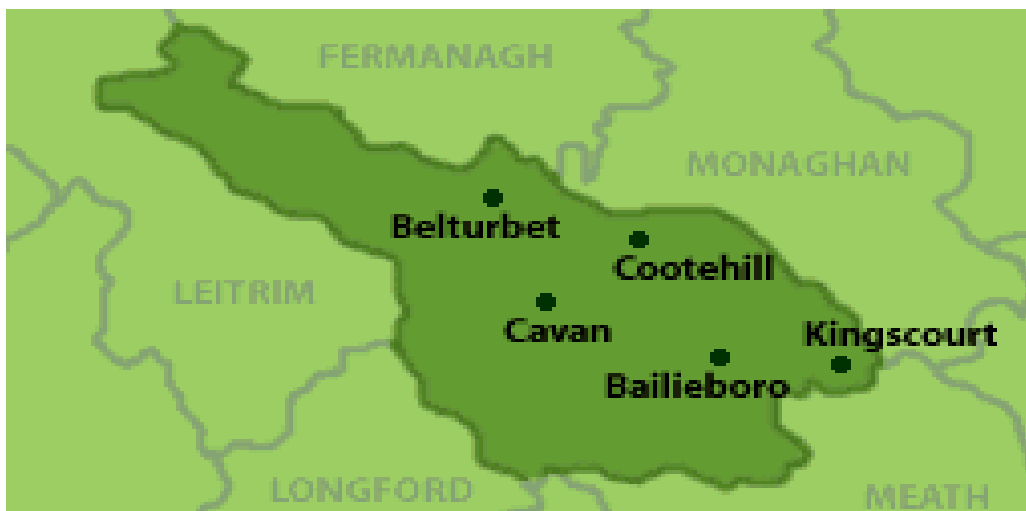




# **Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee**

## **Children and Young People's Plan 2019- 2021**



*Map 1 Cavan County and region*

## Contact

The Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People's Plan.

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Copies of this plan are available on: <https://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/cavan.237.html>

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## Foreword

As Chairperson of the Cavan Children and Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC) it is with a great sense of achievement to arrive at the publication of our first Children and Young People’s Plan for the county. The aim of the plan is to prioritise actions over the coming three years which will foster continuous collaboration between agencies on a range of actions aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people.

The process of developing the plan has led to a greater understanding of how we can work together on joint initiatives resulting in a shared understanding of the need for services to change in order to meet the complex needs of families and communities.

Regular committee meetings and lively discussions have strengthened relationships between key stakeholders across many sectors. We continue to plan, and do in our daily roles, but the Children and Young People’s Services Committee has allowed us the space to reflect on what we are doing, and analyse where we need to target interventions, and why. We continue to learn from each other and I would like to thank the CYPSC Committee and CYPSC subgroup members past and present for their insight, time, and dedication to progressing this plan and actions to date.

*“Real change and transformation takes place when the human dimensions of the change process are well managed in tandem with a meaningful and realistic plan.”*

(Kotter,1995)<sup>1</sup>

*A. W.*

*Interim Area Manager - Tusla Cavan and Monaghan  
Chair, Monaghan Children and young People’s Services Committee*

**June 2019**

**With thanks to G.L Area Manager 2018**

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<sup>1</sup> Kotter, J.P., 1995. Leading Change. Massachusetts Harvard Business Review

## Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the Children and Young People's Services Committees is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through interventions at local level.

CYPSC work towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland. These outcomes are that children and young people:

- 1. Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing**
- 2. Are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development**
- 3. Are safe and protected from harm**
- 4. Have economic security and opportunity**
- 5. Are connected, respected and contributing to their world**

## 1.1 Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees

### ***Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland***

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, established the Children and Young People's Services Committees (formerly Children's Services Committees) in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. Since then CYPSC have increased incrementally in number and are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people, aged 0 – 24 years, in every county in Ireland.

CYPSC bring a diverse group of agencies across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors in local county areas together to engage in joint planning of services for children and young people. All major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented. These committees work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through collaborative planning and improved service delivery.

*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020* underscores the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committees with a key role in this regard.

### ***Children and Young People's Services Committee in Cavan***

Cavan CYPSC commenced in 2013 as a joint Cavan/Monaghan CYPSC . The meetings became more regular in 2014 with planning days organised between each county. The Committee initially agreed that they had an advocacy role. With the support of Tusla staff acting as in a coordinator capacity and an outside facilitator certain actions were identified, and the following subgroups were formed in late 2014:

- Child Services Committee Development Group
- Prevention, Partnership & Family Support / Early Intervention (including Parenting, Education and Community Development).
- Improved Co-ordination for Vulnerable Youth

Further developments in 2016 led to a dedicated CYPSC Coordinator appointed to role. A needs analysis was conducted in both counties as part of the development of a structured plan. Many of the statutory services and educational bodies, for example the HSE primary care services , Tusla the Child and Family Agency , and Cavan Monaghan Education and Training board are across both counties and so it seemed appropriate that a joint approach to CYPSC planning would be appropriate. It soon became apparent over the course of the analysis that there were different needs and priorities emerging for each county and so a decision was made to separate as individual CYPSC in early 2017 resulting in individual Cavan and Monaghan CYPSC structures. While the majority of data is collected in the Cavan Monaghan region in a combined cross county format every effort has been taken to present finding and statistics solely for Cavan in as far as is possible.

The Cavan CYPSC had its first meeting in February 2017 and started the process of working on its three-year plan in April 2017. While the work of developing plan has been underway,

the CYPSC identified a number of key priorities for development in 2017 and interagency sub-groups were formed to develop actions in a number of areas:

1. Parenting Cavan
2. LGBT+
3. Safe and Secure
4. Belturbet Youth

It is the intention of the Cavan CYPSC that during 2019 the sub groups will be aligned to the 5 National Outcomes identified in the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020:

- Outcome 1: Physical and mental well-being
- Outcome 2: Learning & Development
- Outcome 3: Safe & Protected from harm
- Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity
- Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing
- Goal 1: Parenting support in Co. Cavan

The CYPSC Coordinator has also been involved in helping support the work of a number of other interagency forums and initiatives in the county. These include:

- Assisting the development and implementation of the Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Member of the Cavan Drugs & Alcohol Forum
- Member of the Cavan Youth Network
- Member of working group developing new interagency Youth Hub in Belturbet
- Member of advisory group to determine model of youth service to be established in West Cavan
- Member of working group organising events and seminars for first ever Child Protection week in Cavan and Monaghan

Since April 2109 Cavan has its own dedicated CYPSC coordinator in post. This will further support the implementation of the CYPP within the Cavan region.

## 1.2 Who we are:

The Cavan CYPSC comprises the following members:

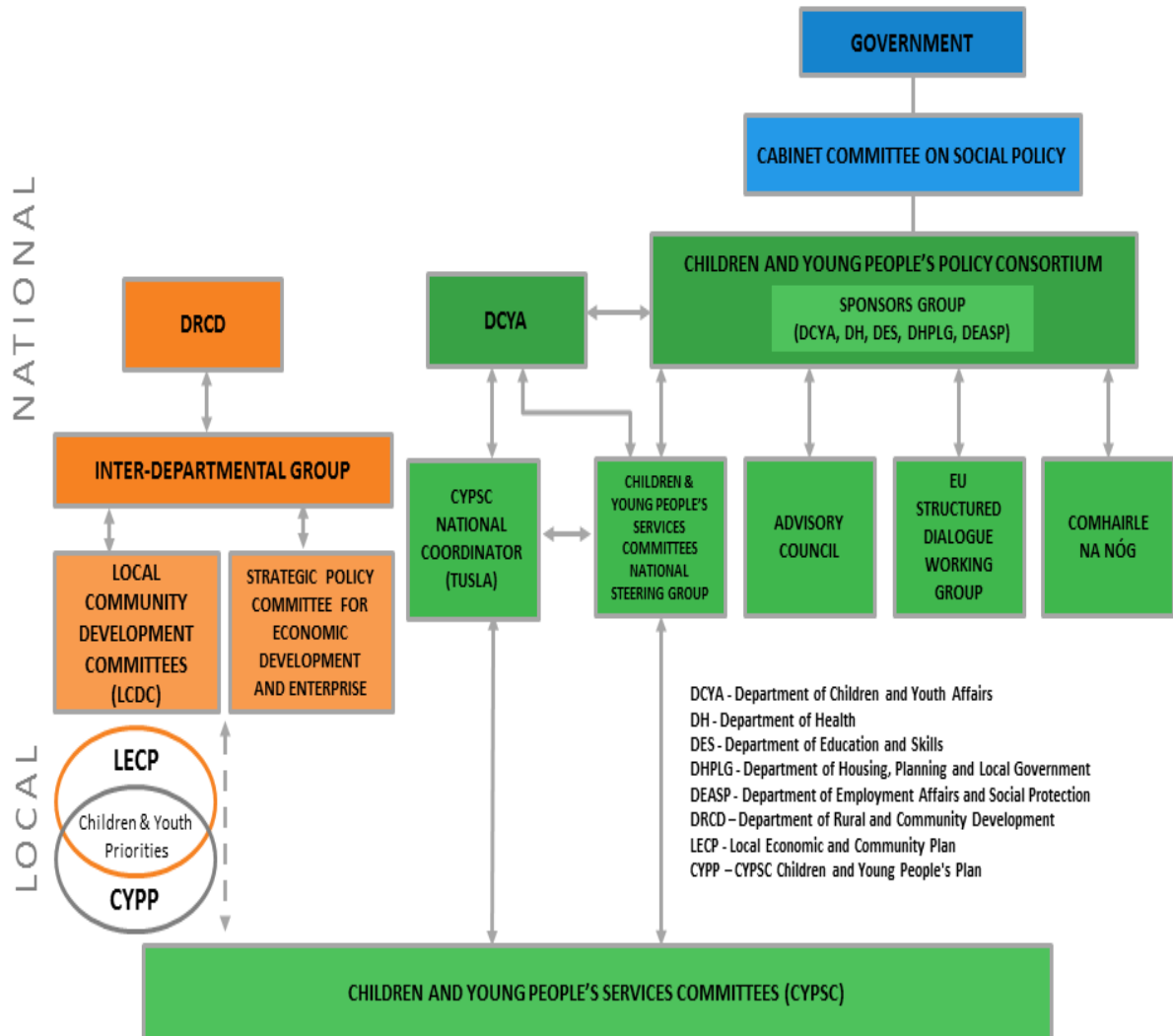
ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
1. CHAIR: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency	Aidan Waterstone
2. DEPUTY CHAIR: Cavan County Council	John Donoghue
3. Irish Primary Principal's Network	Barry Tierney
4. National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals	Mary Sheridan
5. Department of Social Protection	Carmel Denning
6. Foroige	Colin McAree
7. An Garda Siochana	Sgt Valerie Gahan
8. Health Service Executive	Mary Rose Smith
9. Cavan County Council Social Inclusion	TBC
10. Irish Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children	TBC
11. Cavan Institute	Annmarie Lacey
12. Probation Service	Irene Gilmore
13. Cavan County Childcare Committee	Treasa Quigley
14. Breffni Integrated	Helen O'Reilly
15. Focus Family Resource Centre	Angie McKenna
16. Young Person (18-24)	Conor Sexton, Tony Fee, Cormac Brady
17. Cavan & Monaghan Educational and Training Board	Maureen McIntyre
18. Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan	Cyril Reilly
19. Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support	Cathal Grant
20. North Eastern Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	Lisa Gavillet/Andy Ogle

Table 1 Cavan CYPSC Membership



The following diagram illustrates how Cavan CYPSC fits within the local and national structures of government

Figure 1 : CYPSC structure within local and national context



### 1.3 Achievements to date

This section highlights some of the achievements of the Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee over the last year since it began to meet in February 2017.

#### *Youth Needs Analysis West Cavan*

Through engagement with the Cavan Youth Networks it had been identified that there was an extreme lack of youth supports in the Belturbet and wider West Cavan area. Combined with worrying levels of anti-social behaviour being reported and a high level of recent teenage suicides in the area. It was determined that further additional supports were needed. The West Cavan Youth Needs Analysis, funded by CYPSC Seed Funding, has led to the establishment of an interagency working group in the area. This group has been able to secure over €50000 funding to extend youth supports into the area and the development of a new youth hub in the Belturbet area. The Needs Analysis evidenced clear need in this regard to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, leading to the securing of a new Rural Youth Service for the wider area, to be administered by Cavan and Monaghan ETB and developed and delivered by the Bounceback Youth Service.

#### *LGBTI+ Youth Supports Cavan*

Cavan CYPSC identified LGBTI+ youth supports as a key priority for development in the county, as they were completely non-existent. An interagency sub group was established in June 2017, whose role it was to identify the level of need within the county, explore the model of supports which would be most effective given the rural nature of the county and to establish potential funding strands that would support this development. It was identified that given the widespread population of Cavan the employment of an LGBTI+ youth development officer would provide vital supports to a range of agencies in better supporting LGBTI+ young people. Through the CYPSC Healthy Ireland Fund we have been able to access vital funding for this role to allow them to work with schools and other agencies to provide support and training to develop their own policies and practice when supporting LGBTI young people. The worker, who is based through Focus Family Resource Centre in Killeshandra, has also been responsible for the development of 1-2-1 and group supports for young people, parents and their families across Cavan.

#### *Parenting Cavan Initiative*

It was identified by the members of Cavan CYPSC that Parenting Supports in Cavan could benefit from an interagency focus and sharing of resources in the county. An inter-agency sub group was established with members of Cavan County Council, HSE, Tusla, Family Resource Centre's, Cavan Monaghan ETB, Cavan County Childcare Committee, Breffni Integrated, Foroige, Youth Work Ireland and ISPCC all partners at the table. It was identified the development of Parenting training opportunities had been sporadic with little co-ordination county wide. It was also identified through consultations that supports on a universal and targeted basis needed to be on offer to challenge the stigma that existed for parents to attend parenting courses. Having researched available parenting programmes nationally the Parenting Cavan sub group agreed to focus on the promotion and delivery of Parents Plus course countywide. Through the pooling of funding resources this has provided for the employment of a Parenting Cavan Development Officer and has funded the training up of key staff from

different agencies who are going to work together to deliver programmes in a number of key locations.

### ***CYPSC Seed Funding***

Following consultation with the Cavan Disability Network, it was identified that there was no special programme of arts-based training and development for young people aged 18-24 years with complex needs in the county.

With the support of CYPSC Seed Funding Breffni Integrated became the lead partner in developing a Pilot programme offering art therapy, music therapy and dance workshops with this grouping, in an aim to create an opportunity for participants to explore expression through the arts and to improve social skills and confidence.

The workshops lead to a performance and exhibition showcase for families and friends within the wider Cavan community where participants were acknowledged and celebrated for their participation in the programme. The showcase also created an opportunity for the participants to feel connected, respected and contributing to their world.

## **1.4 How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed**

This Cavan CYPSC Plan has been in development over recent times to support the needs identified within County Cavan. The initial CYPSC coordinator Martin Keeney engaged the services of an external consultant to aid the process of gathering data - both primary and secondary for the plan, collating and analysing the data and writing up the outline plan in conjunction with the CYPSC. This work included:

- Review of draft plan collated by the CYPSC in its pilot CYPP phase.
- A review of pertinent reports and strategies related to the county and related to youth in general;
- Analysis of the new Census 2016 data
- Review of previous consultations with youth undertaken in the county in the past 3 years
- Review of minutes of CYPSC sub-group meetings
- Consultations with pre-school, primary and second level children and young people
- Consultations with key Stakeholders from the county
- A Parents on-line survey
- Consultations with niche target groups including disability, LBGTI and new comers
- Audit of services in Co. Cavan
- The CYPSC committee also engaged in a facilitated a workshop with Rita Burtenshaw, to initiate the process of developing objectives and actions for the plan.

A number of meetings with the planning sub-group were conducted in order to finalise the actions deemed as priorities for the next 3 years.

## SECTION 2: PROFILE OF CO. Cavan

### 2.1 Socio-demographic profile of Co. Cavan



Map 2: Map depicting Cavan County location in Border Region

County Cavan is situated in the province of Ulster and borders the counties of Monaghan and Fermanagh to the North and Longford and Westmeath to the South, to the west is Leitrim, and Meath is to the Southeast. County Cavan shares a 70km (43 mile) border with County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland hence it is often referred to as a Border County and is situated within the Border Region. Many of the road networks within the north county routes intertwine with the road network in Northern Ireland and on a simple journey the ‘border’ can be crossed several times

The border came into existence in 1922. This ‘line’ was established as interim solution to ‘the Irish problem’, intended by London as provisional demarcation for the partition of the island (under the Government of Ireland Act, 1920). Almost 100 years later many informal reciprocal arrangements with trading; health care and business have grown and as reported on the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement there are up to 30,000 crossing all along the border region on a daily basis.

With the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union now referred to as (Brexit) there is much uncertainty on how this will impact on areas such as ;

- Free trade and movement across the border
- Availability of health care as many people from Co. Armagh use Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan as their nearest town for GP and out of hours services.
- Delays on the borders to get to appointments etc.
- Cross border response to road traffic accidents
- Uncertainty of cross border initiatives for example the partnership of the Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) partnership which is supported through E.U. Interreg funding to tackle health inequalities around the border hinterland.

