you're feeling down they'll come over to ask you what's wrong. I like having a key-worker – that person knows your business and they wash your clothes and everything."

Many young people talked about not being consulted and there was a very strong sense that what they had to say didn't matter. Many times when we told young people why we wanted to talk to them, they asked what would be the point in talking about what they thought, as it wouldn't change anything anyway. One young man, Jason (19) said,

// Kids know about care – they've been through it. Chairmen of Boards of Management don't care about the kids – if they're upset or missing their family. They only care about how the place is run. They don't look at why is a kid doing what they're doing. People don't realise what you have to go through in residential care. //



One young woman Tammy, who said she had a good experience of care, had this to say in relation to choices,

// In moving to the residential home I was already losing out on many choices including changing schools, moving away from friends and family. I think that the staff of my house were very aware of this and tried as much as possible to accommodate me, even by giving me the choice of what local school I attended. Going to school was not something that was forced upon me but it was something that was encouraged and emphasised, and I chose to continue with my education with which I was given great help. //

She then had this to say about reviews:

// An area of residential care that I found very unfair was the lack of participation of the young person in review meetings. I was only allowed to attend the end of my review where I'd then be asked if I had anything to add, when quite clearly the decisions affecting me were already made. We need to be involved in all of these decisions because it will make our time in care that little bit easier. //

Jason talked about his review and said,

// I had a review but I didn't want to be there when everyone was talking about me. I didn't like the review form – I found it really hard to be able to write down positive things about myself. Some questions were stupid. In my report they said that I couldn't settle down... I'm a twin, I didn't understand why I was in care and why he wasn't. //

When asked what should happen if young people didn't want to attend their review, Jason suggested,

// It should be taped for them and then given to them so that they can hear what people have said about them. //

Young people talked a lot about not being in control of their lives, and not being involved in decisions that affected them. They also talked about other day-to-day things like the colour of paint for a sitting room or the plan for the garden. They often complained about the state of the house where they had to live (although in a few cases were really proud of what their centre looked like). Tony said,

// Do you see here, I'd change this whole place, I'd paint the walls peach or something, I'd get different curtains, I'd make the room a little bit darker, and I'd have a lampshade or something like that. //

When asked would he be allowed to do that, he said,

// Yeah I'd be able to get a lampshade – I wouldn't be allowed to paint the walls, no – they're painting the place when I go. //

Tony went on to say,

// Kids who say that they need love – I understand where they're coming from but staff can't give them love, or they can't give them too much love, if you know what I mean, because staff have kids of their own. You know like, a lot of kids need a lot of love, but sometimes it's not the staff's job to do that, you know. It's the way you make the place out, you know the staff shouldn't have to do the loving, it should be in the atmosphere around that area...you should feel comfortable in it. //

Many of the young people we met talked about the feeling of having no power in their lives. Tracey who was in after-care said,

// The area of residential care that I feel really lacks the participation of the young people in their care is the decision on when it is appropriate or the right time for the young person to move out into independent living. From a personal experience I found moving out just before I started college very hard because I was about to start on a new part of my life but I was also being moved out of what I had come to call home. I think that a discussion involving the young person should take place and a decision be made by both, remembering what is in the best interests of the child. //

2 people had ideas about an organisation for young people in care...

