



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2020- 2022



Contact

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee welcomes queries or comments about this Children and Young People's Plan, as well as relevant information or offers of potential collaboration on specific actions, and recommendations for future interagency work.

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Copies of the DLR CYPSC plan are available on: www.cypsc.ie on the Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown page.

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Chairperson's Foreword

It is my great pleasure to present the first interagency Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) plan to improve outcomes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR).

Children and young people aged 0 to 24 years of age constitute almost a third (69,581) of the entire population of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (219,018). It is a national policy imperative (DCYA 2014), that services in the county work together to consider the needs of the child and youth population and collaborate in evidence-informed responses to those needs. That is the essence of this inaugural CYPSC plan, developed with the input of over 140 services in the county.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) is a county in the Dublin region renowned for having excellent natural amenities, the highest rates of population self-reported good health, the highest progression rates to third level education (91.6% of all Leaving Certificate students) and the most affluent local authority area in the State. Indeed many of the young citizens in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) are fortunate to enjoy a good quality of life and have access to a range of statutory, community and voluntary services work to support that.

However, a significant number of children and young people (3,671) live in the 33 'Small Areas' of socio-economic disadvantage dispersed across in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, particularly concentrated in South-East areas such as Loughlinstown, Ballybrack, Rathsallagh and Shanganagh. These child populations are rendered more vulnerable to negative outcomes such as poverty, homelessness, early school leaving, social emotional problems and ill health. This vulnerability is exacerbated by factors particular to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown such as the county having the highest rental and housing prices (CSO 2016) as well as the most expensive childcare rates in Ireland (Pobal 2019).

Additionally there is a cohort of children and young people who highly vulnerable to poor health, educational, social and economic outcomes due to adverse childhood experiences such as emotional and physical neglect and abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, parental addiction or parental divorce. Those traumatic experiences are structural, systemic issues which are not related to where children live, and which cannot be remedied by a simple intervention by one service.

Therefore this plan aims proactively support those children and young people experiencing structural, familial or individual challenges to accessing the services and the supports required to achieve good quality of life outcomes.

Young people themselves reported in the DLR CYPSC Consultation that they are concerned with their lack of access to mental health services and recommended the CYPSC prioritise this area. They also recommend strengthening protective factors for the child and youth population such as promoting prevention and early intervention initiatives, social-emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships, online safety, educational transitions and career guidance. Young citizens additionally stated they would like a stronger voice in the development of services in the county and to engage in the CYPSC.

Therefore this plan also aspires to building the capacity of services in a range of sectors to hear and respond to the voice of diverse young service users in meaningful ways and to build the capacity of young leaders to participate in the various CYPSC structures and initiatives.

This first three-year CYPSC plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is an ambitious, evidence-informed, detailed plan that can only be implemented through effective interagency collaboration between a wide range of organisations, services and sectors. This kind of collaboration requires senior management leaders willing to try different ways of working together for the greater collective good, as well as implementation champions within services willing to take on additional responsibilities to their already busy workloads.

To that end, I would like to sincerely thank each of the members of the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee (see p. 9), the Subgroup Chairs and the members of the implementation Subgroups (see p. 163) for contributing their time, expertise and commitment to this co-created plan. I also wish to acknowledge the leadership and support of Dearbhla Lawson, Vice-Chair of the DLR CYPSC and Director of Services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Publically funded services are accountable for their collaborative performance, and so each strategic action detailed in this 2020 -2022 plan has a measurable target, indicator, outcome and owner detailed on the action plan (see p.113). We look forward to working with the National CYPSC Office, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and stakeholders services to report progress on this county plan in ways that help build capacity for effective, interagency collaboration in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

For readers short on time, please see [page 60](#) for a summary of the priority outcomes and specific actions that DLR CYPSC members organisations have committed to.

For readers who would like to understand the detailed national and local evidence informing the priority outcomes for DLR CYPSC, please see [page 64](#) for a fascinating insight into some of the issues that concern services and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

For readers who wish to know more about the socio-demographic profile of the child and youth population, see [page 17](#) and the more detailed AIRO publication (2017) on www.cypsc.ie . For a listing of services available to children, young people and their families, see [page 5](#).

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the excellent work of Lorna Kerin, Coordinator of the DLR CYPSC, in leading and managing the research and development process that has informed this plan (see [page 149](#)). This participatory process engaged a wide range of stakeholders to collaboratively identify service provision and population, developed sustainable strategic and implementation CYPSC structures and produced an outcomes-based plan underpinned by robust evidence.

I have no doubt that the implementation of this three year plan county will significantly and measurably improve the five national outcomes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Joanne Cullen

*Area Manager (Dublin South, Dublin South East & Wicklow), Tusla Child and Family Agency
Chair of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee*

Section 1: Introduction & Background

1.1 The Policy Mandate for Children and Young People's Services Committee

The purpose of the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through strategic interagency interventions based on evidenced need at local authority level.

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 now 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.

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 provides the national policy mandate for the Children and Young People's Services Committees to play a key role with regards to interagency collaboration to improve outcomes for children and young people. In each local authority area in the Republic of Ireland, the CYPSCs facilitate interagency work to progress the five national policy outcomes specified, which are that children and young people in Ireland:

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

To achieve these national outcomes, CYPSC bring key organisations from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors in local county areas together to engage in joint planning of services and interagency initiatives to benefit children and young people. All major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented on either the overall steering committee or on the interagency subgroups. These committees and subgroups work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through collaborative planning and improved service delivery.

1.2 Governance and Reporting Structure of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CYPSC

Nationally the Department of Children and Youth Affairs provides strategic and policy direction to the development of CYPSC in Ireland. CYPSCs are accountable to the CYPSC National Steering Group and the DCYA, and to the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium.

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Service's Committee (DLR CYPSC) is the most recently established county CYPSC structure in Ireland. In 2017 the Coordinator of the DLR CYPSC by Tusla Child and Family Agency was appointed to drive the development of the CYPSC as the new interagency structure to co-ordinate services to improve outcomes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

The implementation of CYPSC in Ireland is led by Tusla Child and Family Agency who report to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs who oversee the strategic progress of CYPSC. Therefore the DLR CYPSC Coordinator reports progress directly to the Tusla Area Manager for Dublin South, Dublin South East and Wicklow, who also is Chairperson of the DLR CYPSC.

Nationally CYPSC progress reports are submitted to the National CYPSC Coordinator (Tusla Child and Family Agency), who in turn reports to the CYPSC National Steering Group.

Additionally the DLR CYPSC Coordinator participates as a member of the National CYPSC Network which acts as a vehicle of communication between the DCYA, the National CYPSC Office and the 27 CYPSC Coordinators in local authority areas.

Locally progress briefings are also presented to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee which consists of 24 Senior Managers of key statutory and community stakeholder organisations, and to the five interagency CYPSC subgroups which consists of over 100 service managers and senior practitioners across multiple sectors and organisations.

1.3 Summary of the Development Phases of DLR CYPSC – 2017 to 2019

From 2017 to 2019, the developmental focus has been firmly on building the interagency strategic and operational structures of DLR CYPSC, developing a robust population data baseline, mapping existing services and engaging a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary stakeholder services as well as young people in a county wide consultation to inform the inaugural DLR CYPSC three year plan. A summary of this phased process is below. Further details on this phased process are available in **Appendix 1**.

Summary of the Developmental Phases of DLR CYPSC from 2017-2019

Phase	Developmental Activity 2017-2019	Relevant Section
1	Socio-Demographic Data Baseline: Commissioning the development of a reliable evidence baseline on the child & youth population in DLR	See p. 18
2	Service Mapping: Developing an extensive descriptive listing of services in DLR Collaborating with Dublin CYPSC colleagues to commission the online, geocoded directory of Dublin based services	See p. 38 for service listing See: http://www.dublincypscdirectory.ie/
3	Governance Structures: Securing intersectoral senior management representation & terms of reference for the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee	See CYPSC Interagency Membership on p.11
4	Needs Analysis: Conducting an extensive, inclusive and transparent needs analysis with stakeholder services and young people in DLR	See p. 60
5	Strategic Priorities: Discussion of needs analysis findings and selection of strategic priorities for interagency collaboration	See pp. 62 -113
6	Outcome Priorities: Interagency identification of key outcome areas & actions necessary to progress the strategic priorities	See pp. 62 -113
7	Implementation Subgroups: Creation & facilitation of 5 interagency Subgroups of stakeholders in Outcomes Based Accountability process to agree action plans	See CYPSC membership on p. 176 See Subgroup plans pp. 62-113
8	Review Process: Draft DLR CYPSC plan written for review by (1) the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee (2) the National CYPSC Review Group including DCYA	
9	Public launch: Launch of finalised first DLR CYPSC county plan, 2020-2022	
10	Implementation: Action plans implemented with interagency stakeholders 2020-2022	See www.cypsc.ie for progress updates

1.4 The DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee (SAMC)

As of June 2019, there are 23 members representing senior management of 14 statutory and community organisations who provide a range of key services to children and young people aged 0-24 in the county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and the greater South Eastern region.

Each member organisation has agreed to the Terms of Reference for membership (**see Appendix 2**) which includes a commitment to provide strategic direction and area leadership to facilitate effective interagency collaboration to implement the DLR CYPSC plan to improve the 5 national outcomes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and the 6 cross cutting transformational goals as specified in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020 (DCYA 2014).

Name	Organisation	Organisational Role
Joanne Cullen (Chair DLR CYPSC)	Tusla Child & Family Agency (Dublin South East & Wicklow)	Area Manager
Dearbhla Lawson (Vice Chair DLR CYPSC)	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Director of Services (Community & Cultural Development)
Aisling White (Co-Chair Health & Mental Health Subgroup)	Health Services Executive (Community Healthcare East)	Principal Psychologist Manager (Dublin South)
Kevin Madigan (Co-Chair Health & Mental Health Subgroup)	St John of God's (Community Mental Health Services)	Quality Improvement Coordinator
Prof Jason Last (Co-Chair Education & Learning Subgroup)	University College Dublin (UCD)	Dean of Students
Aisling Crowley (Co-Chair Education & Learning Subgroup)	Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board (DDL ETB)	Youth Development Officer
Anne Marie Cagney (Co-Chair Safety Subgroup)	An Garda Síochána (Dublin Metropolitan Region & North Central)	Chief Superintendent
Orna Sweeney (Co-Chair Safety Subgroup)	Tusla Child & Family Agency (Dublin South East & Wicklow)	Principal Social Worker (Duty/Child Protection)
Teresa O'Mahony (Co-Chair Parenting Support Subgroup)	Health Services Executive (Community Healthcare East)	Principal Psychologist Manager (Dublin South East)

Kerri Smith (Co-Chair Parenting Support Subgroup)	Barnardos	Assistant Director
Kevin Webster (Chair DLR PPFs)	Tusla Child & Family Agency (Dublin South East & Wicklow)	Senior Manager (Prevention, Partnership & Family Support)
Ger Magee (Co-Chair Youth Leadership)	Crosscare Youth Services	Regional Manager
Lorna Kerin (Co-Chair Youth Leadership)	Tusla Child & Family Agency (Dublin South East & Wicklow)	Coordinator DLR CYPSC
Dr Maria Migone	Lucena Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), St John of God's	Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
Mary Ruane	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), DLR County Council	Chief Officer
Mary Mullany	National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)	Regional Director
Siobhan Fitzpatrick	Health Services Executive	Head of Service - Health & Wellbeing
Dr Glenn Perry	Tusla Educational Support Services (tess)	Regional Manager
Dr Susan Gibney	Blackrock Education Centre	Director
John Williams	Irish Primary Principal's Network (IPPN) & Divine Word National School	IPPN Area Representative & Principal
Aileen Ryan	National Association of Post-Primary Principal (NAPD) & St Colmcilles School	NAPD Area Representative & Deputy Principal
Dr Barry Cullen	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce , HSE	Coordinator
Michele Relihan	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Childcare Committee	Manager
Lorraine Stewart	Southside Partnership DLR	Manager

1.5 Linkages between DLR CYPSC and other county wide structures and plans

The CYPSC in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is represented by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator on a number of interagency committees which facilitates the two way information flow between DLR CYPSC and other county wide structures and plans. Leadership from interagency structures in the county is also represented on the DLR CYPSC structures to inform CYPSC development.

These interagency structures with established relationships with the CYPSC in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown are listed below. Further detail on these county structures is available in **Appendix 3:**

- The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- The Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Steering Group
- The Connecting for Life Oversight Group (HSE Community Healthcare East)
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Comhairle Na N-Óg
- DLR Sports Partnership
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (DLR DATF)
- Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS)

1.6 Achievements of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CYPSC to date

DLR CYPSC has engaged in its first development and planning stage from 2017 to 2019 with key achievements as follows:

1. Establishing the first **Strategic Area Management CYPSC Committee** in the county and securing the commitment of 22 Senior Managers to this interagency structure
2. Establishing a robust data **evidence baseline** with regards to socio-demographic data for children and young people in the county (AIRO, 2017)
3. **Mapping existing services** and identifying key service gaps in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
4. Conducting a comprehensive **needs analysis** with 11 stakeholder groups with 120 participants
5. Facilitating an inclusive **consultation process** with over 140 services to inform the priorities for the first county CYPSC plan 2020-2022.
6. Establishing **five DLR CYPSC interagency Subgroups** aligned to the five national outcomes, with over 80 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown services actively participating.
7. Facilitating all CYPSC strategic and sub-group members in an '**Outcomes Based Accountability**' process that has resulted in interagency agreement and ownership of the DLR CYPSC action plan

Additionally a number of opportunities arose during this two-year developmental phase that were pursued in collaboration with stakeholder services to begin to build interagency partnerships to deliver tangible outcomes as outlined below. Please see **Appendix 4** for more detail.

1. An action research process led by DLR Sports Partnership and supported by the DLR CYPSC enabled the **voice of young people & service providers through action research to inform the development of a new service** in a disadvantaged area, the Ballyogan Youth Sports Hub.
2. DLR CYPSC led design of a '**Healthy Parent, Healthy Baby**' community based programme in collaboration with stakeholder services, delivered to 76 pregnant and/or new parents and babies in four disadvantaged communities from 2017 - 2019.
3. DLR CYPSC led initiative with Crosscare, HSE Psychology and stakeholder services to improve the visibility, accessibility and provision of **youth mental health services**, resulting in the award of DCYA Quality Capacity Building Innovation (QCBI) funding of €44,000.
4. DLR CYPSC led development of a **DLR Infant Mental Health Network** inclusive of specialist training, supervised interagency reflective supervision and a wider knowledge exchange platform.
5. DLR CYPSC led development of a **play based programme for young children experiencing homelessness** to improve the protective factors of play and parent-child relationships, in collaboration with the homelessness services and supported by Healthy Ireland.
6. DLR CYPSC led development of an interagency response to reports of rising Cyberbullying resulting in DLR CYPSC **seed funding for cybersafety training**

in 8 primary schools in DLR in 2019 and a **Random Control Trial study with UCD** to evaluate the impact of same in 2020.

7. A new post '**DLR Domestic Violence Project Worker**' has been secured from the Tusla Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Service due to commence in 2020, following the CYPSC needs analysis identifying a clear service gap, subsequent prioritisation by the DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup and collaboration with the DLR Local Community Development Committee.
8. CYPSC/Healthy Ireland funded interagency training and pilot support for community and youth stakeholder services in **evidence informed programmes to improve mental health, relationship and sexual health among adolescents** in disadvantaged areas.
9. CYPSC/Healthy Ireland funded **interagency professional development for a range of mental health services** in 2019 through specialist training in 'Developmental Attachment and Psychopathology' across the lifespan of children and young people
10. The first **Healthy DLR County Plan** was developed through interagency collaboration between CYPSC, LCDC and stakeholder services to improve population health outcomes in 2019-2021.
11. Participation of DLR CYPSC representatives on the **Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LCDC/CYPSC Committee** for three consecutive rounds of Healthy Ireland funding 2017 – 2019 with the outcome of securing over €220,000 for 18 DLR CYPSC supported projects to improve health and mental health of the child and youth population.
12. Participation of the DLR CYPSC in the **national pilot of the Tusla 'Outcomes for Data' hub**, an online interactive area-based system of data sets related to children and young people. This is now available online at <https://outcomes4children.tusla.ie>

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

2.0 Introduction:

One of the first steps taken in the development of the CYPSC in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown was to develop a comprehensive baseline socio-demographic evidence report so that discussions and decisions could be informed by robust and reliable population data. The All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) were commissioned in 2017 to produce an extensive report which brought together for the first time a range of reliable evidence datasets relating to the population of Children and Young Persons aged 0-24 years in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

For the purposes of this plan, a relatively small amount of that socio-demographic data is presented here as context for the priority outcomes chosen by DLR CYPSC to progress during the plan's three year life time. However the much more comprehensive report by AIRO is available on <https://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/dún-laoghaire-rathdown>. Please see this report specifically commissioned by DLR CYPSC for further socio-demographic data, population maps and for reference to reliable data sources.

Readers may also access reliable data on population statistics and indicators via the census website www.cso.ie, the State of the Nation's Children's publication on the National Set of Child Well-being Indicators www.gov.ie as well as on the Outcomes for Children Data Hub created by Tusla Child and Family Agency, an interactive area based on published data sets which is available on www.outcomes4children.tusla.ie

Below is a summary table of key demographic indicators for the Child and Youth population in DLR.

Indicator	No in DLR	% of DLR population	Dublin regional average	State average
Child and youth population - aged 0-24 years	69,851	32%	32%	33.2%
Child population - aged 0-17 years	47,794	21.9%	22.7%	25%
Young adult population - aged 18 - 24 years	22,056	10.1%	9.3%	8.2%
Population Growth - between CSO 2011 & CSO 2016, all ages	11,757	5.7%	5.8%	3.8%
Ethnicity - Non-White Irish¹ aged 0-24 years	9,256	14.3%	19.4%	19.1%
Traveller adult & child population -	247	0.4% (of all residents in DLR)	0.9%	1.2%
Domicillary births (home/outside hospital)	27	9.6 per 1,000 births	4.3 per 1,000 births	3.9 per 1,000 births
Maternal age at first birth		33.1 years	31.3 years	30.9 years

¹ The breakdown of children and young people into ethnic groups in DLR is as follows: 'White Irish Traveller' (0.4% or 247), 'Other White Background' (6.5% or 4,191), 'Black or Black Irish' (1% or 620), 'Asian or Asian Irish' (3.5% or 2,243), 'Other' background (1.8% or 1,162) and 'Not Stated' (1.3% or 825). Source: CSO, 2016

Teenage births - aged 10-17 years (CSO, 2016)	3 births	1.4 per 10,000		3.8 per 10,000
Family structure - lone parent families with children under age 15	3,363 families ²	15.4% (of the families with children under the age of 15)	23.5%	20%
Maternal education level - mothers with third level education		59.3%	39%	36.7%
Children whose mothers have low levels of education (no formal education/ primary only)	837 children	2.1% (of all children in DLR)	5.5%	4.8%
Progression to third level education	2,114	91.6% (of Leaving Cert students in 2016)	See footnote ³	77.8%

To ensure that the evidence baseline developed specifically relates to the five National Outcomes as specified by the National policy 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures' (DCYA 2014), this remainder of this socio-demographic section has been structured into five main subsections; (2.1) Demography, (2.2) Health, (2.3) Education, (2.4) Economy and (2.5) Security. Below is a summary infographic of some of the notable demographic features of the child and youth population per outcome area.

² The **gender breakdown of lone parents** in DLR is as follows: 14.2% (3,102) are Lone Mothers. 1.2% (261) are - and Lone Fathers.

³ Progression levels for the same year in the **other three Dublin Local Authority areas** were as follows: 66.4% Dublin City; 69.7% South Dublin; 73.3% Fingal (Source: AIRO 2016)

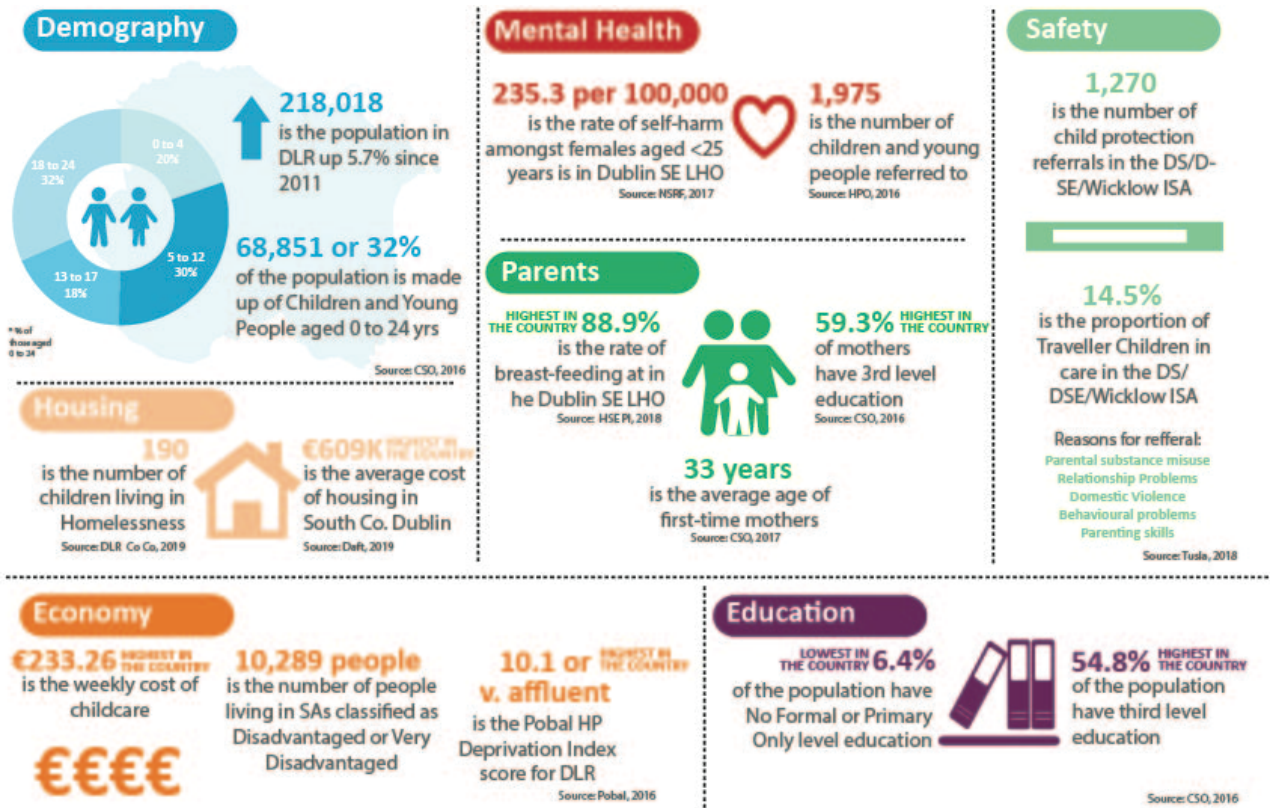


Figure 1: Infographic of some key child & youth demographics per BOBF outcome areas

2.1 Demographic Profile of the Child, Adolescent & Young Adult Population

As of April 2016, the population of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) was 218,018. Of this, 32% of the population in the county or 69,851 citizens are aged 0 to 24 years. The section below summarises the population numbers per age range along with geographical distribution as per Small Area and Tusla CFSN boundary area.

Child Population (0 – 17 years): According to Census 2016, there were 47,794 children and young people aged 17 and under residing in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in 2016. This figure represented 21.9% of the total population in the county.