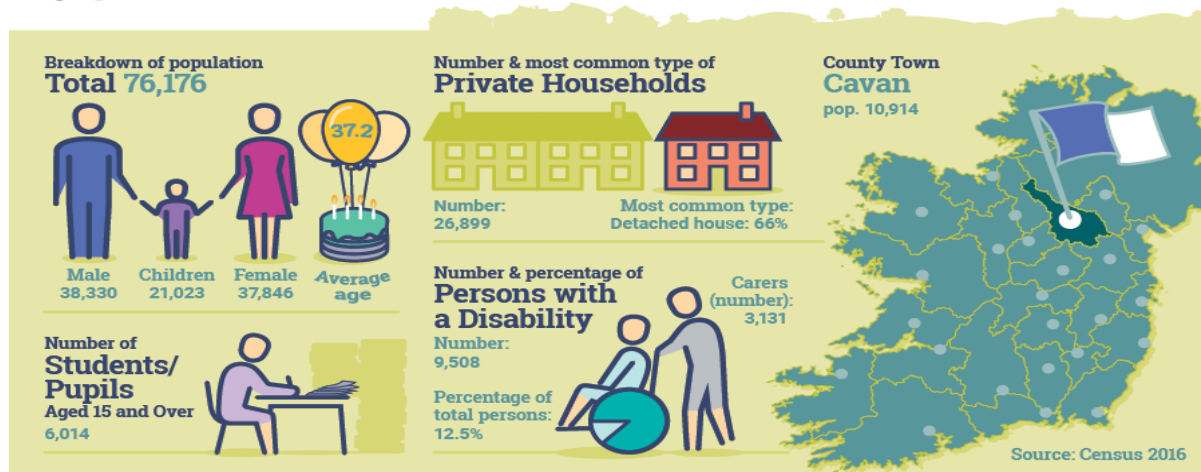


Figure 2: Cavan Area Central Statistics Office Snapshot

One such development through CAWT is the Ear/Nose/Throat (ENT) programme in Cavan, Monaghan and Fermanagh which operates with the cross-border co-operation, providing services to patients on both sides. Counties Cavan and Monaghan are part of the Community Healthcare Organisation 1 area (CHO1) and there are many similarities between population and rural isolation between the two counties. All babies are now born in Cavan General Hospital since the maternity ward closed in Monaghan hospital in 2001.

### Population

According to the latest Census 2016 figures, the population of Co. Cavan has reached 76,176, a small increase of 4.1% (2,993) on 2011. Co. Cavan is made up of 89 electoral districts (EDs) of which almost half, 41 experienced a decrease in population. However, tracking the population increases in different areas of the county, one can see a very clear pattern of population increases in the proximity of the main towns in the south east of the county.

Electoral Districts of main Co. Cavan towns	% change of population 2006-2016
Mullagh	+59.2%
Ballyjamesduff	+44.6%
Virginia	+37.6%
Kingscourt	+29.3%
Bailieborough	+25.5%
Cootehill Urban	+11.3%
Cootehill Rural	+10.0%
Belturbet	+7.8%
Cavan Urban	-3.7%

Table 2: Population change of main Cavan Towns; Source Census 2016

This trend is a direct result of the shortage of affordable housing in Dublin and its suburbs, that occurred during the boom years and the pattern of people from Dublin moving out of the county to areas that were considered to fall still within the commutable distance of the capital. This increase in population has caused issues at local levels in relation to the capacity for services which in many cases were already stretched to meet existing needs. There has also been difficulties with community cohesion and in some cases, it has emphasised a lack of any available provisions.

Currently less than one third (30.5%) of the county's population lives in towns with a population of more than 1500 people resulting in a very high rural dispersion of the remaining two thirds of the population. This has significant implications for the delivery of all types of services across the county.

In relation to the proportion of children and young people in the county, there are a total of 26,362 (34.6% of the total population) children and young people under the age of 25, which is 2.7% higher than in the State as a whole as illustrated in the table below:

Age group	Number	% of county population	State
0-5 years	7,010	9.2%	7.2%
6-12 years	8,393	11.0%	10.0%
13-17 years	5,620	7.4%	6.5%
18-24 years	5,339	7.0%	8.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,362</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>31.9%</b>

Table 3: Cavan County 0 -24 Age Profile; Source: Census 2016

The birth rate in Co. Cavan at 14.6 per 1,000, is slightly higher than the State figure of 13.7 per 1,000.

Cavan 2016	Number	Rate per 1000	State
Births registered	1,028	14.6%	13.7%
Infant (children under 1 year) mortality	3	2.9%	3.3%
Neonatal (infants under 28 days) mortality	3	2.9%	2.4%
Cavan	Number	%	State
Births registered to mothers under 20	18	1.75%	1.7%
Births registered to mothers aged 20-24yrs	97	9.4%	8.2%

Table 4: Cavan County birth rates :Source Vital Statistics 2016

### *Families*

Just over half of the population (51.8%) are categorized as single, with almost a further 40% married. A total of 8.8% are separated, divorced or widowed. There are 19,553 families in Co. Cavan of which 72.2% are families with children.

Family description	Number	% of county population
No children	5,431	27.8%
1 child	5,231	26.8%
2 children	4,687	24.0%
3 children	2,815	14.4%
4 children	1,050	5.4%
5+ children	339	1.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,553</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 5: Cavan County family structure profile; Source Census 2016

A total of 13.3% (3054) are families headed by a single mother, and a further 2.3% are headed by a single father, that's a total of 15.6% single parent households compared to 18.0% for the State. Over one third (35.3%) of all single parent families with children live in 5 EDs as outlined in the table below:

EDs with the highest <u>number</u> of lone parent families	Number	EDs with the highest <u>proportion</u> of Lone parent families	Proportion of Lone Parent families as % of all families in ED
Cavan Rural	337	Cavan Urban	24.2%
Cavan Urban	217	Bruce Hall	23.5%
Virginia	202	Bellananagh	21.8%
Bailieborough	174	Cootehill Urban	21.4%
Kingscourt	149	Kilnaleck	21.1%
<i>Total Top 5 % of all lone parent families</i>	<i>1079 - 35.3%</i>	<i>Co. Cavan</i>	<i>15.6%</i>
<b>TOTAL no. of lone parent families in Co. Cavan</b>	<b>3054 -15.6%</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>18.0%</b>

Table 6: Cavan County lone parent family profile ; Source: Census 2016

### *Nationality*

In the Census 2016, a total of 12.9% of the population of Co. Cavan indicated that they are not Irish, which closely matches the State average of 13.0%. However, looking at this data for individual EDs presents a very different picture.



ED name	% non-Irish
Ballyjamesduff	28.6%
Ballyconnell	27.7%
Cavan urban	26.3%
Cavan Rural	25.1%
Belturbet Urban	20.1%
Proportion of the population living in EDs with higher than the national average number of non-Irish	38.5% (13 EDs)
<b>Co. Cavan</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>13.0%</b>

Table 7: Cavan County population diversity; Source: Census 2016

A total of 13 EDs have a higher than State average of 13.0% of non-Irish residents living there, which suggests that 38.5% of the total population of Co. Cavan is living in areas with an above average diversity of population. The table below illustrates the EDs in Cavan which demonstrate the highest proportion of non-Irish residents.

Two Cavan towns feature in the top ten towns in Ireland which have the highest proportion of people from ethnic minorities – Ballyjamesduff in fourth place and Cavan Town in tenth place. *Note: Cavan Town (population 10,656) is a separate categorisation of geographic area which includes Cavan Urban ED (population 3,770) and part of Cavan Rural ED (population 8,273).*

Town	County	Number of residents	% of non-Irish nationals	Number of non-Irish nationals	The largest non-Irish group (number)
1. Ballyhaunis	Mayo	2,383	39.5	941	Polish - 159
2. Edgeworthstown	Longford	2,062	32.3	667	Polish - 163
3. Ballymahon	Longford	1,866	32.1	599	Polish - 273
<b>4. Ballyjamesduff</b>	<b>Cavan</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>Polish - 311</b>
5. Monaghan	Monaghan	7,597	30.1	2,287	Lithuanian - 1,004
6. Saggart	Dublin	3,145	28.9	909	Polish - 326
7. Longford	Longford	10,011	27.4	2,740	Polish - 1,004
8. Cahir	Tipperary	3,590	27.3	979	Polish - 340
9. Gort	Galway	2,951	26.6	785	Brazilian - 397
<b>10. Cavan</b>	<b>Cavan</b>	<b>10,656</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>2,790</b>	<b>Polish - 827</b>

Table 8: Top 10 Irish towns for population diversity; Source: Census 2016



## Travelling Community

According to the Census of 2016, 475 individuals identified as being part of the traveller community, which equates to 0.63% of the Co. Cavan population. However, data collected from another source in 2016, the Department of Housing indicated that there are 156 families' resident in the county, which suggests that the Census count might be under-representing the traveller population in Cavan.

Number of traveller families in all categories of accommodation in Cavan	
Accommodated by or with Local Authority Census	85
On unauthorised sites	8
Private rented accommodation	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>

Table 9: Number of traveler families accommodated in Cavan County; Source: Department of Housing 2016

The age breakdown of Travellers in Co. Cavan suggests that 56.8% are under the age of 25 yrs., compared with 34.6% for the county as a whole.

The recent Census has provided some interesting statistics about the Travelling Community relating to the State as a whole, which is depicted in the infographic below:

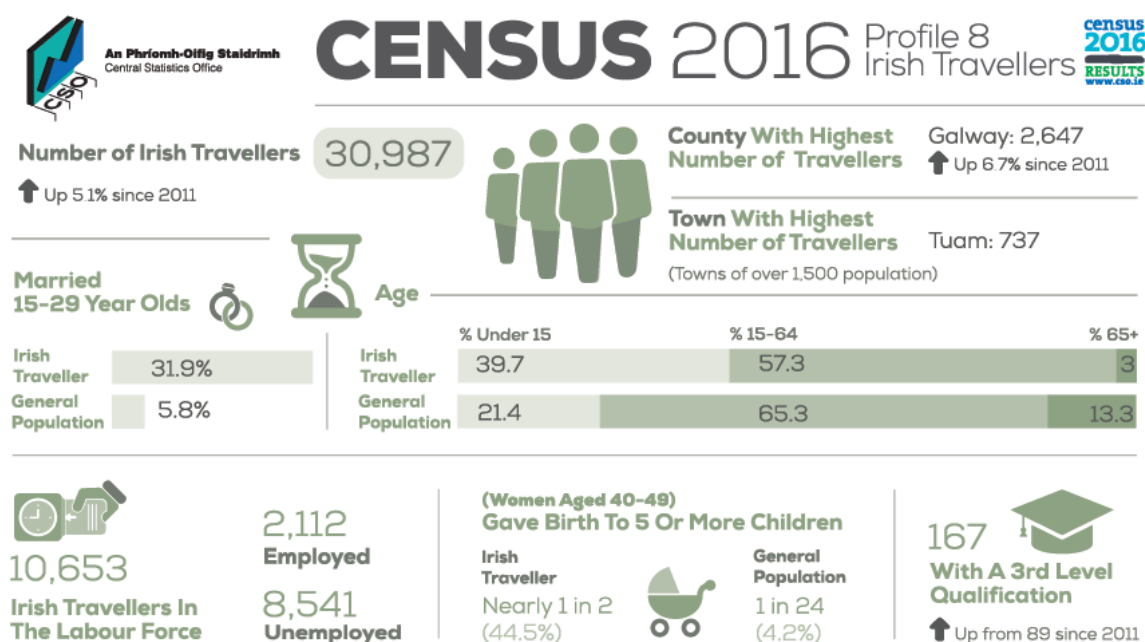


Figure 3: Irish Traveller Community National Profile ; Source Census 2016

The factors that are of most interest in relation to the Co. Cavan CYPSC are:

Factor	Traveller Community	General Population
Proportion of those under 15yrs	<b>39.7%</b>	21.4%
Proportion of those under the age of 25 yrs.	<b>56.8%</b>	34.6%
Proportion of women who have given birth to 5 or more children	<b>1 in 2 44.5%</b>	1 in 24 4.2%
Proportion of those in the 15-29yr age bracket that are married	<b>31.9%</b>	5.8%

Table 10: Comparison between traveller and general population by factor; Source: Census 2016

### Education

There are 63 early year services in Co. Cavan offering full day, sessional or part-time services for preschoolers (Source TUSLA).

In the academic year 2015/16, there were a total of 9,948 children attending 76 primary schools in the county. There is one special school in the county catering for the educational needs of 162 pupils in addition to 20 special classes in mainstream schools educating 115 pupils.

In relation to second level school, for the same period there were 6,362 young people attending 11 second level schools broken down by type below:

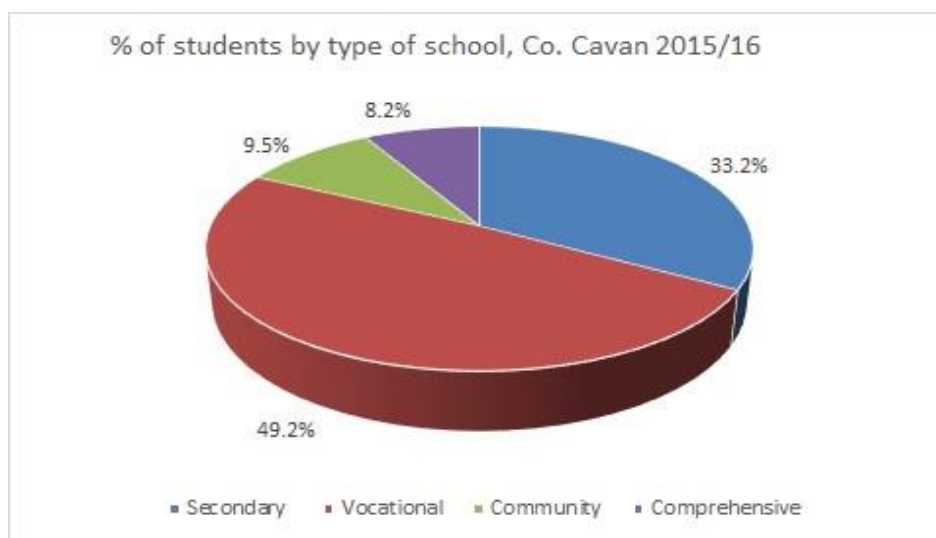


Figure 4: Students by school type: Source: CSO Statbank 2017

Between primary and second level there are a total of 10 DEIS schools in the county.

School attendance at primary school level was better in Cavan than in the State as a whole in 2015/16, and in general this was the case in more rural areas compared to urban settings. Expulsion and suspension levels at Primary level were very low in general and lower in Cavan than in the State.

At second level school, the 20-day absences were higher both in Cavan than at State level. Again, the urban/rural trend was apparent and there was a noticeable increase in absence by

children in areas of greater disadvantage attending DEIS schools as compared to non-DEIS schools. Suspensions and expulsion rates were higher at second level than at primary both on a county and State basis.

2015/2016	Average % of student days lost	Average % of 20-day absences	Average % expulsions	Average % suspensions
<b>Primary School</b>				
Cavan	5.1	9.3	0.03	0.07
State	5.5	10.4	0.01	0.38
<b>Post-primary School</b>				
Cavan	7.8	18.3	0.02	3.59
State	8.0	17.3	0.5	5.30

Table 11: School non-attendance figures; Source: Department of Education 2016

A 2016 report from the Department of Education and Skills, presented an analysis of the cohort of pupils who entered the secondary school system in 2010 and left in either 2015 or 2016. The research tracked the pupils from their entry point to Junior Cert and on to Leaving Cert. The resulting national retention rates are illustrated in the table below:

2010 Entry cohort	Males	Females	Total
Retention to Leaving Cert by gender	89.7%	92.7%	91.2%
School sector	Voluntary	C&C	Vocational
Retention to Leaving Cert by school type	92.7%	90.6%	88.3%
School Designation	DEIS	Non-DEIS	Total
Retention to Junior Cert by school type	95.79%	97.75%	97.36%
Retention to Leaving Cert by school type	84.41%	92.9%	91.21%
2 <sup>nd</sup> level schools by designation in Co. Cavan	2	9	11
2010 Entry Cohort	Cavan	Monaghan	State
Retention to Junior Cert	95.36%	97.30%	97.35%
Retention to Leaving Cert	89.03%	92.25%	91.2%

Table 12: Pupil retention rates; Source: Department of Education and Skills 2016

This data suggests that in Co. Cavan there are 11% of pupils not completing to Leaving Certificate, with 6.33% of them being lost in the second half of the secondary cycle. There is also a lower retention rate in more disadvantaged schools - DEIS designated than non-DEIS schools.

The most up-to-date data available from the Department of Education on school completion and school leaving is based on those who left school were enrolled during the year 2010/11

and not enrolled during the year 2011/12. From this data it can be seen that nationally, 2.9% of those registered in Department of Education and Skills assisted schools, left formal post-primary education as early leavers, across all classes. The figure in Co. Cavan at **2.0%** was lower than the national figure.

This cohort of students went on to follow a number of paths:

<b>School Leavers 2010-11 (State)</b>	<b>%</b>
Enrolled in second-level/further education	50.9%
Enrolled in education outside the State	15.7%
Social welfare activity	6.6%
Employment activity	4.4%
Other – including emigration	21%

Table 13: Pupil destinations- early school leavers; Source: Department of Education 2016)

Of those who completed school in 2010/11, they progressed in a number of directions:

<b>School Completers 2010/11 (State)</b>	<b>%</b>
Enrolled in higher education	52.3%
Enrolled in second level/further education or training	28.2%
Social welfare activity	6.9%
Employment activity	7.3%
Other – including seasonal employment & emigration	5.4%

Table 14: Pupil destinations – school completers; Source: Department of Education 2016

Nationally, Co. Cavan has the second youngest average age of completion of education at 18.9 yrs., with highest average age nationally found to be in Galway at 22.0yrs. It should be noted however that these averages are increasing Census by Census.

