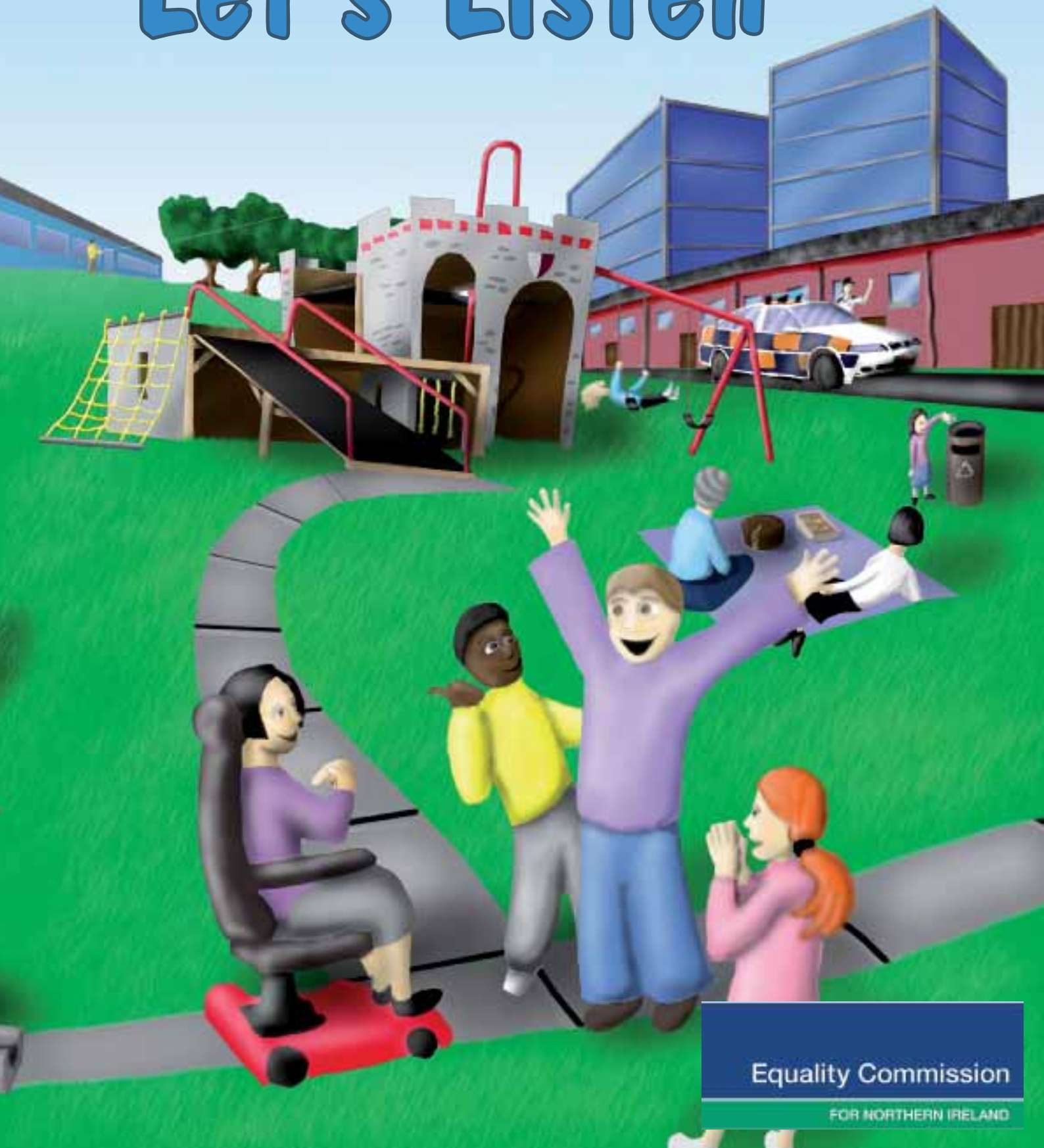


Let's Talk

Let's Listen