John suggested,

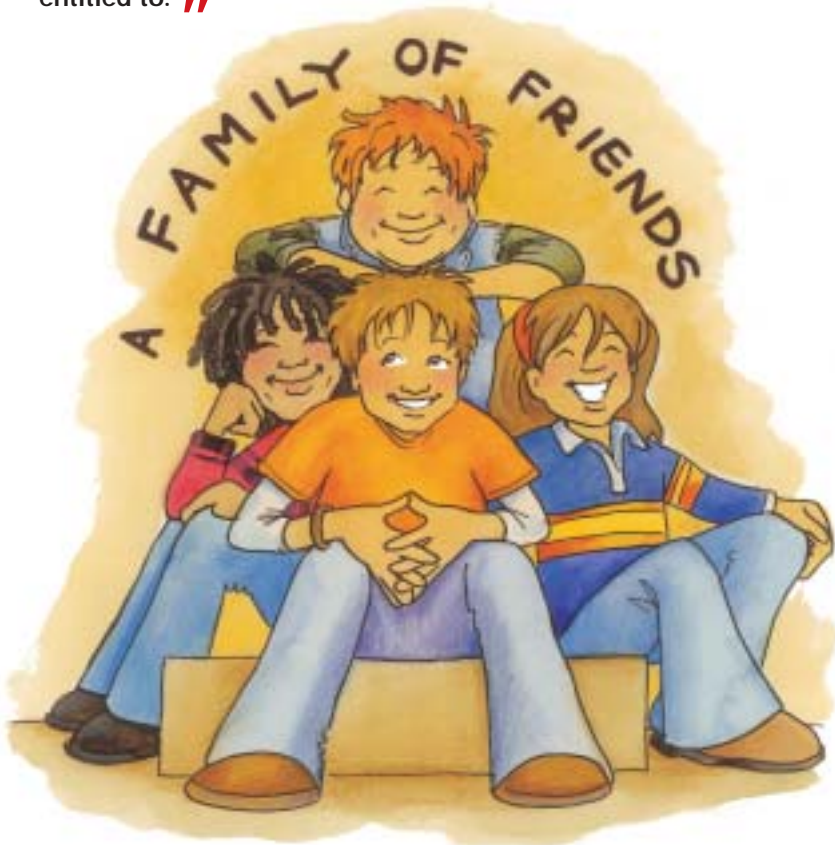
// There should be a children's union – there should be one person in each area, in each house, who would stand up for children. Some kids could be getting bullied and are not able to talk about it. //

When asked if that person should tell the staff, he suggested,

// The person should go back to the staff and tell them. They shouldn't tell the staff member who said what, but they should tell the staff what the problem is. //

Jane suggested that it would be good for someone to give information to young people and said that they need

// Information on everything – so that then they know what they're entitled to. They should know that they have a right to go to their review but they don't have to. They need to know that they can trust somebody – kids in care don't really get to trust people. They need to know what they're entitled to and then they can make choices on the basis of what they're entitled to. //





What other people said...

In trying to find out how best to set up this association we also spoke to people who design and provide care services to children and young people. We wanted their suggestions about what the association could do for children in care.

Here are some of their suggestions:

IAYPIC should make sure that the voice of children and young people in care is heard

IAYPIC should provide an information and advice service to young people in care

IAYPIC should be involved in services to young people when they leave care

IAYPIC should organise conferences and workshops where young people could come together and discuss issues

IAYPIC should work closely with health boards and other organisations to help design services for children in care

IAYPIC should participate in inspections of residential and foster care services

IAYPIC should be involved in training staff to work with children

IAYPIC should act as a spokesperson to the media on behalf of children and young people in care

IAYPIC should be available to young people locally where they can easily get information and stay in touch

IAYPIC should produce a Charter of Rights for children and young people in care, so that they would know their rights

IAYPIC should help write information packs and booklets in language that's age appropriate

IAYPIC should provide a free phone number that young people could contact for advice and information

IAYPIC should produce a national magazine for children in care

IAYPIC should visit all residential centres and meet with children in foster care to tell them about the association

We then asked them what did they think would be good about this for young people?

This is what they said...

It would give young people a voice in planning services for children in care

It would help young people feel that their views were being listened to and respected

It would make care safer

It would help young people not to feel so alone

It would give young people a real input into their lives

It would mean that children and young people would know their rights

It would mean that people who have been through 'the system', who know the issues from the 'inside', would be involved

It would help young people build their confidence and self-esteem

We then asked them why it would be good for the care system if young people were involved.

This is what they said...