<b>Average age at which education ceased</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>State 2016</b>
	<b>Cavan</b>		
Number of persons (aged 15+ yrs.)	47,476	49,315	3,097,052
Average age at which education ceased	18.4	18.9	19.9yrs

Table 15: Average age of education completion; Source: Census 2016

In 2016, a total of 2,278 students from Co. Cavan left school and went on to attend third level institutions across Ireland. The majority of these (47.8%) attended Dublin, with Sligo and Galway being the next most popular destinations.

Location of third level institution	No	%
Dublin	1,088	47.8%
Sligo	251	11.0%
Galway	232	10.2%
Kildare	218	9.6%
Louth	211	9.3%
Westmeath	96	4.2%
Limerick	66	2.9%
Donegal	61	2.7%
Carlow	22	1.0%
Cork	18	0.8%
Waterford	10	0.4%
Kerry	5	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 16: Third level destinations; Source: CSO 2016

### NEETs – Under 25s Not in Employment, Education of Training

There is no clear singular statistic gathered which captures the number of under 25s in the NEET category. Contributing statistics suggest that the 18-24 year age group are included in the Live Register Figures, however this figure also includes some individuals in part-time work.

The number of young people under the age of 25, on the live register has shown an overall decrease of 20% over the 2017 from 606 in January to 487 (52% compared to females 48%) in December 2017.

The other data available in this regard is from the Department of Education and Skills which estimates the percentage of early school leavers to be 2.0% in Cavan compared with 2.4% nationally. Based on an enrolment figure of 5,202 in the year 2016/17, this suggests that as many as 104 individual students may have left school early in that year.

As the economy of the country has improved, the numbers on the live register in Co. Cavan have continued to fall, although the rate of reduction has slowed over the 12 months of 2017 show an overall decrease of 19.6%. Historically there have been more youth males than females on the live register (a ratio of 56: 44 at the beginning of 2017), the gap has come closer by the end of the year with a ratio of 52:48. The decrease in males on the live register has been greater at 26% than is has been for females at 11% over the year.

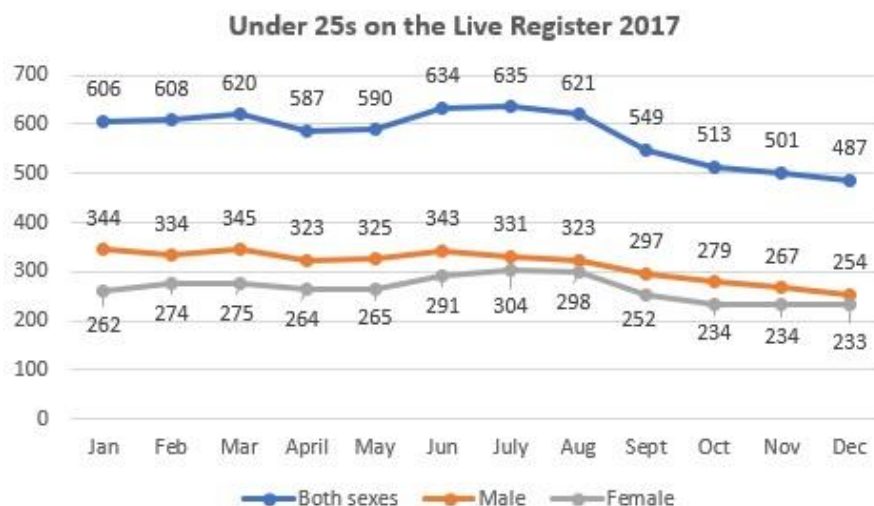


Figure 5: Under 25 Live register graph; Source: CSO 2018

In the recent reporting on Census 2016 result, a list of unemployment blackspots across the country was identified. Cavan featured two of these – Cavan Urban, which is ranked 12 highest unemployment at 35.8% and Belturbet Urban, which is ranked 21st highest level of unemployment in the country at 33.5%.

#### Highest level of education completed

The Census gathers data on the highest level of education which has been achieved by the residents of the country. This data set is gathered on individuals aged 15 and over, which in the case of Co. Cavan is a total of 49,315 individuals.

Comparing the data to that for the State, one can see that there is a higher proportion of the Cavan population with a lower level of education (to Leaving Certificate level – 51.5% of 15+ yrs.) compared to that for the State (45.5%).

Also, there is a lower proportion of the population in Co. Cavan educated to degree level or higher (19.3%) than in the State (28.5%). Both these factors have implications on the employment opportunities available to residents of Co. Cavan.

Highest level of education completed	Number of individuals	% of county population	State % of country
No formal education	1,182	2.4%	1.7%
Primary education	7,082	14.4%	10.8%
Lower secondary	8,266	16.8%	14.5%
Upper Secondary	8,810	17.9%	18.5%
Technical/Vocational	5,622	11.4%	8.8%
Advanced Certificate	3,540	7.2%	5.9%
Higher Certificate	2,528	5.1%	5.0%
Ordinary Degree	3,172	6.4%	7.7%

Honours Degree	3,460	7.4%	10.7%
Post Graduate Degree	2,555	5.2%	9.2%
Doctorate	137	0.3%	0.9%
Not stated	2,781	5.6%	6.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,315</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 17: Levels of educational attainment; Source: Census 2016

### **Religion**

A total of 81.9% of the Co. Cavan population claim to be Catholic with a further 7.2% indicating another Christian faith (Church of Ireland, England, Anglican, Episcopalian, Presbyterian or other Christian). A further 5.1% of the population indicated that they followed no religion.

### **Economic Activity**

The largest proportion of the population 23.9% are classified as managerial and technical, which is lower than the State level of 28.1%.

<b>Classification by social class</b>	<b>Cavan</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>State %</b>
Professional workers	4,215	5.5%	8.1%
Managerial & technical	18,216	23.9%	28.1%
Non-manual	13,667	17.9%	17.6%
Skilled manual	13,777	18.1%	14.1%
Semi-skilled manual	9,671	12.7%	10.5%
Unskilled	3,268	4.3%	3.6%
All other gainfully occupied and unknown	13,362	17.5%	18.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76,176</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 18: Workers by skills classification; Source: Census 2016

There are a higher proportion of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers (35.1%) in Co. Cavan than in the State as a whole (28.2%).

### **Deprivation Scores**

The deprivation scores as developed by Haase & Pratschke, are based upon 10 measurements from the census and produce two overall deprivation scores. There are 3 additional measurements which are also examined in the review (in grey in the table below). The relative deprivation score is the score to use when comparing different areas in the same time timeframe. The 13 measurements are outlined in the following table, comparing Cavan with the State.

Deprivation Criteria	Cavan	State
Relative deprivation score	-3.9	+0.6
Deprivation Rank by county	8 <sup>th</sup>	
1. Population change	+0.1	+0.1
2. Age dependency ratio	36.9	34.5
3. Lone parent ratio (with children under 15 years)	15.6	19.9
4. Primary education only	17.4	13.0
5. Third level education	26.1	35.9
6. Proportion of higher and lower professionals	29.4	36.2
7. Proportion of skilled and unskilled manual workers	20.9	17.9
8. Unemployment for males	15.2	14.1
9. Unemployment for females	15.0	12.2
10. Average number of persons per room	0.5	0.5
11. Proportion living in Local Authority rented accommodation	7.7	8.7
12. Proportion living in private rented accommodation	15.9	19.4
13. Proportion of owner occupied households	74.5	70.3

Table 19: Deprivation score; Source: Haase and Pratschke, 2016)

From this data it can be seen Co. Cavan ranks as the 8<sup>th</sup> most deprived county in Ireland with a relative deprivation score of -3.2, the No. 1 most deprived country being Donegal with a score of -6.4 and the least deprived area/country being Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown council area of Dublin with a score of +10.

Despite an improvement in the absolute deprivation score from -10.3 in the 2011 census to -8.0 in the 2016 census, a total of 77.4% of the population of Co. Cavan lives in electoral districts which are designated as marginally below average and disadvantaged, as outlined in the table overleaf.

DEPRIVATION	Cavan		Monaghan		State	
	Population in EDs	% of total county	Population in EDs	% of total county	Population in EDs	% of total county
Extremely affluent						
Very Affluent					1,311	0.03%
Affluent					464,231	9.75%
Marginally above average	7,231	22.6%	6,219	11.3%	2,018,044	42.4%
Marginally below average	51,416	67.5%	52,401	85.4%	1,935,860	40.7%
Disadvantaged	7,529	9.9%	2,073	3.4%	320,681	6.73%
Very disadvantaged					20,979	0.44%
Extremely disadvantaged					759	0.02%
% of the population below the average line		77.4%		88.8%		47.89%
Relative deprivation score	-3.9		-3.2		+0.6	

Figure 6: Deprivation comparison between Cavan, Monaghan and State; Source: Haase and Pratschke, 2016



The most deprived Eds in Co. Cavan as identified using the deprivation score methodology are:

Electoral District	Population	Relative deprivation score
Derrylahan	85	-16.0
Cavan Urban	3,770	-14.2
Drumakeever/Derrynananta	142	-13.5
Belturbet Urban	1,504	-11.9
Cootehill Urban	1,598	-10.8
Ballymagauran	245	-10.4
Pedara Vohers/Tircahan	185	-10.3

Table 20: Cavan Electoral districts with highest deprivation scores; Source: Haase and Pratschke, 2016

### Disability

The level of disability in the county is slightly lower at 12.5% (9,508), compared to the State at 13.5%. In terms of young people, the disability figures by age group are illustrated in the table below:

Age group	Cavan	State
No. of the population with a disability	9,508 12.5% of county population	13.5%
Numbers of children & young people with a disability	1,582 2.0% of county population	2.36% of total state population
	6.0% of total population of children and young people	8.7% of total population of children and young people
<i>Age group</i>	<i>As % of all people with a disability</i>	
0-4 yrs.	3.0%	3.0%
5-9 yrs.	5.6%	6.4%
10-14 yrs.	6.7%	8.3%
15-19 yrs.	7.8%	9.4%
20-24 yrs.	7.8%	9.1%

Table 21: Disability figures by age profile; Source: Census 2016

According to the State of the Nation Report for 2016, in Cavan 176 children were registered in 2015 as having an intellectual disability (a rate of 8.7% per 1000 of the population of children) and an additional 149 were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (a rate of 7.4% per 1000 of the population of children). Nationwide, two-thirds of children registered as having an intellectual disability in 2015 were boys.

In the academic year 2013-14, a total of 9,694 students with disabilities were studying in 27 institutions in Ireland, a rise of 7% from the previous year – 4.7% of the student population.

### ***Housing***

Co. Cavan has a housing stock of 33,875 units, with a vacancy rate of 18.2%, which is higher than the State figure of 12.8%, and is the 9<sup>th</sup> highest county figure in the country. A total of 81 EDs have a vacancy rate that is higher than the State. The table below illustrates the 10 EDs with the highest vacancy rates and the 10 EDs with the highest number of vacant units:

<b>Electoral District</b>	<b>Vacancy Rate</b>	<b>Electoral District</b>	<b>Number of units</b>
Bilberry	47.2%	Cavan Rural	475
Kilconny	47.1%	Cavan Urban	366
Tuam	44.8%	Bailieborough	303
Eskey	41.1%	Belturbet urban	261
Teebane	38.9%	Ballyconnell	256
Kinawley	37.3%	Virginia	233
Dowra	35.6%	Cootehill Urban	205
Derrylahan	32.7%	Kilconny	185
Swanlinbar	32.5%	Kingscourt	157
Benbrack	32.0%	Ballyjamesduff	150

*Table 22: Electoral districts with highest vacancy rates and vacancy units; Source: Census 2016*

There are 26,806 households in Co. Cavan with almost 40% of these being classified as owner occupied without a loan or mortgage. Almost a quarter (23.8%) of housing in Cavan is rented from one of three sources, the Local Authority, from private landlords or from a voluntary body.

A total of 2,169 (8.1%) properties are rented from the local authority of which 77.7% of Local authority housing is concentrated in 10 EDs outlined in the following table.

Top 10 EDs with highest number of Local Authority rented homes	No. Local authority Rented homes	Total Number of homes in ED	LA housing as a % of total housing
Cavan Urban	465	1,566	29.7%
Cavan Rural	216	2,658	8.1%
Bailieborough	176	1,487	11.8%
Cootehill Urban	149	699	21.3%
Belturbet Urban	145	677	21.4%
Kingscourt	129	1,149	11.2%
Virginia	128	1,564	8.2%
Ballyjamesduff	119	1,071	11.1%
Bellananagh	90	565	15.9%
Ballyconnell	69	599	11.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>26,806</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

Table 23: Electoral districts with highest number of Local Authority homes; Source: Census 2016

### Connectivity in the county

The rate of internet connectivity of households in Co. Cavan has improved over the past 5 years with the number of households with no internet access decreasing from 32.8% in 2011 to 23.6%, however this is still higher than the figure for the rest of the State in 2016 which stands at 18.4%.

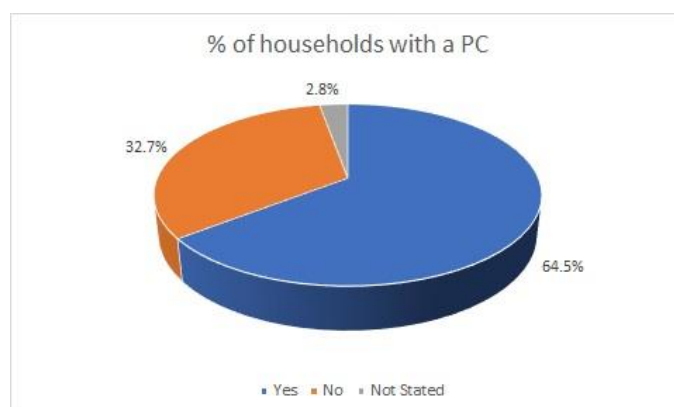


Figure 7: Households with a PC; Source: Census 2016

Almost two thirds (64.5%) of the households in Co. Cavan has access to a PC at home.

## 2.2 Health and welfare of children and young people in Co. Cavan

### *Pregnancies and new births*

- The teenage birth rate has consistently reduced by 64% in the State from 3,087 births in 2001 to 1,098 in 2016.
- In Cavan, there were 18 teenage birth recorded for 2016. In 2015 a higher proportion of pregnant women in Cavan (92.3%) attended for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy compared with a state percentage of 88.0%
- Antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy was lowest amongst pregnant women aged 15-19years (77%)
- In Cavan/Monaghan the percentage (94.9%) of new-born babies visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time, was slightly lower than the state figure of 97.5%.
- In 2015, 98.3% of children had their 7-9-month developmental check on time compared to 93.7% for the State.
- In 2015 58% of all infants in the State were breastfed on discharge from hospital – this rate has continued to increase but is lower with younger mothers – 15-19 yrs. old 26.4% and 20-24 yrs. – 36.8%. The rate of breastfeeding in Cavan is 7<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country at 47.2%.

### *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*

- In 2016, 70% of all sexually transmitted diseases notified in the State were in people younger than 30 years of age.
- There was an increase in the number of STIs treated between 2015 and 2016 in the order of 10%, and in the 15-24yr age group 50% of patients treated for STIs were treated for Chlamydia, 43% were treated for Herpes Simplex and 37% for Gonorrhoea.

### *Suicide*

Cavan recorded the 7<sup>th</sup> highest rate of suicide with a sliding average rate of 15.8 suicides per 100,000 of population over the period 2013-2015, while the State average for the same period was 10. However, in 2016 there were 12 suicides recorded in Co. Cavan – a rate of 17.0 per 100,000, which gives Cavan 2<sup>nd</sup> highest suicide rate in the country with the rate for the State is 8.5. The rate per 100,000 of population for male suicides is higher in Co. Cavan at 22.0 - 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the State, compared to 11.4 for females, which is the highest female suicide rate in the State (State: Male 13.8, females 3.4).

### *Self-harm*

The Cavan/Monaghan area also recorded a higher ratio in the rate per 100,000 of population of male to female self-harm cases (1:1.44) compared to the ratio in the State (1: 1.19).

### *Mental Health referrals*

In the Cavan/Monaghan area in 2015, ‘depressive disorders’ were the most common reason for admission to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units with 32.4% (163) of all admissions on this basis in 2015. There were 8 admissions of children and young people in Cavan in 2015 with a rate of 39.6 per 100,000 of population. 4/5 (80.9%) of all admission are

young people in the 15-17 age group with the larger proportion 60.2% being girls and 39.8% being boys.

One in four people in Ireland experience mental health difficulties and this increases to one third of young people between 18 and 19 years. However less than one in four students seeks support. Times of transition such as moving away from home and going to college are known to trigger stress which may lead to reduced mental health wellbeing.

*(Source: Mental Health Matters Report 2016)*

### ***Referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme (2014)***

In 2014, there were 545 referrals of 253 children and young people (aged 10-17yrs) made to the Garda Diversion Programme in Cavan & Monaghan. This results in a rate per 1,000 of 16.6 (based on 2011 census figures) children and young people being referred to the programme. Almost ¾ of these individuals were aged 15-17yrs with almost three times the number of boys to girls being referred.