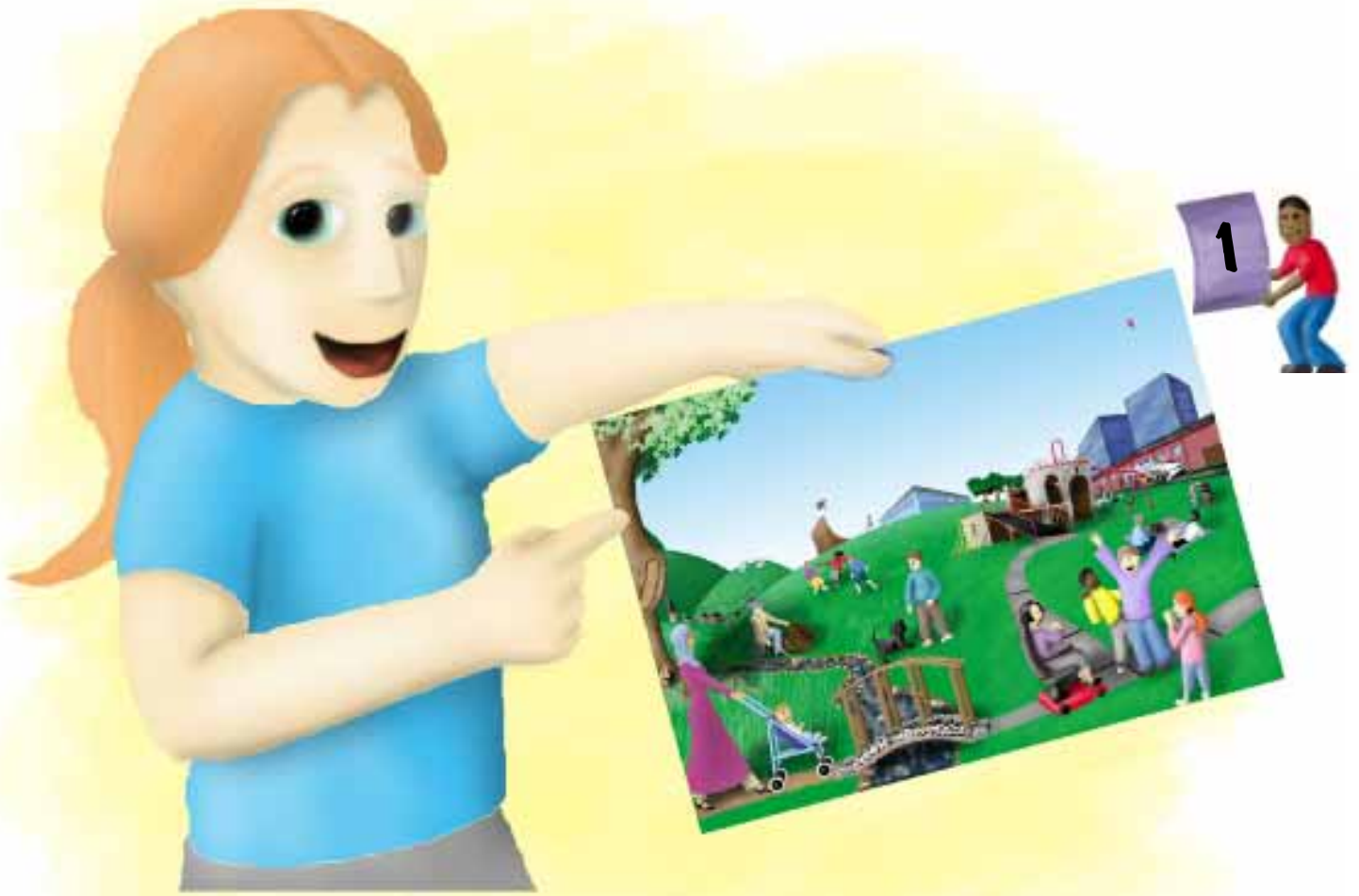
Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Can you find...

