



Key areas of research:

- Females who sexually abuse children.
- Physical punishment.
- Models for assessing the needs of children and young people.
- Parenting programmes.
- Child deaths and review processes.
- Shaken baby syndrome.
- Child protection in A & E departments.
- Child protection statistics.

Recent publications include:

Bunting, L. (2005) *Females who sexually offend against children: Responses of the child protection and criminal justice systems.*

NSPCC Policy Practice Research Series, London: NSPCC. Executive summary available at: www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/Research/Findings/FemalesWhoSexuallyOffend_ifega27751.html

Bunting, L. and Reid, C. (2005) *Reviewing Child Deaths - What Can We Learn From the American Experience?*
 Child Abuse Review, Vol. 14:2, pp. 82-95.

Bunting, L. (2004) *Assessment of Children in Northern Ireland. NSPCC: Northern Ireland, Policy and Research Unit, Belfast.*

Wallace, I. (publication pending) *Key Child Protection Statistics in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Policy and Research Unit: Belfast.*

The NSPCC's mission is to end cruelty to children. Our vision is of a society where all children are loved, valued and able to fulfil their potential.

For further information about the unit, or our recent publications, please contact any member of the Policy and Research Unit at:

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Registered charity number 216401. Photography by Andrew Olney, posed by models.

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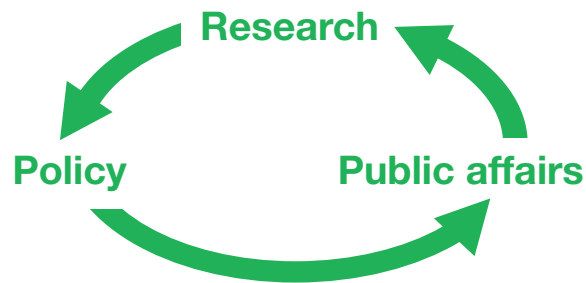
Northern Ireland Policy and Research Unit



The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is the UK's leading charity specialising in child protection and the prevention of cruelty to children.

The Northern Ireland Policy and Research Unit is based in the Northern Ireland Divisional Office and is one of over 20 services and projects operated by the Society across the province.

The role of the Northern Ireland Policy and Research Unit



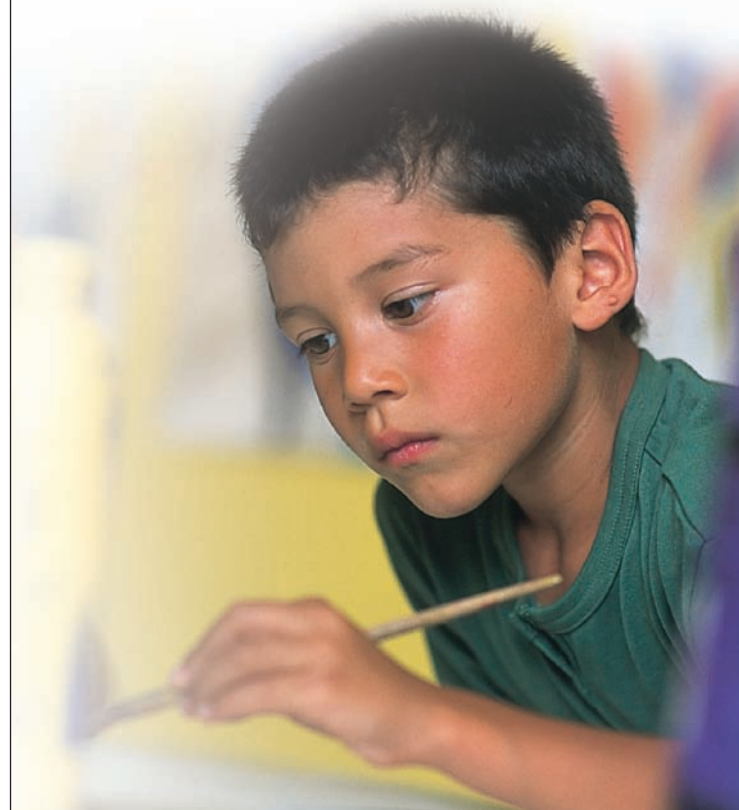
Research: A dedicated research capacity enables us to carry out relevant, locally-based research on policy issues affecting children and young people to complement and assist in our influencing activities. Our Northern Ireland research agenda is developed through conducting, commissioning and facilitating relevant research.

Policy: The unit takes a lead role in public policy development with government departments using research to ensure it is evidence-based.

Public affairs: The Northern Ireland Policy and Research Unit promotes the external policies of the Society, and seeks to influence attitudes, legislation and policy development with elected representatives and the Government, in ways that help end cruelty to children.

The work of our team includes:

- Leading the NSPCC's interface with NI government departments, for instance, building and maintaining key relationships with officials and providing responses to government consultations.
- Working in co-operation with statutory and voluntary organisations to improve links and facilitate better understanding between the two sectors. We have recently expanded our team through the Interchange Programme by creating a secondment opportunity for a member of staff from the Northern Ireland Civil Service.
- Actively promoting a Northern Ireland policy input into local and national media activities and campaigns.
- Acting as a public affairs interface with elected representatives and political parties, through briefings to Northern Ireland MPs, Peers and MLAs.



Examples of recent areas of importance include:

Vetting and safeguarding: The unit has taken a lead role in advising Government on the legislation and policy relating to vetting. This includes the need to implement Part V of the Police Act 1997, as well as Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003. We have also campaigned for cross-border improvements and advised government departments on safeguarding policies and procedures.

Sexual offences legislation: the unit has campaigned for a review of sexual offences legislation in Northern Ireland, to bring us in line with the Sexual Offences Act 2003 covering England and Wales.

Structural arrangements for child protection: The team has been working on a range of initiatives including new child protection policies and legislation, improved arrangements for the management and assessment of sexual and violent offenders, and child death review arrangements.

Physical punishment: we have championed the need for legal reform in this area to give children equal protection from assault under the law.