It would highlight what children and young people need when they are in care

It would improve the standard of the care services

It would mean that health boards and policy makers would be able to hear first hand from young people instead of making assumptions

It would mean that young people would be at the centre of planning new services for children in care

It would mean that the care system would be more open to young people participating

It might make the care system more caring

IAYPIC... What's in the future?

This is what is important to the Irish Association of Young People in Care...we call it our *vision* for the future.

The Irish Association of Young People in Care will always be aware of the rights of young people and will involve young people in all parts of our work. It will be a voice for young people with care experience.

It will be a young person's organisation working towards putting young people at the centre of the care system and will promote their active participation in decision making.

Young people will be involved in influencing policy, legislation, practice and procedures. They will be at the centre of planning and reviewing services locally and nationally.

These are the aims of the association.

1. Give a voice to what young people with care experience are saying.
2. Tell young people with care experience and those who work with them about the rights of young people in care.
3. Give young people with care experience information, advice and support.
4. Help people who work with young people in care to involve them more when decisions are being made about them.

In this book you will find that when we're talking about young people in care, sometimes we use the term "young people with care experience". This is to include young people who are in care at the moment and also young people who have left care and who might be in after-care.

How will we do this?

National Work

This is where we will do work that will hopefully change things for children and young people in care all over Ireland.

1. Give a voice to what young people with care experience are saying

IAYPIC will work with the Department of Health and Children, health boards and other organisations to present the views of young people. This can also be done through presentations at conferences.

2. Tell young people with care experience and those who work with them about the rights of young people in care

Examples of this will be to give information on the rights of the child to young people in care, their parents and organisations working with young people.

Local Work

This is where we will do work which will change things for children and young people in their own lives and where they live.

1. Give a voice to what young people with care experience are saying

We will set up groups around the country where young people can come together to work with health boards on care issues. These could be "Reference Groups" where young people would meet regularly over a year to debate and discuss issues. Another group may meet only a few times to discuss a particular issue e.g. reviews or pocket money, etc. Or a group might meet to prepare a presentation at a conference that IAYPIC has been invited to attend.

2. Tell young people with care experience and those who work with them about the rights of young people in care

We will visit children and young people where, or near where they live to talk to them about their rights while in care. We will work with health boards and colleges around the country, telling them about the rights of young people in care.

3. Give young people with care experience information, advice and support

We will provide information, advice and support to young people in care on issues they consider relevant. This will be done through a helpline, website, magazine, young people's conferences and information booklets.

4. Help people who work with young people in care to involve them more when decisions are being made about them

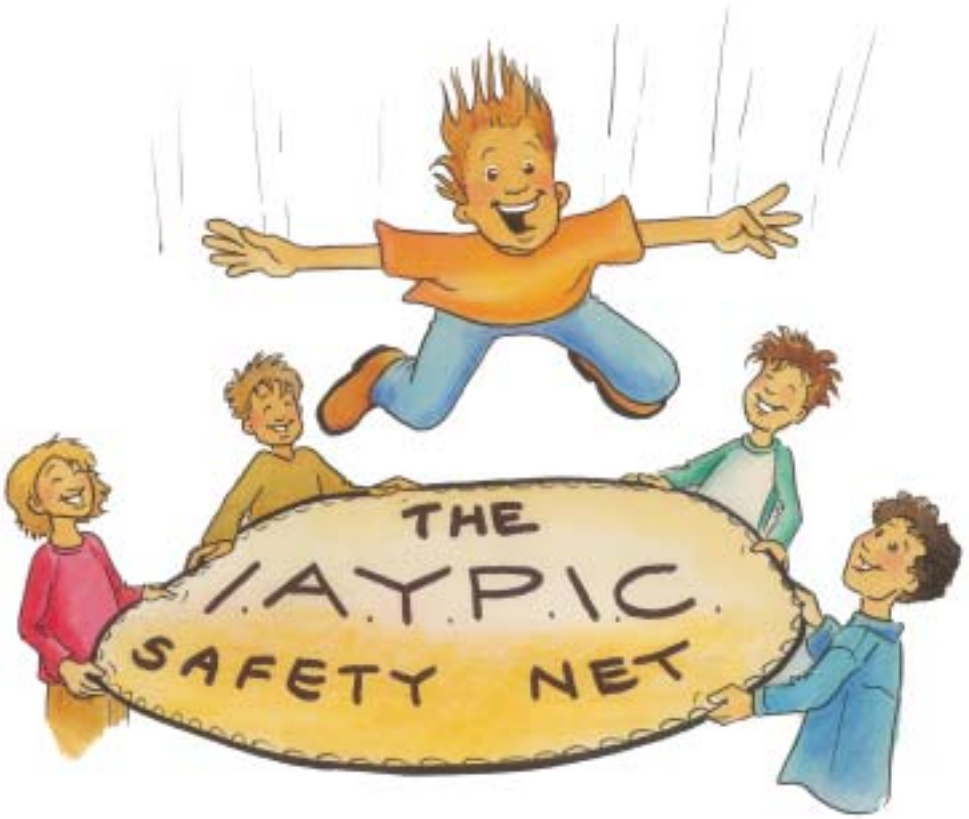
IAYPIC will work to make sure that young people can participate at all levels within the care system by providing training and support to those that work with them.