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries to examine the distribution of those aged 17 and under across the CFSNs, the Sandyford/Carrickmines (26.4% or 9,068) and the Shankill CFSNs (24.7% or 3,555) had the highest rates. These rates were followed by Loughlinstown/Ballybrack (22.6% or 6,755) and DLR Mounttown (21.0% or 19,248) and were considerably higher than Balinteer/Dundrum (19.3% or 9,168).

At small area level, the areas with the highest proportion of those aged 0- 17 years old are evident in the south of the county. Areas with the highest proportions include Ticknock Hill, Glencarin, Jamestown Park and Shankill. There is an exception of Honeypark in the Sallynoggin area which also has a high rate of 0-17 population. Please see AIRO 2017 report for maps and further details.

Early Years Population (0-4 years): There were 13,810 young children aged 0 to 4 years residing in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in 2016. This represented 6.3% of the total population in the county. Of these, 2,618 children were aged under one year or 1.2% of the total county population.

At Small Area level, there is a clear spatial distribution of the early years population with the highest distribution of this population in the small areas outside and adjacent to the M50 in Carrickmines, Leopardstown and Bellarmine. Areas with the highest distribution of over 15% are on the Glenageary Road and Dun Laoghaire. Please see AIRO 2017 report for maps and further details.

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries, the Sandyford/Carrickmines CFSN had the highest proportion with a rate of 8.2% (2,821). This rate was considerably higher than all other CFSNs; Shankill (6.6% or 954), Loughlinstown/Ballybrack (6.2% or 1,867), DLR Mounttown (5.9% or 5,406) and Ballinteer/Dundrum (5.8% or 2,762).

School aged Population (5-12 years): There were 21,302 children aged 5 to 12 years residing in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in 2016. This number represented 9.8% of the total county population.

At small area level, the areas on the periphery of the M50 such as Ballyogan, Stepside, Kitiernan and Glencullen have some of the highest rates of the School Aged Population, with pockets of high proportions in Clonskeagh, Stillorgan and Sallynoggin. Small Areas with the highest proportion of over 20% are on the Brighton Road in Foxrock, Glencarin and Stepside Park. Please see AIRO 2017 report for maps and further details.

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries, the Sandyford/Carrickmines CFSNA had the highest proportion of the 5 to 12 age group across the CFSNs with a rate of 11.5% (3,951). This rate was considerably higher than all other CFSNAs; Shankill (11% or 1,585), Loughlinstown/Ballybrack (10.2% or 3,043), DLR Mounttown (9.4% or 8,650) and Balinteer/Dundrum (8.6% or 4,073). Please see AIRO 2017 report for maps and further details.

Adolescent Population (13-17 years): There were 12,682 young people aged 13 to 17 years residing in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in 2016. This number represented 5.8% of the total of the total county population.

At Small Area level:

- Areas with the highest proportion of the 13 to 17 age group are evident in the east of county in Booterstown and Sallynoggin.
- In areas on the periphery of the M50, there is more concentration of the age group in Leopardstown Glencarin and Jamestown Park.

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries

- The Shankill CFSN had the highest proportion of the 13 to 17 age group across the CFSNs with a rate of 7.1% or 1,016.
- This rate was higher than all other CFSNs; Sandyford/Carrickmines (6.7% or 2,296), Loughlinstown/Ballybrack (6.2% or 1,845), DLR Mounttown (5.7% or 5,192) and Balinteer/Dundrum (4.9% or 2,333).

Young Adult Population (18-24 years): According to Census 2016, there were 22,056 young people aged 18 to 24 years residing in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. This figure represented 10.1% of the total population in DLR.

At Small Area level:

- There is a clear distribution of the population in this age group in DLR with the highest proportions in and around the UCD Belfield Campus and on Avoca Avenue where there is also student accommodation.

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries, there is a clear contrast in the geographical distribution patterns of the younger age groups.

- The Balinteer/Dundrum CFSN had the highest proportion with a rate of 13.5% or 6,440 and has a significantly higher proportion of 18 to 24 year olds when compared with the other CFSNs.
- There was little variation across the other CFSNs of DLR Mounttown (9.6% or 8,781), Shankill (9.3% or 1,342), Loughlinstown/Ballybrack (8.9% or 2,663) and Sandyford/Carrickmines (8.2% or 2,831).

DLR Child & Youth Population in 2016 by Electoral District and age range

The table below details the number of children and young people per Local Electoral areas of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and by age range (Census 2016).

Figure 2: DLR Child and Youth Population by Electoral Area & Developmental Stage

DLR Electoral Districts	Infants	Early Years	School Aged	Adolescents	Total Children	Young Adults	Total Child & Youth	Total DLR Pop.
Age ranges	0-1 yrs	0-4 yrs	5-12 yrs	13-17 yrs	0-17 yrs	18-24	0-24 yrs	all ages
Dun Laoghaire	464	2,625	4,041	2,361	9,027	3,431	12,458	43,273
Dundrum	475	2,427	3,514	1,919	7,860	3,710	11,570	39,750
Glencullen/Sandyford	653	3,232	4,408	2,472	10,112	3,125	13,237	38,604
Killiney/Shankill	381	2,082	3,512	2,317	7,911	3,088	10,999	33,802
Blackrock	350	1,826	2,955	1,804	6,585	3,650	10,235	32,081
Stillorgan	295	1,618	2,872	1,809	6,299	5,053	11,352	30,508
Total	2,618	13,810	21,302	12,682	47,794	22,056	68,851	218,018

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries, the highest proportions of those aged 0 to 24 years were in Sandyford Carrickmines CFSN (34.7% or 11,899) and Shankill CFSN (34.1% or 4,897).

These were followed by Ballinteer/Dundrum CFSN (32.8% or 15,608), Loughlinstown/Ballybrack CFSN (31.5% or 9,418) and the lowest proportion was in DLR Mounttown CFSN (30.5% or 28,029).

The table below details the number of children and young people living in areas using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) geographical boundaries per age group (Census 2016).

Figure 3: DLR Child and Youth Population by Tusla CFSN Area & Age Range

Age Groups	Dun Laoghaire /Mounttown	Loughlinstown/ Ballybrack	Shankill	Sandyford/ Carrickmines	Ballinteer/ Dundrum	Total number
Under 1	975	338	181	577	547	2,618
0 to 4	5,406	1,867	954	2,821	2,762	13,810
5 to 12	8,650	3,043	1,585	3,951	4,073	21,302
13 to 17	5,192	1,845	1,016	2,296	2,333	12,682
18 to 24	8,781	2,663	1,342	2,831	6,440	22,056

2.1.2 Population Growth in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has a growing population and experienced a population increase of 5.7% (or 11,757 people) between 2011 and 2016. This population growth of the county was higher than the State Average (3.8%). Of the four Dublin local authorities, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown at 5.7%, had the second highest population growth after Fingal (8.0%) while both Dublin City and South Dublin recorded increases of 5.1%.

At Small Area Level, the highest population increases are evident in Dún Laoghaire – Sallynoggin West (Honeypark) with a population growth of 52.8%, followed by Tibbradden (41.3%) and Stillorgan-Merville (17.1). In contrast to this, population decline was witnessed in Blackrock-Central (-2.5%), Ballinteer Marley (-3.6%) and Ballinteer-Broadford (-4.4%).

At Electoral Level, the population of Stillorgan increased by 5.4%, Dun Laoghaire increased by 6.1%, Blackrock increased by 3.3%, Killiney increased by 1.9%, Dundrum increased by 4.8% and Glencullen-Sandyford increased by 12.5%.

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries, the most substantial population growth was in the Sandyford/Carrickmines Tusla Child and Family Support Network area (CFSN). This area experienced a population growth of 12.5% with the population increasing from 30,508 in 2011 to 34,324 in 2016.

There is a clear increased distribution of the population in the 18 to 24 age group in DLR. This above average proportion is due to the presence of the largest third level institution in the country. The highest proportions in and around the UCD Belfield Campus and on Avoca Avenue where there is also student accommodation.

2.1.3 Ethnicity

Census 2016 records the ethnic identity of the majority (85.7%) of children and young people Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as 'White Irish'.

The 14.3% of the child and youth population who come from diverse ethnic groups identify as follows: 'Other White Background' (6.5% or 4,191); 'Asian or Asian Irish' (3.5% or 2,243); 'Other' background (1.8% or 1,162); 'Not Stated' (1.3% or 825); 'Black or Black Irish' (1% or 620) and 'White Irish Traveller' (0.4% or 247).

0.4% of the total population in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown or 235 people are 'White Irish Traveller'. This proportion is half the Dublin regional population average of 0.8% and considerably lower than the State population average of 1.2%.

Using the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area boundaries, the Shankill CFSN had the highest proportion (0.6% or 88) of 'Irish Travellers'. This was followed by Sandyford/Carrickmines (0.3% or 92), Loughlinstown/Ballybrack (0.2% or 45), Ballinteer/Dundrum (0.2% or 74) and the lowest distribution was in DLR Mounttown (0.1% or 112).

Using Small Area analysis, there are isolated pockets of concentrations of Traveller population with the highest rates of over 5% are in the areas of Sallynoggin, St. Louise's Park and Nutgrove.

2.2 Health

2.2.1 Maternity & Infant Health

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown is striking in terms of having the oldest **first-time mothers** in the State with the 33.1 years of age being the average age of first-time mothers in the county. (CSO, 2016). This is higher than the Dublin regional average of 31.3 years and more than two years above the State average of 30.9 years.

Conversely Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown has one of the lowest rates of **teenage motherhood** in the State with just 3 registered births to mothers aged 10 to 17 years in 2016. This is a birth rate of 1.4 per 10,000 females aged 10 to 17 years of age, in comparison to the State average of 3.8.

There are lower rates of pregnant women in Dublin County (85.4%) attending **antenatal care** in hospital in the first trimester which is lower in comparison to the State average of 88% (National Perinatal Reporting System). However data is not available on the population of expectant mothers from Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown within that overall figure, and it is not possible to state whether pregnant women are accessing antenatal care in their first trimester through GP or other medical care providers.

More than double the rate of **domiciliary births**, registered births that take place outside of hospitals including homebirths, take place in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown in comparison to the State and Dublin regional average. 27 domiciliary births were recorded in 2014 (CSO 2014) which equates to a rate of 9.6 per 1,000 births in comparison to the State (3.9) and the Dublin regional average (4.3).

Mothers and babies in Ireland benefit from a **Public Health Nurse visit** within 72 hours of being discharged from maternity hospital or after giving birth. This data is recorded by Local Health Office (LHO) of which two LHOs fall in the DLR CYPSC area; Dublin South East and Dún Laoghaire. In 2015, 100% of babies in Dublin South East were visited within 72 hours of being discharged from hospital. However the Dún Laoghaire LHO recorded 95.4% of babies visited with 72 hours which is below the State average.

Breastfeeding offers an extensive range of proven health benefits to babies' development. The available data suggests there is a marked difference in breastfeeding rates between the two Local Health Office (LHO) Areas of Dublin South East and Dun Laoghaire.

- In June 2017, 83.2% in the Dublin South East LHO of mothers visited reported to be breastfeeding exclusively (not using artificial or combination feeding) at their first visit by the public health nurse, and 70.4% mothers were breastfeeding exclusively at their second visit by the public health nurse when their baby was aged 3 months.
- These breastfeeding rates in Dublin South East LHO were the highest recorded in the State (HSE Performance Indicators 2017).
- However only 28.1% of mothers in the Dún Laoghaire LHO were recorded as breastfeeding exclusively at their second visit by the public health nurse in July 2017 when their baby was aged 3 months.
- Additionally Dun Laoghaire's LHO's breastfeeding rates have not reached national targets set by the HSE National Breastfeeding Action Plan since 2016.

2.2.2 Child Immunisation Rates: Within the DLR CYPSC Area, immunisation data is available for the HSE Dublin South East and Dún Laoghaire Local Health Offices (LHO)s.

- In 2015, 94% of the children in the Dublin South East LHO had received their vaccinations at 12 months and this rate was higher than the Dún Laoghaire LHO rate of 90% and the State (91%) averages.
- In contrast, the Dún Laoghaire LHO rate of 90% in 2015 was lower than the State average of 91% and the lower than the Dublin South East LHO rate of 94%.
- Vaccination and immunisation rates have tended to fluctuate in the Dún Laoghaire LHO in recent years. The overall trends suggests that rates are gradually increasing with the Dún Laoghaire LHO increasing from 87% in 2010 to 90% in 2015
- Dublin South East LHO is showing a more consistent level of increase from 86% in 2010 to 94% in 2015.

2.2.1 Disability

The National Intellectual Disability Database and the National Physical Disability Database are managed by the HRB and contain registrations of people with an intellectual disability and people with a physical disability. However this is not a complete database as if a person has a disability, it is not mandatory to register on the database. Unfortunately it is not possible to cite data specific to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as data is only available for the Dublin region.

With regards to children and young people registered with an intellectual disability in the Dublin region:

- In 2016, there were 2,246 children and young people registered
- Of this number, 13.1% (294) were aged 0 to 4 years, 28.8% (647) were aged 5 to 9 years, 28.5% (641) were aged 10 to 14 years and 29.6% (664) were aged 15 to 19 years.
- In 2016, there were 1,182 children and young people registered with a physical disability in the Dublin region.
- Of this number, 3.4% (40) were aged 0 to 4 years, 17.3% (205) were aged 5 to 9 years, 31.0% (366) were aged 10 to 14 years and 48.3% (571) were aged 15 to 19 years.

With regards to children and young people registered with a physical disability in the Dublin region.

- In 2016, there were 1,182 registered
- Of this number, 3.4% (40) were aged 0 to 4 years, 17.3% (205) were aged 5 to 9 years, 31.0% (366) were aged 10 to 14 years and 48.3% (571) were aged 15 to 19 years.
- In comparison to the State figures, the Dublin region had a higher representation in the 15 to 19 age group and a lower representation in the younger age groups of 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 years.

The Census 2016 records the total number of all people with a disability residing in DLR in 2016 as

- 12,245 males, which represents 11.9% of all males in the county. This proportion was lower than the State average of 13.2% and lower than the Dublin regional average of 12.6%.
- Areas of high proportions of males with disabilities are distributed throughout the county in areas such as Nutgrove, Leopardstown, Dún Laoghaire, Sallynoggin and Ballybrack. Small Areas with the highest values of over 30% are in Dalkey, Dún Laoghaire and the Leopardstown Road.

- 14,841 females, which represents 13.1% of all females in the county. This proportion was lower than the State average of 13.8%, and lower than the Dublin regional average of 13.7%.
- Areas of distribution of females with a disability are throughout DLR, with particularly high proportions in areas such as Tibbradden, Foxrock and Kiltiernan. Areas with the highest values of over 35% were in Dalkey and Glengara Park.

2.2.4 Mental Health

Self Harm: The National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) records the numbers of those presenting to hospital following self-harm. The data is published as a rate per 100,000 population by age group and gender and local health office area. Methods of self-harm includes the following; overdoses of medication and drugs, cutting and attempted hanging.

The following data was produced by AIRO in collaboration with NSRF in relation to self harm and suicide among young males and females under the age of 25 in the two HSE Local Health Office Areas, which cover the county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as well as areas in Dublin South East.

For young males:

- The Dún Laoghaire Local Health Office (LHO) recorded a self-harm rate of 124.6 in 2015. The rate in the Dublin South East LHO was significantly lower at 55.8.
- In comparison to other LHO areas, the Dublin South East LHO recorded the lowest rate in 2015 and the Dún Laoghaire LHO recorded the twelfth lowest rate.
- Both were below the State rate of 161.6.

For young females:

- The Dublin South East LHO recorded a rate of 268 in 2015. In comparison to other LHO areas, the Dublin South East LHO recorded the eight highest rate
- The rate of self-harm among young women in the Dún Laoghaire LHO was lower at 263.2.
- In comparison to other LHO areas, the Dún Laoghaire LHO recorded the tenth highest rate of young female self harm.
- Female self harm rates were above the State average of 253.2 in both Local Health Office areas in DLR.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is a public service that provides both assessment and treatment for children and young people that are experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties. The CAMHS is a specialist 'secondary care' mental health service and employs a multi-disciplinary team.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is part of HSE Community Healthcare East (CHE) area, previously known as Community Healthcare Organisation 6 (CHO 6) which also includes parts of Dublin South East, and East Wicklow. There are two Lucena CAMHS services operated by St John of God's Community Mental Health Services in CHE. These services are located in Dun Laoghaire and in Rathgar.

While it is reasonable to assume since the county is part of the CHE catchment area, that Lucena CAMHS data is inclusive of children and young people living in DLR, please note since these services cover a wider catchment area that, it is not possible to specify to what degree the CHO 6 and Lucena CAMHS service data relates to children and young people living in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

According to the Mental Health Business Information Unit In 2016, there were 1,975 children and young people referred to CAMHS in CHO6.

- This figure represents a rate of 227.5 per 10,000 children and young people under the age of 18 years.
- Relative to the other CHOs this rate of referral of children and young people to CAMHS in CHO 6 was the highest in the State and was higher than the State average of 155.1.
- Of the total referrals in 2016, 336 children and young people were not admitted into the CAMHS service in CHO 6. One of the reasons that a child or young person would not be admitted into the service is that their referral does not meet the service criteria or 'standard operating procedures'.

In 2018, there were 985 referrals and 1770 open cases (children and young people attending service) in Lucena Dun Laoghaire CAMHS and Lucena Rathgar CAMHS.

- According to the HSE (2019) CHO 6 has the highest percentage child population attending CAMHS in the country i.e. 2.6% of the under 18 population, compared to the national average of 1.6%.

2.2.5 Addiction

The number of those seeking treatment for substance misuse is recorded by the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). Data is published by Local Health Office (LHO) of which there are two in the DLR CYPSC Area; Dublin South East and Dún Laoghaire.

Within the Dublin South East LHO the number of young people seeking treatment was less than 5 and could not be published. Within the Dún Laoghaire LHO, 12 young people sought treatment in 2015 and represents a rate of 4.2 per 10,000 young people (under 18 years). In comparison to other areas, the Dún Laoghaire LHO recorded relatively low rates (10th) and was below the State average of 6.8.

2.3 Education

2.3.1 Educational Attainment

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown (DLR) has a comparatively highly educated population with the highest rate of high education attainment (Lower and Upper Third Level) in the State. According to Census 2016, the total population residing in the DLR area with ‘Third Level’ education was 78,604 or 54.8%. This proportion is significantly higher than the State average of 33.4% and higher than the Dublin regional average of 40.7%.

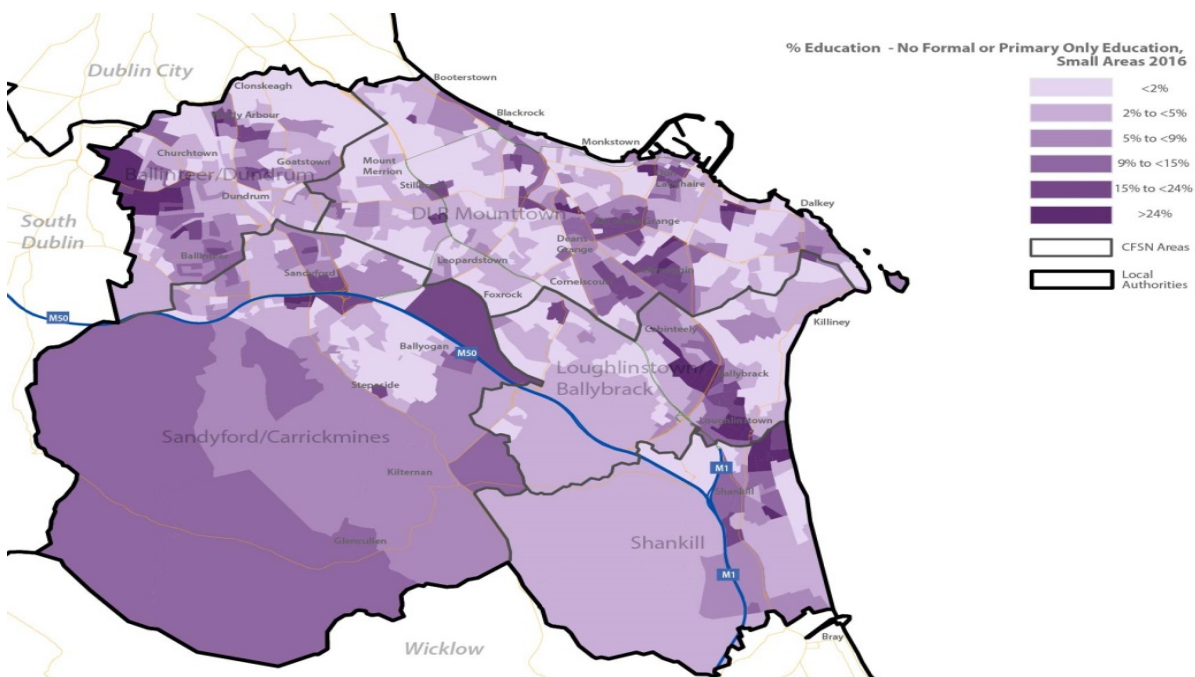
Parental education and in particular maternal education has a long-term effect on children’s educational and occupational success. When all levels of education attainment are examined, the proportion of mothers with third level education in DLR (59.3%) greatly exceeds the national (36.7%) and Dublin regional averages (39%).

In 2016, there were 563 children with mothers with low levels of education in DLR. This number equates to approximately 1.4% of all children living in DLR and is the lowest rate in the country

According to Census 2016, the total population residing in the DLR area with ‘No Formal or Primary Only’ education was 9,135. This represented 6.4% of the total population in DLR which was lower than the State average of 12.5%, and below the Dublin regional average of 10.6%.

However the distribution of educational attainment throughout the county is unequal. Areas with high proportions are distributed throughout the county with concentrations in Nutgrove, Sallynoggin and Ballybrack. Areas with the highest proportions of over 35% were in Mountain View Park in Nutgrove, Wyattville Road in Ballybrack and in Loughlinstown. The map below details the distribution of the population with ‘No Formal or Primary Only’ education at SA level throughout DLR.

Figure 4: Distribution of the DLR population with ‘No Formal or Primary Only’ education at SA level



2.3.2 Early Childhood Care & Education

Access to quality, affordable early childhood care and education is critical to a positive trajectory for children's early years education. However it is particularly challenging to find available and affordable childcare in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown due to the highest childcare fees in the country along with a lack of childcare place availability.

The Childcare fees in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown are the highest in the country, with a fulltime Childcare place averaging at €233.26 per week which is €55.34 or 31% above the national average. The average cost of a part-time place was €127.45 and the average cost of a sessional place was €86.26.

According to the Early Years Sector Profile for 2017/2018, there were 7503 childcare places in DLR. There was a decline of 3% in the number of Early Years services compared with 2016/2017 sector profile. 88% of these 7503 places are in Private early years services and 12% are in Community early years services. 7110 children were enrolled in childcare, and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown reported the lowest amount of vacant childcare places in the country at 5.24%.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is a universal programme which provides children with their first formal experience of early learning prior to commencing primary school. It is available free of cost to all children aged between 3 years and 5 years, 6 months, in participating Childcare settings. The programme is provided for three hours per day, five days per week over 38 weeks per year and the programme year runs from September to June.

According to Pobal figures for the year 2017/18, there were 5,261 children registered in DLR for the ECCE Year. Of those ECCE registrations, 11% were in community services and 89% were in private services. DLR had a lower proportion of community places when compared with the State average.

2.3.3 Absenteeism


Both Primary schools and Post-Primary schools are obliged to submit a report to the Education Welfare Services within Tusla (renamed Tusla Education Support Services or 'tess' in 2019) on the levels of attendance at the end of each academic year. This data is collated and published by the Educational Research Board for each academic year. The proportional figure represents the mean percentage rate of students that were absent for 20 or more days in the academic year.

