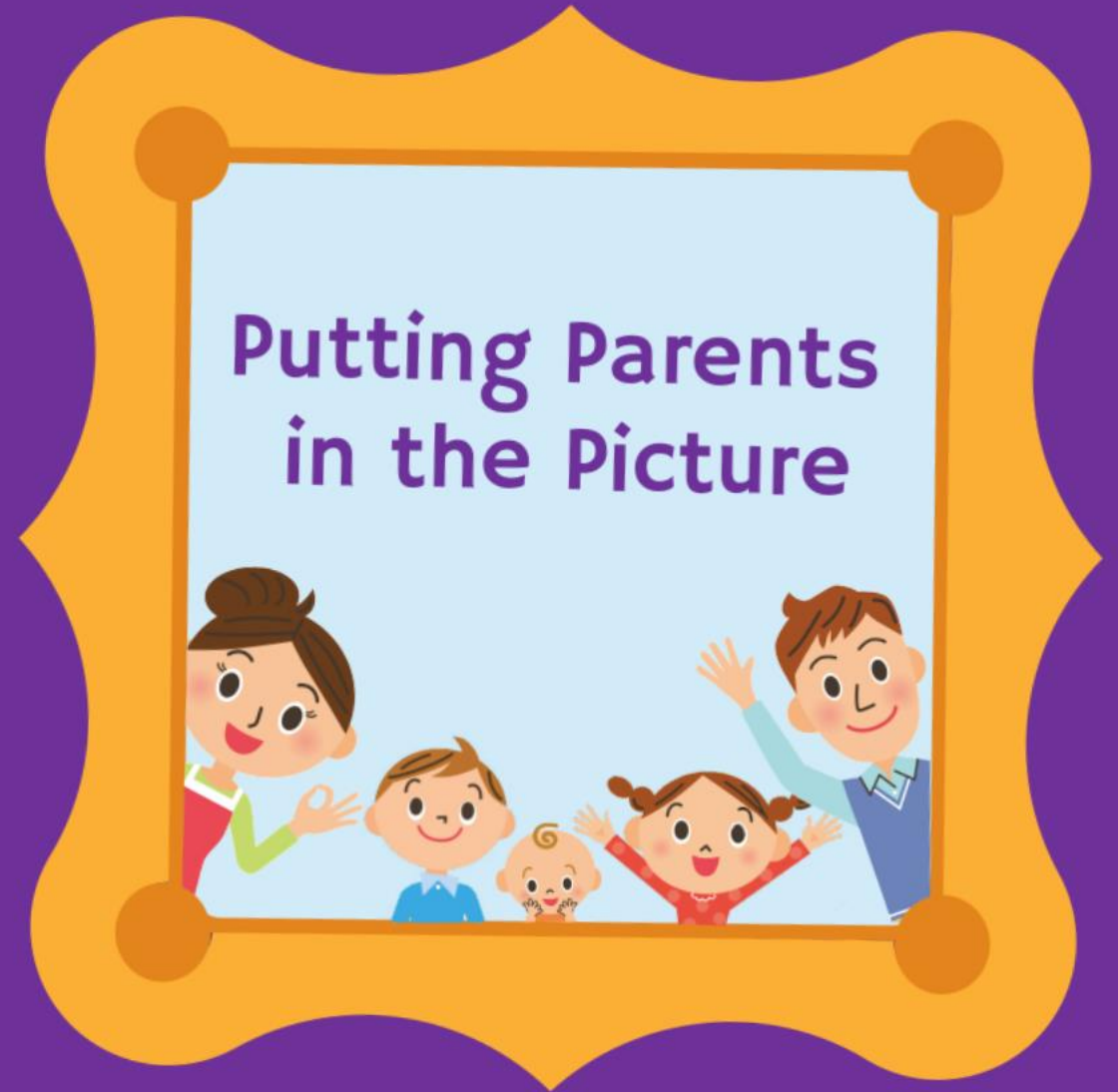




# A Local Election Campaign from Parenting NI

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*Policy and Research Officer*





ParentingNI

# The Facts and Parenting



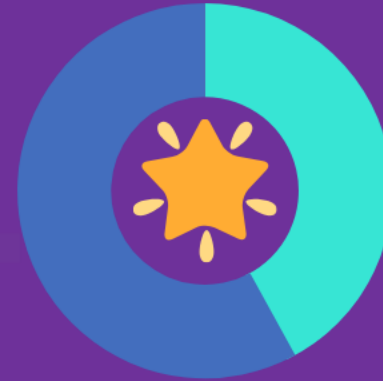
**82%**

of parents don't feel that they get enough support



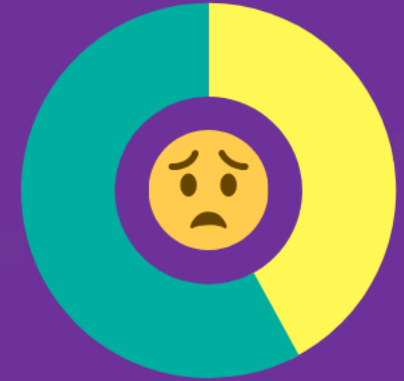
**66%**

of parents feel that society does not want the same thing for their children as they do.



**42%**

of parents do not think their children can achieve their hopes in NI.



**66%**

of parents are more worried than hopeful about the future.

Stats from the Big Parenting Survey, 2018

## Political Situation

- Westminster has little relevance – almost all relevant areas are devolved;
- Stormont is paralyzed – the locus of most of the power, but institutionally hamstrung;
- Local Government is the only still functioning lever.





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**What Can  
Councils  
Do?**

2014 reform gave two key responsibilities/powers;

- **Community Planning** – done in partnership with other public service providers and departments in order to collectively address local problems. Gave councils more influence on how and where services are provided.
- **General Power of Competence** - allows a council to act with similar freedom to an individual, unless there is a law to prevent it from doing so. A council can act in its own interest and develop innovative approaches to help improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area.



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## What are we asking for?

- In the most simple form – to help parents;
- To do more to engage with, support and empower parents in local council areas;
- To stop leaving it all to a moribund Assembly and to take initiative on dealing with the challenges identified;
- More specifically, to sign up to four promises, and four commitments.



## Promises:

- ✓ Promising to invest in parent employees wellbeing in the workplace.
- ✓ Promise to put in place community based, evidence informed programmes to build parenting confidence and skills.
- ✓ Promising to train council staff in the importance of working in partnership with parents and how to engage parents.
- ✓ Promising to seek the opinion of parents explicitly when consulting on services for children or young people



# ParentingNI



## Commitments:

- ✓ Committing to specifically name parents (or those in a parenting role) whenever a policy, strategy or initiative mentions children.
- ✓ Committing to explore strategies to support parents specifically and practically, including inclusion in community plans.
- ✓ Committing to working with other councils, departments and the third sector to make Northern Ireland as parent friendly as possible
- ✓ Nominating an elected member on every council to serve as a "Parent Champion".

**Thank you**