3. Give young people with care experience information, advice and support

We will provide information, advice and support locally to young people by running local groups for young people to attend and meet other young people. We will also have drop-in centres where young people can go to access information and advice. We will have a magazine and we will have a website with local links. We will also have a free phone number which will offer information and advice to children and young people in care.

4. Help people who work with young people in care to involve them more when decisions are being made about them

We will work with local health boards, social work departments and residential centres and branches of the Irish Foster Care Association to help these organisations to involve children and young people more in their work.



Who will be working with IAYPIC

It is hoped that IAYPIC will have a room or office in every part of Ireland so that children and young people will be able to contact us easily when they need information or help. You'll notice that young people who have care experience, just like yourself, will be employed in the association. They will work as trainees in "shadow" posts. Every job in the Irish Association of Young People in Care will have a young person in a "shadow" job. In other words, everyone who is employed in IAYPIC will carry out their work with a young person. The young person in the trainee posts will be aged between 18 and 25, they will be paid a salary and will be in the posts for 2 years. That young person will receive training to help them in their role. In this way, IAYPIC will have young people at the centre of our work and at the centre of our organisation.

1. Staff:

National Co-ordinator – This person will work with the Management Committee and the young people's group to manage the association.

You could get involved here

Young Person's Support Worker – This person will support the young people who will be working in IAYPIC and will be responsible for making sure that young people are involved in every way possible within IAYPIC. This person will have care experience.

Information Officer – This person will work on age appropriate books and information for young people. This person will also work on a young person's magazine.

You could get involved here

Trainee Information Officer – This will be a young person with care experience. They will work directly with the Information Officer.

Publications Officer (part-time) – This person will graphically design the books and magazine we publish.

You could get involved here

Trainee Publications Officer – This will be a young person with care experience. They might be interested in getting into Art or Graphic Design and they will work directly with the Publications Officer.

Policy/Research/Training Officer – This person will work with the young people's group to come up with ideas of what issues IAYPIC should be talking about. This person will also have to give young people support and training for their work with IAYPIC and other organisations.

You could get involved here

Trainee Policy/Research/Training Officer – This will be a young person with care experience and they will work directly with the Policy/Research/Training Officer.

Regional Development Officers – These will work with young people and other organisations around the country. A lot of their work will be telling young people about IAYPIC and helping them to participate. These people will have gone to college or university to learn how to work with children and young people. They may also have spent some time in care – like you.

You could get involved here

Regional Development Trainees – These people will be aged between 18 and 25 years of age. They won't have to have gone to college but they will have spent some time in care. They will work with a Regional Development Officer. Everything the Development Officer will do, the trainee will do. The trainees will get a lot of support and mentoring from their Regional Development Officer. A training programme will be put together to meet their needs and the needs of the job. The training will include: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Irish Law, the Irish Care System, committee skills, negotiation and conflict resolution, conference preparation and presentation and media training. These young people can be trainees for a maximum of 2 years and they will be paid. They will be further supported by the Young Person's Support Worker.