*(Source: State of the Nation Report 2016)*

### ***LGBTI Young People***

There is no specific data available from Cavan and Monaghan on the youth LGBTI community, however commonly used percentages suggest that 6-10% of the population identify with a sexual identity other than heterosexual. Where there have been a number of support groups for LGBTI young people in Co. Monaghan for a number of year (Carrickmacross, Monaghan Town and Castleblayney and more recently Clones), there has been no such support structure in Co. Cavan until this year, when through the interagency work carried out through the CYPSC and Cavan Youth Network, a successful application was made to Heathy Ireland which secured a LGBTI coordinator for the county to initiate support activities and awareness building.

The recent LGBTI Ireland Report which focused on the mental health of LGBTI young people in Ireland suggested the following key facts:

- Feedback from the 1,064 LGBTI young people surveyed suggest that compared to other
- young people they are:
- 2 time more likely to self-harm
- time more likely to attempt suicide
- times more likely to experience severe stress, anxiety and depression
- The most common age that young people discovered their LGBTI identity was 12 yrs.
- The most common age that young people first told someone that they were LGBTI was 16 yrs.
- 1 in 4 young people who had come out had not told their mother or father that they were LGBTI
- The main reason people did not come out earlier was fear of rejection and discrimination, especially by family and friends.
- 44% of young people surveyed indicated levels of drinking that suggested some level of dependence.
- Recreational drug use was 2 times higher among the LGBTI young people than the general population
- Only 20% of the young people surveyed felt they belonged completely in their school community

- 50% of them personally experienced anti- LGBTI bullying at school
- 1 in 4 considered leaving school early and 1 in 20 did leave school early.
- 50% felt unsafe or very unsafe showing affection or holding hands in public
- 75% have been verbally abused because of being LGBTI
- 1 in 5 have been punched, hit or physically attacked in public due to being LGBTI

### *Child Protection and family support*

<b>Tusla Referrals, discharges and aftercare figures</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>No. of Child Protection referrals:</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>921</b>
<i>% +/- on previous year:</i>	<i>+19%</i>	<i>+19%</i>	<i>-41%</i>
<b>No. of Children in Care 2017:</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>171</b>
<i>% +/- on previous year:</i>	<i>+3%</i>	<i>-11%</i>	<i>-6%</i>
<b>No. of new admissions to care:</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>% +/- on previous year:</i>	<i>+4%</i>	<i>-30%</i>	<i>-17%</i>
<i>2017: No. of discharges from care</i>	13 from care and another 12 came of age with 11 taking up Aftercare Services		
<i>2017: No. of young people in Aftercare Service:</i>	72 aged 18-22 yrs. 22 complex cases: 30.5%		

Table 25: Tusla Child Protection figures; Source: Tusla Cavan /Monaghan 2017

- Approximately 60% of referrals coming into Tusla are relating to children/young people in Co. Cavan and 40% from Co. Monaghan
- 57% of all referrals were made by Gardaí
- Only a small percentage of these referrals (2%) resulted in children being taken into care
- 16% of all referrals were screened and deemed to need no further action
- A further 24% progressed as referrals to the Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) team in order to receive appropriate support in the community to prevent deterioration in the area of concern and to receive appropriate support (e.g. Prevention Partnership & Family Support Programme)
- PPFS supported just under 500 children and young people in 2017.
- In 2017 there were 157 children in care – the majority of which were in foster care, with 2 in residential care settings.
- 25 were discharged from care in the same period
- 13 being returned to their families
- 12 coming of age (18) and of these 11 progressing to Aftercare Services

### *Children in Care*

- Over half (51%) of all children in care (157) in 2017 were from minority groups – including Irish travellers and non-Irish nationals.
- Out of 30 non-Irish national children in care in 2017, 47% were from the continent of Africa (Congolese, Malawian, Nigerian and Black African), with Black African making up the largest proportion of this group (27% of all CIC).

- The two main reasons for admission of children to care is in relation to neglect (46.5%) and welfare concerns (38.9%).
- Almost half of children (47%) currently in care are in the 12-17yr old age bracket, however in 2017 over half (52%) of new admissions were in the 0-5yr age group.
- Over two thirds of all children currently in care (70%) were taken into care before they were 5 yrs. old. In fact, almost one third of these were taken into care as babies (31%), at less than 1 year old.
- There is a higher proportion (82%) of young children from the travelling community being taken into care than the Irish or non-Irish nationals (65% and 63% respectively)
- Also, there is a higher proportion of teens from non-Irish national communities (17%) than other ethnicities being taken into care.
- None of the travelling community children in care were admitted into care in their teens.

### ***Domestic Abuse***

Data on the incidence of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV) in Ireland is limited and relies on three sources:

- The European Union of Fundamental Rights Survey on violence against women (FRA, 2014); *(included a sample of 1,567 respondents, from Ireland aged 18-74 yrs.)*.
- The Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) Survey (McGee et al, 2002); and
- The National Survey on Domestic Abuse (Watson & Parsons, 2005)

The impacts on children of growing up in households with domestic abuse are complex and can affect a child's emotional, developmental and physical progression. There are limited services in Co. Cavan for adult victims of domestic abuse and no services specifically for the children and young people under the age of 18, who suffer as victims of domestic violence or who witness domestic violence in the home. In 2019 the Cavan CYPSC is seeking to train a mixture of voluntary and statutory personal in the Tender Loving Care programme.

Tearmann Domestic Violence Services provides a helpline, accompaniment services and support services in the area. There are no refuge accommodation facilities in the Cavan Monaghan area.

### 3 : Overview of Services to Children and Families in Co. Cavan

This section summarises the services provided to children, young people and families in the local area, by statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. This information is based on the audit of services conducted by Co. Cavan CYPSC.

Services are presented using the Hardiker Model to reflect the level of intervention which services are providing from Level 1 being universal preventative and social development services to Level 4 being intensive and long-term support and protection.

#### Hardiker Model

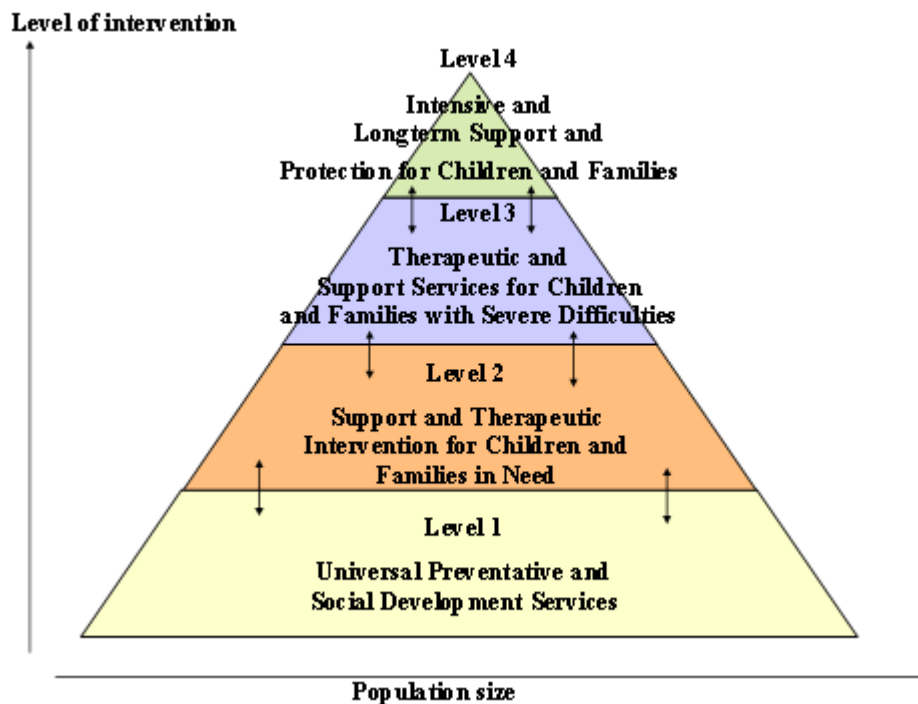


Figure 8: Hardiker Model



Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or voluntary	Hardiker Level
<b>PRE-SCHOOL &amp; CHILDCARE</b>			
Cavan County Childcare Committee	Offers a wide variety of services locally including first point of contact role and various provisions to parents.	Voluntary	1
Pre-schools	62 pre-school services covering various geographical areas within the county	Private/Community	1
National Childhood Network	Delivers QQI Training to DSP funded staff in community childcare services in the County	Voluntary	1
<b>DISABILITY</b>			
Breffni Blues	Special Olympics group supporting sports development for those with learning disabilities	Voluntary	1
Breffni Integrated Development	Administrate Cavan Disability Network which engages people with disabilities to strengthen and empower disability sector.	Statutory	1+
Cavan Access Association	Voluntary group highlighting issues around accessibility for everyone in Co. Cavan	Voluntary	1+
Cavan Autism Support Group	Camps and activities for children and adults on the autistic spectrum in Co. Cavan.	Voluntary	2-3
Cavan Monaghan Down's Syndrome Association	Dedicated to the primary source of information and support to people with Down syndrome	Voluntary	2-3
Cavan Sports Partnership – Disability Inclusion	The sports inclusion programme to assist in helping to address the imbalance in opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity	Statutory	1+
Clogher House Day Activation Centre	Disability day service that provides a range of supports	Statutory	1+
Drumlin House Training Centre	Provide training and work opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities	Statutory	1+
Enable Ireland	Early intervention service to children aged 0-6 years with a developmental delay/disability/autism	Statutory	1+
Holy Family School	Special national school for pupils aged 4 to 18yrs	Statutory	1+
HSE Early Intervention Team	For children, aged 0-6 years, and their families who have complex developmental needs.	Statutory	2+
Irish Wheelchair Association	Works with, people with physical disabilities to drive positive change in Ireland through the influencing of public policy, the provision of quality services and enabling accessibility to all aspects of society	Charity	1+
National Federation of Arch Clubs	Provide a social outlet for people with special needs. To develop their social skills, self-esteem and quality of life and provide support.	Voluntary	1+
Virginia Day Activation Unit	Disability day service that provides a range of supports	Statutory	1+

EDUCATION/TRAINING			
Breffni Integrated	Offers a range of educational programmes across Co. Cavan	Statutory	1+
Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training Board	Provides a range of educational services across the county including: Second level schools Further Education Colleges Adult Education Services Youthreach Youth Services Outdoor Education Prison Education Arts Education	Statutory	1
Youthreach:	Youthreach offers young people who are early school leavers the opportunity for education and personal development. 3 centres: Cootehill - 25 pupil capacity Cavan Town - 50 pupil capacity Kingscourt - 25 pupil capacity	Statutory	2+
Cavan Institute	Offers a wide range of education and training courses	Statutory	1
Cavan School Completion Project	Focuses on targeting and providing supports to young people identified to be most at risk of early school leaving. Locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Mogue's, Bawnboy</li> <li>• Cootehill College</li> <li>• Breffni College</li> </ul>	Statutory	2+
Foroige	Youth Education Training Initiative (YETI), Cavan Bridge Street Centre, Bridge street, Cavan town.	Voluntary/ Statutory	1, 2 & 3
Holy Family Special School	Special national school for pupils aged 4 to 18yrs Cootehill	Statutory	1+
Mount St. Francis After School Service (Breffni Integrated Ltd)	Supervised help with homework for children of the travelling community	Statutory	1+
National Education Welfare Board	Statutory function to ensure that every child received an education.	Statutory	1+
National Educational Psychological Service	NEPS psychologists work with both primary and post-primary schools and are concerned with learning, behaviour, social and emotional development.	Statutory	1+
National Learning Network	Provide a range of free courses to people who have had an accident, illness, injury or have a disability and extra support needs.	Voluntary	1+
Tusla – Education and Welfare Officers	Work collaboratively and cohesively with schools and other relevant services to secure better educational outcomes for children and young people.	Statutory	2+
Primary Schools	76 Primary school – 9948 Pupils  1 Special school - 162 Pupils	Statutory	1
Second Level Schools	11 Secondary schools - 6362 Pupils	Statutory	1+

<b>EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING</b>			
Breffni Integrated Development	Offers a range of programmes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SICAP funded provision for specific target groups</li> <li>• Local Development Strategy Leader</li> <li>• Local Employment Services</li> <li>• Jobs Club</li> <li>• Tús Community Employment Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Social Scheme</li> </ul>	Statutory	1+
Department of Social Protection (DSP)	Promote active participation and inclusion in society through the provision of income supports, employment services and other services.	Statutory	Universal
Cavan and Monaghan ETB	Offers an extensive range of training courses to clients entering the labour market, wishing to re-skill or update skills, change their career path or have left school with no or incomplete qualifications.	Statutory	Universal
SOLAS	Manage, co-ordinate and support the delivery of this integrated Further Education and Training	Statutory	Universal
<b>FAMILY SUPPORT</b>			
Cavan Monaghan Healthy Families	Prevent and manage childhood obesity by providing parents and guardians with the skills and knowledge to provide healthier eating options for their families. It also focuses on engaging children in enjoyable physical activities and looking after their emotional wellbeing.	Statutory	1+
EXTERN	Deliver services to children and young people who are at risk of entering care, secure care or custody.	Charity	3,4
Family Resource Centres	Aims to create a safe and welcoming environment for the community to build their confidence and enhance their skills through a number of different initiatives. Currently 2 serving Cavan county - Focus and Teach Osaíl FRC's.	Community	1,2 & occasionally 3
Parenting Cavan	Brings together agencies from across the County to co-ordinate parenting programmes and supports.	Voluntary	1+2
ISPPC	Child Protection Charity that offer a range of support services to young people and families depending on their needs.	Charity	2-4
Tearmann Domestic Violence Service	Information and support service for women who have or are experiencing domestic violence – telephone support	Statutory	2+
Family Support Agency	This is a group that supports family members of a person with addiction	Voluntary	1+
Tusla – Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychologist	Accepts referrals from the child protection teams within Tusla for Cavan and Monaghan	Voluntary	2+
Tusla – Child and Family Support Network	Consists of all services that play a role in the lives of children and families in a given area.	Statutory	2+
Tusla – Child Protection Social Work Team	The team has a primary responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of children.	Statutory	2+

Tusla - COMPASS	Provides a uniquely positive experience for young people at risk. This incorporates therapeutic outdoor activities designed to provide young people with opportunity to remove themselves from the stress and pressure of their daily life.	Statutory	2+
Tusla - Meitheal	Joint initiative with ISPCC. The Meitheal service is an early intervention, multi-agency (when necessary) response, tailored to the needs of an individual child or young person.	Statutory	2+
Tusla - Counselling	The Child and Family Agency provide grants to voluntary organisations offering the following types of counselling and support services	Statutory	2+
Tusla – Prevention, Partnership and Family Support	PPFS – a division within Tusla which focuses on early intervention and prevention services	Statutory	2+
Tusla Outreach Team	Provide a short-term intervention to support the immediate needs of Children and Families who may have otherwise remained on a waiting list for services	Statutory	2+
Tusla Wellbeing Centre Castleblayney Monaghan	Outreach support available to Cavan	Statutory	2+
Tusla – Under 12's Service	The service uses both outdoor and more formal programme based models of intervention to affect positive change in the young people referred to us.	Statutory	2+
YAP – Youth Advocacy Programme	In partnership with young people, families and communities, using a strength based intensive support model that keeps young people in their communities and out of care/custody.	Charity	3+
<b>YOUTH SUPPORTS</b>			
Big Brother Big Sister	Youth mentoring programme that forms supportive friendships for young people inspiring them to brighter futures	Voluntary	2+
Comhairle na nÓg Comhairle na Paisti	Organisation that gives children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies.	Statutory	1+
Drumlin Music Education Partnership	Music Generation programme which provides young people with access to music education	Statutory	Universal
Focus FRC and Teach Oscail FRC	Variety of youth activities including: Engagement and empowerment programmes, positive mental health initiatives, counselling, networking	Community	1+
Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDP)	The projects are designed to help young people develop their sense of community and their social skills through different activities. Currently 4 in County Cavan	Voluntary	3+
SOSAD	Offer counselling; suicide intervention and prevention.	Charity	2+
LCDC Funding strand PEACE IV	Journey Programme: Focus on personal development for 16-24 yr. old youths Delivered around where young people are recruited Cavan – Face Off: Focus on youth empowerment, integration and overcoming prejudice	Various	2+