Look at the front and back covers of this book and see if you can find these things.





Hello, my name is Katie.

Do you know who looks after parks and playgrounds, bins, buses, hospitals, the countryside and youth clubs?

Did you know that you can help them to make where you live a better place?

The law says they must ask you what you think.

Let's meet some of my friends and see how they helped to change things.



Kelly



Hello, my name is Kelly Pang. I live with my mum, brother and grandma. I have a helper called Jean. She helps me to get about and at school.



My friends go to the playground after school. I can't go because the path is too bumpy. This makes us unhappy.



One day a lady from the council comes to school. She has some good news. There is some money for a new playground!

She asks us to draw and write about the best playground ever. We have lots of good ideas.

Piotr wants a big slide. Claire wants more swings. We all want a castle to play in.



One day we get a letter saying the new playground will be ready soon. We are so excited! We ask if we can have a playground picnic.



The lady from the council telephones my mum to ask if it is ok for me to go to the playground picnic. She gets help from someone to ask my mum in Cantonese. That's the language we speak at home.



The council lady says she will pay for our picnic. We make posters and ask friends to come.



On the day of the picnic, we can all go together to the park after school. The path isn't bumpy anymore.

The playground is great. There is the castle. There are the swings and the slide. But the best thing is that we can all go to the playground together now!

Afterwards we all get on the community bus to go home. Jean is there to help me.

Terry



Hello, my name is Terry Best. I live with my dad, my sister Eileen and my dog Sparkie.

These are my friends Michael and Davey. They are Travellers and they live in a caravan.





We live in a village. There is not much to do in the evenings. We sometimes get into trouble for skateboarding or playing football in front of the shop.



One day some youth workers from the next town arrange to come and see us. They want to know what it is like living in the village. They tell us that with our help they can make decisions about things for us to do in the village.

I say that there is nothing to do when we get back from school.

Michael says that we have nowhere to play when it rains or when it is cold.

The youth workers ask if we want to go to a meeting to make things better in the village.



The youth workers ask us when we want the meeting.

We can't do it on Mondays or Wednesdays because I help look after my sister Eileen and Davey and Michael sometimes go on a trip in the van with their family. So we decide Tuesday night is best.



We need to check with our parents. My dad signs a form to say I can go to the meeting. The youth workers visit Davey and Michael's family to check it's ok.



On Tuesday night we go to the village club. It isn't usually open in the evenings.

The youth workers are there. They want to know what we think.

At the meeting, there is a book of ideas for us to look at. I am glad that there are pictures because I find it hard to read.

Michael and Davey are glad to be asked what they think.



We start to think of what we want in the village. We stick our ideas up on the wall. We ask our friends. We get into groups and talk about what we like to do when it rains in the evening.

I think it would be great to set up a computer room.

The youth worker says he will look at all our ideas and see what he can do.



We get a message saying there is some money to help us make our ideas happen.

The youth workers from the town help us to set up a computer room at the village club. They make sure that it will be open in the evenings and that there is someone to help us.

We now have somewhere to go in the evenings when it rains. It's great fun! We play computer games and use the internet.



There is also enough money to build something. We have lots of ideas for a skate park but we know that there is not enough money for all the things we want!

We decide that the main thing we want is a big ramp and we make drawings of what it should look like.

It is ready in time for summer. We are there most evenings. Now we don't get in trouble for skateboarding in front of the shop anymore!



We now go to a meeting in the club in the next town every month. We are part of the youth panel. We speak up about what we think about things that are happening in our village and other places.

Davey and Michael get a lift in their dad's van to the meetings. I usually get a taxi.

We meet lots of other kids and have fun too.



We are given sports vouchers as a thank you. I am going to buy a new skateboard with mine!



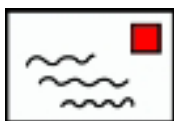
**Get
involved.**

We did!

We did!



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This booklet was written and produced for the Equality Commission Northern Ireland by Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. Original artwork by Inspired Services Publishing Ltd.



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