Administrative Workers – These people will be responsible for the running of IAYPIC's National Office.

You could get involved here

Trainee Administrative Workers – These will be young people with care experience and they will work directly with the Administrative Workers within IAYPIC.



For the organisation to really do a good job and to carry out all its plans to do, it needs people to manage it. Let's have a look at how the association will be managed.

2. Management Structure

Management Committee

The Management Committee will be made up of 15 people. These people will be involved in providing services to children and young people in care. 6 young people with care experience will be on this committee. This committee will manage the association and will meet every month.

You could get involved here

Young People's Steering Group

This group will be made up of young people with care experience. Involving young people at all levels within the association is really important to IAYPIC and this group will meet to discuss and debate care issues that are important to young people. This group will inform the Management Committee, the Research Group and the Advisory Group of how young people in care are thinking and feeling about particular issues. Adults will support the running of this group but young people will lead it. Training will be given to young people. This group will meet once a month.

Research Group

This group will be made up of people involved in teaching and researching care issues in colleges and other institutions. They will be asked to comment on issues or questions raised by the Young People's Steering Group, the Management Committee and the Advisory Group. They will meet 3-4 times a year and they will meet with the Young People's Steering Group twice a year.

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group will be made up of health board employees and members of other organisations. Their role will be to advise the association on specific areas of interest to young people in care. They will meet 2 or 3 times a year.

Conclusion

The Irish Association of Young People in Care is at a really exciting time. It is a national association where all young people in care in Ireland will be able to get information, advice and support or help. It's an organisation for children and young people in care which is run by young people with care experience.

In the Irish Association of Young People in Care we want to do things **with** children and young people. We want to make sure that life in care is the best it can be for all those living in care. We will do this by involving young people in everything we do so that we know we are truly representing the views of young people in care. Young people in care have thoughts and feelings, wishes and fears, hopes and dreams which should be taken into consideration in every matter concerning them. We hope that the Irish Association of Young People in Care can help those providing care services to remember that children and young people in care are Here 2B Heard.



“Where’s everyone” map of Ireland

Health boards are responsible for children in care and there are 10 of them around the country. Let’s look at a map of Ireland to see where they are. You’ll also be able to see where in Ireland these 4,510 children and young people live. Can you see which health board area you live in? If you can’t... ask someone to help you.





UN Convention on the
Rights of the Child

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

“Rights” are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

Article 1: Everyone under 18 has these rights.

Article 2: All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3: All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 4: The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

Article 5: Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

Article 6: You have the right to be alive.

Article 7: You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognised by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

- Article 8:** You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.
-
- Article 9:** You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.
-
- Article 10:** If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.
-
- Article 11:** You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.
-
- Article 12:** You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.
-
- Article 13:** You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.
-
- Article 14:** You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong and what is best for you.
-
- Article 15:** You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.
-
- Article 16:** You have the right to privacy.
-
- Article 17:** You have the right to get information that is important to your well being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful and help you find and understand the information you need.
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- Article 18:** You have the right to be raised by your parent(s) if possible.
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- Article 19:** You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 20: You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

Article 21: You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

Article 22: You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 23: You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

Article 24: You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 25: If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

Article 26: You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27: You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

Article 28: You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29: Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30: You have the right to practise your own culture, language and religion – or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31: You have the right to play and rest.

Article 32: You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

Article 33: You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drugs trade.

Article 34: You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

Article 35: No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

Article 36: You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Article 37: No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

Article 38: You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or to take part in war.

Article 39: You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

Article 40: You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a justice system that respects your rights.

Article 41: If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

Article 42: You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.

Useful Info:

Here are some organisations that might be able to help you now or sometime in the future:

A.B.C. Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Unit

Anti-Bullying Centre
Trinity College
Dublin 2

Tel: 01 608 2573

Website: www.abc.tcd.ie

This centre gives advice and information on bullying to young people and their parents or carers.