Special Projects for Youth (Reformed youth Service Fund – was formerly called SPY)	Bounceback Service – delivers detached youthwork, outreach, rural support workers, childhood support worker, adult education and part-time integration youth worker in variety of regions across county	Voluntary	1+
Youth Advocacy Programme (YAP)	Intensive support services for young people and families with complex needs	Voluntary	3,4
Youth Work Ireland Cavan	Deliver youth service programmes, youth participation structures, one to one service, information provision, Detached youth work, Club Development, early school leaving support, drop in facilities for young people.	Voluntary	1, 2 & 3
Foróige	Enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their development and in the development of society.	Voluntary/ Statutory	1, 2 & 3
Girls Brigade Ireland	Provides a varied programme of activities designed to educate, challenge and inspire young people in a safe, fun and sociable environment.	Voluntary	1
Junior Achievement	Encourages young people to remain in education and helps them develop the skills they need to succeed in a changing world.	Charity	1
Macra na Feirme	Rural youth organisation that provides a social outlet for members in sport, travel, public speaking, performing arts, community involvement and agriculture.	Voluntary	1
National Federation of Arch Clubs	A club to provide a social outlet for people with special needs. To develop their social skills, self-esteem and quality of life and provide support. Aimed at members aged 16+ yrs.	Voluntary	1+
Breffni Integrated	Interagency collaboration to develop youth programmes in West Cavan.	Statutory	1+
Voluntary & Independent Youth Groups	A total of 10 Youth clubs which have developed across various areas in Cavan to try and meet needs of Children and Young People within those areas		
CoderDojo Foundation	Dojo where they can learn to code, build a website, create an app or a game, and explore technology in an informal, creative, and social environment.	Voluntary	1
Coláiste na bhFiann/ Cumman na bFiann	Organises weekly/ fortnightly Irish language youth clubs giving the students the opportunity to use and improve their spoken Irish.	Voluntary	1
Irish Red Cross Youth	Identify major concerns of young people, and recommend action as appropriate by supporting the personal growth of Irish Red Cross Youth members and in turn, young people generally		
Young Social Innovators	Promotes education for social innovation	Voluntary	1
Gaisce – The President’s Award	Self-development programme that encourages young people to find their passion, get active and make a difference in their community	Voluntary	1
<b>MEDICAL/HEALTH/THERAPEUTIC SERVICES</b>			
Cavan/Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Service	Support and services to drug and alcohol users, their families and wider community. For 18+ with limited under 18s counselling service through Tusla referrals.	Voluntary	1 +

Chatterbox Project	Speech and language support to the early years sector	Voluntary	1
HSE Speech & Language Therapy	Aims to provide support, guidance and therapy to families who have a child with communication difficulties.	Voluntary	1+
Child & adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	For children and adolescents with serious emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.	Voluntary	2+
Emergency Department	Deliver urgent medical care in Cavan General Hospital	Voluntary	1+
GP – Out of hours NEDOC	Provides an urgent GP service to patients in counties Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan	Voluntary	1+
HSE – Child and Adolescent Physical Health	Pre-school Immunisation Programme	Voluntary	1+
	School Immunisation Programme	Voluntary	1+
HSE – Physiotherapy Service	Provides assessment and treatment programmes to children with a disability, and to children suffering from pain, decreased strength or decreased mobility following an illness or injury.	Voluntary	1+
HSE – School Age Development Service	Work with children aged 5-18 years, with queried or identified developmental needs, who are experiencing difficulty in their ability to function successfully across a variety of environments.	Voluntary	1+
HSE – Child Occupational Therapists	Helps children with disabilities and their families to carry out everyday activities, within their environment by assessing for, and supplying various specialist aids and training.	Voluntary	1+
HSE – Ophthalmology Service	Cares for medical conditions of the eye.	Voluntary	1+
HSE – Dept of Health Promotion & Improvement	Implementation of ‘ <i>Healthy Ireland</i> ’ Health Promotion process in primary and post-primary schools throughout Co Cavan	Voluntary	1+
Mental Health Ireland	Voluntary movement committed to promoting positive mental health and helping those with a mental health difficulty, their families and carer’s	Voluntary	1+
Rainbows Programme	Support for children with bereavement and separation	Charity	1+
Suicide Prevention – Local Resource Officer	HSE Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Services	Voluntary	1+
Footprints	Support group for any parent that has had a still born child or lost a child in infancy.	Charity	1+
Gamblers Anonymous	Support anyone with a gambling addiction or feel they are travelling down that path.	Charity	1+
HSE: Primary Care Centres	16 Primary care centres across county which provide clinical services	Statutory	1,2 & 3
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
Cavan County Council	Children and young people avail of services such as playgrounds, Cavan Sports Partnership Programmes, Arts Office, County Museum and Heritage programmes, Library Services, Comhairle na nOg (Junior Council) and are consulted for plans such as the Local Community Development Plan and County Development Plan.	Statutory	1+

Cavan Local Community Development Committee	Prepare, implement and monitor the community elements of the six-year local economic and community plan.	Statutory	1+
Cavan County Council – Housing Department	Provision of housing to low income families	Statutory	1
Cavan County Council – Social Inclusion	Helps to develop socially inclusive policies and projects across the range of local authority services.	Statutory	1
Cavan County Library Service	Lending of resources, access to information, training, cultural events, community hub, community spaces for learning and integration, access to internet	Statutory	1
<b>MUSIC</b>			
Ceoltas Ceoltoiri Eireann	21 branches in Cavan/ Monaghan engaging 1100 children and young people	Voluntary	1
Schools of Music	6 provides across county providing a range of tuitions to students	Private	1
Drumlin Music Education Partnership	Music Generation programme which provides young people with access to music education	Voluntary	1
Words to Music	Series of workshops aimed at helping students develop creative writing techniques	Voluntary	1+
Butlersbridge Gospel Choir	Choir for junior members	Community	1
<b>OTHER SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES &amp; GROUPS</b>			
Bailieborough Youth Arts Group	Youth Arts Group	Community	1
Brownies & Girl Guides	Provide adventure and challenge programmes for girls	Voluntary	1
Cavan Youth and Environmental Project	Youth group with environmental focus	Voluntary	1
Cavan Youth Drama	Drama classes for 6-12yr old's in Cavan Town	Private	1
Community Games	Allows children and adolescents to partake in activities which increase their sporting and social skills.	Voluntary	1
Modern Dance	Cavan Modern Dance Club, Cavan Town Dance with Lesley, Primary Ballet, Grade 1 Ballet, Cavan Town	Private	1
Scouting Ireland	Provide adventure and challenge programmes for boys	Voluntary	1
The Cavan Centre Kilnacrot, Ballyjamesduff	Activity centre that delivers programmes including “Break the Cycle Programme” to vulnerable young people from Dublin.	Community	1

<b>POLICING AND YOUTH JUSTICE</b>			
Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDP)	The projects are designed to help young people develop their sense of community and their social skills through different activities. Currently 4 in County Cavan	Voluntary/ Statutory	1, 2 & 3
Probation Service	Rehabilitation of offenders	Statutory	3-4
An Garda Siochana – Juvenile Liaison Officer	Juvenile Liaison Officer who has remit for full county of Cavan	Statutory	2-3
<b>SINGLE ISSUE SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			
Cavan Traveller Movement	Cavan Town – Adult support group	Community	1+
LGBTI Support	Project worker with specific focus on LGBTI	Community	1+
<b>SPORTS</b>			
Cavan Sports Partnership	Cavan Sports Partnership aims to achieve ‘Sport and activity for life, for all’ by targeting people and communities who do not normally participate in physical activity and provide opportunities for them to do so.	Voluntary	1+
Sports Clubs	Variety of sports clubs located throughout the county offering a wide range of sporting activities including GAA, Football, Rugby, Boxing, Hockey, Gymnastics.	Voluntary	1



## Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Co. Cavan

This needs analysis has been prepared taking into account the county profiling exercise, the audit of local services as well as the consultations carried out as part of this planning process. It identifies the challenges faced in optimising the outcomes for children and young people in Co. Cavan, the gaps in service provision and the needs identified which need to be addressed in order to improve the outcomes.

### *Introduction and overview*

In Co. Cavan two thirds of the population live in rural areas as opposed to urban settings, which is the reverse of the situation in the State. Add to this fact the natural geography of Co. Cavan which presents with one large town Cavan Town with a population of almost 11,000 and 8 smaller towns with populations of between 1500 and 2600 people, this means that it is more challenge to provide services across the county on an equitable basis, and for those services to secure community insight and in-depth knowledge.

Inadequate public transport is the number one concern of the young people who engaged in the consultations. The lack of routes and insufficient level of service impacts on children and young people being able to access services, on them being able to freely socialise across the county and also limits their choice in relation to education. The limited public transport also impacts the families who are worst off in the county and those who live in the more peripheral areas of the county.

A total of 12.9% of the population of Co. Cavan are non-Irish in nationality (State 13.0%), however 13 Electoral Districts have a higher than State average population of non-Irish, which equates to a population of 38.5% of the county living in culturally more diverse areas. Three EDs have over double the proportion of non-Irish residents (Ballyjamesduff 28.6% - fourth highest in the country, Ballyconnell 27.7%, Cavan Urban 26.3%).

Lack of ability to speak English or low levels of fluency has an impact on community integration is one of the challenges presented by this high percentage of non-Irish nationals. Many statutory and community services engaging with these communities have found that often the children or young people are used to act as interpreters for their non-English speaking parents which in some cases is not at all appropriate or desirable. Differences in culture also present difficulties in relation to what is considered in Ireland as adequate parenting. In order to work more effectively with non-Irish nationals there is a greater need to find ways to enhance integration, understanding and communication. The cultural diversity offers the opportunity to learn from one another and develop a greater understanding about each other. It can build a better respect and understanding and a more interesting environment by offering new ways of thinking, new knowledge and new experiences.

Census figures show that there are more unemployed males (Cavan 15.2%; State 14.1%) and females (Cavan 15.0%; State 12.2%) compared to the State. This is may also have its root in the fact that historically there has more of the population engaged in skilled and unskilled manual work (Cavan 20.9%; State 17.9%) and over time this type of work has decreased in availability. Added to this there is a lower proportion of the population with third level education (26.1%) than the State (35.9%), which supports the lower proportion of higher and lower professionals compared to the State (Cavan 29.4%; State 36.2%). It can be concluded

that educational and employment aspirations may be lower in Co. Cavan than in the State as a whole.

Co. Cavan ranks as the 8<sup>th</sup> most deprived county in Ireland with a relative score of -3.9. A total of 77.4% of the total population of Co. Cavan live in electoral districts which are classified as marginally below average or disadvantaged. This level of deprivation suggests that there are very specific challenges (unemployment, low educational aspiration, low level of skills training, low level of value on education, single parent parenting) which are present as barriers to improving the outcomes for children and young people in the areas of the county most deeply affected by the poverty that can be witnessed in more disadvantaged areas.

Over the past 10 years a number of Cavan towns, especially in the south of the county have experienced quite significant increases in population as a result of an extension of the Dublin computer belt. Towns and villages such as Virginia (+37.6%), Ballyjamesduff (+44.6%), Bailieborough (+25.5%), Mullagh (+59.2% and Kingscourt (+29.3%) all benefited by swelling with new residents to their communities when affordable housing in Dublin could not be accessed. However, this phenomenon has also brought its own challenges to these areas including:

- Lack of services to keep up with the increase in population
- Limited youth service provision
- Fragile community cohesion
- Many newcomers still identify with being Dubliners as opposed to seeking to integrate
- Increased access to drugs
- Parents commuting to work in Dublin meaning that their young people are not always under supervision when at home

A regular feature of the feedback from the consultations was in relation to limited resources (paid staff, volunteers, facilities, equipment and funding) which was hampering the level of support which could be offered to deal with issues and challenges being faced by children and young people. While Co. Cavan has been fortunate to have been able to access funding support through the PEACE Programme, this funding has been time bound with gaps of 1-2 years between programmes thereby hampering consistency of service delivery. Specific feedback from young people reflect that there is “not enough” youth service provision in place in the county – for example, not enough staffed hours at youth hubs, not enough activities, not enough support services, not enough information.

## **4.1 Gaps in the provision of facilities/services for children and young people in Co. Cavan**

### ***Limited number of core-funded Youth Services***

Historically, core-funded youth services in Co. Cavan have not been present in the county to the degree that they are in other counties with the majority to youth related activities and groups being delivered by volunteer-led groups. Add to this fact the natural geography of Co. Cavan which presents with one large town Cavan Town with a population of almost 11,000 and 8 smaller towns with populations of between 1500 and 2600 people and the limited nature of rural transport in the county.

Whilst there are a small number of staff-led specific issues interventions being delivered in the county:

- Foróige - Big Brother Big Sister Cavan Town
- Foróige - Garda 365 Youth Diversion Project, Cavan Town,
- CMETB - School Completion Project, Cavan Town and Bawnboy
- YWI Bounceback, Southeast Cavan (Started Autumn 2016)
- YWI Bounceback, Belturbet (started March 2017) with an extension to the wider area of West Cavan in November 2017

It is generally accepted that there is a dearth in the provision throughout the rest of the county.

***Limited provision of safe spaces (youth hubs) for young people to “hang out” and appropriate facilities for youth activities***

As a consequence of the historical lack of core-funded youth services, there has also been a lack of safe spaces for young people to ‘hang out’ in the main rural towns. This fact was reinforced throughout the consultations where contributors clearly identified a lack of designated youth spaces for young people to meet and access support. It has been found that where these types of hubs exist with core-funded youth services, young people can be supported in a more robust way and they can access the type of specific services they required in order to improve their outcomes (counselling, mentoring, training, access to education, encouragement, understanding and a listening ear when they are in difficulties). At present there are 3 youth hubs in the county (Bailieborough, Virginia, Killeshandra and a fourth in development for Belturbet. In areas where there is no dedicated facility for young people to meet up, some youth services are able to provide detached youth work, a model whereby the youth workers are out on the streets of the town particularly on weekend nights engaging with vulnerable and marginalised young people.

Feedback across a wide range of voluntary organisation providing activities and services for children and young people in Co. Cavan, indicates that there is lack of suitable premises/facilities for activities to take place.

***Absence of single issue support groups***

Again, as a consequence of an under-developed core-funded youth service provision in the County there has also been an absence of specific issue-based support groups such as LGTBI support, disability support and traveller youth support. Since the Cavan CYPSC has been established in 2017, it has been working on the development of LGTBI support for youth in the county and in November 2017 a coordinator was appointed to initiate activities in Cavan Town and Killeshandra. The funding for this post is however short term under the Healthy Ireland Initiative and will run to the end of March.

***Lack of consistent support and development for parents***

Quality of parenting is well recognised as a significant contributing factor to the attainment of better outcomes for children and young people. To date there has not been any mechanism in the county for parents to access specific support to help them to become better parents and to handle the challenges presented at different ages of child rearing. Sometimes parents do not have good role models themselves upon which to base their parenting style and welcome

guidance through training and mentoring to develop skills that will ensure their children are supported appropriately. In addition, there are continually developing challenges especially in relation to access to technology and social influences (drink, drugs, bullying) which may be present. A parenting support model has been developed in Co. Monaghan and is about to be replicated in Co. Cavan as a result of the work of the Cavan CYPSC in the past year.

***Limited availability of specific specialist services for children and young people in Co. Cavan***

During the course of the research, consultation and audit a number of areas have emerged where very specific services for children and young people are either completely lacking or significantly limited. These include:

- Support services for children and young people experiencing or witnessing domestic violence
- Counselling services
- Mental health support (specially to deal with anxiety)
  - Resilience building supports
  - Youth suicide support
  - Self-harm supports
- Drugs and alcohol addiction services for under 18s; currently there are no counsellors in place to support young people under 18 with addictions
- Support for those with family members who are addicts or alcoholics
- Effective careers guidance services which help young people explore all options open to them (vocational and academic)

***Limited availability of accessible activities and services for disabled children and young people***

The experience of the parents of disabled children and young people in Co. Cavan is one of being consistently in a battle for basic services and considerations for their children. There is little or no opportunity for children and young people with all manner of disability in the county to integrate in mainstream youth activities and services which will offer them recreation, entertainment and socialisation opportunities.

The issue is even worse when the young people reach the age of 18, when the provision of basic but appropriate facilities and engagement services (day centres) are severely lacking. There is a significant deficit of services in the county for young people 18yrs + with disabilities including:

- Support services for parents of young adults with disabilities 18+yrs
- Lack of respite services
- Lack of training or educational opportunities past secondary school
- Absence of dedicated social workers for disabled children and young people
- Absence of independent living options

***Limited number of Family Resource Centres for the county***

There are only two FRCs in Co. Cavan for a population of 76,176 and both of them are in the north of the county (Cavan town and Killeshandra). FRCs are seen as a gateway into the

community and can facilitate the connecting of services to some of the harder to reach elements of the community. FRCs are particularly necessary in more rural areas where the population is more widely dispersed, and services are more difficult to deliver. In Co. Kerry there are 12 FRCs, which equates to 12,296 per FRC, compared to 38,088 per FRC in Co. Cavan.

There is a clear need for at least one other FRC in the south of the county – Bailieborough has been identified as the priority area in the county for a new FRC.

### ***Single point of information for all things relating to children and young people***

One of the consistent features of feedback from the consultations undertaken was the request for information on activities, services and signposting for parents, for young people and families to be able to access when needs arise.

Whilst Parenting Cavan is beginning to fill a gap for parental support in the county, there is an additional need for other points of information to access support from peers and signposting to activities and services available in the county from time to time or when they identify a need.

Feedback from the consultations identified a gap in a “one-stop-shop” for information relating to children and young people – from the range of activities that are provided in the county to information about specific niche therapeutic services like mental health support and everything in between. This type of one-stop-shop could respond to the needs of parents and also the needs of young people.

### ***Challenges in engaging with NEETs (Not in education, employment or training) and supporting them to progress in life***

As the country has continued to make progress in relation to its post-recession recovery the number of young people on the live register has fallen, which is a positive factor. The number of young people who are classified as NEETs (Not in education, employment and training) is not captured in one specific statistic in Co. Cavan. One can generate a sense of the proportion of young people who fall into this category by examining the statistics for:

- the Live Register figures for Under 25s -these figures also include young people working part-time (Cavan: Dec 2017 - 487 young people)
- The historic proportion of early school leavers (Cavan 2% of enrolment 2011/12 – potentially 100 per year)
- Figures relating to retention to Leaving Certificate (Cavan 2010 cohort - 89% - loss of 11%)

There is a real challenge presented in working with this cohort of young people as very often school refusal and non-engagement in further training can be a result of other challenges being faced by the young person – learning difficulties, lack of confidence, mental health issues, substance misuse, engagement in anti-social or criminal behaviour, lack of local role models, multi-generational unemployment, lack of direction, low motivation etc.