- In 2014/15, 10.1% of the students in mainstream primary schools in DLR were absent for 20 or more days. This was marginally lower than the State average of 10.4%.
- In 2014/15, 9.9% of the students in mainstream post primary schools in DLR were absent for 20 or more days. This absentee rate was significantly less than the State average of 17.3%.

2.3.4 Retention Rates

Data on Junior Certificate retention rates is published by the Department of Education and is based on an analysis of records held within the Post-Primary Pupils Database. The data is based on the cohort of entrants to the first year of the junior cycle in 2009 and sitting their Junior Certificate in 2012.

- In 2009, a total of 2,422 students entered the first year of the junior cycle in DLR. By 2012, a total of 2,340 students in that cohort had completed their Junior Certificate. This equates to a retention rate of 96.6%. This was marginally below the State average of 96.7%.




Data on retention rates is published by the Department of Education and is based on an analysis of records held within the Post-Primary Pupils Database. The data is based on the cohort of entrants to the first year of the junior cycle in 2009 and sitting their Leaving Certificate in 2014 or 2015.

- In 2009, a total of 2,422 students entered the first year of the junior cycle in DLR. By 2015, a total of 2,200 students in that cohort had completed their Leaving Certificate. This equates to a retention rate of 90.8%. This was marginally above the State average of 90.2%.

2.3.5 Progression to Third Level

Data is published by the Irish Times on the numbers of pupils that sit the Leaving Certificate in post-primary schools in Ireland. This includes details on subsequent progression rates to third level institutions.

- In 2016, the total students that sat the Leaving Certificate examination in DLR was 2,308. Of this figure, 91.6% or 2,114 of the students in DLR progressed to third level. This proportion exceeded the State average of 77.8% and relative to all other local authorities was the highest rate of progression in the country.
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2.4 Security

2.4.1 Domestic violence

Domestic violence is the use of physical or emotional force or threat of physical force in a close adult relationship. A barring order is a court order which requires the violent person to leave the family home and can last up to three years. In order to obtain a barring order, the person must attend a District Court hearing of the area of their own residence. Data is collected by the Courts Services and has been made available by District Court for this report.

Statistics available from the Garda Pulse System show that a total of 2,231 applications were granted for Domestic Violence Orders in the Dublin Region during the year 2018. The breakdown is as follows: **Barring Orders** 341 **Protection Orders** 999 **Safety Orders** 891

Across the DMR Eastern Garda Division, which covers the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area, 265 applications were granted which represents which represents 11.9 % of the city total. The breakdown is as follows **Barring Orders** 28 **Protection Orders** 173 **Safety Orders** 64

In the course of 2018 Gardaí in the DMR Easter Division recorded a total of 452 Domestic Incidents. In 75 of these incidents, interventions were required where there were breaches of the orders as listed above and proceedings instituted. The remaining incidents are classed as 'Domestic Dispute – No Offence Disclosed'. In these cases advice would have given to the parties involved in relation to the different orders available through the Courts and the availability of local supports.

2.4.2 Garda Youth Diversion Referrals

The Garda Youth Diversion scheme, operated by the Garda Youth Diversion Office, provides that in certain situations a young person (aged less than 18 years) who accepts accountability for a crime can be cautioned and supervised as an alternative to prosecution. The number of youths referred to the scheme, is recorded by the An Garda Síochána Pulse database system and is published on an annual basis by the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) by Garda Division.

Figures for the DMR Eastern Region for 2018 reveal that a total of 446 young people aged under 18 were referred to the Garda Youth Diversion scheme were made in the course of the year. This represents 8.1% of the number of offences recorded for the Dublin Region for the same period which stands at 5,502. It is noteworthy that this Youth Referral rate has increased significantly from the number of Youth Referrals made to the Garda Youth Diversion scheme for the DMR Eastern Region in 2015, which was 316 young people.

Youth referrals are for a variety of offences, the most prominent being :-

- Public Order Offences & Trespass
- Assault (both minor and Assault Causing Harm)
- Burglary
- Robbery and Theft (from both Shops & Cars), Bicycle Theft and Handling Stolen Property
- Drugs Offences
- Criminal Damage
- Possession of Offensive Weapons

These offences are dealt with either by informal or formal caution or where the offender is deemed unsuitable for inclusion in the Garda Youth Diversion Programme, they are prosecuted through the Courts.

2.4.3 Child Protection & Welfare

A referral can be made to Tusla Child and Family Agency reporting a child welfare concern or an allegation of suspected child abuse by either an organisation or individual working with children or member of the general public. The concerns are recorded and screened by the local Tusla Child and Family Agency's Social Work 'Duty' department.

Tusla Catchment Area: The number of referrals made and type of referral is published by Tusla by Integrated Service Area (ISA) of which there are 17 in Ireland. The county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is part of the Dublin South/ Dublin South East/Wicklow (DS/DSE & WW) ISA which delivers services for Tusla Child and Family Agency.

As geographical context, DS/DSE & WW is an amalgamation of the three previous Local Health Office (LHO) areas. The former Dublin South LHO includes the areas of Dún Laoghaire, Mounttown, Hillview, Loughlinstown, Monkstown and Blackrock. The former Dublin South East LHO includes the areas of Dundrum, Rathfarnham, Nutgrove, Ballinteer, and Churchtown.

Child Protection and Welfare Referrals: In 2018, there were **1270 referrals** were for children and young people living in the Dublin South and the Dublin South East area which covers all areas in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and the area of Rathfarnham.

- 66.5% (or 844 children) were referred due to Child welfare concerns.
- 13.3% (or 169 children) were referred for emotional abuse
- 8.2% (or 104 children) were referred for physical abuse
- 7.2% (or 91 children) were referred for sexual abuse
- 4.9% (or 91 children) were referred for neglect

Ages of children referred to Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Service: The referrals were for children aged as follows

- 27.6% were aged 0-5 years (or 350 early years children),
- 37.6% were aged 6-12 years (or 478 primary school aged children)
- 30.9% were aged aged 13-17 years (or 393 post-primary school aged children)
- 3.7% had no age stated (or 47 children of unknown age at referral stage).

Reasons for Referral to Child Welfare:

The most common reasons for referral to Tusla Child Welfare were identified by the Tusla data analysis conducted for 2019 Tusla Area Commissioning Report (in print) for Dublin South, Dublin South East and Wicklow. These are as follows in order of prevalence (with the first being the highest referral reason):

1. Parents who misuse drugs or alcohol
2. Family/household with significant relationship difficulties
3. Family/household where domestic violence is a factor
4. Child with behavioural problems
5. Parents who lack parenting skills
6. Child with mental health needs
7. Parents with mental health problems
8. Child with emotional problems
9. Parents who are homeless/unstable or unsuitable accommodation
10. Child who is abusing drugs/alcohol

Children in Care: A child is placed in the care of Tusla when their parents are not able to provide appropriate care or a child has been subject to abuse. Foster care is the main alternative care provided by Tusla as well as residential care.

- According to the Tusla DS, DSE & Wicklow Commissioning report (2019), as of December 2018, there were **273 children and young people in the care of Tusla** in the Dublin SE Wicklow ISA.
- During 2017 there were 15 new entrants to care in Dublin South and Dublin South East.
- The most **common reasons for admission to care** were neglect and child welfare concerns, mainly due to parental drug/alcohol abuse or because the parent was unable to cope.
- There is a significant **over-representation of white Irish Traveller children in state care**. 0.2% of the general population in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdwnon are Travellers. However the population of Traveller children in care in DS, DSE & Wicklow is 14.65% of all children in care in the ISA area.
- In November 2019, there were 16 white Irish Traveller children in care in DS/DSE. (Source: Tusla 2019)

Aftercare Service: An aftercare service is an entitlement to all young people with a care history within Tusla and the service is provided in conjunction with other agencies. The preparation of a young person leaving care starts on either their sixteenth or seventeenth birthdays. Aftercare services have an essential part to play in accessing financial assistance, employment opportunities and training

- In Dublin South and Dublin South East, a total of 77 young adults received an Aftercare service during 2017. Two-thirds of these were in full-time education or in Education/ Training.
- In Dublin South, during 2017 just under 50% of the 52 young adults in Aftercare were still living with their carers while they received aftercare support and just over 25% were living independently. 'Most' had an aftercare plan and an Allocated Aftercare worker, according to the draft Tusla DS, DSE and Wicklow Commissioning plan (2019).
- In Dublin South East, during 2017, a third of the 25 young adults in Aftercare were living with their carers while they received aftercare support, and a third lived independently. 16% were living in supported lodgings. All young people receiving Aftercare had an Aftercare plan and 80% had an Allocated Aftercare worker according to the Tusla DS, DSE and Wicklow Commissioning plan (2019).

2.5 Economy

2.5.1 Pobal HP Deprivation Index

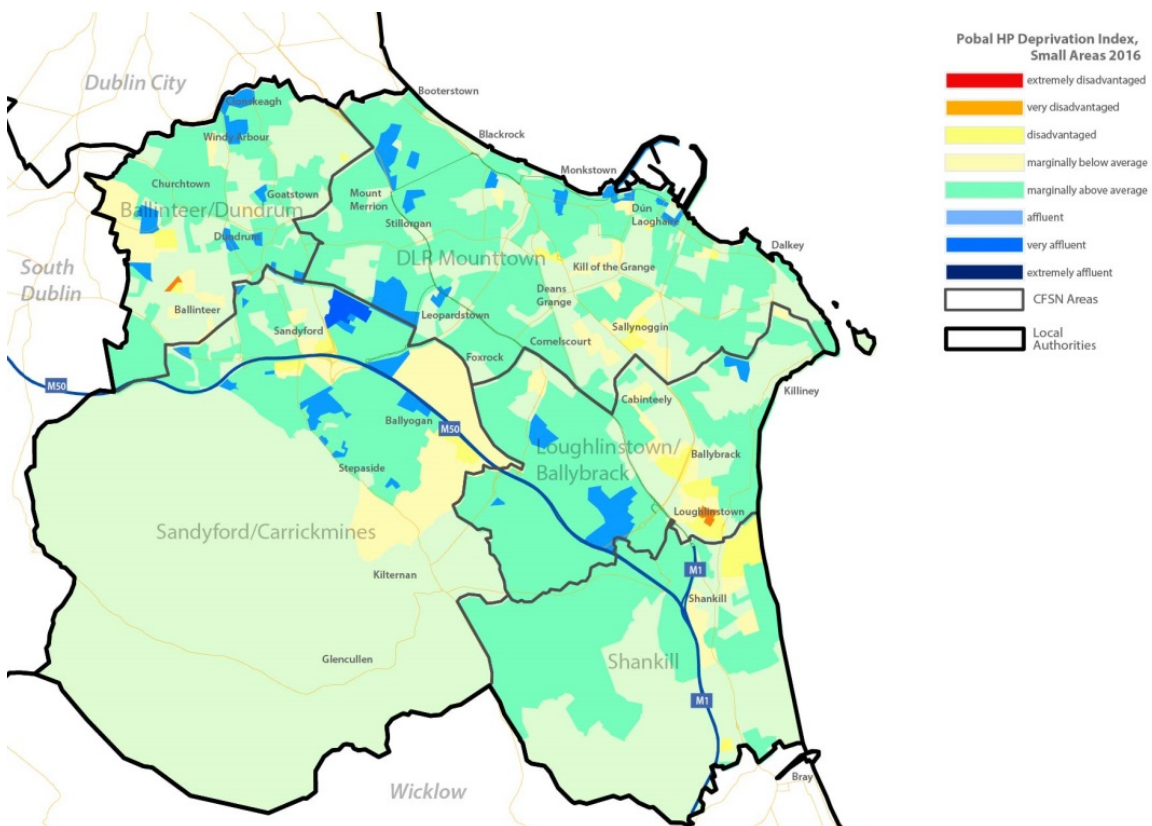
Based on the 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index which shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation at the level of 18,488 Small Areas (SAs) in 2016 in Ireland, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown is the most affluent local authority area in the country with 50.8% of Small Areas classified as ‘Affluent’, 7.6% of Small Areas ‘Very Affluent’ and 0.3% ‘Extremely Affluent’ (0.3% of SAs).

However this overall county affluence can mask the fact that 41.3% of Small Areas (SA’s) range from ‘Marginally above Average’ (29.3% of SAs), ‘Marginally Below Average’ (7.6% of SAs), ‘Disadvantaged’ (4.1% of SAs) to ‘Very Disadvantaged’ (0.3% of SAs) within Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown.

According to the 2016 Pobal Relative Index Scores, areas such as Ballybrack, Loughlinstown, Shankill, Churchtown, Ballyogan, Glasthule, Dun, Potteryry, Deansgrange, Sandyford, Sallynoggin, Mounttown, Kilcross, Balally, Nutgrove, Hillview and Rosemount are all classed within the ‘Disadvantaged’ and ‘Very Disadvantaged’ categories.

In total, there is a total population of 10,289 residing in areas classed as ‘Disadvantaged’ or ‘Very Disadvantaged’. It is important to note that of the total population residing in these disadvantaged or very disadvantaged areas, 35% (or 3,671) residents were children and young people aged under 24 years.

Figure 6: Small Areas in DLR (2016) by Pobal HP Deprivation



2.5.2 Housing

Owner occupied housing: According to Census 2016, the total households with a tenure of owner occupied with mortgages in DLR was 24,459. This represented 31.1% of the total households.

Private rental housing: According to Census 2016, the total households with a tenure of private rental residing in DLR was 15,906. This represented 20.2% of the total households. This proportion was higher than the State average of 18.2%, and lower than the Dublin regional average of 23.9%.

Social Housing: The Housing Agency reported that in 2016 a total of 3341 households qualified for social housing support in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Of these qualifying households:

- 42% (or 1417 households) were living in rented accommodation and another
- 36% (or 1202 households) reported that the only source of household income was from social welfare
- 31 % (or 1036 households) were made up of a single person with children
- 22% (or 735) of applicants were from New Communities
- 16 % (or 527 households) were living with parents

In 2016, on the social housing waiting list in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown were

- 1,033 lone parent households (a rate of 123 per 1,000 lone parent households in DLR)
- 275 young people under the age of 25 (a rate of 12.5 per 1,000 young people aged between 18 and 25)

2.5.3 Lone Parents

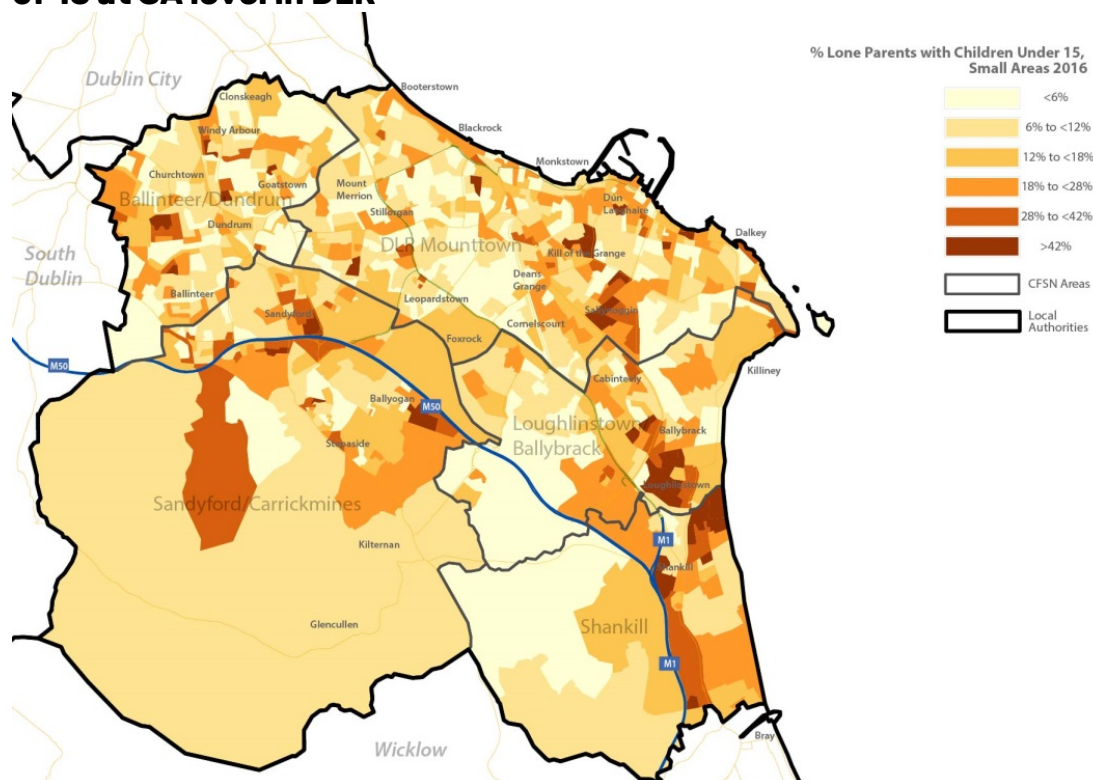
According to Census 2016, there were 3,363 'Lone Parent' families with children under the age of 15 residing in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. This represented 15.4% of the families with children under the age of 15. Lone mothers accounted for 14.2% (3,102) and lone fathers 1.2% (261). This proportion was lower than the State average of 20%, and the Dublin regional average of 23.5%.

Concentrations are dispersed throughout the county in Windy Arbour, Sandyford, Ballyogan, Sallynoggin, and Dún Laoghaire. Small Areas with the highest rates of over 55% were located in Sallynoggin, Loughlinstown and Ballyogan.

Variations are also evident when examining the distribution of 'Lone Parent' families with children under the age of 15 across the Tusla Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) areas. Over one fifth of the families with children under 15 were in the Shankill CFSN (22.3% or 369) and in Loughlinstown/Ballybrack CFSN, 20.1% or 612 in were lone parent families. These rates were higher relative to the other CFSNs; Sandyford/Carrickmines (15.3% or 654), Balinteer/Dundrum (13.7% or 571) and DLR Mounttown (13.4% or 1,157).

The map below details the distribution of 'Lone Parent' families with children under the age of 15 at SA level in DLR.

Figure 7: Distribution of 'Lone Parent' families with children under the age of 15 at SA level in DLR



A special cross-tabulation was produced by the CSO to enable a breakdown of the employment status of Lone Parents with children at local authority level. According to Census 2011, there were

- 8,438 Lone Parents residing in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown
- 46.9% were 'At Work' which was the second highest proportion of Lone Parents 'At Work' relative to all other local authorities
- 43.2% or 3,640 Lone Parents with children were 'Not in the Labour Force'. This term is a combination of 'Students', 'Home Duties', 'Retired', 'Unable to Work' and 'Other'. Relative to other local authorities this was the thirteenth lowest proportion in the country.

2.5.4 Cost of Childcare

Relative to all other local authority areas, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown had the **highest cost of full-time childcare in 2017/2018 for all three types of childcare** in registered childcare centres, with average weekly childcare costs are as follows: €233.36 for full day care; €127.45 for part-time care and €86.26 sessional care. The average weekly cost of full-time childcare in DLR of €233.26 is 31% or €55.34 above the national average.

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown has a higher proportion of private childcare places (84% in 2015/2016) when compared with the State average of 75%. Pobal⁴ notes that on average, fees charged by private services are higher than those charged by community

⁴ Pobal is the organisation which manages the administration of the national Early Years schemes on behalf of the Irish Government and publishes the Early Years Sector Profile Report, see www.pobal.ie

ones across all childcare types (full-time, part-time and sessional). The report notes that weekly fees in private services are 14% higher for full day care, 31% higher for part-time care and 18% higher for sessional childcare.

Pobal notes that the majority of counties with higher fees also have more children on waiting lists, which would indicate that higher demand for places is likely to lead to future price increases.

2.5.5 Social Welfare Payments -

A One Parent Family (OPF) payment is a social welfare payment made to persons that are raising children without the support of a partner. Amongst other criteria to qualify for this payment, weekly earnings of the applicant cannot exceed €425. Data on the number of One Parent Family (OPF) payments is published by the Department of Social Protection on an annual basis at county level. For the purpose of the AIRO socio-demographic evidence based for DLR CYPSC, commissioned in 2017, it was released by SWO level to allow aggregation of the data to local authority level.

In 2016, there were 1,068 OPF payments being made to parents in DLR. This is equivalent to a rate of 127.2 per 1,000 lone parent families residing in DLR. Relative to all other local authorities this was the ninth lowest rate in the State.

2.5.6 Youth Unemployment

Data on the number of persons, by gender and age group is published on a monthly basis by the CSO. The 'Live Register' is based on all claimants for Unemployment Benefit (UB) and Unemployment Assistance (UA). As of July 2017, there were 457 total number of population aged under 25 on the Live Register within the DLR area. Based on the population aged 18-25, the recipient rate per 1000 population in the DLR area is 20.7. This rate was the lowest in the country and was below the State rate of 82.1 and the Dublin Regional rate of 58.6.

As of December 2019, this number had decreased according to data provided by the Department of Social Protection. 272 young adults under the age of 25 were signing on either Unemployment Assistance or Unemployment Benefit (see table below) . The majority of these young people are recipients at the Dún Laoghaire (173) Social Welfare Office with a lower number at the Nutgrove (96) Social Welfare Office.

Dún Laoghaire and Nutgrove Claims at end December 2019

Scheme	All Claims			Under 25 Years Old (end Dec 2019)		
	Dún Laoghaire	Nutgrove	Both	Dún Laoghaire	Nutgrove	Both
BTE	114	79	193	25	9	34
BTW	166	74	240	2	1	3
FA	-	-	-	-	-	-
JST	301	133	434	1	1	2
OFP	747	286	1,033	122	37	159
SEMP	79	39	118	-	-	-
SST	-	-	-	-	-	-
PTJI	2	-	2	-	-	-
UA	1,653	871	2,524	145	81	226
UBCO	1,019	681	1,700	2	-	2
UB	1,168	720	1,888	28	15	43
Total	5,249	2,883	8,132	325	144	469

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

3.0 Introduction

This section details the available services to children, young people and families in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The categories used are Health; Education; Parenting and Family; Child Protection and Welfare; and Recreation and Community Services as these align to the five National Outcomes of Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (DCYA 2014). However it is acknowledged that many services operate across some or even all of these outcome domains.

Additionally the service criteria and geographical boundaries of some of the listed services range across geographical areas that go beyond Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, and it is acknowledged children, young people and parents in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown often choose or need to use services that are located outside the county.

Therefore from 2017 -2019 the DLR CYPSC Coordinator collaborated to develop a comprehensive website with CYPSC Coordinator colleagues in Dublin City North, Dublin City South, Fingal and South Dublin to identify and list services for children, young people and families living, studying or working in the greater Dublin area.

This website is now live on **www.dublincypscdirectory.ie** and citizens can search for a service by location, service type and/or age group. DLR CYPSC encourages all not-for-profit services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to upload their service contact details on the website through the service 'register' process as this will increase the visibility and accessibility of services to the public.