Adoption Advice Service Barnardos

Christchurch Square
Dublin 8

Helpline: 01 454 6388

Email: adoption@barnardos.ie

Alateen Info Centre

Room 5
5 Capel Street
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 873 2699

Alateen is for young people, aged 12 to 20, who are affected by a problem drinker. Alateen members share their ideas and experience in order to gain a better understanding of alcoholism.



Barnardos

4 Christchurch Square

Dublin 8

Tel: 01 453 0355

Fax: 01 453 0300

Email: info@barnardos.ie

Website: www.barnardos.ie

Childline

Tel: 1800 666 666

Childline is a service for children run by the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC). Childline is a freephone number so it won't cost anything to call. Childline is there to listen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year – all day and all night.

Children's Rights Alliance

13 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2

Tel: 01 405 4823

Fax: 01 405 4826

Email: info@cra.iol.ie

Website: www.childrensrights.ie

The Children's Rights Alliance is a group of 70 organisations which work to ensure that the rights of all children and young people in Ireland are respected. The Alliance provides information on children's rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Irish Association of Young People in Care

4 Christchurch Square

Dublin 8

Tel: 01 453 0355

Fax: 01 453 0300

Email: iaypic@barnardos.ie

Website: www.iaypic.ie

Irish Foster Care Association

The Pharmacy
Ballinteer Avenue
Dublin 14
Tel: 01 296 1083
Fax: 01 296 1078
Email: ifcasandra@eircom.net

National Youth Council of Ireland

3 Montague Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 478 4122
Fax: 01 478 3974
Email: info@nyci.ie
Website: www.youth.ie

The National Youth Council of Ireland represents all voluntary youth organisations and speaks on behalf of all young people in Ireland.

Social Services Inspectorate

Floor 3
94 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 4180 588
Website: www.issi.ie

The Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) was set up in 1999 by the government to make sure that children and young people living in children's residential centres and foster care were safe, well looked after and had a say in the type of care they received. The SSI inspector visits children's residential centres and meets with the children and young people, the staff, family members, social workers and others to see what life is like for the children and young people who live there.

Student Support Services

Department of Education

Portlaoise Road

Tullamore

Co. Offaly

Tel: 9.30am-1pm 0506 24305, 0506 24380, 0506 25398

Website: www.irlgov.ie/educ

Student Support Services are able to give advice and information about financial support for 3rd level (college and university) education. They have a free booklet with details of financial support as well as contact details of all colleges and universities.

Here are some other organisations for young people in care in other countries. They have some fantastic websites:

Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC)

12 Talbot Street

Lower Donegall Street

Belfast BT1 2LB

Tel: 048 902 448 88

Email: MAREY@VOYPIC.THEGAP.COM

A National Voice

22 New Mount Street

Manchester

M4 4DE

England

Tel: 0044 161 9534 011

Who Cares? Scotland

Oswald Chambers

5 Oswald Street

Glasgow G1 4QR

Scotland

Tel: 0044 141 400 6363

Email: contact@whocaresscotland.net

Voices From Care Cymru

25 Windsor Place

Cardiff

CF10 3BZ

Wales

Tel: 0044 292 0398 214

Email: info@vfcc.org.uk

Website: www.vfcc.org.uk

National Youth in Care Network

99 Fifth Avenue

Suite 20

Ottawa

Ontario K15 5KA

Canada

Website: www.youthincare.ca

Create

P.O. Box 313

Strawberry Hills

NSW 2012

Australia

Website: www.create.org.au

Quality Protects

Department of Health

London

UK

Website: www.doh.gov.uk/qualityprotects/

This website is owned by the UK Department of Health. This site has a list of links to other websites, many of which are directed towards young people.





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4 Christchurch Square

Dublin 8

Tel: 01 453 0355

Fax: 01 453 0300

Email: iaypic@barnardos.ie

Website: www.iaypic.ie