### ***Mechanisms to identify vulnerable and support children and young people***

Within every community there are children and young people who for a myriad of reasons will be more vulnerable than others. Factors such as neglect, abuse, poverty, parental alcohol abuse,

low educational aspirations, learning difficulties, behavioural difficulties, domestic violence in the home, mental illness in the home, absence of a parent through death or separation and caring responsibilities can impact on how successfully a child navigates through childhood and young adulthood.

CYPSC Cavan is committed to research and engage with different approaches to responding to pinpointing vulnerability at all ages and stages of development. The theory applied here is that the earlier the vulnerability is identified and supported, the better the outcomes for the child or young person in the long term.

## 4.2 Areas of focus identified by Cavan CYPSC

During 2017, Cavan CYPSC had four sub-groups devised around the four key projects being delivered during the year. With the finalisation of the CYPSC Plan, it is the intention of the committee to form 6 sub-groups aligned to the 5 National Outcomes identified in the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020 and the Goal 1 - supporting Parents:

- Outcome 1: Physical and mental well-being
- Outcome 2: Learning & Development
- Outcome 3: Safe & Protected from harm (separate sub-group for Co. Cavan)
- Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity
- Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing
- Goal 1: Parenting support in Co. Cavan

By establishing strong sub-groups with the right players sitting on each, they will be key to driving the actions of the action plan under each Outcome or Goal.

## 4.3 The 5 National Outcomes in a Cavan context

### *Outcome 1: Active and healthy – physical and mental wellbeing*

There is universal concern in Co. Cavan for the health and well-being of children and young people. This concern was reflecting in the consultations undertaken and also in the statistics. During the course of the research, consultation and audit a number of areas have emerged where very specific services for children and young people are either completely lacking or significantly limited. These include:

- Support services for children and young people experiencing or witnessing domestic violence
- Counselling services
- Mental health support (specially to deal with anxiety)
  - Resilience building supports
  - Youth suicide support
  - Self-harm supports
- Drugs and alcohol addiction services for under 18s; currently there are no counsellors in place to support young people under 18 with addictions
- Support for those with family members who are addicts or alcoholics

- Effective careers guidance services which help young people explore all options open to them (vocational and academic)

Under the first round of Healthy Ireland awards in 2017, a number of initiatives were launched in the county with a focus on physical and mental wellbeing:

- LGBTI Initiative
- Parenting Cavan
- Late night soccer league
- Female Participation in Sports
- Be happy, be healthy Initiative
- Multi-sports and physical activity programme for South East Cavan

Further to this being achieved Cavan CYPSC has identified a number of initiatives which build on the foundation of Healthy Ireland Round 1 initiative engaging the members on an interagency basis. The key areas of interests are:

- Positive lifestyle choices - substance misuse
- Mental Health
- Building resilience

Cavan CYPSC will offer a supporting role through engagement of the coordinator, in the delivery of the Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Plan for Cavan and in the actions relating to the promotion of physical health promoted by the HSE and others.

### ***Goal 1: Support for parents***

Parenting Cavan was established under support from the Healthy Ireland Round 1 initiative and is making progress in terms of training trainers and engaging with parents. The parenting initiative has developed well in 2017 with a strong cohort of trained trainers available across all age categories of parenting training offered. Cavan CYPSC will pursue the on-going support and sustainability of this service provision on an interagency basis. Facilitators will be trained in more targeted programmes such as the “Parents Under Pressure” to complement targeted and universal delivery of support for parents.

### ***Outcome 2: Achieving in education and development***

CYPSC Cavan considered that support available through the informal education sector in Cavan is extremely important in its contribution to developing confidence in young people, especially those what are most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

Currently there are a number of programmes available in Co. Cavan which are targeting this category of young person, the majority of them being funded through the Cavan LCDC PEACE IV Programme:

<b>Programme Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Delivery Organisation</b>	<b>Funder</b>
<b>Journeys</b>	The Program is targeted at young people (NEETS) between the ages of 16 - 24 from diverse communities, who are disadvantaged, excluded or marginalised, have deep social and emotional needs and are at risk of becoming involved in antisocial, violence or dissident activity. Focusing on citizenship, personal development and good relations involving group work and one-to-one work Three days a week over 6 months	Youth Work Ireland Monaghan/Cavan	PEACE IV
<b>Amplify</b>	AMPLIFY will enhance personal development capabilities, build purposeful & long-lasting relationships & support young people to be co-creators within a more diverse & respectful society	Foroige	PEACE IV
<b>Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP)</b>	The Personal Youth Development Programme aims to help young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and help participants to enhance their employability skills. The Personal Youth Development Programme will engage with young people classified as NEETs, those who are marginalised and vulnerable. The work programme will involve up to 15 young people at any one time over a 6-month period with multiple entry points. 2 days per week	Youth Work Ireland	IFI
<b>Youthreach</b>	Youthreach is a Department of Education and Skills official education, training and work experience programme for early school leavers aged 15 – 20. It offers young people the opportunity to identify options within adult life and provides them with opportunities to acquire certification. As it operates on a full-time, year-round basis, Youthreach has a continuous intake policy. Centres in Monaghan town, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross	CMETB	DES

Table 25: Alternative education provisions in Cavan

In addition to supporting the delivery of these programmes, CYSPC Cavan would like to learn from them over the next three years, in order to develop a robust methodology for working with disadvantaged young people, with a special emphasis on identifying the factors present which have contributed to early school leaving.

CYPSC Cavan considers that there is a need for more support at the key transition stages of Pre-school to Primary, Primary to Second level and Second level to Third level. Programmes



of support for these key transitions are ad-hoc and dependent on schools and their resources to implement. Therefore, it is considered of relevance and need to develop consistent transition support in relation to materials for parents, guidance for parents through Parenting Cavan and through robust induction programmes in schools as well as access to Life Skills training programmes.

### ***Outcome 3: Safe and secure***

One concerning gap in service provision identified by stakeholders and young people alike, was the provision of services for children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. In addition to the absence of specific services catering for under 18s, the Cavan and Monaghan area has the lowest spend on Domestic Abuse related services per child/young person in the country at €4.34 compared with the highest at €34.56 in Dublin North City.

In addition to services targeted specifically at children and young people it was identified that there was also a need to train those working with children and young people in how to have conversations about domestic abuse.

Keeping children and young people safe from harm is a priority for everyone in the community and to that end in 2017 a Child Protection Week was planned and supported by CYPSC with the objective of raising awareness about a variety of different ways in which children and young people can be supported to be as safe and secure as possible in Co. Cavan. It is planned that this initiative be undertaken in each year of the plan.

In 2017, Co. Cavan was introduced in a significant way to the research behind the measurement of “*Adverse Childhood Experiences*” as a means of understanding the challenges faced by children and young people in relation to their cognitive and physical development as well as their psychological and physical wellbeing. Through the inclusion of Tusla in a CAWT (Co-operation and Working Together) INTERREG funded project “*Children’s Services: Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences*” there will be a concentrated effort over the next three years to gather research on ACEs in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties in addition to an opportunity to educate and inform key stakeholders in the insight that the ACE score can give in relation to dealing with challenges facing children and young people.

### ***Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity***

As the country has continued to make progress in relation to its post-recession recovery the number of young people on the live register has fallen, which is a positive factor. The number of young people who are classified as NEETs (Not in education, employment and training) is not captured in one specific statistic in Co. Cavan. One can generate a sense of the proportion of young people who fall into this category by examining the statistics for:

- the Live Register figures for Under 25s -these figures also include young people working part-time (Cavan: Dec 2017 - 487 young people)
- The historic proportion of early school leavers (Cavan 2% of enrolment 2011/12 – potentially 100 per year)
- Figures relating to retention to Leaving Certificate (Cavan 2010 cohort - 89% - loss of 11%)

There is a real challenge presented in working with this cohort of young people as very often school refusal and non-engagement in further training can be a result of other challenges being faced by the young person – learning difficulties, lack of confidence, mental health issues, substance misuse, engagement in anti-social or criminal behaviour, lack of local role models, multi-generational unemployment, lack of direction, low motivation etc.

Working with young people in the NEET category requires a specific type of “whole life” approach in order to assist and support them to make progress into options of employment, education or further training. Often there are multiple factors at play in the lives of these young people – low mood, lack of motivation, low education aspiration, lack of local roles models, generational unemployment, drug/alcohol misuse, low self-esteem and possible involvement in criminality. Therefore, a bespoke programme of support is required that offers mentoring, personal development approaches and one-to-one planning support.

Currently there are a number of programmes available in Co. Cavan which are targeting this category of young person, the majority of them being funded through the PEACE IV Programme. CYSPC Cavan would like to learn from the delivery of these short-term funded programmes over the next three years, in order to develop a robust methodology for working with NEETs, who are generally considered to be a harder to reach and retain audience. The objective of this learning exercise will be to be able to develop an interagency response for successful engagement of NEETS.

#### ***Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world***

One of the consistent features of feedback from the consultations undertaken was the request for information on activities, services and signposting for parents, for young people and families to be able to access when needs arise.

Historically there has been limited LGBTI support in Co. Cavan and none specifically tailored to young people. Under Healthy Ireland Round 1 CYPSC in Cavan was successful in securing funding to engage a LGBTI Youth worker who established a LGBTI Youth Network for the country, which was received very well. This has been an important step in the provision of such information advice and support services to LGBTI young people and their families. Cavan CYPSC seeks to secure the sustainability of this service provision in the county.

Cavan CYPSC will continue to support the expansion of and consolidate the existing and recently established youth service provision through support hubs in the county with specific reference to support the disadvantaged children and young people in the area. The CYPSC coordinator will liaise closely with the CMETB Youth Office to identify any specific funding opportunities which may arise through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Another supportive role will be provided by the coordinator in relation to the monitoring of rural transport improvements which facilitate the access by young people to key essential services and opportunities for engagement in education, employment, sports, recreation and inclusion.

Feedback from the consultations identified a gap in a “one-stop-shop” for information relating to children and young people – from the range of activities that are provided in the county to information about specific niche therapeutic services like mental health support and everything in between. This type of one-stop-shop could respond to the needs of parents and also the

needs of young people. A lack of Family Resource Centres has been Identified within the county. Currently there are 2 FRC's located in North Cavan so identifying additional suitable locations could support multiple goals for Children, Young People and Families

There has also been a lack of safe spaces for young people to 'hang out' in the main rural towns. This fact was reinforced throughout the consultations where contributors clearly identified a lack of designated youth spaces for young people to meet and access support. It has been found that where these types of hubs exist with core-funded youth services, young people can be supported in a more robust way and they can access the type of specific services they required in order to improve their outcomes (counselling, mentoring, training, access to education, encouragement, understanding and a listening ear when they are in difficulties). At present there are 3 youth hubs in the county (Bailieborough, Virginia, Killeshandra and a fourth in development for Belturbet. In areas where there is no dedicated facility for young people to meet up, some youth services are able to provide detached youth work, a model whereby the youth workers are out on the streets of the town particularly on weekend nights engaging with vulnerable and marginalised young people.

The experience of the parents of disabled children and young people in Co. Cavan is one of being consistently in a battle for basic services and considerations for their children. There is little or no opportunity for children and young people with all manner of disability in the county to integrate in mainstream youth activities and services which will offer them recreation, entertainment and socialisation opportunities.

The issue is even worse when the young people reach the age of 18, when the provision of basic but appropriate facilities and engagement services (day centres) are severely lacking. There is a significant deficit of services in the county for young people 18yrs + with disabilities including:

- Support services for parents of young adults with disabilities 18+yrs
- Lack of respite services
- Lack of training or educational opportunities past secondary school
- Absence of dedicated social workers for disabled children and young people
- Absence of independent living options

Feedback across a wide range of voluntary organisation providing activities and services for children and young people in Co. Cavan, indicates that there is lack of suitable premises/facilities for activities to take place.

## Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for Co Cavan

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance misuse - Positive Lifestyle choices</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Resilience Building</li> <li>• County wide approach to supporting Parents in Cavan</li> <li>• Suicide Prevention</li> <li>• Physical activity, diet and exercise</li> </ul>
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building confidence in young people</li> <li>• Supporting key transitions</li> <li>• Early Intervention</li> </ul>
3. Safe and protected from harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic abuse</li> <li>• Child protection awareness</li> <li>• Identifying vulnerable children in the education system using the ACE tool</li> </ul>
4. Economic security and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEETs</li> <li>• Young people with a disability into work</li> </ul>
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGBTI</li> <li>• Ethnic minority groups</li> <li>• Children and young people with a disability</li> <li>• Safe and supportive spaces to play and socialise</li> <li>• Rural transport</li> </ul>

Change Management	Local Priority Areas
<p>Change management - CYPSC may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level, e.g. development of interagency protocols, development of information sharing protocols, interagency training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment of senior personnel across member agencies to Children and Young People’s Services Committees</li> <li>• Establish additional subgroups and align existing groups to the 5 National Outcomes for Children &amp; Young People outlined in Better Options Brighter Future.</li> <li>• Create better outcomes and opportunities for children and young people in Cavan.</li> </ul>

## Section 6: Action Plan for Co Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee

ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Mental Health</b>	Developing a shared understanding of mental health challenges, existing mental health services and pathways for children and young people in Co. Cavan	Better understanding of mental health by all CYPSC stakeholders  Reduction in numbers of young people who take their life and who engage in self-harm	Sub-group convened and actions agreed and carried out 2018-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement of mental health professionals CH01 Youth Mental Health Officer, Mental Health Recovery College, and the consultant psychologist at CAMHS, with a view to scoping out existing services and identifying gaps in the region</li> <li>Based on outcomes of engagement support appropriate responses identified for children and young people in Cavan</li> <li>Develop clear signposting posters to mental health supports for children and young people in Cavan</li> <li>All CYPSC members to complete SafeTalk training</li> </ul>	2019  2019-2020  2019  2021	Family Focus FRC CYPSC HSE CAMHS Cavan Education Centre CMETB YWI FOROIGE	Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Strategy Cavan Monaghan LECP 10.1	Outcome 2 Achieving in Learning & Development  Transformational Goal: 1: Support Parents 2: Early Intervention & Prevention 3: Listen to and involve young people 4: Ensure quality services 5.Collaboration and interagency work
<b>Suicide prevention</b>	Supporting Connecting for Life in the reduction of suicides of children and young people in the county	Numbers of young people who take their life and who engage in self-harm	Participation of CYPSC Coordinator in Connect for Life forums relating to youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the delivery of the connecting for Life Action Plan in relation to children and young people</li> </ul>	2019-2021	HSE CFSNC CYPSC LCDC	Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Strategy LECP 5.3 National Youth Strategy	Transformational Goal – Early Intervention & Prevention Outcome 3

ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Development of LGBTI +youth supports</b>	Establish supports through the sustainable employment of a LGTBI Youth Development Officer To provide information and support to parents / carers of LGBTI young people To plan and facilitate a Health promotion and awareness campaign for the general population in Cavan on LGBTI+ issues	Number of awareness training/educational events delivered  LGBTI youth Conference delivered  Number of LGBTI+ young people supported by project	Number of youth workers, staff and volunteers trained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options for sustaining the employment of the LGBTI Youth Worker</li> <li>To provide drop-in service for supporting LGBTI+ young people a weekly in two separate locations</li> <li>Development of a LGBT+ society at Cavan Institute</li> <li>Development of a video on LGBT+ with youth groups in the county</li> <li>Proactive LGBTI network established and sustainable to provide support, information and guidance to young people, parents , health care professionals, and schools</li> </ul>	2019       2021	Family Focus FRC CYPSC HSE CAMHS Cavan Education Centre CMETB YWI FOROIGE	LGBTI National Youth Strategy National Sexual Health Strategy	Outcome 3: Safe and respected  Outcome 5: Connected respected and contributing to their world
<b>Sexual Health</b>	Positive and respectful approach to relationships and sexuality	Providing training around LGBT+ To schools communities	To support volunteers and staff to undertake LGBTI awareness training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of sexual health training for LGBT+ young adults 17-25yrs</li> <li>To support Cavan schools and other youth related services and supports to become more LGBTI friendly</li> </ul>	2021	Family Focus FRC CYPSC HSE CAMHS Cavan Education Centre CMETB YWI FOROIGE	LGBTI National Youth Strategy National Sexual Health Strategy	Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning & Development  Transformational Goal 2: Early Intervention & Prevention
<b>Building Resilience</b>	Explore funding avenues to provide resilience building services to young people in specific areas in the county with no such service: Mullagh, Cavan Town and west of the West Cavan Project.	Appropriate funding avenue identified	Additional services funded  Number of young people engaging in the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach and detached youth work support for rural &amp; marginalised young people</li> <li>1 to 1 and group activities aimed at building resilience</li> </ul>	2019-2020	CYPSC CMETB YWI Foroige ISPCC CFSNC	HSE Mental Health Connecting for Life National Youth Strategy Aistear -Early Childhood Curriculum Framework LECP 10.1 & 10.2	Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning & Development