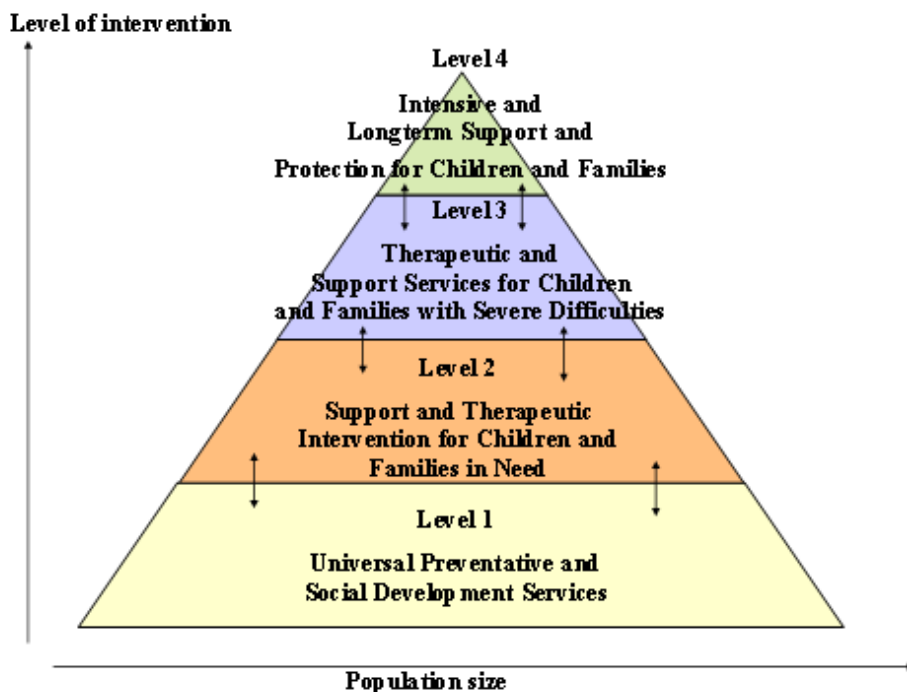
3.1 Hardiker Levels

Services in this section are also listed by their 'Hardiker' level. The Hardiker model is widely used as a planning tool in Ireland to identify the level of intervention or service required according to need.

1. **Level 1** refers to those **mainstream services** that are available to all children, such as health care, education, leisure and a range of other community based services such as parent and toddler groups, men's shed and parenting groups which may be available to the whole community but particularly targeted at disadvantaged communities.
2. **Level 2** refers to services to children who have some **additional needs**. Services at this level are characterised by referral and full parental consent. Examples would be support for children who have been identified as being vulnerable through a needs assessment such as Behaviour Support, Parenting Support, additional Educational service and via targeted specific services provided by education, health, social services, law enforcement and the voluntary sector.
3. **Level 3** refers to services which support to families or individual children and young people where there are **chronic or serious problems**. Support is often provided through a complex mix of services which usually need to work together well in order to provide the best support. Examples would be state interventions such as children on the Child Protection Register or who are engaged in Court Orders.
4. **Level 4** refers to services for families and individual children or young people where the **family has broken down temporarily or permanently**

where the child or young person may be looked after by social services. It can also include young people in youth custody or prison or as an in-patient due to disability or mental health problems.

Hardiker Model



3.2 Listing of services for children, young people & families (DLR CYPSC, 2019)

Health Services in DLR			
Service		Sector	Hardiker Level
Local Health Offices (ISA / LHO replaced by: Community Services Offices)	The DLR area is located in HSE Community Healthcare East (CHE) area. The HSE is reorganising in 2020 but this is unlikely to affect services on the ground. There are 2 HSE Community Services Offices in DLR (Dublin South East and Dún Laoghaire). This is your administrative entry point to community health and personal social services. Your relevant office will be determined by your address. See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/	Statutory	Level 1

Health Centres	<p>There are 12 HSE Health Centres operated by the HSE in DLR: Blackrock, Cabinteely, Dún Laoghaire, Dalkey, Shankill, Stillorgan, Loughlinstown, Sallynoggin, Ballinteer, Balally, Churchtown and Leopardstown. Your local health centre and access to its clinicians and services is determined by your address.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/health-centres/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/health-centres/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Primary Care Teams	<p>There are 12 HSE Primary Care Teams in DLR: Blackrock, Cabinteely/Foxrock, Dalkey, Dún Laoghaire/Glathule, Loughlinstown/Killiney, Sallynoggin/Glenageary, Shankill, Stillorgan, Leopardstown/Ballogan, Ballaly, Churchtown and Dundrum/Milltown.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublinsouthpcts/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Public Health Nursing	<p>In each health centre there is a HSE Public Health Nursing service which includes home visiting and care of children up to the age of three. They provide breast feeding clinics, developmental checks and wound care clinics.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/public-health-nursing/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Maternity Services	<p>The Domino and Homebirth Service, operated by Holles Street Maternity Hospital, can attend antenatal clinics in St. Michael's Hospital Dún Laoghaire, Leopardstown Health Centre and Churchtown Health Centre. This service is available to women living in a certain geographical area and who are deemed at low risk of complications during pregnancy and birth.</p> <p>See: http://www.nmh.ie/pregnancy/community-midwifery-service.13604.html</p>	Statutory	Level 2
GP	<p>There are 106 GP and Family Doctors in DLR. See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/gps.-gp-out-of-hours-service-and-medical-cards/gp-out-of-hours-</p>	Statutory	Level 1

	service-dun-laoghaire.html and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/gps,-gp-out-of-hours-service-and-medical-cards/		
Hospitals	The main hospital is St. Vincent's on the Merrion Road. There are 2 private hospitals (Blackrock and the Beacon), the National Rehabilitation Hospital, St. John of Gods (Mental Health), St. Columcilles (Loughlinstown) and St. Michaels, Dún Laoghaire. See: https://www.stvincents.ie/ , https://www.blackrock-clinic.ie/ , https://www.beaconhospital.ie/ , http://www.nrh.ie/ , https://www.stjohnofgodhospital.ie/ , https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/3/acutehospitals/hospitals/loughlinstown/ and https://stmichaels.ie/	Statutory	Level 2, 3 & 4
Addiction Services	DLR Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce seeks to coordinate an interagency community response to drug and alcohol problems. Activities include training, research and resourcing of prevention and early intervention programmes. See: https://www.dlrdrugtaskforce.ie/	Statutory	Level 1, 2 & 3
	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Community Addiction Team is a person-centred support agency which aims to empower clients with addiction issues to make changes which they see as appropriate in their lives. See: https://dlrcat.ie/	Community	Level 2, 3 & 4
	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Outreach Project (DROP) is a community-based organisation providing support services to people in recovery from addiction including individual support, rehabilitation, aftercare, family support, training and employment support. See: http://www.drop.ie/	Community	Level 2, 3 & 4
	The HSE operate a number of Addiction Services in local Health Centres including: Sallynoggin, Baggot St, Loughlinstown and Patrick Street.	Statutory	Level 2, 3 & 4

	<p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinese/social-inclusion-/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/</p>		
	<p>Programmes for those aged under 18 are operated in Mounttown Neighbourhood Youth & Family Project and the Ballyogan Family Resource Centre.</p> <p>See: https://www.dlrdrugtaskforce.ie/mnyfp.html and http://www.familyresource.ie/details.php?ID=58</p>	Community	Level 2, 3 & 4
Counselling	<p>Counselling for children and young people is available in Crosscare Teen Counselling, HSE Psychology, and Barnardos.</p> <p>See: https://www.teencounselling.ie/index.php/about-us, https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublinsouthpcts/dunlaoghaireglasthulepct/childfamilypsychology.html and https://www.barnardos.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 2
	<p>The Rainbows programme for children and young people affected by loss because of bereavement, separation or divorce may be made available through school programmes or some family support centres in DLR.</p> <p>See: https://www.rainbowsireland.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 2
	<p>The HSE Counselling in Primary Care service (CIPC) is available to those 18yrs + who are medical card holders and are referred by a GP/ primary care staff. Service locations include some health centres and health service sites in the DLR area.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublinsouthpcts/dunlaoghaireglasthulepct/childfamilypsychology.html</p>	Statutory	Level 1 & 2
	<p>The HSE Avoca National Counselling Service offers services to those 18yrs+ who have experienced childhood trauma and abuse. This can be accessed by self-referral. Services are offered from Dún Laoghaire and Baggot St.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/national-counselling-service/</p>	Statutory	Level 1 & 2

Therapeutic and Mental Health Services	<p>Primary Care Mental Health Services, provided by the HSE can be accessed through HSE Lifepsan (Child, Adolescent and Adult and Older Adult) Primary Care Psychology services and are provided from a number of health centres in the area such as Leopardstown, Loughlinstown and Dún Laoghaire.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublinsouthpcts/dunlaoghaireglasthulepct/childfamilypsychology.html</p>	Statutory	Level 1 & 2
	<p>As above short-term counselling services can be provided through the CIPC service to those 18yrs + and the HSE Avoca National Counselling Service offers services to those 18yrs+ who have experienced childhood trauma and abuse.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/national-counselling-service/</p>	Statutory	Level 1 & 2
	<p>The HSE also provides secondary care multidisciplinary adult (18yrs+) and older adult Mental Health Services in Clonskeagh Hospital and Day Centre, Elm Mount Unit St. Vincent's University Hospital.</p> <p>Secondary and tertiary care mental health services are also provided on behalf of the HSE by St. John of God Hospital, Cluain Mhuire Community Mental Health Services for those living in much of the DLR area.</p> <p>The mental health team will be determined by the patient's address.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublinsouthpcts/dunlaoghaireglasthulepct/childfamilypsychology.html</p>	Statutory	Level 2, 3 & 4
	<p>St John of God also provide secondary care Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) on behalf of the HSE from their Lucena Clinics in Dún Laoghaire and Rathgar. They provide assessment and treatment for young people under 18 who are</p>	Statutory	Level 2, 3 & 4

	<p>experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties.</p> <p>See: https://www.lucenaclinic.ie/</p>		
	<p>Several voluntary agencies in DLR provide adult mental health support including, AWARE, GROW, Suicide or Survive and Mental Health Ireland.</p> <p>See: https://www.aware.ie/, https://grow.ie/, https://suicideorsurvive.ie/ and https://www.mentalhealthireland.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 1 & 2
Child Health Officer	<p>The HSE Child Health Programme Development Officer is responsible for implementing the National Healthy Childhood Programme and Nurture Programme – Infant Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/child/nurture/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Health Promotions Unit	<p>The purpose of the Health Promotions Unit, as provided by the HSE, is to promote and improve the health of the population.</p> <p>See: https://www.healthpromotion.ie/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Dentist	<p>A number of Health Centres in DLR have dental services, including: Dún Laoghaire, Cabinteely, Loughlinstown, Blackrock and Stillorgan.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/dental-services/community-healthcare-east-dental-and-orthodontic-services-dublin-south-east.html and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/dental-and-orthodontic-services/community-healthcare-east-dental-and-orthodontic-services-dublin-south-dun-laoghaire-.html</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Dietician	<p>The HSE provides Dietetic Services (a qualified healthcare professional who assesses diet and nutritional status) in a number of Health Centres in DLR, including: Dún Laoghaire, Sallynoggin, Cabinteely, Loughlinstown, Dalkey, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Shankill and Ballinteer.</p>	Statutory	Level 1

	See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublinsouthpcts/dunlaoghaireglathulepct/dietitian.html		
Occupational Therapy	The HSE provides Occupational Therapists who work with individuals with disabilities, illness or injury to help them maintain or achieve independence in their daily living tasks. These services are available in a number of Health Centres in DLR, including: Dún Laoghaire, Sallynoggin, Cabinteely, Loughlinstown, Dalkey, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Shankill and Ballinteer. See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/therapy/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/therapy/	Statutory	Level 1
Physiotherapy	The HSE physiotherapy service aims to support patients in the community to be as independently and functionally safe as possible. The HSE provides these services in a number of Health Centres in DLR, including: Dún Laoghaire, Sallynoggin, Cabinteely, Loughlinstown, Dalkey, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Shankill and Ballinteer. See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/therapy/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/therapy/	Statutory	Level 1
Psychology	Psychology services are provided at primary care level and as part of multidisciplinary teams in disability/developmental, mental health team and hospital services. Children, young people and their families can often access drop in parenting advice services, groups and courses as well as individual psychology assessment and intervention services for developmental and mental health and wellbeing related needs. https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dunlaoghaire/mental-health-services/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinse/mental-health-services/	Statutory	Level 1

	<p>The National Educational Psychology Services provided by the Department of Education & Science supports children in schools in relation to specific learning & social emotional needs.</p> <p>See: https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Home-Page.html</p>	Statutory	Level 2
Speech & Language Therapy	<p>Speech & Language Therapy is provided by the HSE for children aged 1 to 18 years. The service is a general one and therefore children with more complex needs are typically seen by a multidisciplinary team in a more specialist service. These services are available in a number of Health Centres in DLR, including: Dún Laoghaire, Sallynoggin, Cabinteely, Loughlinstown, Dalkey, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Shankill and Ballinteer.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublinsouthpcts/speechtherapy.html</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Disability	<p>The HSE and its commissioned partners provide a range of Disability Services to children, young people and their families with developmental, intellectual, physical and sensory disability related needs. How services are delivered to those 0-18 years will soon be changing in DLR as part of a national programme of change called 'Progressing Disabilities'.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/tell-me-about-childrens-disability-services/services-and-contacts/services.html</p>	Statutory	Level 2
	<p>HSE Beechpark Services provide clinical services to pre-school children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and to children in a number of special classes across the DLR area.</p>	Statutory	Level 2

	See: https://www.setantaschool.ie/beechnpark-services		
	<p>The DLR area the HSE has two Early Intervention Developmental /Disability multidisciplinary teams (0-5yrs) and two School Age Developmental/Disability Team(6-18yrs) Referral to these teams is made by parents and primary care health professionals such as Speech and Language therapists, GPs and Psychologists. These teams provide assessment, intervention and parenting support services where there are more complex developmental concerns and where an interdisciplinary service is best. These teams are currently made up of Psychologists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language therapists. Currently these teams are based in Ballogan and Churchtown.</p> <p>See:https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/tell-me-about-childrens-disability-services/services-and-contacts/services.html</p>	Statutory	Level 2
	<p>Carmona Services (St John of God) provide services to children and young people with intellectual disability living in much of the south of the DLR area. Their main base in Glenageary.</p> <p>See: http://carmonaschool.com/</p>	Section 38 Voluntary	Level 2, 3 & 4
	<p>St. Michael's House services also provide services to children and young people with intellectual disability who live in the Goatstown, Ballyogan, Churchtown and Dundrum areas. Their main service base is in Goatstown.</p> <p>See: https://www.smh.ie/</p>	Section 38 Voluntary	Level 2, 3 & 4
	<p>Enable Ireland Service provides services to children and young people with sensory and physical disabilities and of late to some children with other developmental issues including intellectual disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Their centre is based in Sandymount. See: https://www.enableireland.ie/</p> <p>Several voluntary services operate in DLR such as Spinal Injuries Ireland, and Acquired Brain Injury Ireland. PRISM</p>	Section 39 Voluntary	Level 2

	provides parental support and education for those parenting children and young people with neurodevelopmental diversity including Autistic Spectrum Disorders. See: https://spinalinjuries.ie/ , https://www.abiireland.ie/ and https://www.prismdlr.com/ .		
Community Welfare Services	Community Welfare Officers from the Department of Social Protection hold regular drop-in clinics and can give financial support to those in need, in the form of rent supplement or supplementary welfare allowance. CWOs in DLR are in Dún Laoghaire Health Centre, DSP Nutgrove Shopping Centre and Dún Laoghaire Intreo Office. See: http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/otheroffice/community-welfare-office-dublin_central.aspx	Statutory	Level 1

Education Services in DLR			
	Service	Sector	Hardiker Level
Early Years Services	Early Years Education: There are 205 early years services, of which 12 are community services. See: https://dlrccc.ie/	Private & Community	Level 1 & 2
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee	The aim of the DLR Childcare Committee is to develop and implement a co-ordinated strategy for the provision of quality early childhood care and education services in the county. They are responsible for administering national childcare funding programmes within the county, on behalf of the DCYA. They are responsible for providing information to parents and guardians on childcare in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. See: https://dlrccc.ie/	Statutory	Level 1 & 2
Early Intervention Supports	National Education Psychological Service: NEPS psychologists work with both primary and post-primary schools to support learning, behaviour, social and emotional development. Each psychologist is assigned to a group of schools. NEPS also can conduct targeted individual case work. See: https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Home-Page.html	Statutory	Level 1 & 2

	<p>Barnardos work with children and families experiencing adversity in ways that meet their needs and build resilience. This includes individual child and parent support, group programmes, and early years care and education. There are three Barnardos services in DLR, including Dún Laoghaire, Loughlinstown and Ballyogan.</p> <p>See: https://www.barnardos.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 3 & 4
	<p>The 'Early Start Programme' is operated in Holy Family NS in Monkstown and St. Johns in Ballybrack.</p> <p>See: https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/Grants-and-Additional-Support/Early-Start-Programme/</p>	Statutory	Level 2
Primary Schools	<p>There are 64 Primary Schools in DLR of which 12 are allocated a DEIS Status. They are: Clochar San Dominic (Convent Road); Scoil Colmcille Senior (Coolevin); Scoil Mhuire (Rathsallagh; Scoil Cholmcille Junior NS (Coolevin); Queen of Angels Primary School (Wedgewood); Holdy Family School (Dunedin Park); Our Ladys NS (St Columbanus Road); St Josephs (Tivoli Road); Scoil Naisunta An Dea Aoire (Whitehall Road); St Johns NS, (Church Road); St Kevins NS, (Pearse Street) and St Columbanus National School (Loughlinstown Drive).</p> <p>See: https://www.education.ie/en/Find-a-School/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
School Age Services	<p>According to TúsIa, a School Age Service is defined as an early years' service, play group, day nursery, crèche, day-care or other similar service that cater for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post primary education. This care takes place which take place outside of school hours. As of January 2019, School Age Services are required to be registered with Tusla and the County Childcare Committee. Please contact the DLR Childcare Committee for more information on available resources.</p> <p>See: https://dlrccc.ie/</p>	Private & Community	Level 1 & 2
Post-Primary School	<p>There are 31 Post-Primary Schools in DLR of which 5 are currently allocated a DEIS Status: St Laurence College,(Dublin 18); Ballinteer Community School, (Ballinteer);</p>	Statutory	Level 1

	<p>Cabinteely Community School, (Cabinteely); Holy Child Community School (Sallynoggin) and St. Tiernan's Community School (Balally). See: https://www.education.ie/en/Find-a-School/</p>		
Education Welfare Service	<p>The Educational Welfare Services of Túsla Child and Family Agency operate under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 and promotes school attendance, participation and retention. Each Tusla Educational Welfare Officer is assigned a cluster of schools to support.</p> <p>See: https://www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services/</p>	Statutory	Level 2, 3 & 4
Further Education and Training	<p>Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board (DDLETB) operates Adult Guidance Services.</p> <p>See: http://www.ddletb.ie/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
	<p>There are 5 Colleges of Further Education in DLR (Dún Laoghaire, Sallynoggin, Blackrock, Stillorgan, and Dundrum).</p> <p>See: http://www.ddletb.ie/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
	<p>There are 3 Community Education Centres operated by the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board (DDLETB). These are the (1) Dun Laoghaire Community Training Centre (2) Loughlinstown Training Centre, (3) Dundrum Adult Training Education (D.A.T.E)</p> <p>See: http://www.ddletb.ie/</p>	Community	Level 1 & 2
	<p>Youthreach offers young learners aged 15 upwards the opportunity to explore and achieve their potential in a safe, respectful and responsible environment. There are two Youthreach Services in DLR, one is Youthreach Sallynoggin (previously 'Sportsreach') and the other is Rathfarnham Youthreach based in Nutgrove</p> <p>See: http://www.ddletb.ie/</p>	Community	Level 2 & 3
	<p>The Tivoli Training Centre delivers an innovative programme of education, training and self-development for marginalised people from the Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown and wider South Dublin/North Wicklow area. Tivoli Training Centre addresses the individual needs of clients and involves their</p>	Statutory	Level 2 & 3

	families and other organisations in a planned programme of activities. See: https://www.tivolitrainingcentre.ie/		
Special Needs Education	There are 11 Special Needs Schools in DLR (St Augustine's School, St Michaels House Spec Sc, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Benincasa Special School, Ballyowen Meadows, St Oliver Plunkett Special School, St Kierans Spec School, Setanta Special School, Carmona Special National School, Saplings Special School and the Red Door Special School). See: https://www.education.ie/en/The-Education-System/Special-Education/	Statutory & Voluntary	Level 2 & 3
	The National Council for Special Needs Education provides Special Educational Needs Officers (SENOs) who interact with parents and schools and liaise with the HSE in providing resources to support children with special educational needs. There is 1 SENO officer for DLR based in Tallaght. See: https://ncse.ie/	Statutory	Level 2 & 3
Third Level	There are 2 Third Level Institutions in DLR, which are University College Dublin (UCD) and the Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT). See: https://www.ucd.ie/ and https://www.iadt.ie/	Statutory	Level 1
Intreo Offices	Intreo is a single point of contact for all employment and income supports. There are 2 Intreo offices in DLR; Dún Laoghaire and Rathfarnham. See: http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Intreo_home.aspx	Statutory	Level 2
Local Area Partnership	There is 1 Local Area Partnership in DLR; Southside Area Partnership . The community development service funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) offers a range of training, education, employment and enterprise supports. See: http://southsidepartnership.ie/	Community	Level 1 & 2

Educational Representatives	The Blackrock Education Centre provides professional development to primary and post-primary teachers. See: https://www.blackrockec.ie/	Private	Level 2
	The Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN) is a national organisation representing the interests of Principals of Primary Schools. The IPPN representative for DLR (2019) is the principal of the Divine Word National School. See: https://www.ippn.ie/	Statutory	Level 2
	The National Association of Post-Primary Principals (NAPD) is a national organisation representing the interests of Principals and Deputy Principals'. The representative for DLR (2019) is the Vice-Principal of St. Colmcilles Community School. See: https://www.napd.ie/	Statutory	Level 2
	The UCD Students Union represents the interests of students attending UCD. See: https://ucdsu.ie/	Statutory	Level 2
	The IADT Students Union represents the interests of students attending IADT. See: https://www.iadt.ie/study/college-life/students-union	Statutory	Level 2
	Comhairle na n-Og is the youth council representing the interests of secondary school students in the county. It is coordinated by Foroige and supported by DLR County Council. See: https://www.comhairlenanog.ie/local-comhairle/dun-laoghaire-rathdown/	Statutory	Level 2

Parent & Family Services in DLR			
	Service	Sector	Hardiker Level
Family Resource Centres	The Family Resource Centre (FRC) programme is Ireland's largest family support programme delivering universal services to families in disadvantaged areas across the country based on a life-cycle approach. The aim of the FRC programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. FRCs provides a range of universal and targeted services and	Statutory	Level 1 & 2

	<p>development opportunities that address the needs of families.</p> <p>There are 4 FRCs in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown which include Balally FRC, Ballyogan FRC, Rosemount FRC and Hillview FRC. Residents of DLR can also avail of services in neighbouring FRCs in South Dublin of Ballyboden, Quarryvale, St. Kevin's and Kilenarden.</p> <p>See: https://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/family-resource-centres/find-family-resource-centre/</p>		
Southside Partnership	<p>Southside Partnership offers several programmes and facilities to support parents, children and young people. These include the 'PEEP' early years learning programme, Easter and Summer projects, and a youth drop in facility in Hollyhouse.</p> <p>See: http://southsidepartnership.ie/</p>	Community	Level 1, 2 & 3
Barnardos	<p>Barnardos works with vulnerable children and families experiencing adversity. Barnardos work with children to help build their resilience by focusing on their social, emotional, physical and educational development. Barnardos help parents to strengthen their parenting skills, improve their relationship with their child and help them to meet their child's needs. This work includes individual child and parent support, group programmes, and early years care and education.</p> <p>There are three Barnardos services in DLR, including Dún Laoghaire, Loughlinstown and Ballyogan.</p> <p>See: https://www.barnardos.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 2, 3 and 4
Túsla Child and Family Agency	<p>Túsla provide several family support services.</p> <p>There is one Family Support Coordinator located in DLR and five Family Support Workers. Referrals are made from a range of professionals including social workers, schools and PHNs. Depending on an assessment of suitability, a family support worker, is allocated the case and a home visit is arranged.</p> <p>See: https://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/prevention-partnership-and-family-support-programme/meitheal-national-practice-model/what-are-child-and-family-support-networks-cfsns/</p>	Statutory	Level 1 & 2

	<p>Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) team lead an early intervention approach called 'Meitheal', a case coordination multi-agency approach to support children in families with additional needs who require intervention but who do not meet the threshold for referral to the Social Work Department under Children First. Training and support for Meitheals is offered by the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) Senior Coordinator who is located in Tusla Blackrock.</p> <p>See: https://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/prevention-partnership-and-family-support/</p> <p>Springboard is a Tusla funded community-based, early intervention initiative. It is specifically focused on supporting families with children who are at risk of going into care, dropping out of school or getting into trouble with the law. There is a Springboard project located in St. Columbanus National School in Loughlinstown. See: http://stcolumbanus.ie/</p>		
Empowering Children in Care	<p>EPIC is a national child rights-based organisation that works with and for children and young people who are currently living in care or who have experience of living in care.</p> <p>See: https://www.epiconline.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 3
Extern	<p>Extern provides a range of support services in DLR. These include; the Janus Programme which works intensively on a one-to-one basis with young people aged 10-17 years, who are living in the community or within the care system, and whose behaviour is challenging, posing a risk to either themselves or to others. This programme is accessed by referrals from the Túsla Social Work Department. The Intensive Home Support Service (IHSS) is a home-based service, providing families with targeted support, including access to 24-hour phone support.</p> <p>See: https://www.extern.org/</p>	Voluntary	Level 2, 3 & 4
HSE Psychology	<p>HSE Primary Care Psychology services in Dublin South and South East run Parenting Courses throughout the year for Parents of those 0-5yrs, 6-12years and 12-16yrs. These groups may be available during the daytime</p>	Statutory	Level 1 & Level 2

	<p>and evening time. They are typically run in Dún Laoghaire and Ballyogan areas.</p> <p>The Dublin South Primary Care Psychology Service provides a monthly parent advice clinic to parents or carers who wish to seek advice from a Psychologist with regard to any aspect of parenting. This currently operates out of Loughlinstown health centre.</p> <p>See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublin-south-central-primary-care-team/child-psychology-service/</p>		
Citizens Information	<p>The Citizens Information Board is the statutory body which supports the provision of information, advice and advocacy on a broad range of public and social services. There are three local centres in DLR: Dún Laoghaire, Dundrum and Stillorgan.</p> <p>See: https://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/en/</p>	Statutory	Level 1
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	<p>Sonas Visiting Support Service is a specialist, one-to-one domestic violence housing support service for women affected by domestic violence, delivered in the greater Dublin area, which includes DLR.</p> <p>See: www.domesticabuse.ie</p>	Voluntary	Level 3 & 4
	<p>Women's Aid Outreach service is available one day a week in Dún Laoghaire Citizens Advice.</p> <p>See: https://www.womensaid.ie</p>	Statutory	Level 2 & 3
	<p>There is currently no women's refuge in DLR. The nearest Bray Women's Refuge Outreach offers free confidential information and support (also court accompaniment) by appointment, if there is service capacity.</p> <p>See: http://www.braywomensrefuge.com</p>	Voluntary	Level 3 & 4
	<p>The closest Sexual Assault Treatment Unit to DLR is in the Rotunda Hospital.</p> <p>See: https://rotunda.ie/satu/</p>	Statutory	Level 3
	<p>The closest outreach service to DLR for the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is in Tallaght University Hospital.</p> <p>See: https://www.drcc.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 3

Financial and Legal Services	The Free Legal Aid Centre is a specialised Legal Advice Centre. Outreach clinics are available from Dún Laoghaire and Dundrum Citizens Information Centres. See: https://www.flac.ie/	Voluntary	Level 1 & 2
	Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) is the State's money advice service, guiding people through dealing with problem debt. There are 2 MABS offices in DLR – Dún Laoghaire and Dundrum. See: https://www.mabs.ie/en/	Statutory	Level 1
Crosscare	Crosscare operate a Foodbank and Community Café in Dún Laoghaire . The Foodbank distributes food donated by manufacturers, distributors and growers. The Community Café provides access to home-cooked meals and aims to improve awareness on healthier lifestyles and diet. See: https://crosscare.ie/services_category/community-food-services/	Community	Level 2
My Project... Minding You	My Project...Minding You, based in the Holy Family School, Monkstown , is a community-based service offering support to targeted children, young people and families in the Monkstown area. The team of Project Workers comprises of professionals whose skills and qualifications include psychotherapy, play therapy, counselling, mediation and motivational interviewing. See: https://www.myp.ie/	Community	Level 2 & 3
Parent and Toddler Groups	There are over 45 Parent and Toddler Groups in DLR, ranging from Library playgroups to special interest groups. Parents and Toddler groups are encouraged to register with the DLR Childcare Committee. See: https://dlrccc.ie/parent-and-toddler-groups/	Voluntary & Community	Level 1

Child Protection & Child Welfare			
Service		Sector	Hardiker Level
Túsla: Child & Family Agency	The statutory agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. Support services include Child Protection & Welfare . 'Duty' Social workers provide frontline services to children and families. The Duty office is located in the Túsla offices in Nutgrove Retail Park but social workers travel throughout the county. See: https://www.tusla.ie/	Statutory	Level 2, 3 & 4
	The Children First Information and Advice Officer liaise with voluntary and community organisations and provide advice and guidance on Children First, the Child Protection legislation. See: https://www.tusla.ie/get-in-touch/children-first-information-and-advice-officers/	Statutory	Level 2
HSE Social Work	The Primary Care Social Work Team support problem solving in human relationships, help seeking behaviours, along with promoting advocacy and empowerment. The Social Work Team can be accessed through the local Primary Care Team. See: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/	Statutory	Level 2, 3 & 4
An Garda Síochána	There are 5 Garda Stations in DLR , located in; Dundrum, Blackrock, Dún Laoghaire, Cabinteely, and Shankill. Services in Garda Stations include Juvenile Liaison Officers. An Garda Síochána provide a range of safe and secure services to residents and the communities including Child Protection and Child Welfare. See: https://www.garda.ie/en/	Statutory	Level 1, 2, 3 & 4
	There are 3 Garda Youth Diversion Projects in DLR; SAY Garda Project, Castle Garda Project and LAB. There are Community based educational, recreational, skills building interventions for children under 18 at risk of criminal behaviour. See: http://iyjs.ie/en/IYJS/Pages/GYDP	Statutory	Level 2
Aftercare	The Smyly Trust Services is an established Aftercare Service supports young male adults making the transition from residential & foster care to adulthood, in Dublin South, Dublin south East &	Statutory	Level 3 & 4

	<p>Wicklow (Túsla, Child & Family Agency). Their service provides advice, guidance and support to these young adults. Smylys offers services in 3 areas accessed through Tusla.</p> <p>See: http://smylytrust.com/</p>		
	<p>Aislinn Aftercare is an aftercare service providing Information, Needs Assessment, Accommodation, Aftercare Plans and Specific Needs Assessment for young females leaving care. This service is located on Pottery Road in DLR.</p>	Statutory	Level 3 & 4
Young Peoples Probation	<p>The Le Cheile Mentoring and Youth Justice Support Service, the service works with young people and parents involved in or at risk of offending. Mentoring may be offered to young people where they are under a Mentor (Family Support) Order or where mentoring is a condition of a Probation Bond.</p> <p>See: https://lecheile.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 2 & 3
Housing	<p>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Housing Dept offer general advice on housing such as social housing support services and advice for those in private rented accommodation</p> <p>See: https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/housing</p>	Statutory	Level 2
	<p>DLR County Council offers a Homeless Assessment and Placement Service to those that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in DLR.</p> <p>See: https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/housing/housing-provision-applicants/homeless</p>	Statutory	Level 3 & 4
	<p>The Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) funded by DRHEA runs the homeless 'hub' in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. Referrals can only be accepted through DLR Council Homeless Service.</p> <p>PMVT also offer support for adult homeless men in Carrigbrennan, referral only by DLR County Council Homelessness Service.</p> <p>See: https://pmvtrust.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 2,3 & 4
	<p>Focus Ireland offers case management support to families and children in 'Private Emergency Accommodation' (PEAs) and hotels in DLR. Referrals can only be accepted through DLR Council Homeless Service.</p>	Voluntary	Level 2,3 & 4

	<p>Focus Ireland also offer a Tenancy Support Sustainment Service which is through referral of DLR Council social housing tenants only.</p> <p>See: https://www.focusireland.ie/</p>		
	<p>Bentley House is a homeless shelter for adults provided by Crosscare. Bentley House Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) offers accommodation to persons with complex support needs, including drug and alcohol dependency, mental ill health, ex-offenders, young people leaving care. Referral is through DLR County Council only.</p> <p>See: https://crosscare.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 3 &4
Asylum Seekers & Refugees	<p>The Dún Laoghaire Refugee Project operates on Monday evenings in the Dún Laoghaire Community Training Centre (dlctc). They provide support for separated children and former separated children seeking asylum through a drop-in centre in Dún Laoghaire.</p> <p>See: http://www.drp.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 1 & 2
Travellers	<p>Southside Travellers Action Group (STAG) located in Sandyford is a provider of accommodation support, education & training services, employment, Traveller Health-care & youth services to over 215 Traveller families resident in the Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown area. Travellers in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown can contact STAG with queries about social welfare, medical cards, rent arrears and homelessness, Domestic Violence, advocacy and any other support needs.</p> <p>See: https://www.southsidetravellers.org/</p> <p>Exchange House Ireland National Travellers Services is Ireland’s largest Traveller specific service and offers family support, crisis intervention services, addiction services, homelessness supports, domestic violence supports, education and training as well as children and young people’s services.</p> <p>See: https://www.exchangehouse.ie/</p> <p>The Traveller Accommodation Unit of the Housing Department in DLR County Council is responsible for providing Traveller specific accommodation such as halting site and a group housing scheme to Travellers in the county.</p> <p>See: https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/housing/housing-provision-applicants/traveller-accommodation</p>	Voluntary	Level 2 & 3

Recreation & Community Services in DLR			
	Service	Sector	Hardiker Level
Youth Services	<p>Youth Services in DLR are primarily provided by Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board and Crosscare Youth Services. Crosscare run a number of projects and services (11) in Dún Laoghaire and in Dundrum (6). See: http://www.ddletb.ie/</p> <p>DCYA fund a number of independent and targeted services such as CUALA Sports & Social, Dún Laoghaire CTC Drug Prevention, DLR DATF Prevention through Education, PMCA (Parents making Children Aware), Southside Traveller Youth Service and Ballyogan Early School Leavers Project. See: https://www.cualagaa.ie/ssip/, https://dlrcat.ie/, https://www.dlrdrugtaskforce.ie/, and https://www.southsidetravellers.org/children-youth-service</p> <p>Youth Services facilitated by DLR County Council include: Arts Access, Loughlinstown Community Rooms, Youth Arts Worker, Sports Access, Sports Development Officers, FAI Soccer Facilitator and the UCD Soccer Program. See: https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/dlr-arts, https://www.facebook.com/loughlinstowncommunity/, http://www.dlrsportpartnership.ie/, and http://www.ucdsoccer.com/</p>	Statutory	Level 1, 2 & 3
Youth Clubs	<p>There are 37 active Youth Clubs and Groups registered with DDLETB in DLR. This figure includes; Community Groups, Scouts, Foroige groups and the Order of Malta. See: http://www.ddletb.ie/</p>	Voluntary	Level 1
Arts	<p>The dlr Arts Office in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports a wide range of arts activities and opportunities, including a dedicated Youth Arts facility called the Grainstore in Cabinteely Park. See: www.dlrcoco.ie/en/dlr-arts and www.events.dlrcoco.ie</p> <p>Music Generation dlr is a music education programme for children and young people aged 0 to 18. It is managed by the dlr Music Education Partnership led by dlr County Council in partnership with DDLETB, Tusla, Southside Partership, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Blackrock Education Centre, IADT, UCD and Crosscare.</p> <p>There are 2 performing arts theatres in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, the Pavilion Theatre in</p>	Statutory	Level 1

	Dun Laoghaire and the dlr Mill Theatre in Dundrum. See: https://www.paviliontheatre.ie/ and www.milltheatre.ie		
Southside Partnership	The Southside Partnership provide a range of recreation and community services throughout DLR including; children's clubs, youth groups, community education and community groups. See: www.southsidepartnership.ie	Community	Level 1, 2 & 3
Public Libraries	There are 8 branch libraries managed by dlr County Council including the Lexicon Cultural Centre located in Dun Laoghaire, Deansgrange library, Dalkey library, Stillorgan library, Dundrum library, Shankill library, Cabinteely library and Blackrock library. See: www.libraries.dlrcoco.ie/	Statutory	Level 1
Community Centres	There are 20 Community Centres in DLR owned and managed by DLR County Council. These community facilities provide a range of services and supports for older people, young people, parents, families, people with disabilities and ethnic minority groups. 13 of these Community Centres provide either preschool and/ or afterschool childcare supports and/ or youth services to the immediate community See: www.dlrcommunity.com	Community	Level 1
Leisure Centres	There are 4 Leisure Centres in DLR managed by DLR County Council; Loughlinstown, Meadowbrook, Monkstown, Ballyogan. See: www.dlrleisure.ie	Community	Level 1
Sports Clubs	According to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, there are 251 Sports Clubs in DLR. These include Basketball, GAA, Soccer and Community Games. Sports Partnership provide playing pitches and numerous sports facilities and clubs across the county. See: http://www.dlrsportspartnership.ie/	Community	Level 1
Parks	The DLR County Council's Parks section is responsible for over 1,200 hectares of Parks and Open Spaces. There are 6 Regional Parks in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown which include Marlay Park, Cabinteely Park, Fernhill, Blackrock Park, Killiney Hill and the People's Park. The Parks department organises a programme of free events to encourage people to use the public spaces. These include outdoor cinemas, teddy bear's picnic, and science and technology events. See: https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/parks-outdoors	Community	Level 1

Playgrounds	There are 32 Playgrounds in DLR are targeted at children up to the age of 12. The Community Department of the DLR County Council is responsible for 5 of these playgrounds, the majority of which are situated in the grounds of community facilities. See: https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/parks-outdoors/playgrounds	Community	Level 1
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Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown

4.0 Introduction

This section highlights the main concerns and issues for Children and Young People in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown drawn from the socio-demographic profile, the audit of services and importantly the consultation process undertaken with service providers and young people themselves. National research is also referenced where possible.

As context, a huge amount of data was gathered during the consultation process with service providers and young people, which would be unwieldy to present in this report. In May 2018, a synthesis of this data was presented to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee (SAMC). A participatory and facilitation toolkit, 'Ketso' (www.ketso.co.uk) was utilised by the SAMC to prioritise the many suggestions that were emerging.

Following this, from July to December 2018, service providers across sectors were presented with a summary of these priorities and had the opportunity to identify the strengths, areas for improvement, challenges and their bright ideas in focus group events respective to each Outcome Area. Participating services were then asked to vote on each of these areas for improvement, challenges and bright ideas so a clear and transparent interagency group consensus emerged on the priority areas for action.

These outcome areas were then presented and discussed in depth in 2019 at the interagency Subgroups attended by the services which had particular expertise in the priority areas. The DLR CYPSC Coordinator used an 'Outcomes Based Accountability' (Friedman, 2005) approach to facilitate services to advise what tangible actions would be necessary to achieve the outcomes, and what interagency action would be feasible for the participating services to collaborate on. These are the priority needs that are described in the section below by National Outcome which form the essence of the DLR CYPSC Action Plan in Section 5.

This report would like to acknowledge that there are many more challenges and areas of unmet needs for children and young people which were discussed during the consultation process which cause much frustration to services in the county. There also were many more bright ideas and excellent suggestions for service improvement and change required to improve child and youth outcomes. However, ultimately the DLR CYPSC, tasked by DCYA to create a new interagency structure in the county, has had to prioritise the areas of priority concern identified by the majority of services in a position to work with other services.

By using this transparent methodology of consultation, all services had the opportunity during a two year period from 2017-2019 to contribute to the interagency dialogue, to suggest collaborative action, to support and vote on actions as per the SAMC's priorities for interagency collaboration, and to take responsibility for their part in the interagency solution. It is believed that that this potentially will lead to services' ownership of the DLR CYPSC structures as effective interagency vehicles to collectively enhance outcomes for the child and youth population of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

The section below (4.1) offers a summary table of the unmet needs identified and the agreed interagency strategic actions that will take place during 2020 -2022 to

collaboratively address these to improve outcomes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

A much more detailed overview is provided in the next section (4.2) which offers local and national context and data in relation to the each of the identified priority unmet needs, under National Outcome headings, as well clarifying the proposed strategic interagency action agreed by the collaborating services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

4.1 Summary of Unmet Needs & 27 Strategic Priority Interagency Actions Agreed for DLR CYPSC (2020-2022)

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

IDENTIFIED UNMET NEED	STRATEGIC PRIORITY ACTION AGREED
INCREASE INTERAGENCY SUPPORT FOR BREASTFEEDING	Develop interagency project plan to increase breastfeeding rates in Dún Laoghaire Local Health Office Area through inter-sectoral support for breastfeeding including in public spaces.
SUPPORT FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH OF BABIES, EARLY YEARS CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS	Establish an interagency Infant and Early Years Mental Health network to support professional development, build workforce capacity to implement the new 'First Five' policy, support professional development and raise public awareness of this critical developmental period.
RELIABLE, DETAILED DATA ON PHYSICAL HEALTH & ACTIVITY OF THE CHILD & YOUTH POPULATIONS	Commission and support further research, in collaboration with stakeholder services, to illuminate the health & physical activity needs for the child and youth populations in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.
VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND TIMELY YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SERVICES	Develop an interagency initiative to enhance mental health service knowledge exchange, visibility and provision, and engage young people in the development of an online mental health and wellbeing service guide
COORDINATED HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARENTS	Organise interagency collaboration to provide early intervention health & mental health supports for children, young people and parents in temporary homeless accommodation in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
CULTURALLY SENSITIVE HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR TRAVELLER CHILDREN, YOUTH AND PARENTS	Facilitate interagency collaboration to deliver effective prevention and early intervention health and mental health service provision delivered in culturally appropriate ways for Traveller children, young people and parents in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.
INTERAGENCY SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL DUE TO MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES	Develop and evaluate a pilot interagency mental health and educational support programme for adolescents who have withdrawn from school due to mental health difficulties in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. (In collaboration with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CYPSC Education & Learning Subgroup)

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

IDENTIFIED UNMET NEED	STRATEGIC PRIORITY ACTION AGREED
EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL-BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES IN EARLY YEARS	Support and evaluate a pilot of 'Nurture' rooms in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Early Years Childcare and Education services as an early intervention initiative to support the wellbeing of young children in need of extra supports.
IMPROVEMENT OF CHILD AND YOUTH SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES	Work with interagency stakeholders to identify current provision of evidence based Social Emotional Learning programmes, training, delivery partnerships & resources available to support implementation and evaluation.
REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO EDUCATION AND LEARNING FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	Establish an interagency working group to identify the learning and educational needs, and to organise appropriate supports for children and young people in temporary homeless accommodation in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.
POOR EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR TRAVELLER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DLR	Organise an interagency educational event to understand how best to improve educational outcomes for Traveller children and young people.
AN EVIDENCE INFORMED COUNTY WIDE INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE ONLINE SAFETY AND INFORMED BEHAVIOUR	Support and evaluate a pilot interagency cybersafety training programme for 5th and 6th class primary school students, and pilot an online rapid response initiative to improve safe and informed behaviour online in a specific community in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.
SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP SAFE, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS	Identify early intervention healthy relationships programmes with stakeholders for the early years, community based youth and school settings and promote HEA consent framework with third level educational and community based partners.
SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES WITH EDUCATIONAL TRANSITIONS	Support interagency collaboration to plan event on educational Transitions, a Transition plan for the county's educational services, and a youth friendly website of support services.

Outcome 3: Safety and Protection from Harm

IDENTIFIED UNMET NEED	STRATEGIC PRIORITY ACTION AGREED
<p>ACCESS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO DOMESTIC ABUSE CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES IN DLR</p>	<p>Facilitate an interagency planning process to secure a Domestic Abuse Crisis Intervention Services including a refuge and wraparound services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.</p>
<p>ACCESS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO AN EVIDENCE BASED RECOVERY PROGRAMME FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE</p>	<p>Interagency planning, implementation and evaluation of an evidence informed Child and Mother Recovery group programme in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.</p>
<p>FACILITATE SAFE VISITS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND SEPARATED PARENT</p>	<p>Facilitate an interagency planning process to establish community based contact locations to support children and young people to have safe and healthy contact with their non-resident separated parent.</p>
<p>SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MALE VICTIMS AND MALE PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC, GENDER BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE</p>	<p>Collaborate with stakeholder services to identify and support the implementation of evidence based programmes to support male victim recovery from violence and abuse and to enable male perpetrators of violence to change violent attitudes and behaviour towards women and children.</p>

Outcome 4: Economic Security

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Coordinated interagency planning and support for children and young people experiencing homelessness in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Facilitate an interagency working group to focus on what data sharing and collaborative action is possible to progress evidence informed recommendations to improve safety and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people at risk of or living in homelessness

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Support children and young people experiencing homelessness to express their needs and recommendations	Facilitate an interagency group to work out how to ethically and sensitively offer children, young people and parents experiencing homelessness, the opportunity to express their experience, needs and recommendations on the improvement of services and outcomes.
Information for parents on available parenting supports in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Support an interagency Parenting Support Subgroup to map and identify parenting supports and services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to improve access to parenting support resources and services.
Capacity building for services working with parents to implement outcomes-based, evidence informed programmes & practise	Identify the support needs of parents, link services into the evidence base of 'what works' & contribute to the development of a national parenting support framework through DCYA Parenting Support Unit.
Participation of children and young people as service users & young civic leaders in DLR CYPSC	Facilitate the development of a rolling 'Young Leaders' participation forum to inform and listen and support young people from educational, community, health and social care organisations in DLR to progress interagency projects with DLR CYPSC support where possible.
Support for organisations to engage in participatory practise with young service users	Organise a skill building initiative so services in DLR have the opportunity to learn more about models of participatory practise with children and young people and develop the skill set to implement these.

Change Management Actions

<i>Identified Unmet Need</i>	<i>Strategic Priority Action Agreed</i>
Lack of information sharing between services hindering early intervention for at risk children & young people	Development of interagency protocols at senior management level for clarifying pathways and process for interagency collaboration & data sharing where feasible
Lack of joint commissioning of research and training events to gather relevant data and guide interventions	Interagency identification & commissioning of training and research to guide area interventions

4.2 Detailed Unmet Needs, Evidence Synthesis & Agreed Interagency Strategic Actions per Outcome Area

The following section seeks to present the reader with a picture of the priority unmet needs as identified through the DLR CYPSC Needs Analysis. This section contextualises the presenting unmet needs by blending local data gathered in focus groups and stakeholder consultations, socio-demographic data, and where possible referencing national and international data. An agreed interagency strategic action is presented in response to each priority unmet need, which has been agreed by Subgroup and Strategic CYPSC members. The project management table for implementation of these actions is detailed in Section 6, pg. 87.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Identified Unmet Need 1.1: Interagency collaboration to facilitate greater public awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding, to promote and increase available supports in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Health Office Area

There were 2,618 babies born to women in DLR in the last census year of 2016. There is very strong evidence that breastfeeding provides babies with a range of physical health benefits including a reduced risk of infections, diarrhoea and vomiting, sudden infant death syndrome, childhood leukaemia, obesity and cardiovascular disease in adulthood. Babies' intellectual and motor development are also improved as is the emotional bonding process so crucial to secure attachment and good mental health in childhood and later adult life.