<b>ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE</b>								
<b>Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing</b>								
<i>Priority Area</i>	<i>Objective(s)</i> (	<i>Indicators</i> (	<i>Target</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeframe for completion</i>	<i>Lead Responsibility and partners</i>	<i>Link to other plans</i>	<i>Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)</i>
	Explore funding avenues to provide resilience building services to young people in specific areas in the county with no such service: Mullagh, Cavan Town and west of the West Cavan Project.	Appropriate funding avenue identified	Additional services funded  Number of young people engaging in the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach and detached youth work support for rural &amp; marginalised young people</li> <li>• 1 to 1 and group activities aimed at building resilience</li> </ul>	2019-2020	CYPSC CMETB YWI Foroige ISPCC CFSNC	HSE Mental Health Connecting for Life National Youth Strategy Aistear -Early Childhood Curriculum Framework LECP 10.1 & 10.2	Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning & Development
<i>Physical activity, diet and nutrition</i>	Support the organisations and activities being delivered in the county that promote physical activity and healthy eating	Increased engagement by children, young people and families in initiatives	Participation of CYPSC coordinator in health and Wellbeing LCDC group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Healthy Families initiatives in the county</li> </ul>	2019-2021	HSE LCDC	Healthy Ireland National Physical Activity Plan A Healthy Weight for Ireland National Youth Strategy LECP 5.3 HSE Healthy Families Peace Link Plan Aistear	Outcome 2 Transformational Goal: 1: Support Parents 2: Early Intervention & Prevention 3: Listen to and involve young people 4: Ensure quality services
<i>Transformational goal : Supporting parents</i>	Supporting the ongoing development of a Parenting Cavan which offers training and support to parents at all stages of the parenting	Number of facilitators trained  Number of participants in classes across all parenting stages  Number of parents attending information events/on mailing list? Enquiries?	18 in 6-11 yrs. programme  4 in separated programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure on-going funding for part-time co-ordinator for Parenting Cavan</li> <li>• Roll out programme of parenting classes through Parenting Cavan</li> <li>• Train parenting facilitators from across the county to sustain the delivery of parenting classes roll out across Cavan</li> </ul>	2019-2021	CYPSC Tusla HSE Cavan County Childcare Committee Breffni Integrated Development	Tusla Area Commissioning Plan Parenting Monaghan Plan SCIAP 2018-2023	Outcome 1: Physical and Mental Health Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development Outcome 3: Safe & Protected Outcome 5: Connected, respected & contributing to the world

ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S COMMITTEE								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<i>General</i>	Sub-group with right plays participating to drive CYPSC identified priority actions		Sub-group established	Establish an Outcome 2 sub-group to develop and drive specific actions in action plan	2019	CYPSC members	N/A	N/A
<i>Building confidence in young people</i>	Support the ongoing delivery of non-formal education across the county	Marginalised young people engaging in one-to-one support and confidence building activities	Evaluation with participants on learning achieved from programmes which will inform future work with disadvantaged young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the delivery of Personal Youth Development Programme, Journeys Programme and Amplify Programmes across the county</li> <li>Liaise with programme delivery organisations to generate a learning on the factors associated with early school disengagement</li> </ul>	2019-2021	IFI CMETB YWI Foróige CFSNC CYPSC	HSE Mental Health Connecting for Life National Youth Strategy Aistear -Early Childhood Curriculum Framework LECP 11.1, 9.4	Outcome 1: Physical and mental health Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to the world
<i>Supporting key transitions</i>	Source funding to support co-ordinated transitions from pre-school to primary school, primary to second level school and second to third level	Higher levels of integration and successful transition at all stages	Resource used for transitioning students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support transitions by using “Mind the Gap” publication for students or develop own resource for Co. Cavan to support the transition from primary to second level school.</li> <li>Explore potential funding mechanisms under which to deliver Life Skills training for young people transitioning from second level to third level</li> </ul>	2019-2021	CYPSC Secondary Schools Primary Schools DES	National Youth Strategy Aistear -Early Childhood Curriculum Framework LECP 11.1, 9.4	Outcome 1: Active & Healthy Transformational Goal 5: Supporting transitions
<i>Early Years strategy</i>	Support the development of a forum which focuses on the needs of babies and young children 0-6yrs	Achieving a plan which identifies ways to break down the stigma of accessing support for families. Clear signposting for families and Early Years services for Meitheal, PPFS Support and Better Start for young children with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antenatal women</li> <li>New parents</li> <li>Foster parents</li> <li>Early Years services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a suite of programmes talks which will enhance the development of early relationships between parents and their children. Building on parents skills and knowledge of their own well-being and child’s well-being.</li> <li>Promote FRCS AND Early Years Services as places for families to find out about and avail of support.</li> </ul>	2019-2021	CYPSC	PHN FRCS Cavan CCC NCN PPFS CFSN BETTER START ENABLE IRELAND Aistear -Early Childhood Curriculum Framework Child Health Strategy CHO1	1:Support parents 2: Early Intervention & Prevention



<b>Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm</b>								
<b>Priority Area</b> (To be identified based on the local needs analysis.)	<b>Objective(s)</b> (A brief statement of what the CYPSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be measurable.)	<b>Indicators</b> (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	<b>Target</b>	<b>Activities</b> (The activities that the CYPSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives.)	<b>Timeframe for completion</b>	<b>Lead Responsibility and partners</b>	<b>Link to other plans</b> (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)	<b>Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)</b>
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	Support the development of a domestic abuse-informed community	Primary & second level teachers, youth workers in the county trained	Training available to all primary school teachers, secondary teachers and youth workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore and identify training programmes that will develop the capacity of adults supporting children and young people, to engage them in conversations about domestic abuse and health relationships</li> <li>Explore funding options under which training of support staff could be rolled out in Co. Cavan and promote the programme delivery</li> </ul>	2019  2019 - 2020	CYPSC – Sub-group 3 ISPCC Tusla Garda DV & Sexual Assault Unit, Cootehill Primary schools Secondary Schools	National Strategy on Domestic, sexual & Gender-based violence 2016-21 Tusla Area Commissioning Plan	Outcome 1: Active and healthy Outcome 2: Early prevention and Intervention Outcome 5: Respected and connected
	Support the development of supports for children and young people who witness DA/DV in the home	Improve supports available to victims	A suitable training programme identified or developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore with Safe Ireland the options available for intervention programmes for children and young people who witness DA/DV in the home.</li> <li>Explore funding options under which training of support staff could be rolled out in Co. Cavan and promote the programme delivery</li> </ul>	2019  2019 - 2020	Youth work Ireland Foróige PPFS CFSNC		
<b>Public Awareness week</b>	Development of Cavan PPFS profile in the community	Numbers of public attending range of events	Raising awareness of supports available to families through PPFS week delivered each year	<u>Universal</u> Deliver a week- long programme of themed events in Cavan Events for parents Children and frontline staff	2019-2021	Tusla CYPSC Sub-group 3 FRCs	Children First 2017 Tusla Area Commissioning Plan National Youth Strategy	Transformation Goals 1: Support parents 2: Early Intervention & Prevention 3: Listen to and involve young people

<b>ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S COMMITTEE</b>								
<b>Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm</b>								
<i>Priority Area</i>	<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeframe for completion</i>	<i>Lead Responsibility and partners</i>	<i>Link to other plans</i>	<i>Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)</i>
<b>Identifying vulnerable children &amp; YP in the education system</b>	Support the introduction of the language of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs), the assessment tool and its application in order to be able to identify vulnerable children and young people who need extra support at an earlier stage Link with CAWT MACE Programme	Number of ACE awareness raising events  No. of stakeholders who have been trained in using the ACE tool	1 Awareness raising event delivered on ACEs included in 2018 Public Awareness Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver annual seminar to raise awareness of ACEs</li> <li>Include the ACEs topic in the Child PAW Public Awareness Week</li> <li>Support the promotion and delivery of training in the county</li> </ul>	2019-2021	CAWT/MACE Tusla CYPSC HSE Primary Care Primary Schools Cavan Education Centre Parenting Cavan Cavan Education Centre	National Youth Strategy Aistear -Early Childhood Curriculum Framework LECP 11.1, 9.4	Outcome 1 – Active and Healthy Transformational Goal 2 - Early Intervention and Prevention
<b>Substance misuse - Positive lifestyle choices</b>	Supporting the development of safe socialising practices in Co. Cavan through activities in Cavan for young males and females engage in positive lifestyle choices as an alternative to engaging in anti-social behaviour  Link-in with existing drugs and alcohol forum to ensure the youth agenda is progressed in relation to prevention and treatment	Increase in safe socialising proactive of young people on Junior Cert results night  Reduction of incidents of anti-social behaviour  Reduction in the number of young people arriving at venues under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs	1000 packs developed and distributed  Talks delivered to all second level schools in Co. Cavan  NASA /safe socialising group convened NASA signs developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-ordination of the development and distribution of the stay-safe packs</li> <li>Co-ordination with second level schools and delivery of stay safe guidance to all young people in transition year awaiting Junior Certificate results</li> <li>Coordination of a “No Alcohol or substances allowed (NASA)” initiative for Co.</li> <li>Development and distribution of NASA signs for bus fleets</li> <li>Source local funding to support NASA activities</li> <li>Convening of a multi-agency conversation by CYPSC on the issue of substance misuse by under 18s</li> <li>Support the delivery of Cavan Drugs &amp; Alcohol Forum action plan on actions relating to youth</li> <li>Support the NERDF in promotion of programmes for Cavan: Sibling Support Programme</li> <li>Support &amp; Strengthen Families</li> </ul>	2019-2021           2019-2021	CYPSC Foroige ISPCC Bounceback Youth Service Healthy Cavan Comhairle Breffni Integrated Joint Policing Committee NERDF	Healthy Ireland LECP 9.3, 10.3 National Youth Mental Health Task Force National Youth Strategy CH01 Youth MH Junior Cert Resilience Building HSE Healthy Families Aistear -Early Childhood Curriculum Framework	Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm Transformational Goal: 1: Support Parents 2: Early Intervention & Prevention 3: Listen to and involve young people

ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S COMMITTEE								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
<i>Priority Area</i> (To be identified based on the local needs analysis.)	<i>Objective(s)</i> (A brief statement of what the CYPSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be measurable.)	<i>Indicators</i> (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	<i>Target</i>	<i>Activities</i> (The activities that the CYPSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives.)	<i>Timeframe for completion</i>	<i>Lead Responsibility and partners</i>	<i>Link to other plans</i> (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)	<i>Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)</i>
<b>General</b>	Sub-group with targeted members participating to drive CYPSC identified priority actions		Sub-group established	Establish an Outcome 4 sub-group to develop and drive specific actions in action plan	2019	CYPSC members	N/A	N/A
<b>NEETs</b>	Develop a greater understanding of NEETs and the factors that contribute to their situation in order to work more effectively with them and to intervene at an early stage to prevent the same level of NEETs emerging in Cavan	Primary research study completed  Primary research collated  Awareness generated through distribution of research findings.	Primary research study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a study on NEETs in the county by collating all existing data which has been gathered by different organisations working with them</li> <li>Carry out primary research with NEETs participating in Journeys, IFI PYDP and Amplify Projects to identify common contributory factors</li> <li>Use research to inform early intervention methodologies for the county - research will inform other outcome activities.</li> <li>Use research study to build an awareness of how to work with these young people more effectively</li> </ul>	2019-21  2019 - 2021  2019 - 2021	CYPSC Breffni Integrated DSP FRCs YWI Foroige Youthreach	National Youth Strategy SICAP 2018-2023 LECP 7.1, 7.2 & 9.4 2.7	Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development Transformational Goal 4: Ensure Quality Services
<b>Young people with disability</b>	Support the development of more opportunities for young people with a disability to secure employment	Advocate for young people with a disability to enter training and work experience opportunities.	Numbers of young people with a disability in employment increases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collate information on the figures for young people with a disability who would like to work but are unemployed</li> <li>Raise awareness of the Irish Association of Supported Employment</li> </ul>	2019 - 2021	Monaghan Cavan supported employment Drumlin House Disability Activation Project	Article 23 United Nations Declaration on Human Rights; "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment..."	Outcome 2 Achieving full potential in learning and development

**ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S COMMITTEE**

**Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world**

<i>Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis.)</i>	<i>Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CYPSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be measurable.)</i>	<i>Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Activities (The activities that the CYPSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives.)</i>	<i>Timeframe for completion</i>	<i>Lead Responsibility and partners</i>	<i>Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)</i>	<i>Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)</i>
<b>General</b>	Sub-group 5 with targeted members participating to drive CYPSC identified priority actions. Also widen the membership of this group to include young people linking with Comhairle na nÓg  Focus on all groups of young people who may experience discrimination or exclusion due to disability, religion, ethnicity or disability.	No. of engagements with young people  No. of opportunities created to give LGBTI+ and other young marginalised young people a voice.	Establish a group of people who will work on ensuring equality and inclusion for all young people and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities will be led from the subgroup once established</li> </ul>	2019-21	CYPSC FOCUS FRC CMETB Cavan County Council Breffni Integrated Cavan Institute HSE Tusla	LGBTI National Youth Strategy National Sexual Health Strategy National Youth Strategy	Outcome 1: Physical and Mental Health Outcome 2: Achieving in learning and development Outcome 3: Safe and Protected Transformational Goal 1: Supporting parents 3: Listen to & involve young people 4: Ensure quality services
<b>Safe supportive youth spaces</b>	Supporting the continuing development of the existing youth hubs and services in Co. Cavan	Provide outreach to more rural locations	Number of youth hubs increase	Explore with CYPSC members potential options for finding suitable premises for youth hubs in South East Cavan to respond to the increasing demand  Continue to support the development of the Youth Hub in West Cavan	2019-21	CYPSC CMETB Interagency group	LECP 10.2, 9.4 CMETB Plan SICAP 2018-23 National Youth Strategy	Outcomes 1-4 Transformational Goal 4: Ensure quality services
<b>Local Transport</b>	To address the transport needs of young people who require transport for training, education, early employment opportunities, social engagement, sport and recreation and inclusion			To monitor developments in local transport and advocated for youth needs to the Rural Transport Scheme/Local Link  To develop collaborative solutions under the wide range of options available under the scheme	2019-2021	LCDC CYPSC	LECP 2.9 & 3.6 National Youth Strategy	Outcomes 1-5

<b>ACTION PLAN FOR CO. CAVAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE</b>								
<b>Change Management and Cross Collaboration</b>								
<i>Priority Area</i>	<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeframe for completion</i>	<i>Lead Responsibility and partners</i>	<i>Link to other plans</i>	<i>Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)</i>
<i>Commitment of senior personnel across member agencies to Children and Young People's Services Committees</i>	Full engagement of relevant agencies at senior level	Full CYPSC membership at appropriate level  Co-ordinator in place	Membership attendance at CYPSC meetings is 90%	Attend meetings  Identify and release resources for CYPSC work/ projects	Ongoing	All member agencies represented on CYPSC	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People	Transformational Goal: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination
<i>Establish additional subgroups and align existing groups to the 5 National Outcomes for Children &amp; Young People outlined in Better Options Brighter Future.</i>	Establish the effective subgroup framework to permit collaborative outcomes and priorities can be achieved	Subgroups established and have terms of reference	5 subgroups established	Activities will be led from the subgroup once established	2019	All member agencies represented on CYPSC Including: Breffni Integrated DSP FRCs YWI Foroige Youthreach	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People	Outcomes 1-5
<i>Create better outcomes and opportunities for children and young people in Cavan.</i>	Achieve priorities as identified within the needs analysis	Initiatives supported by CYPSC  Increase in agencies involved in CYPSC delivery framework	New initiatives developed and implemented.	Establish subgroups and invite appropriate organisations into membership	Ongoing	All member agencies represented on CYPSC	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People  Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young Peoples Service Committees	Outcomes 1-5

## **Section 7: Monitoring and Review**

The Cavan CYPSC will create an Annual Work Plan each year, based on the objectives contained in the Action plan and based on the review of the previous year's progress.

The CYPSC coordinator works with the subgroups to prioritise actions for the Annual Programme of Work and agree who will be the lead agency and action partners. Each of the CYPSC Cavan sub-groups will track their progress on specific outcomes each time they meet and the CYPSC Coordinator will include a review of progress against the plan at every meeting. A mid-term review will be conducted in July of each year which will review the progress achieved and evaluate delivery to ensure annual programme of work is achieved. An end of year review will be carried out in preparation for the development of the next year's Work Plan.

As year 3 of the plan progresses steps will be taken to undertake a review of the progress achieved of the CYPSC 2019-2021 plan in anticipation of the preparation of the new 3-year action plan for the period 2022-2024.

### **7.1 National Level Monitoring and Review**

Under the national framework for reporting an annual work plan submission is made to the National Coordinator, the National Steering Group and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs by the CYPSC coordinator. The annual programme of work will be identified within the subgroups towards the end of the year and approved at the last CYPSC meeting in the Calendar year.

## Section 8: Appendices

### *Cavan CYPSC Draft Terms of Reference – February 2017*

The purpose of Cavan CYPSC will be to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration in order to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in Cavan.