While it is necessary to acknowledge that it is not always possible for women to breastfeed for a number of valid reasons and that other baby feeding methods adequately support baby's health and wellbeing if done appropriately, in terms of equity of access to a best healthcare start in life, it is important to support all babies born in the county to access the health benefits of breastfeeding where possible.

However in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, there is a marked difference in breastfeeding rates reported by the two Local Health Office areas; the Dublin South East (DSE) Local Health Office records the highest rates in Ireland at **83.2% mothers breastfeeding exclusively at the first PHN visit** falling to **70.4% at the three month visit**. In comparison the Dún Laoghaire LHO records just **50% of mothers breastfeeding exclusively at the first PHN visit falling to 28.1% at the three month visit** which is the seventh lowest in Ireland. (HSE Performance Indicator data, June 2017).

This trend is not changing according to HSE 2019 data, which notes that while Dublin South East LHO area is in position 1 out of 32 Local Health Office areas for breastfeeding rates at both the first PHN visit and the three month PHN visit, **Dún Laoghaire LHO area is in position 20 out of 32 Local Health Office areas** at the first PHN visit and position 14 at the three month PHN visit. Dún Laoghaire's breastfeeding rates have not met the HSE National Breastfeeding Action Plan (2016 – 2021) targets in both 2017 and 2018, unlike Dublin South East and Wicklow. This indicates there is the need for more interagency collaboration with regards to how best to create community based supports to facilitate increased breastfeeding rates among pregnant and new mothers in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LHO area.

Local HSE staff have suggested in CYPSC Health Subgroup meetings that the gap in the breastfeeding rates across the two LHO areas may be due to the difference of their return of LHO data to central HSE.

However national research indicates that rates of breastfeeding are significantly less in lower socio-economic areas and this is supported by local service knowledge who reported via the DLR CYPSC perinatal focus group (2018) is that there still is a cultural stigma around breastfeeding publically that can be discouraging for new mothers and that in particular disadvantaged communities need more support to realise the health benefits of breastfeeding for babies and their mothers.

Additionally the direct feedback from new mothers in DLR CYPSC/Healthy Ireland supported groups in 2017-2019 in disadvantaged communities was that they simply did not receive sufficient support pre-birth, in maternity hospital and post-birth to confidently and successfully breastfeed. One pregnant participant noted her need for reliable information: *"I'd like to know more about breastfeeding. I've been Googling stuff. How long after the birth can I pump? How will breastfeeding go in my busy lifestyle?"* and other participants requested information about local support groups: *"I'd really like to know about groups or people who can help with the breastfeeding. Because before my baby didn't gain weight. The doctor said I couldn't. You're not able. But I'd like to try again."*

Additionally there is a new policy imperative through the DCYA's 'First Five' strategy to engage in innovative, effective collaboration to improve outcomes in the early years, there is a Healthy Ireland 'good practise' example from Limerick CYPSC area where a public campaign has increased interagency supports for breastfeeding in public spaces, and there is the local opportunity for the CYPSC to engage with the Health Services through the newly appointed Child Health Officer in the HSE.

Therefore the following strategic action has been agreed to meet the identified need to increase breastfeeding rates and supports in the Dún Laoghaire Local Health Office area.

Strategic Action Agreed

This 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC Plan will develop an interagency project plan to increase breastfeeding rates with key services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown involved in baby feeding support (e.g. Maternity hospitals, PHNs, Ciudiu, La Leche, breastfeeding clinics) as well as with 'non-traditional' support sectors such as businesses, cultural centres and community/family resource centres to normalise and promote breastfeeding in public.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Identified Unmet Need 1.2: An Infant Mental Health Network Support for professionals working therapeutically with parents and children 0-5 years of age

The first three years of life provide the foundation for a child's social and emotional health, wellbeing, physical health and brain development. DCYA has recently issued a new policy on called 'The First 5' which requires CYPSCs to support interagency collaboration to improve outcomes for this population.

DLR has a significant 'early years' population, in 2016, there were **13,810 children aged 0 to 4 years residing in the DLR** area, representing 6.3% of the total population. The breakdown per local authority area is Glencullen/Sandyford (653); Dundrum (475); Dún Laoghaire (464); Killiney-Shankill (381) Blackrock (350) ; Stillorgan (295)

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health refers to how well a child develops socially and emotionally from birth to three years of age. This includes their capacity to express and regulate their emotions, begin to form relationships and explore their environment. Understanding infant mental health and supporting parents to establish secure, trusting and reliable relationships with their very young children is the key to establishing mental health resiliency and to preventing mental health problems.

Developing the 'infant mental health' skill set of the professional workforce engaging with parents and children aged 0-3 is one of the most effective ways to support parents to develop greater awareness and capacity to strengthen infant and early childhood mental health. Infant Mental Health Networks are developing around Ireland with the support of the Irish Association of Infant Mental Health (I-AIMH), who have recently purchased an internationally recognised professional development training accreditation framework.

DLR CYPSC will lead on establishing an interagency IMH network in DLR, and has already piloted a successful two day Infant Mental Health training in 2017 in partnership with Wicklow CYPSC, and used Healthy Ireland funding in 2018-2019 to pilot a perinatal parent and baby support initiative in disadvantaged areas consisting of yoga, baby massage and health guidance from qualified midwives. The positive feedback from stakeholders engaged in these initial DLR CYPSC initiatives indicate there would be great value in establishing an interagency Infant Mental Health Network in DLR that supports professionals working therapeutically in the range of community and statutory services working to support pregnant parents, babies, toddlers, wobblers and pre-schoolers.

Strategic Action Agreed

This 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC Plan will establish an interagency Infant and Early Years Mental Health network to support professionals working therapeutically with parents and 0-3's, build workforce capacity to implement the new statutory 0-5 policy, support professional development aligned to the I-AIMH professional development competencies, and raise public awareness of the importance of this critical developmental period.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Identified Unmet Need 1.3

Reliable Data on Child & Youth Population Physical Health & Activity

Due to differing geographical boundaries used by key statutory services as well as the lack of data provision per Local Authority Area by key data providers, it has been difficult for this DLR CYPSC report to obtain robust, reliable data on key indicators for child and youth population physical health such as level of physical activity, obesity, disability or drug and alcohol use.

According to the Central Statistics Office (2016), the population of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown are more likely to be in better health than the State average with those persons who completed the Census reporting their health as being 'Good' or 'Very Good' at 89.9%. However there is a risk that the self-reported census questions answered by adults disguise the current health needs of and future health challenges faced by vulnerable young populations and may even minimise the need for investment in child and youth population health-related services.

For example, national research indicates that one child out of five in Ireland is either overweight or obese. Being overweight as a child can have a significant impact on the development of future chronic disease, whereas physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day reduces risk of being overweight or obese. Child and youth obesity is also highly costly to Ireland's health services and it a national policy objective to prevent and reduce obesity.

So as a pilot in 2018, the DLR CYPSC in partnership with the DLR Sports Partnership commissioned research on levels of physical activity among young people living in Ballyogan, a community which consists of three disadvantaged Small Areas with a population of 1289, with an unemployment rate of 42%, and a lone parent rate of 44.5%. Ballyogan is part of Sandyford/Carrickmines (Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) area) which has the highest proportion of 5 - 10 year olds in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County (3,951). More than 32% of Ballyogan's population are under 17 years old.

The research findings revealed that over **34% of 12-14 year olds were not physically active and 48% of the 15-18 year olds stated that there is nothing available locally that would interest them.**

http://www.dlrsportspartnership.ie/images/Ballyogan_Research_Report.compressed-compressed.pdf These findings indicate this needs to be an area for future interagency collaboration regarding future population health in the area as the good levels of physical activity in childhood and youth is a strongly protective health factor and the negative trajectory of health related issues that occur due to lack of physical exercise is well established.

The value of conducting this partnership research can be seen in the subsequent interagency partnership established 'Ballyogan Sports Physical Activity Hub' led by the DLR Sports Partnership, funded by Sport Ireland which subsequently sought to establish a range of physical activities in consultation with local young people and local service providers. This would be an excellent model for the rest of the county but would require additional resourcing to implement. <http://www.dlrsportspartnership.ie/events-programmes/ballyogan-sports-active-hub/259-launch-of-ballyogan-sport-physical-activity-hub>

These findings from the needs analysis process illustrate the importance of the CYPSC commissioning action research with stakeholder partners into specific geographical, child and youth populations and health issues to establish a deeper understanding of the needs of children and young people, the service gaps and most importantly, the potential interagency solutions to progress.

Future research and health interventions in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown must consider the 'social determinants' of health (Dahlgreen & Whitehead, 1991) as multiple factors that impact children's health and quality of life, including their local environment, living conditions, services, amenities, education, lifestyle and relationships. Participants consulted during the DLR CYPSC Needs Analysis demonstrated a keen awareness of this in discussion with regards to improving health outcomes for children and young people. For example:

In November 2017, school principals consulted expressed concern over

- The increase in childhood obesity related to the level of fizzy drinks being consumed by children, the unhealthy nature of the lunches children are bringing to school, the lack of walking/cycling to school and over-engagement in sedentary digital games/social media
- The social class barrier to engagement in sports and recreation for many children and young people as parents can't afford to pay for extra-curricular activities such as Swimming or Gymnastics resulting in children/young people being excluded in a vicious cycle.
- Gender differences affecting physical activity as girls (14-15 years old) participation especially in team sports is low and hard to encourage.
- The policy-practise gap with schools finding it difficult to meet the recommended Physical exercise (P.E) requirements of 2 hours per weeks as so much time needs to be given to other subjects according to DES guidelines.

In April 2018 young people from Crosscare Youth Services advised, in a focus group facilitated by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator, that in order to improve their health outcomes, they needed:

- Safe places for young people to "hang out" with their friends in their local environment
- Access to local facilities such as gyms (often restricted to over 18's and expensive) and local sports clubs
- Healthy food options at schools (e.g. free healthy breakfast)
- Workshops and information on Mental Health (inclusive of promoting positive mental health & where to look for help and advice)
- Greater awareness/programmes addressing drug and alcohol misuse (young people perceived substance misuse as an inappropriate response to stress and peer pressure)
- Safe community/youth space for young people to meet

In December 2018 young people from the Travelling Community advised, in a focus group facilitated by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator, that to improve their 'Health' outcomes that they needed "*more green spaces, more boxing clubs and equality in sports*".

These examples of consultation with service providers and with young people create a very different narrative requiring a different response from services and policy makers than does the more dominant perception of DLR as a county with great natural amenities, a physically active and mostly healthy population. While the latter is true for some of the county's population, it's essential for the purposes of equity to identify less

well-served populations and locations, and the social health barriers that may prevent their access to enjoying a good standard of health.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC will seek to commission and support further research, in collaboration with stakeholder services, to illuminate the health & physical activity needs for the child and youth populations in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, beyond the county data trends which currently disguise the needs and service gaps for specific areas and for vulnerable populations.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Identified Unmet Need 1.4: Visible, Accessible & Responsive Youth Mental Health Services

The complex social issue of rising rates of youth mental ill-health are of grave concern to policy makers, services providers and families across Ireland. Nationally, the evidence is stark:

- By the age of 13 years, 1 in 3 young people in Ireland are likely to have experienced some type of mental disorder. By the age of 24 years, that rate will have increased to over 1 in 2.
- Significant numbers of young people are deliberately harming themselves and by the age of 24 years, up to 1 in 5 young people will have experienced suicidal ideation.

(Source: Psychiatric Epidemiology Research across the Lifespan, 2013, RCSI)

Locally the evidence of the unmet need for earlier mental health support to prevent escalation to serious mental illness is clear in the county of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown:

- In 2016, there were 1,975 children and young people referred to CAMHS in CHO6 which is a rate of 227.5 per 10,000 children and young people under 18. This was the highest rate in the State relative to the other CHOs and is significantly higher than the State average of 155.1.
- Of additional concern is that 336 of these children and young people did not meet the eligibility criteria for CAMHS services and therefore did not receive any mental health service.

(Source: Socio-Demographic Baseline Report for DLR CYPSC, 2018, All Island Research Observatory NUIM)

- In 2018, there were 985 referrals and 1770 open cases (children and young people attending service) in Lucena Dún Laoghaire CAMHS and Lucena Rathgar CAMHS.
- According to the HSE (2019) CHO6 has the highest percentage child population attending CAMHS in the country, which was 2.6% of the under 18 population, compared to the national average of 1.6%.

(Source: Regional Director of CAMHS, e-communication on 23/08/2019)

- In 2015, the rates of young women under 24 years presenting to hospital following self-harm was recorded at a rate of 268 per 100,000 in the Dublin South East LHO and was recorded at a rate of 263.2 in the Dún Laoghaire LHO. These self-harm rates in both areas were above the State average of 253.2 (NSRF, 2015).
- Rates of young women under 24 years presenting to hospital following 'non suicidal self-harm' (NSSH) in both Dublin South East LHO and Dún Laoghaire LHO are above the State average of 253.2 (NSRF, 2015).

(Source: Socio-Demographic Baseline Report for DLR CYPSC, 2018, All Island Research Observatory NUIM)

Anecdotally, services in DLR advise that young people are using self-harm as a way to relieve unpleasant feelings and emotional distress. Longitudinal UK research indicates that young people are unlikely to seek help from health services for self-harming. This lack of help-seeking is particularly concerning as self-harm is the greatest predictor of suicidal ideation. (McManus, S. et al, 2019).

Improved access to community-based prevention and early intervention mental health services has emerged as the top priority interagency action necessary to improve health, mental health, learning, safety and participation outcomes for the 0-24 year old population in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, according to over 80 service providers and 90 young people consulted in 2017-2018.

(Source: DLR CYPSC Needs Analysis, 2018, DLR CYPSC Coordinator, Tusla Child & Family Agency)

In terms of service provision, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown forms a large part of the HSE CHO 6 area which includes Dublin South East, Dublin South and Wicklow. Unfortunately unlike other areas in CHO 6, the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CYPSC area does not have a youth-specific primary care mental health service like 'Jigsaw'. Young people in the county as well as a range of service providers consistently identified this as a critical gap in service provision and a key priority area in need of further investment and service development.

It is important to acknowledge that there is a popular 'Teen Counselling' service run by Crosscare, however this a Dublin wide service with six services, one of which is located in Dún Laoghaire and the service is over-subscribed with a waitlist of between three to four months. (Source: e-communication with Crosscare Teen Counselling on 23/08/2019).

HSE Primary Care Psychology Dublin South and HSE Primary Care Psychology Dublin South East also offer counselling and psychological services to children with their parents and to young people in these two areas of CHO 6 which include Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. However the HSE Psychology waitlist is even longer between six months to twelve months and estimated to rise to a higher wait time due to unfilled vacancies in the HSE (Source: E-communication with the HSE Principal Psychologists, 23/08/2019). This long waitlist is highly regrettable since the likelihood is that children and young people's difficulties escalate to the point of requiring a referral to CAMHS where they are then also placed on a waiting list and may not even meet the criteria of that service which has works to specific 'Standard Operating Procedures'.

This deterioration of children's mental health while on lengthy waitlists could be avoided if greater accessibility could be provided to Primary Care Psychology as the first point of contact as an early intervention holistic model for children, young people and families experiencing emotional and psychological issues. Since clinical staff are trained to assess and work with a myriad of issues including mental health, disability and developmental issues and across all age ranges in the population, a layered care approach to addressing childhood difficulties could be offered plus the potential to offer more population based parental supports. This would provide a more preventive & cost effective approach to meeting population needs and would allow CAMHS to focus more on those children with more significant problems & diagnosed mental health disorders as is their remit/service criteria.

Moreover many children and young people experiencing disability and developmental issues have 'co-morbid' or co-existing mental health issues. The appropriate public service to support these children and young people is the HSE Early Intervention and School Age Developmental and Disability service. However this service has a significantly long waiting list which services advise is '*breaking mothers' hearts*' (Focus group 2018). Additionally many young people struggle to access mental health services due to co-morbid developmental issues such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Creating pathways of collaboration between stakeholders services would greatly benefit children and young people in need of disability and mental health support.

The DLR CYPSC Consultation also identified a low level of awareness among the young people of the existing mental health services in the county, including what specialist secondary care services such as Lucena Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services provide; how to access primary and secondary care services; where to find reliable online information particularly with regards to eating disorders and self-harm; confusion around how to transition from paediatric/child mental health services to adult services *etc.* Therefore there it would be worthwhile for DLR CYPSC, in collaboration with the HSE CHO 6 Connecting for Life strategy, to engage stakeholder mental health services in mapping, publicising and supporting existing services to be more visible and accessible to young people. It is important given the 'Participation' national strategy that young people themselves would be involved in this process of raising youth awareness of available mental health services in the county and in identifying service gaps and recommendations for improvement.

Young people themselves are clear on what service provision could best support their mental health. In April 2018 over 60 young people from Crosscare Youth Services advised the DLR CYPSC Coordinator that in order to improve their mental health outcomes, they needed:

1. No waiting lists for mental health services, clear path to (free) youth-friendly services who provide diagnosis and support (with a possible link to youth clubs)
2. Regulated and qualified guidance counsellors who are youth-friendly to work in schools and youth clubs (to reduce anxiety and stress regarding future study or career)
3. Mindfulness and mental health programmes taught in schools as part of the curriculum (to reduce anxiety and stress and to improve mental resilience)
4. More creative arts programmes in schools and clubs to facilitate healthy emotional expression

School Principals consulted advised they are seeing "*children in schools with more and more mental health problems*" in DLR, and advised on on what they perceive as the necessary priority actions

- (1) A more 'proactive outreach from mental health services'
- (2) The delivery of mental health programs delivered in schools by external services to increase social emotional wellbeing and mental health resiliency of children.
- (3) Parent education also as "*there is no point in giving the message to the children if parents are not getting the same message*"
- (4) The targeting of mental health supports to all geographical areas "*not only the disadvantaged areas and DEIS schools which usually are the ones to receive additional interventions and resources*" (Source: CYPSC Focus Group with Principals, Nov. 2017)

The agreed priority interagency action by the DLR CYPSC Health & Mental Health Subgroup to meet the identified unmet need for visible, accessible and responsive youth mental health services is as follows:

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC will seek to develop an interagency 'Youth Mental Wellness Service Bridge' initiative to enhance mental health service visibility, to engage young people in the design of an online mental health and wellbeing service guide, to facilitate greater interagency knowledge exchange between services with regards to prevention, early intervention and treatment of child and youth mental health difficulties and disorders, and will strive to secure greater mental health service provision for young people in DLR.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Identified Unmet Need 1.5: Early Intervention health & mental health supports for children, young people and parents in temporary homeless accommodation in DLR

Babies and young children who experience homelessness can suffer delays to their physical and mental development, while older children experience stress, anxiety, grief, and high rates of mental health problems and behavioural disorders. Children experiencing homelessness have three times the rate of emotional and behavioural problems, and four times the rate of sickness (Siersback R. 2019). Children can suffer damage to their relationships with family and friends, with a decline in the quality of the parent-child relationship. Children experience the trauma of losing home, safety and security on top of whatever traumatic events caused family homelessness such as domestic violence, poverty, eviction from the family home etc.

Increasingly a 'trauma-informed' approach is recommended to limit the damage homelessness does to children and young people. This involves the provision of child-specific services at the earliest opportunity to reduce the negative impact on development, including health assessments, indicated medical treatments and therapeutic interventions that are creative and non-verbal e.g. play therapy, art and movement therapy, along with mental health support service for children and parents.

However services in DLR report significant unmet needs in this area, particularly as services are tasked with finding/supporting accommodation for families, not to support traumatised children and to support parenting in difficult circumstances. As one provider stated '*I wish it wasn't the case, but children are always at the bottom of my to do list*'. Moreover children are often living outside of their original Health Office catchment area disconnected from their GP with no fixed address which presents challenges for consistency of healthcare.

In 2018-2019 DLR CYPSC used Healthy Ireland funding to work with the three main homelessness service providers (PMV, Focus Ireland and Sophia Housing) to pilot (1) a 'healthy food made easy' **cooking workshops** open to all parents and toddlers in homeless accommodation; (2) a **movement/exercise programme for toddlers** and parents and (3) **swim classes for babies** and parents (4) a **'mobile playground'** for children and parents in the PMV hub to encourage play and socialising (5) a **visiting theatre artist** for children and parents in the PMV hub to encourage play and imagination.

Unmet needs related to health and mental health identified by staff in services include

- Access to health, mental health and parenting advice and support (on a weekly drop in basis)
- Access to child development assessments/SLT/OT/Psychological support where indicated
- Access to supported play opportunities (babies/toddlers/afterschool/school holidays)
- Access to supports once they have secured housing (as families can be isolated)

The agreed interagency action by the DLR CYPSC Health & Mental Health Subgroup in collaboration with the DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup is below:

Strategic Action Agreed

This 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC Plan will seek to support interagency collaboration to provide early intervention health & mental health supports for children, young people and parents in temporary homeless accommodation in DLR

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Identified Unmet Need 1.6: Culturally sensitive Traveller child and youth health and mental health services

The ethnic minority population of Irish Traveller children and young people are particularly vulnerable to negative health and mental health outcomes according to national research. The 'All Ireland Traveller Health Study' (Pavee Point, 2010) found the infant death rate was 3.6 times the national average, only 2.2% of Travellers mothers breastfed, Traveller children experienced an asthma rate of 70%, and had a higher prevalence of hearing, eyesight and speech difficulties than the general child population. Seven years later, little has changed according to the 'Traveller Community Survey' (The National Traveller Data Steering Group & The Community Foundation for Ireland, 2017). This research found that 36% of Travellers assess their own health as 'poor/very poor' with drugs and alcohol misuse, family ill-health and an unhealthy lifestyle identified as highly problematic. Mental health issues were identified as particularly significant with 90% of Travellers stating that mental health problems are common among the community, with 82% of the community affected by suicide.

While it has not been possible to access comparative health data in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, there are clear indicators that Traveller children and young people are experiencing significant barriers to a healthy life. For example, there is a stark over-representation of Traveller children in the State Care system in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Although 0.2% of the DLR population and 0.6% of the Wicklow population belong to the Irish Traveller ethnic group, **14.7%** of children and young people in the State Care system Dublin South/Dublin South East & Wicklow are Travellers. Since the most prevalent reasons for children being placed in state care include parental substance misuse, parental mental health difficulties, neglect and parental inability to cope, it is reasonable to assume these issues are significantly affecting the child and youth Traveller population Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Indeed Traveller children and parents themselves have stated clearly in the DLR CYPSC Consultation with Southside Travellers Action Group (STAG, Sandyford, Dec.2018) that "*not enough attention is given to mental health in the Travelling Community*". Parents explained that they experience "*a lack of information about mental health and services*" and young people said "*they (Travellers) do not talk about mental health enough; they (Teachers) should talk about it in schools, they (Traveller parents) should talk about it with young people*". When asked for solutions/bright ideas, Traveller young people and Traveller parents said they would like "*More mental health services specific to Travellers*", more mental health awareness among Travellers, and more funding for the local Traveller youth club to help young people.

National research indicates that also suggest that there is room for improvement in the quality of the health care encountered by Travellers. This is indicated by the high levels of services (54.7%) who have never received cultural awareness training nor disseminated service information in a way that would ensure that Travellers receive it (45.3%). This appears to result in lower level of trust by Travellers in health professionals (41%) and lower levels of Traveller engagement in recommended healthcare treatment in comparison to the general population (83%). This indicates the need for more culturally aware service delivery to increase patient trust and engagement.

Strategic Action Agreed

This 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC Plan will seek to support interagency collaboration to deliver effective prevention and early intervention health and mental health service provision delivered in culturally appropriate ways for Traveller children, young people and parents in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Identified Unmet Need 1.7: An intensive support programme for young people who have withdrawn from school due to mental health difficulties

School withdrawal or school refusal has traditionally been perceived as the domain of the educational services, however the phenomena is directly associated with significant mental health difficulties and requires the involvement of mental health services as part of the interagency solution to prevent the negative trajectory of early school leaving.

According to systematic reviews on early school leaving, mood disorders such as depression are significantly related to school dropout, as are anxiety disorders, in particular social and generalized anxiety, as well as social phobia as reported by early school leavers themselves (Esch, Bocquet, Pull et al., 2014; Finning et al, 2019).

In Ireland, the latest data from the OECD (2019) reveals that the depression rate of 26% for female early school-leavers in Ireland is the second highest in the OECD, just behind Iceland at 27%. The depression figure for early school-leaving males in Ireland is 21pc, which is twice the OECD average.

In Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, despite the highest levels of progression onto Third level education in the country, there is an estimated **early school leaving rate of 9.2%**. In 2009, a total of 2,422 students entered the first year of the junior cycle in DLR. By 2015, a total of 2,200 students in that cohort had completed their Leaving Certificate. This equates to a retention rate of 90.8% in DLR, which is only marginally above the State average of 90.2%.

Educational, community and mental health services in the CYPSC Needs Analysis have expressed their collective concern that they are witnessing increasing levels of school withdrawal/refusal among young people aged 12 to 15 years old, often co-morbid with mental health difficulties, yet there currently is no specific support service for these adolescents.

Services advise that this increasing level of school refusal, allied with the lack of early mental health supports, is negatively impacting this population's health and education, and in some cases leading to early school leaving which renders these young people even more vulnerable to the escalation of serious mental health difficulties.

The Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) report that the profile of referrals to their Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) run by DDLETB for young people aged 12 to 16 is increasingly characterised by mental health difficulties such as anxiety and depression. Additionally, a number of young people are presenting with learning difficulties such as dyslexia, ADHD/ADD and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This organisation's observation has been supported by the Youthreach service (formerly Sportsreach) for early school leavers aged over 16, who report an increased presentation of mental health difficulties among entering students as well as the observation that there needs to be earlier supports put in place for the 12 – 16 year old cohort of students who are not attending school.

These qualitative observations by a range of services are further supported by quantitative HSE and CAMHS service data which reveal that CHO 6 has the highest

percentage child population attending CAMHS in the country i.e. 2.6% of the under 18 population, compared to the national average of 1.6% (HSE 2019).

The issue of supports for adolescents who withdraw from school due to mental health difficulties is a particularly relevant and complex problem for services to work together to address.

The key stakeholder partners, including the Lucena Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Tusla Educational Supports Services, the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board, Crosscare Youth Services, Primary Care Psychology Service and other relevant youth mental health, educational and community partners have agreed to collaborate through the CYPSC to create an innovative pilot programme response to the issue.

Therefore the following strategic action has been agreed to meet the identified need to provide a mental health and educational support programme for adolescents who have withdrawn from school due to mental health difficulties.

Strategic Action Agreed

This 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC plan will develop and evaluate a pilot interagency mental health and educational support programme for adolescents who have withdrawn from school due to mental health difficulties in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.0 Early Intervention for children experiencing social-emotional-behavioural difficulties in Early Care & Education Care settings

International research has demonstrated that quality early care and education brings a wide range of benefits for children's well-being and for their social, emotional, behavioural, cognitive and language development (Melhuish, 2004). Optimizing the early years learning and development for children is the single best investment we can make as a society, not only in ensuring their future success but also in securing high economic and social returns to society (Heckman 2006; NESCS 2019).

Some children with more complex needs need additional supports to engage in early years and education due to a range of bio psychosocial factors. Unfortunately if those supports are not available in a timely manner, developmental windows of opportunity can be lost and a negative educational trajectory can begin which is both difficult and costly to reverse at a later educational stage.

In Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, the Early Childhood Care Education services advised during the DLR CYPSC consultation (2018-2019) that their staff know when a child is in their service needs additional social, emotional and behavioural supports to engage in early years education and to transition successfully to primary school.

However services report a long waitlist for Early Intervention assessments and interventions and note that the case more often than not is that the resources required are simply not available to secure the timely assessment of and the necessary supports for the child with clear additional needs.

This observation is mirrored at a national level by other Children and Young People Services Committees (CYPSCs) and concern has been flagged through national CYPSC interdepartmental structures regarding the lack of timely supports and resources available for children with complex needs.

With regards to what interagency action may be possible to progress locally, the 'Nurture' programme developed in the UK has been identified by the Blackrock Education Centre as a particularly relevant programme to pilot in response to the identified need. The programme uses the Social Emotional Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) Boxall assessment tool to identify both the learning developmental stage of the child (not their age), as well as their diagnostic profile which indicates what presenting needs they have. The child's needs are mapped on a histogram, and they receive a minimum of 6 sessions in a 'Nurture' room which is a modified homely room in the educational setting. The child is assessed each term and they return to full class hours when their needs have been met.

It would be a first for Ireland to launch and evaluate this Nurture initiative in the ECCE sector as it has just been developed in the UK for this population, having previously been developed and evaluated for the primary school sector. The aim is to pilot the Nurture programme in the higher need ECCE settings e.g. community based crèches in disadvantaged areas, to evaluate and then to expand if positive developmental outcomes are identified.

Strategic Action Agreed

In 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC will support and evaluate a pilot of 'Nurture' rooms in DLR Early Years Childcare and Education services as an early intervention initiative to support the wellbeing of young children in need of extra support to engage in early years education.

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.1: Interagency support for social emotional learning programme and supports to enhance child and youth wellbeing in schools

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is the process of developing the self-awareness, self-control and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work and life success. Child and young people with strong social-emotional skills develop the resiliency necessary to cope better with daily challenges and do well socially, academically and professionally. SEL programmes aim to develop five inter-related sets of cognitive, affective and behavioural competencies which include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, 2005).

These competencies provide a foundation for positive pro-social behaviours such as acting in accord with internalized values as opposed to being vulnerable to external influences, caring and concern for others, making good decisions and taking responsibility for one's choices and behaviours (Bear & Watkins 2006). Extensive research shows a strong correlation between the skills taught in SEL programmes and academic achievement, as well as outcomes like healthier relationships and better life decisions (Goleman 1995; Durlak *et al* 2011).

In the DLR CYPSC Consultation (2018-2019) School Principals reported their concern that they are observing less social-emotional skills and resiliency among children and young people than in previous generations. While there is no data to evidence this observation, the fact that there was consensus among over 50 educational professionals attending the day long consultation event in UCD in January 2018 from the full range of educational sectors (Early years education; Primary School education; Secondary School education; Further education and Higher education) about this issue indicates that this is an area for further interagency dialogue and potential collaborative action.

Early years health and education professionals also noted in their observations during the DLR CYPSC consultation that there seems to be increased parental stress associated with this current generation, which may be related to the shift in working arrangements in that both parents are usually working, resulting in less primary caregiver time available to share with the very young child.

They also offered the observation that there is less parent-child eye contact and available parental 'presence' due to technological distractions like mobile phones and devices. Finally, some health professionals noted their concern that children are being placed in front of screens from a young age which research is now indicating affects their later developmental milestones (Madigan 2019).

Whatever the reason for this apparent drop in social emotional resiliency, the educational professionals identified the solution as being Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programmes and supports to enhance child and youth wellbeing from pre-school through to post-primary school level. However School Principals reported that school staff are overwhelmed with programmes, initiatives and the curriculum they are required to deliver so they need additional support from other services to deliver SEL programmes and initiatives for social emotional wellbeing.

Schools acknowledged the highly valued support and expertise that the National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS) offers with regard to SEL programme training but advised that the current NEPS allocation of time to each school is greatly under-resourced by the Department of Education and Science and is unfortunately insufficient to meet the actual needs of the school pupil population for SEL education. There are new 'Wellbeing' guidelines being issued to the schools this year (2019) which represent a good opportunity to identify some evidence based SEL programmes to implement in the county, however Principals advise that resources simply aren't there to support implementation.

School representatives requested that the DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup would collaborate with relevant services in the DLR CYPSC Health Subgroup on an initiative to increase resources for the area in terms of training, professional development and delivery of evidence based Social Emotional Learning programmes to benefit the child and youth population.

Therefore it is proposed that DLR CYPSC would support a small working group led by NEPS and inclusive of CAMHS, HSE Psychology, Irish Primary Principals Network, National Association of Principal and Deputy Principals and Blackrock Education Centre, to review the evidence on SEL programmes, to map current delivery in the county and to identify recommended programmes, potential delivery partnerships and resources required to roll out and evaluate SEL programmes in collaboration with schools and community organisations.

It is also proposed that a DLR 'Festival of Wellbeing' would be held to celebrate positive youth mental health and to raise awareness of services, supports and life choices to strengthen positive social-emotional wellbeing.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will establish an interagency working group to focus on identifying current provision of evidence based Social Emotional Learning programmes, potential training and delivery interagency partnerships and resources available to support the implementation of, and evaluation of the impact of, SEL programmes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.2: Interagency support to proactively improve early learning outcomes for homeless children and educational support for their afterschool homework/study

The rapid growth of child and youth homelessness in Ireland is staggering. According to Focus Ireland (July 2019), the number of homeless families in Ireland has increased by 178% since June 2015. More than **one in three people in emergency accommodation is a child under 18 years of age**, with recent data estimates of 3,800 children in homelessness accommodation (Focus Ireland, July 2019). However, this number does not include the so called 'hidden homelessness', women and children staying in domestic violence refuges, living in squats or 'sofa surfing' with friends or even sleeping rough.

Irish national research and local stakeholder services in DLR report that homelessness is significantly impacting on children and young people's access to education, including early years education, primary, post-primary, further and higher education. Under the UN 'Convention for the Rights of the Child' to which Ireland is a signatory and under National Legislation such as 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures' (DCYA 2014) and the Education Act (1998), every child has the right to a level and quality of education appropriate to meeting their needs and abilities.

Knowing the litany of obstacles that block equal educational access for children in homelessness (Scanlon & McKenna 2018), and knowing the increased risk for these children of future early school leaving, poor health outcomes and even repeated homelessness (Maycock 2017), it is imperative that services actively strive together to improve the educational and indeed the life trajectory for these children living in homelessness in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Given the multi-factorial nature of homelessness, it is appropriate that these efforts are coordinated by the CYPSC as the vehicle for interagency collaboration to improve outcomes for children so that services efforts can be focused and effective, rather than fragmented efforts of which the outcomes are unknown. There is great goodwill among services in the DLR CYPSC Educational Subgroup to do whatever it takes to ensure these children experiencing homelessness are given the appropriate supports to ensure their equity of access to learning and education.

As Tanya Ward, Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance and Chairperson of the National Advisory Council on the implementation of the National Policy for Children, stated at the launch of the research report on the educational needs of children in homelessness (Scanlon & McKenna 2018): *"Schools are a beacon of hope for families and a place of sanctuary for children. They provide a stability and consistency that is otherwise absent in a child's life."*

Early years education for homeless children in DLR

Despite compelling evidence that consistent and high quality early years education is integral to child development and indeed to social return on investment, and even more so for children living in adverse family circumstances like poverty or homelessness, (Heckman 2006), the DLR CYPSC consultation in 2018 found that only 2 of the Early Childhood Education and Care Services (ECCE) out of the over 200 services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had homeless young children enrolled. This was despite specific

government incentives for services to do so through the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme offering 25 hours per week of free childcare.

The rationale given by services consulted was the early years and childcare services are already almost fully subscribed with long waiting lists in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, along with the amount of significant administration required to enroll homeless children who may then leave unexpectedly if the family found housing elsewhere, and the lack of ECCE service capacity to meet these administrative demands. It is unknown if the new National Childcare Scheme (www.ncs.ie) which seeks to reduce the administrative burden on early years and childcare services by streamlining schemes will improve the capacity of ECCE services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to enrol children living in homelessness.

The DLR CYPSC is keen to maximise the early years learning and development supports available to early years children living in homelessness and so piloted a successful scheme in 2018-2019 consisting of an interagency intervention to provide healthy nutrition, healthy exercise and healthy play to parents with babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the Peter McVerry Hub and in the Focus Ireland Temporary Supported Accommodation sites.

To continue to build on this partnership, it is proposed to focus on providing, play and physical exercise supports in terms of play mats for babies, play equipment for children, coaches and play sessions in collaboration with key service partners such as DLR Sports Partnership, DLR Childcare Committee, DLR County Council Arts Office and DLR County Council Leisure services.

This decision by the interagency Subgroup is based on evidence of continued need. In the week of May 2019 the DLR CYPSC Coordinator requested anonymised 'snapshot data' on the needs of children supported by two of the homelessness service providers in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. Focus Ireland and Peter McVerry Trust reported that out of the 80 children supported by the homelessness support workers, 48 of the children lacked access to any indoor or outdoor play facilities in DLR.

DLR CYPSC will also continue working with key partners such as DLR Childcare Committee and the homelessness service providers to encourage greater access to regular Early Childhood Care and Education for children under five experiencing homelessness in the county so that they can receive appropriate early years education along with the rest of the early years population. However this will necessitate considerable political leadership, interagency support and concerted action given the profile of DLR as a county with low numbers of community childcare services and high demand for private childcare services which are the most expensive in the country (Pobal, 2019).

Primary School education for homeless children in DLR

The recent report by the Home Works: A Study on the Educational Needs of Children Experiencing Homelessness and Living in Emergency Accommodation (Children Rights Alliance, 2018) detail the litany of obstacles that disrupt the education of children in homeless accommodation in Ireland. These include disruptive noise by other residents, long public transport or car journeys to schools, lack of appropriate facilities for food preparation and storage, inadequate facilities for homework, sleep, and maintaining personal hygiene, no quiet space to study, felt shame in school, social isolation and high levels of parental stress, depression and conflict. These all greatly impact on children's school attendance, self-esteem, and participation in school life and learning.

The report also observes that the displacement caused by homelessness has resulted in changes to children's behaviour, with negative repercussions for their education including children's refusal to eat, increased levels of agitation, crying and comfort-seeking behaviours.

In May 2019, the DLR CYPSC requested specific anonymised data on the needs of children supported by several of the homelessness service providers in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. In a small sample of 80 children supported by the homelessness support workers from a particular agency during that month, the service reported their observation that 33 children lacked access to any appropriate study facilities and homework or study support.

It is imperative that this situation is addressed through the provision of appropriate homework, study and if necessary afterschool tuition supports. The DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup looks forward to working with the range of educational and community services who may have a role in enabling this support for children and young people.

Young adults in homelessness and education

Focus Ireland notes in its national report that "*vulnerable young people are among the first victims of the housing crisis, with private landlords, social housing bodies and local authorities reluctant to rent to them.*" At the end of July 2019, there were over 905 young people (adults aged 18 to 25) living in emergency homeless accommodation. This represents a 106% increase from July 2014. Of these young homeless people, 64% live in the Dublin local authority areas.

While the number of young people from DLR currently experiencing homelessness is continually changing, this is a vulnerable population of significant concern to the DLR CYPSC Educational Subgroup.

Research indicates that some young people aged 18-24 years of age are particularly vulnerable to homelessness, such as young people who grew up in State care and who may lack a family support network or independent livings skills, young people who are unemployed in receipt of a reduced social welfare payment that cannot meet current rental rates in DLR, and specific groups of young people such as young adult Travellers, early school leavers and young people with mental health difficulties.

Of additional concern is that there are currently no youth specific homelessness accommodations provided in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, which means that homeless young people need to be accommodated in Dublin city, away from their network of supports and exposed to the negative anti-social behaviour in hostels and city based emergency accommodation. These behaviours have been consistently reported to include exposure to substance misuse, harassment, verbal and physical violence (Mayock and Parker, 2017).

These are young people that need to be proactively supported to engage in further education and training or employment to build their capacity to live independently, but the circumstance of homelessness and the current living costs in DLR renders that engagement most challenging.

Proposed DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup actions

The DLR CYPSC interagency Education Subgroup is keen to minimise the barriers to these children and young people engagement in learning and education and to maximise the interagency support that can be usefully organised in response to identified learning and educational needs. Therefore the members suggest the following actions that require interagency collaboration to progress:

1. Formation of an interagency working group, supported by DLR CYPSC, to focus on identifying educational support needs and improving educational outcomes for children and young people; attended by relevant homelessness service providers such as Focus Ireland, Peter McVerry Trust, Sophia Housing and Crosscare, as well as relevant statutory stakeholders such as DLR County Council Welfare/Housing, Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board, Tusla Educational Welfare service, Tusla Parenting, Prevention and Family Support service, School Completion Programme, Home School Liaison Coordinators, and the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Childcare Committee, appropriate further/higher educational partners such as Dublin Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Education Training Board, University College Dublin, IADT and relevant further educational providers as well as community based organisations that may offer afterschool or training supports such as Southside Partnership.
2. Development of a memorandum of understanding regarding confidential data sharing between agencies that is compliant with GDPR and terms of reference that are clearly focused on improving educational outcomes for the children and young people concerned.
3. Creation of a monthly overview of the numbers, ages and locations of children under 18 and young people aged 18 -24 in homelessness accommodation so that early contact can be made by the appropriate service to clarify what supports may be needed to support early years learning, for primary school, post-primary or further/higher education.
4. Utilisation of a 'meitheal' or child centred interagency approach to developing a holistic support plan to improve the child's/young person's access to learning and education that may include supports from other sectors e.g. welfare, housing, childcare, schools, recreation etc.
5. Agreement on baseline/outcomes based measure to evaluate the degree to which interagency support has improved educational outcomes for the child or young person.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will establish an interagency working group using best practise guidelines to focus on identifying the learning and educational needs, and organising appropriate supports for, children and young people in temporary homeless accommodation in DLR.

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.3: Interagency support to proactively improve educational outcomes for Traveller children and young people in DLR

Nationally, the data trend is disappointing with regards to the lack of progress on increasing educational attainment for one of the most marginalised groups of Irish children and young people, the ethnic minority group of Irish Travellers.

The latest figures from the National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education (2015–2019) indicate that just 1% of Traveller children progress to third-level education compared with the national population figure of over 50%. In terms of early school leaving, 28% of Traveller children are leaving school before the age of 13, in comparison with less than 1% of non-Traveller early school leavers.

Unfortunately, local data with regards to the educational attainment and early school leaving rates of Travellers in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown is not currently available. Stakeholder services note that the Government’s removal of the Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers in 2011 removed the primary source for information gathering on Traveller access and participation in education, as well as reduced Traveller own access to information on educational grants and supports.

While segregated education ended with good reason from 2006 onwards, Travellers do recommend that specific educational supports are retained for their community to enable educational access, equity and affirmative action to redress decades of educational disadvantage and social exclusion.

Traveller young people aged 12 to 21 years of age and their parents were directly consulted in the DLR CYPSC Needs Analysis (2018 –2019) with the support of the advocacy organisation Southside Travellers Action Group (STAG). Both parents and young people spoke highly of the benefits of education. Parents said education is “a powerful tool” and they were glad that “more children are staying in school”, something that they attributed to the support they receive from the “STAG youth centre”.

The Traveller boys and young men said they liked “learning new things every day” and “learning new ideas and new skills in school”. They recognised the value of education saying that it was useful for “self-development”, that “staying in school will help you get a job” and that it would help with “getting a good career, a job and a healthy family”. They really enjoyed “sports”.

The Traveller girls and young women appreciated the “access to preschool” now available for Traveller children along with all children through the ECCE scheme. They expressed their opinion that “a lot of Travellers are going back to school or education”, that there are “a lot more courses available” and they appreciated that there are “jobs for people in STAG after school e.g. fas”, which refers to the QQI Level 4 TASK training programme offered in STAG funded by DDLETB which can be followed by Community Employment Scheme opportunities.

However the parents noted that challenges to education including that there are “not enough Travellers working in schools”, “not enough Traveller voices on various boards”, that there is a “lack of awareness of Traveller culture” and that there is the tendency for the “Settled Community thinking they know best”.

The girls and young women shared that they have experienced “*racism, discrimination and bullying*” which has resulted in them “*not feeling comfortable in school*”. One example of discrimination noted was “*that Traveller children are getting access to special needs assistants, assuming that they need help (without an assessment)*.” This automatic allocation of special needs assistant to a Traveller girl without any educational assessment or discussion to see if she needed help with literacy and numeracy, which in this case she did not. That prejudicial assumption by the class teacher resulted in this girl feeling stigmatised and shamed in front of other pupils at the very start of the school year.

The girls and young women also spoke of the peer and cultural pressure they felt from the Traveller community to leave school early: “*other Travellers make fun of you if you stay in school*” and they noted that many schools put Traveller children on a reduced school timetable which can make it difficult for other Traveller children to stay in school as they are “*watching other children leave school early*”. They felt there are “*not enough opportunities for training and further education*” available to Traveller young women.

Boys and young men reported that “*school is so boring*”, and that they hate “*being bored at school or in training*”. They reported they often experience “*racism*” and “*discrimination in schools*”. They noted that “*secondary school is a problem with high drop out*” and often education is “*not valued by Travellers*”.

These comments were later expanded on by Traveller representatives as a potential lack of understanding of the importance of education within some parts of the Traveller community, which can be seen by some parents not supporting their children to attend school on time, every day, by some parents not attending parent-teacher meetings and by some parents not supporting children to stay on in secondary school. It was noted that motivation for Traveller girls to stay in school can also be a challenge given the current cultural norms to marry and have children early in life, and there is a strong cultural expectation that the Traveller boys will leave school early.

Solutions that Traveller parents identified to improve educational outcomes included ensuring that there is a “*Traveller rep on all agencies that deal with Travellers*” which would help with cultural understanding, “*more help to get the Travellers back to school with outreach*”, “*more supports for Travellers to finish school*” and “*more Travellers in education*” including as teachers, support workers, college tutors and lecturers. The parents recommended that the Traveller Education worker should be reinstated, that teachers should be more educated about Traveller culture, that Traveller culture should be included in the educational curriculum. It was proudly noted that the first Irish Traveller woman has recently achieved her PhD, Dr Sindy Joyce in the University of Limerick.

Ideas that the boys and young men had included “*more education for Settled people on Traveller issues*”, “*more supports for Travellers to finish school*” and “*more Travellers working in education*” and that there should be “*more inclusion in the education system*” (of Travellers/Traveller culture). The boys and young men also said school should be “*more fun*”, “*no homework*”, “*no name calling*”, that there should be “*more space*” and “*more land*”.

Girls and young women also said that “*schools should educate classes on Travellers*”, that it would “*encourage children to stay by getting them more involved in school*”, that schools should be “*treating everyone the same*” and “*accept people for who they are*”. The girls and young women recommended “*support children to stay in school*”, and

“staying in school till leaving cert”, as well as “talk about different cultures in school ; having more teachers teaching about Travellers in school” and give young Travellers the opportunity to “going to more courses”.

In summary, it was clear from this DLR CYPSC consultation that the participating Traveller mothers and young people place high value on education and they clearly wanted children and young people to have the opportunity to progress educationally. However the Traveller mothers identified serious barriers to Traveller children and young people feeling welcome, supported and represented in schools, and noted this is contributing to their early school leaving and to lack of progression to further and higher education.

A follow up consultation was held in 2019 with management from Southside Travellers Action Group regarding the findings of the consultation. It was agreed that it would be useful to organise an interagency educational event to focus on how to improve the Traveller community’s access to and retention in education in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.