We will work toward this aim via the implementation of our agreed terms of reference which are:

- 1) Each member of the committee undertakes to promote the interests of the child and child centred planning in their organisation in relation to services which involve children, young people and families.
- 2) Cavan CYPSC acknowledges that when organisations work together on policy development and delivery of services there is greater potential for better outcomes for children, young people and families. We (the member agencies and representatives) therefore commit to working together on strategic policy development and delivery of services for children, young people and their families in Cavan.
- 3) Each member organisation will work in collaboration with other members of the committee to improve policy development and delivery of services for children and young people.
- 4) Each member organisation will seek to remove unnecessary duplication and blockages to the delivery of child centred policies and services both within their own organisation and in cooperation with other organisations.
- 5) In order to develop a framework for child centred policy development and service delivery the committee will identify existing models of good practice and develop new models where necessary.
- 6) The Committee acknowledges that there are other agencies involved in the delivery of services to children and families and will endeavour to work collaboratively and in partnership with these agencies to promote the ethos of the committee and best outcomes for children.

### *Children and Young People Services Committee Meeting Principles*

- 1) The role of the chairperson of the CYPSC will be held by the Local Area Manager of Tusla. The Chairperson will oversee the operation of the committee and ensure that the committee delivers on its work programme. A vice-chairperson from Cavan County Council will chair meetings from in the event that the Tusla Area Manager is not available.
- 2) The Committee will meet six times per calendar year. A quorum of at least half the membership is required for meetings to proceed.

Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by the CYPSC Co-ordinator. This includes:

- preparing agendas and supporting papers;

- preparing minutes/meeting notes and information.
- 3) Agency representatives need to be mandated and empowered to act on behalf of the whole agency on the CYPSC. In accepting a position on the CYPSC Committee the respective agency undertakes to prioritise the work of the committee as part of the core work of the respective agency.
  - 4) Each CYPSC Committee member will liaise as is appropriate with the coordinator regarding the workings of the Committee and sub groups e.g. apologies, information requests, correspondence etc.
  - 5) In the unlikely event that a Committee member was unable to attend three consecutive meetings, the relevant member/agency will be asked to reconsider their ability to commit to the role and to consider the option of an alternative nominee.
  - 6) The CYPSC reserve the right to co-opt a substitute representative nominated from any of the membership agencies in the event that the standing member is temporarily unavailable. The substitute member should be of sufficient authority to make appropriate decisions on behalf of the agency being represented.
  - 7) It is envisaged that appropriate Committee members will be nominated to chair or participate in sub group meetings. Each chairperson should have an element of expertise in that specific priority area and would be expected to provide leadership and direction to the sub group.
  - 8) It is expected that each Committee member will be prepared for each meeting by reading the relevant materials.
  - 9) In the event that the committee cannot make a consensus decision and there is a tied vote the chairperson may exercise a casting vote.
  - 10) The Terms of Reference may be amended, modified or varied in writing after consultation and agreement by Cavan CYPSC members.



## 8.1 Membership of Cavan CYPSC working subgroups

During the past year, Cavan CYPSC has identified a number of priority projects which it wanted to develop on an interagency basis. It is the intention of the group to establish subgroups in alignment with the 5 outcomes in 2019, which will concentrate on the delivery of objectives included in the CYPSC Cavan Plan. Therefore, to date five working groups have been established:

<b>Active and Healthy Subgroup – Outcome 1</b>	
Martina Mc Donald - Chair	Public Health Nurse Deputy Principal
Emer Mulligan	Connecting for Life HSE
Emma McElvaney	Child Development Team
Ellen Mc Meel	Healthy Families
Monica Mc Grory	HSE Health Promotion
Mary Rose Smith	HSE Primary Care
Celine Croarkin	Cavan/Monaghan Health Programme Development
Aine Maguire	Cavan Sports Partnership
Aisling Maguire	Cavan Sports Partnership
<b>Parenting Cavan Sub-group</b>	
Angie McKenna (Chair)	FOCUS FRC Killeshandra
Cathal Grant	Tusla PPFS
Lisa O'Neill	Foroige 365 Cavan
Treasa Quigley	Cavan County Childcare Committee
Helen O'Reilly	Breffni Integrated
Emer Coveney	Cavan County Council
Martina McDonald	Public Health Nurse Deputy Principal
Mary Rose Smith	HSE Primary Care
Catherine McManus	ISPCC
Tara Lynagh	Teach Oscail FRC
Cyril Reilly	Youth work Ireland
<b>LGBTI+ Sub-group</b>	
Emer Coveney (Chair)	Cavan County Council
Maureen McIntyre	CMETB
Pamela Carney	Breffni Integrated
Liam Cosgrove	Cavan Comhairle na nOg

Bernie McDonald	Cavan Institute
Karl Cullen	Tusla
Ann Crowe	FOCUS FRC, Killeshandra
Michelle Green	ISPCC Bounceback Youth Service
Erica Reade	Foroige
Freda Leahy	Bounceback Youth Service
Angie McKenna	FOCUS FRC Killeshandra
Patricia O'Neill	Foroige Faceoff Project
Yvonne Lowry	ISPCC/ CFSNC
<b>Safe and Secure Subgroup – Outcome 3</b>	
Cathal Grant (Chair)	Tusla PPFS
Yvonne Lowry	Child and Family support Networks
Siobhan Mc Kenna	Tearmann
Tara Lynagh	Teach Oscail
Charlene Duff	ISPCC
Edel Gilliland	JLO
<b>Belturbet Youth Working Group</b>	
Maureen McIntyre (Chair)	CMETB
Sandy Holland	Breffi Integrated
Sinead Tormey	Cavan Co. Co
Patricia Boyle	HSE
Laura Carolan	Face-Off, Foroige
Tommy Fitzpatrick	Local Representative
Andrew Jackson	Local Representative, Foroige
Bernie O'Reilly	TUSLA
Cyril Reilly /Freda Leahy	Bounceback, YWI Cavan Monaghan
Mary Sheridan	St. Bricin's
Yvonne Lowry	ISPCC/ CFSNC

## 8.2 Strategies and plans reviewed as part of the research process

Author	Report Name	Year
Belong To	<i>Budding Burning Issues – The issues facing Ireland's LGBT+ young people</i>	2017
Cavan County Council	<i>Local Economic &amp; Community Plan</i>	2016
Cavan Drugs and Alcohol Forum	<i>Consultation on a Regional Response to Drugs and Alcohol Issues in Cavan</i>	2015
CSO	<i>Vital Statistics 2017</i>	2017
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	<i>Better outcome Better Futures</i>	2014
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	<i>National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making 2015-2020</i>	2015
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	<i>Life as a child in Ireland</i>	2012
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	<i>Growing up in Ireland 2014</i>	2014
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	<i>National Youth Strategy 2015-2020</i>	2015
Department of Education and Skills	<i>Early Leavers – What Next</i>	2016
Department of Education and Skills	<i>Retention Rates of Pupils in second level schools – 2009 entry cohort</i>	2016
Department of Education and Skills	<i>School Completers - What Next</i>	2016
Department of Health	<i>A Healthy Weight for Ireland</i>	2016
Department of Housing	<i>Annual count of Travellers in all categories of accommodation</i>	2016
Department of Justice and Equality, COSC	<i>Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence, 2016-2021</i>	2016
ESRI	<i>A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland</i>	2017
EU Agency for Fundamental Rights	<i>Violence against women – an EU-wide survey</i>	2014
Health Service Executive, Health Ireland	<i>Connecting for Life – Suicide Prevention Action Plan, Cavan and Monaghan 2017-2020</i>	2017
Healthy Ireland	<i>Monaghan Alcohol Related Harm Profile</i>	2017
Higher Education Authority	<i>Key Facts and Figures</i>	2016/2017
IPSOS MRBI	<i>Healthy Ireland Survey</i>	2016
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment	<i>Aistear – The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework</i>	2009
National Learning Network	<i>Mental Health Matters – Mapping Best Practices in Higher Education</i>	2016

National Suicide Research Foundation	<i>National Self-harm registry</i>	2015
Spun Out.ie	<i>Youth Health Report</i>	2015
Tearmann Domestic Abuse Service	<i>Strategic Plan 2017-2020</i>	2017
Tusla	<i>School Attendance form Primary and Post Primary Schools</i>	2014/15
UNICEF	<i>Report Card 2017</i>	2017
Women's Aid	Impact Report 2017	2017
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020	2018

### 8.3 Summary of outputs from consultations

The emergent themes from the consultations undertaken are outlined in the sections below:

#### Pre-school children

##### OUTCOME 1

- The importance of positive environments to play in – appropriate and stimulating indoor and outdoor spaces, where that can explore, communicate, learn, develop and express themselves. The children talked about playing outside, the older boys were very animated about soccer, one of the boys plays for the local soccer club. Both play in their estate, they also play with children in their estate, both are in different estates, they play tip the can and other games that there are no special names for. The two older boys did mention x box but said they would prefer to be outside playing.

##### OUTCOME 3

- The importance of their relationship with caregivers and their close connection with those closest to them – family, childcare worker and community in that order
- The children were able to identify themselves as being important and of value in their community. Children used people templates to colour and draw on. Although the majority identified themselves as important a great number of children depicted their primary caregiver first. The facilitator considered ‘Attachment’, the primary caregiver and relationships very obvious in this exercise. Using the people, the children created their mother first (9) and then their remaining family. Two children drew their father first and one child drew his sister first of all. The children identified themselves as important. Then one boy said his mother was really important “she makes everything”.



##### OUTCOME 4 & 5

Engagement with community featured as an important influence in the children's lives, and a medium through which they learnt about exploring the wider world, diversity, career possibilities it held for them and again reflecting the importance to them of the outdoors and play. The boys also talked a lot about football and how they spend their time. A lot of the children were very young to have thought about their dream jobs but 2 said footballers,

one girl said a princess and another girl said a doctor. The children were aware of adult's jobs and places in the community.

#### OUTCOME 5

- Focus on the outdoors and the environment through a love of nature, animals and sports. These were important influences in terms of developing interests, learning about the world and themselves as well as providing them with ideas about future life opportunities.

### **Primary school children**

#### OUTCOME 1

- There is a need for more choice in activities for children to be engaged in.
- There is a need for better communication about what is on in an area for children and their parents

#### OUTCOME 2

- Within the school environment there may be a need to contextualise what they are learning and how they might use it in later life – give purpose.

#### OUTCOME 3

- Develop signposting supports for primary school children to point them to key points of support/help they need – could be done through local youth clubs (objective, neutral and informed)

#### OUTCOME 4

- Introduce career role models into schools which highlight local employment and developmental opportunities.

#### OUTCOME 5

- It's important for children to see local communities embracing newcomers as a positive influence in an area
- Examine the possibilities of rural transport and other transport links for those without own transport.

#### GOAL 1

- Parents need support to help them address challenges their children are facing – educational, behavioural, bullying, financial.

### **Young People**

#### OUTCOME 1

- Engagement in activities is limited by finances, poor transport links and access to infrastructure.
  - They prioritised concessionary rates at gyms
  - More and accessible basketball courts in the county

#### OUTCOME 2

There was no engagement in this specific outcome – (education), however, there was a later suggestion

- Technology should be included on a practical level in school to equip young people better for college and specific IT courses at third level

#### OUTCOME 3

- Consult with young people on how to stay safe on-line to come up with more realistic solutions

#### OUTCOME 4

- There was an identified lack of job opportunities for young people, part time jobs, work experience opportunities
- Lack of finance was identified as preventing young people engaging in many things in Cavan

#### OUTCOME 5

- Poor transport links within the county prevent the engagement of young people in activities, socialisation, and engagement in education – everyday buses, late night service, consistent and regular service. Suggestion of free buses for 18-24yr olds like school buses to get them to college.

### Parents

#### OUTCOME 1

- Physical health, mental health and building positive relationships were the dominant three factors of most importance for parents across the age groups.  
They suggested education, targeted programmes, and additional facilities in addition to improved facilities at low cost, better and quicker access to services and specialists, youth groups and support groups.  
Exemplars: Killygarry PS, Playpark beside Cavan Institute, Kilnaleck – community gaelic fitness facilities

#### OUTCOME 2

- Getting a good start in education, having good emotional wellbeing and having good relationships with others were the top three factors which were most important to parents  
They suggested low cost activities (squeezed middle), support groups and youth groups, parenting groups and support, in school or community - after school clubs, breakfast clubs and career guidance, greater diversity of activities especially out of term time, outdoor plan and recreational facilities – providing for wet weather  
Exemplars: Realtog Centre, Kilnaleck, Cavan town Park, Clonmel town wooden playground, Mullagh and Lavey lakeside developments, Library clubs

#### OUTCOME 3

- Having a secure, stable caring home, being protected from bullying and discrimination and being safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation were the three most important to parents.  
They suggested youth clubs/hubs - spaces where young people can hang out, access a listening ear, get specific support, socialise safely with peers, specific forums for older young people (18-24). They also suggested more awareness and education for parents, young people and public signposting them to what they should do if they have

concerns, additional parenting supports and training as well as safe places to play and socialise indoors and outdoors.

Exemplars: Not as many examples here, but Foróige, the film “13 reasons why”, Cavan town Park, Mullagh and Lavey lakeside developments, Stay Safe programme were mentioned

#### OUTCOME 4

- The factors of most importance to parents were that they are protected from poverty and social exclusion, that they have opportunities for on-going education and training and that they can get employment and learn to live independently – with this last point being the most important for 18-24 yr. olds.  
They suggested more jobs, Summer job schemes, back to work schemes and better pay. They also suggested that careers advice in schools, enterprise programmes, accessible 3<sup>rd</sup> level for all (squeezed middle)  
Exemplars: Youth employment schemes of the 70s and early 80s, courses and training through ETB, FAS and TUS

#### OUTCOME 5

- Having a sense of their own identity and being free from discrimination, being part of positive networks and being aware of their human rights, were the three most important factors for parents.  
They suggested involvement in music and sports which helps to integrate children and young people, more places where they can spend time together and anti-bullying schemes in school.  
Exemplars: Comhairle na nOg, Ceoltas, Realtog kid’s workshops, Assisting in GAA coaching, Tidy Towns.

#### GOAL 1

- Primary in the suggestions of support for parents crossing all age groups is information/education/training and peer support. Parents want to be able to go to a one stop shop for information, guidance and signposting on different parenting issues. They want to learn from other parents – perhaps a parenting buddy system, parent’s forum or group support structure.

### **Stakeholders**

#### OUTCOME 1-6

- Youth hubs – physical safe space for youths open late and at weekends to meet, hang out socialise safely, get support, learn through training programmes like:
  - Mental resilience programmes
  - Internet safety – handling social media, sexting, cyber bullying
  - Personal development programmes
  - General wellbeing
  - Access to specific support like counselling, LGBTI support, DV support, addiction support, mental health support, support for 18-24yrs olds

#### OUTCOME 1

- Mental health services
  - Consistent supply of service and easier access to services for emergency situations, diagnosis and treatment
  - Counselling services for children and young people

#### OUTCOME 2

- Consistent and reliable careers guidance in school and/or youth clubs

#### OUTCOME 3

- More effective and speedy GARDA vetting mechanism

#### OUTCOME 5

- Improve transport links internally in Cavan

#### GOAL 1 and OUTCOMES 1-6

- Parenting support and education framework including:
  - Confidence building
  - Building resilience in parents and children
  - Parenting education programmes for children of all ages
  - Parental mentoring/buddy system
  - Signposting where to access help and services
  - Family support programmes
  - Online parent's directory and forum
  - Support for development of life skills
  - General wellbeing

### **LGBTI**

#### OUTCOME 1

- LGBTI group/club
- Mental health services
- Health and well-being support

### **Disability**

#### OUTCOME 1

- Confidence building programmes
- Integrated sports programmes
- Purpose built day service facility which caters to clients' needs with supports to maximise everyone's potential
- Improved accessibility

#### OUTCOME 2

- Appropriate education and training, career guidance at an early stage
- Centralised location for specialist education to reduce travel for students
- Educational options for young people 18+yrs with disabilities

#### OUTCOME 3

- More respite and therapeutic activities for adults with complex needs
- Dedicated adult respite service – the service is shared between adults and children in Cavan and Monaghan. There are capacity issues.



- Supported living provision

#### OUTCOME 4

- Centre for independent living for 18-24yr olds and future supports for those growing into this demographic
- Work placements for 18+ in services – positive experience engaging and welcoming.

#### OUTCOME 5

- We need a dedicated social worker for people with disabilities
- Peer support groups
- A deaf club and more support for Irish Sign Language (ISL)
- Implementation/ratification of UN Declaration for the rights of people with disabilities

## 8.4 Glossary

Acronym	Explanation
BOBF	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures
CAMHS	Child and Adult Mental Health Service
CES	Centre for Effective Services
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSS	Childcare Subvention Scheme
CYPSC	Children and Young Peoples Services Committee
CFSN	Child & Family Support Networks
CF	Children First
CIP	Critical Incidence Plan
CMETB	Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board
NEDATF	North East Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DNE	Dublin North East
DV	Domestic Violence
ECCE	Early Childhood Care Education
ESL	Early School Leavers
EWS	Educational Welfare Service
GP	General Practitioner
HSE	Health Service Executive
HSLs	Home School Liaison Scheme
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
JLO	Juvenile Liaison Officer
MCCC	Monaghan County Childcare Committee
MH	Mental Health
NCN	National Childhood Network

NDRDTF	North Dublin Regional Drugs Task Force
NEET	Not In Education Employment or Training
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NEWB	National Educational Welfare Board
NEYAI	National Early Years Access Initiative
OMCYA	Office Minister Children Youth Affairs
PH	Physical Health
PHN	Public Health Nurse
PPFS	Prevention Partnership and Family Support
SCP	School Completion
SENO	Special Educational Needs Organiser
SMART	Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic & Timely
TEC	Training Employment Childcare
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation

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