It was suggested that a consultation with colleges that have had success with engaging and retaining Traveller students would be useful in terms of identifying the key barriers and key enablers that could support increased Traveller participation in further and higher education. It was also recommended that a key note speaker such as Dr Sindy Joyce, the first Irish Traveller woman to achieve a doctoral degree, could be an inspiration for Traveller children and young people.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will support an interagency educational event to support further collaboration between Traveller representative organisations and educational organisations to understand and to improve educational outcomes for Traveller children and young people

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.4: An intensive support programme for young people who have withdrawn from school due to mental health difficulties

Educational, community and mental health services in the CYPSC Needs Analysis have expressed their collective concern that they are witnessing increasing levels of school withdrawal/refusal among young people aged 12 to 15 years old, often co-morbid with mental health difficulties.

Although specific figures are not currently available, services report that the lack of a specific support service for these adolescents to support both their mental health and their return to education is negatively impacting their education, and in some cases leading to early school leaving which renders these young people even more vulnerable to the escalation of serious mental health difficulties. 9.3% of post-primary school students do not progress to Leaving Certificate in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, although it is acknowledged that a number of these pupils may have chosen to attend an educational service more appropriate to their ability, such as a community training college or Youthreach.

However it is noteworthy that the profile of referrals to the Alternative Learning Programme (ALP), reports that, an eight week programme for young people aged 12 to 16 years run by the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) is increasingly characterised by mental health difficulties such as anxiety and depression, learning difficulties and neurodevelopment differences such as being on the Autistic Spectrum. This observation has been supported by the Youthreach service (formerly Sportsreach) for early school leavers aged over 16, who report an increased presentation of mental health difficulties among entering students as well as the observation that there needs to be earlier supports put in place for the 12 – 15 year old cohort of students who are not attending school.

These qualitative observations by a range of services is further supported by quantitative HSE and CAMHS service data which reveal that CHO 6 has the highest percentage child population attending CAMHS in the country i.e. 2.6% of the under 18 population, compared to the national average of 1.6% (HSE 2019).

Therefore the issue of supports for adolescents who withdraw from school due to mental health difficulties is a particularly relevant and complex problem for services to work together to address, particularly the the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board, the Tusla Educational Welfare Office, the Primary Care Psychology Service and the Lucena Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in collaboration with other relevant youth mental health, educational and community partners.

The following strategic action has been agreed to meet the identified need:

Strategic Action Agreed (shared between the DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup and the DLR CYPSC Health & Mental Health Subgroup)

This 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC plan will develop and evaluate a pilot educational and mental health support programme for adolescents in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown who have withdrawn from school due to mental health difficulties with the aim of supporting the child to return to an appropriate form of education.

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.5: Safe and Informed Online Behaviour

International and national research indicates that cyberbullying is a growing phenomenon raising serious concerns as negative outcomes for young victims and for young perpetrators of online bullying can include low self-esteem, psychological maladjustment, social isolation, feelings of unsafety and even lead to self harm and suicidal behaviours (Glendenning et al, 2018; European Parliament, 2016).

Locally in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, School Principals and school staff in the DLR CYPSC consultation have reported rising rates of cyberbullying in recent years. Principals report that increasing amounts of their school staff time is spent in attempts to resolve the upset caused by this to school pupils. Community and youth services have also expressed concern about how visible and vulnerable young people are online when they and their parents do not have the skills to apply privacy settings or to not disclose identifying information online.

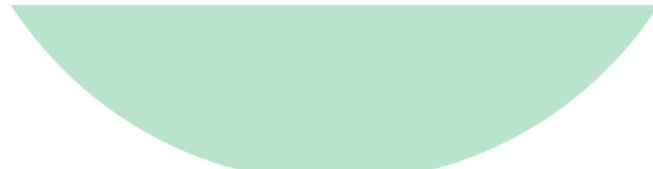
The DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup involved a range of stakeholders including Tusla Educational Welfare Services, Blackrock Education Centre, primary and secondary school principals, the Irish Association of Primary School Principals, the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals at secondary school level and a range of other educational stakeholders to discuss what response could be most effective in the County. It was agreed that three key interagency projects will take place during 2020-2022 in an effort to reduce cyberbullying and increase safe behaviour online.

Firstly, DLR CYPSC will fund the delivery of 'Cybersafe Ireland' educational sessions to pupils to a cluster of primary schools in the county and will collaborate on a Random Control Trial (RCT) research study, which is generously being supported by UCD, to evaluate any change in behaviour or knowledge arising from the intervention. The results of this RCT should be known by mid-2020, in which case DLR CYPSC can decide whether to continue funding the rollout of Cybersafe Ireland educational sessions for schools in the County or if another educational approach should be sought.

Secondly, DLR CYPSC will promote the participation of secondary schools in the county in the pilot Secondary School initiative known as 'FUSE', an evidence informed workshops for junior cycle students being run by DCU Anti-Bullying centre. The initiative seeks to empower young people to find solutions themselves, supported by evidence of 'what works' to tackle bullying and promote online safety.

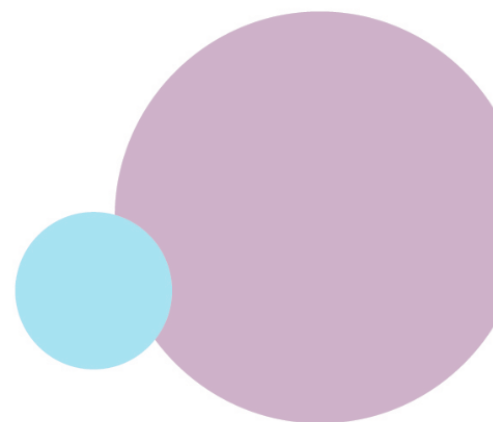
Thirdly, DLR CYPSC will engage with the start-up company 'Depublish' to pilot a rapid response system that gives young people the opportunity to report offensive or unsafe online communication, for that online material to go through a 'triage' system to determine is it bullying, illegal or offensive, and for the appropriate action to be taken. It is proposed to pilot this approach in a specific geographical community and to involve a range of services in a 'whole community' approach.

Pending evaluation and outcomes of these initiatives, further planning will take place as to interagency action on a larger county scale.



Strategic Action Agreed

In 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC will support and evaluate a pilot interagency cybersafety training programme for 5th and 6th class primary school students and will pilot an online rapid response initiative to improve safe and informed behaviour online in a specific community in DLR.



Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.6: Proactive interagency support for children and young people to develop safe, healthy relationships and to protect themselves and others from sexual violence

Nationally, the prevalence of sexual violence was unknown, based on crime statistics and service uptake figures, until the publication of the Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (McGee *et al.* 2002). The seminal research conducted with over 3,000 randomly selected Irish women and men identified a high prevalence rate of sexual abuse and assault:

- 42% of women reported some form of sexual abuse or assault in their lifetime, with penetrative abuse experienced by 10% of women.
- 28% of men reported some form of sexual abuse or assault in their lifetime, with penetrative abuse experienced by 3% of men.

An updated SAVI report is planned by the Department of Justice but in the meantime, the national evidence seems to demonstrate that sexual violence rates are increasing. For example, at the launch of the Forensic Science Ireland's annual report (2018), agency director Chris Enright stated: *"There has been a significant growth in sexual assault submissions. What we are seeing in 2019 is an increase of 30% year over year. We are seeing a continuous upward trend"*. This statement reflects the trends in successive crime data reports published by the Central Statistics Office which in March 2019 showed that sexual offences have jumped by 60% between 2014 and 2018, including a 10% rise in 2018. This included a 21% rise in rapes, a 10% increase in defilement of an underage person and an 83% hike in aggravated sexual assaults. It is unknown whether these increased reported incidences are due to an increase in reporting rates or an increase in sexual violence rates or a combination of both.

With regards to data on young people, in 2014 the Rape Crisis Centre Ireland (RCNI) commissioned research on young people, alcohol and sex (MacNeela *et al.*, NUIG 2014) which demonstrated that for the most part young people were completely unprepared for the tasks of negotiating sexual consent and were therefore at risk of sexual violence. Naming sexual violence was very difficult young people, and the Irish 'binge drinking' culture leads to a lack of reporting to the appropriate authorities resulting in unchecked and repeated sex offending by mainly young men.

However the report asserted that decreasing sexual violence is possible and made the following clear recommendations:

- (1) Improve youth preparedness for negotiating consent through engaging young people in the development of targeted knowledge and skills required to apply the understanding of consent to a range of relationships and types of sexual activity
- (2) Promote a better understanding of alcohol as a source of risk and harm
- (3) Improve knowledge and attitudes to reporting sexual assault and to seeking professional support
- (4) Support a skill based approach for managing problematic consent situations.

Locally in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, reliable data is not currently available on the level of sexual abuse and violence experienced by children and young people across their young lives, although Tusla Child and Family Agency do collect monthly and annual figures of alleged and substantiated child abuse. However during the DLR CYPSC Consultation 2018-2019, stakeholders services such as schools, youth services, higher educational institutions, Tusla Child and Family Agency and An Garda Síochána all noted

that there has been a significant rise in relationship and sexual based violence presenting to their services. Additionally service stakeholders reported their concern regarding the confusion young people are experiencing with regards to managing relationships, sexuality, consent and sexual violence.

In response, the DLR CYPSC used Round 1 Healthy Ireland funding to support a range of community based service providers in 2018 to train in Foroige's evidence informed relationship and sexuality programme called 'REAL U'. The feedback from training was highly positive with seasoned youth and community workers commented that the materials were very youth friendly and clear. In 2019 DLR CYPSC used Round 2 Healthy Ireland funding to a successful pilot implementation of the 'REAL U' programme led by 'My Project' service in the disadvantaged area of Mounttown. The DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup will use Round 3 of Healthy Ireland funding in 2020-2021 to support further implementation of this programme in the county in partnership with community services such as Crosscare Youth Service, Family Resource Centres, community training colleges and Youthreach.

Additionally the Manuela Programme has been recommended by the Tusla Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence national office. This has been developed by Rape Crisis Centre, in collaboration with Dr Sue Redmond, to teach teenagers in schools about informed sexual consent, preventing sexual violence, establishing healthy boundaries and being a protective male bystander. The DLR CYPSC will seek to support relevant members of the DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup such as the National Association of Post-Primary Principals (NAPD), the National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS) and the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board (DDLRETB) to offer post-primary schools in DLR the opportunity to train in, deliver and evaluate the impact of the Manuela programme.

Furthermore the DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup will seek to work with the Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN), the National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS) and the Blackrock Education Centre to identify and support earlier prevention programmes suitable for primary school aged children that are aligned with the with the school Wellbeing Curriculum/ RSE curriculum.

In recognition of the need to develop very early relationship based skills from a very early age that encourage body awareness and the ability to articulate emotions and set boundaries, DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup will seek to work with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee and UCD researchers with expertise in early years education to identify very early relationship based education programmes that early years education services can be supported to offer.

Finally to support young adults attending further and higher education, the DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup will seek to work with University College Dublin, the Institute of Art and Design, the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board and the Further Education colleges in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to promote the HEA Consent Framework 'Ending Violence and Sexual Harassment'.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will support further implementation of the relationships and sexual health programme 'REAL U' in community based youth and school settings, will pilot the 'Manuela' programme in post-primary schools, will identify evidence based early intervention programmes suitable for the early years and primary school settings, and will promote the HEA consent framework 'Ending Violence and Sexual Harassment' with further and higher education partners in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.7 Supports for children and young people experiencing difficulties with educational transitions

Services in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown report times of educational transition can be challenging for children and young people who are at most of risk of adverse outcomes and that transition difficulties can lead to disengagement either physically or metaphorically from education. There is a keen appetite among educational services in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown to further explore what could be done to support educational transitions from pre-school to primary, from primary to post-primary and from post-primary to further/higher education.

Analysis of longitudinal data from the Growing Up in Ireland report (Smyth, 2017) indicates around 20% of young people struggle with the primary to secondary school transition and that this transition can be more challenge for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, for young people with special educational needs, for young people have poor communication with their parents, for young people with few friends and for young people who have negative interaction with second level teachers.

Additionally the transition to independent adulthood for young people aged 18-24 can also present significant developmental challenges, including separating from their parents, developing healthy adult relationships, moving out of home, independent living, engaging in further and higher education, getting a job etc.

However in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, student leaders in UCD, IADT and further education colleges report that many young people simply don't know where to get advice and help when they need it in DLR. The young leaders have advised that knowing where and how to access supports in DLR for different issues would help young people navigate these transitions better. Stakeholders report that the development of a youth friendly services directory website and the promotion of this via social media channels would be of good support to young people in DLR.

The DLR CYPSC Educational Subgroup has therefore agreed that a focus on Transitions could usefully include an interagency workshop on the topic of 'Transitions' that would be inclusive of the range of educational sectors, and would feature presentations on successful educational transition initiatives from various areas or educational institutions. A baseline of current transition supports and concerns will be established for the county, as well as the interagency co-production of a specific 'Transition Support' plan which has the support of the various educational sectors and stakeholders. This plan should be publically launched and include implementation supports to facilitate the realisation of recommendations.

Strategic Action Agreed: In 2020-2022 DLR CYPSC will support interagency collaboration to plan an informative workshop event on educational Transitions which will inform a subsequent Transition plan with recommendations for the county's schools, further and higher educational services, and will develop a youth friendly website of support services.

Outcome 2: Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need 2.8: Early identification and support for Young People not in Education, Employment or Training

There is a negative life trajectory associated with young people remaining out of education, training and employment including low income, anti-social behaviour and crime, increased health difficulties, poverty and decreased life expectancy. It is therefore imperative for interagency collaboration to address both the root causes of poor educational attainment and to support young people currently not in education, training or employment in DLR.

The overall high educational attainment levels in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown can mask the picture of social and educational inequality in specific areas and among certain communities of young people. However the quantitative data shows:

- There are high proportions of residents who have 'no formal' or 'primary education only' distributed throughout the county with high concentrations of over 35% in Nutgrove, Sallynoggin, Ballybrack and Louglinstown and located in the CFSNs of Shankill (9.1% or 852) and Loughlinstown/Ballybrack (8.6% or 1,743)
- 9.2% of post-primary school students in DLR do not continue their education to Leaving Certificate level. In 2009, a total of 2,422 students entered the first year of the junior cycle in DLR. By 2015, a total of 2,200 students in that cohort had completed their Leaving Certificate. This equates to a retention rate of 90.8%. This was marginally above the State average of 90.2%.
- The progression rate to university or IT in DLR is less than 50% of all pupils from the four DEIS schools located in disadvantaged communities in comparison to 100% for pupils attending schools in advantaged communities.
- The 2016 census records 457 young people on the Live Register in DLR and 316 young people as being engaged with the Garda Youth Diversion service.

Qualitative data gathered with stakeholders in the DLR CYPSC consultation highlighted

- Concern with the increasing rates of 'school refusal' by adolescents and of pupils on 'shortened school days' due to school difficulties coping with complex needs.
- Home tuition for children with social and emotional behavioural difficulties is not working since there is a maximum of 10 hours available and parents source tutors.
- Children experiencing significant mental health difficulties are returning to school without any transition plan and schools not knowing what to do.
- The lack of tracking knowledge as to which young people are dropping out of school or further education means that follow up support and referrals are not possible.
- The significant lack of take up of training opportunities for young people who are at high risk of early school leaving in DLR.
- Student leaders report a high attrition rate from educational courses for some young people attributed to due to the lack of timely career guidance and note this negatively affects the young learner's self esteem.

However there is an encouraging body of evidence on what works to improve school attainment, for example;

- Providing access to high quality early years education
- Providing healthy breakfasts at schools to improve cognitive function

- Implementing strategies to develop emotional intelligence (Nelson, P. D., 2009)
- Involving all students in some kind of extracurricular programme as an incentive to remain in school (Killgo, J., 2012)
- Implementing evidence-based school policies and programmes to reduce aggression and violence (Basch, 2011)
- Supporting teachers sustained professional development and in-class coaching in high-poverty schools.

There is also good knowledge among educational support services in DLR as to what is initially needed to support young people's retention in education or training settings and to facilitate their re-engagement with civic life. They recommend the DLR CYPSC initially:

- Conduct a focus group with social welfare officers, DDL ETB, Tusla Educational Welfare Officers, educational institutions and young people to surface this tacit knowledge on how best to prevent early school leaving and how to re-engage 18-24 year old NEETS
- Re-establish the database of young people at risk of early school leaving in collaboration with DDL ETB, Youthreach, Tusla EWO, the Dept of Social Protection, the Garda Youth Diversion, Southside Partnership and the DLR Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce in order to support and refer at risk youth to appropriate
- Update the guide to Alternative Education courses in DLR and working collaboratively to improve the uptake and access to these
- Work with the Department of Education and Science to create a panel of tutors available for home tuition for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties
- Work with the statutory CAMHS and in-patient psychiatric services to support the transition of young people back to school after treatment.
- Link at risk young people into well organised volunteering opportunities and/or evidence informed mentoring programmes to strengthen pro-social experiences and competencies.

Strategic Action Agreed (shared between the DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup

The DLR CYPSC will support interagency collaboration, led by Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board, to identify Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) in DLR early and connect them into appropriate supports to re-engage in training, education or employment.

Outcome 3: Safety & Protection from Harm

Identified Unmet Need 3.0: Access to a Domestic Abuse Refuge, a wraparound Crisis Intervention Service & a child/mother recovery support programme in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

According to national research commissioned by Women's Aid, 1 in 5 women in Ireland who have been in a relationship have been abused by a current or former partner (O'Connor & Kelleher Associates, Making the Links, Women's Aid, 1995). This is supported by other reliable national research findings that 1 in 4 women in Ireland experiences physical and/or sexual assault during her lifetime (SAVI, 2002; National Domestic Abuse Study, 2005).

However these prevalence statistics are highly likely to be under-estimated as indicated by a European study on physical, sexual and psychological violence against women including incidents of intimate partner violence or 'domestic violence'. 48,000 women were interviewed across 28 Member States of the European Union, a clear picture emerged of "*extensive abuse that affects many women's lives but is systematically underreported to the authorities. The scale of violence against women is therefore not reflected by official data*" (FRA survey, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014).

The prevalence rates of children affected by domestic violence are currently unknown but there are indications that prevalence rates are quite high nationally as 64% of women who experienced violence attending the Women's Aid service reported that their children had witnessed or being exposed to the violence (Making the Links, Women's Aid, 1995). Children exposed to violence between parents are often the 'forgotten victims', especially if they do not fall into the direct victim category (Sani 2006). However the impact of exposure to domestic violence for children is extremely serious, with a range of negative developmental outcomes for children:

- Babies living with domestic violence have higher levels of ill health, poorer sleeping habits and excessive screaming, along with disrupted attachment patterns.
- Pre-school aged children demonstrate most behavioural disturbance such as bed wetting, sleep disturbances and eating difficulties, and are vulnerable to self-blaming for the adult violence.
- Older children are more likely to score lower on cognitive measures, under perform at school, have social difficulties, poor social support networks, engage in self-harming behaviour, and engagement in anti-social behaviour (Humphreys and Houghton, 2008).
- Witnessing domestic violence may contribute for the intergenerational transmission of violence depending on a range of risk and protective factors (Holt, Buckley & Whelan, 2008).
- The toxic stress in childhood caused by Domestic Violence can lead to stress-related physical illnesses in later adult life (such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and diabetes) as well as mental health problems (such as depression, anxiety disorders) and health damaging behaviours, such as smoking and drug taking, that undermine well-being, and subsequently lead to earlier death (Brown *et al.* 2009).

Moreover, a child living in a home where there is domestic violence is at greatly increased risk of being a direct victim of abuse. An overview of research studies found that in 30-66% of cases, the same perpetrator is abusing both the mother and the

children. (Edleson 1999). There is emerging evidence that exposure to domestic violence particularly in the first two years of life appears to be especially harmful (Enlow *et al.* 2012) and the evidence indicates that domestic violence can start pre-birth with very serious consequences for child development and survival.

For example, in a study conducted by the Rotunda Maternity Hospital, of a sample of 400 pregnant women, 12.5% (1 in 8) had experienced abuse while they were pregnant (O'Donnell *et al.* Nov 2000). 5% of women in Ireland who experienced severe abuse in an intimate relationship suffered a miscarriage as a result of the abuse (National Crime Council and ESRI 2005).

To protect women and children from these adverse outcomes of domestic violence, the Council of Europe made a number of key recommendations regarding a minimum standard of support services that should be available, which Ireland as a member state agreed to implement. According to the Council of Europe a minimum of one refuge place (space to accommodate a woman and her children) per 100,000 people should be available (Kelly & Dubois 2008).

Given that the adult female population size is 90,000 in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown, that indicates there should be refuge or emergency accommodation provision to accommodate 9 family units under the Istanbul guidance. However there are currently 0 refuge spaces available in the county. Stakeholder services report that this is a significant service gap as lack of access to a crisis refuge places women and their children needing to flee from violence in danger of immediate harm, particularly if they have no access to other supports. Therefore it is a priority for DLR CYPSC Subgroup to work with stakeholder services and structures in the county to progress interagency planning and resource allocation to provide a crisis refuge service in the county.

It is acknowledged that excellent interagency work has taken place during the last decade between An Garda Síochána, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Sonas Domestic Violence and the local authority DLR County Council to secure 7 'safe homes' in south Dublin area which includes Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. However this temporary accommodation is only available to women who present with a 'low security' requirement so this service cannot support women with children who have a 'high security' requirement. That is the function of a crisis refuge service.

It is also acknowledged that a crisis refuge service is only part of the suite of prevention, early intervention and support services that need to be provided in order to effect a significant change in what is an extremely complex and challenging public health issue - domestic, gender based and sexual violence.

Therefore DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup will continue to work with a range of stakeholders to map local service provision, to identify need, to identify best practise service provision and to support the development of a new wraparound service in the county to support children, young people and their parents who are adversely affected by domestic violence.

In terms of existing local service provision, as well as the low risk safe homes, both Sonas Domestic Violence and Women's Aid provide 'in-reach' services to the area in the form of visiting workers (Sonas), a weekly clinic (Women's Aid) and court accompaniment services. However these services state there are not enough resources to meet the presenting demand. Counselling support services for adult women survivors have been provided by Southside Partnership since 2017 but again that service advise there is insufficient resources to meet demand and this service will need

to close by end of 2018 unless additional investment takes place. Survivors also have access to the national 24 hour helplines and to refuges in other areas, such as Bray and Tallaght, although stakeholder services report these refuges are over-subscribed and often cannot accommodate women from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown with children.

In 2019 Tusla DSGBV national service committed to funding a Domestic Violence Outreach worker for the county of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, and DLR CYPSC along with DLR County Council, Tusla Child and Family Agency, An Garda Síochána and community partners such as Southside Partnership as host of the interagency network Southside Addressing Violence Effectively (SAVE) are actively collaborating to ensure this position is relevant to the identified service gaps and needs.

Finally, to the best of the DLR CYPSC's knowledge, there are no specific therapeutic supports offered to children who have witnessed or been direct victims of domestic violence. The research evidence indicates that all children living with domestic violence or its aftermath can benefit from individual and group work to help them understand what happened, to overcome the negative impact of living with abuse, and to progress with their lives. Involving the child's mother is helpful and should usually be done alongside individual work with the mother. This psycho-social therapeutic support helpfully raises awareness about the issues, helps children learn strategies to keep safe, improves self esteem and reduces felt sense of stigma, isolation and difference. (Mullender, 2004). However the evidence is that this work needs to take place sooner rather than later following exit from the domestic violence relationship for optimal outcomes for the child survivor (Devaney, 2015)

Therefore it is planned to begin building interagency service capacity to offer an evidence-informed programme recommended by the National Tusla Domestic, Sexual and Gender based Violence service called 'TLC Kidz'. This is an eight week programme delivered to both children and their mothers, facilitated in separate groups but with aligned curriculum. The programme training will be delivered by the national lead agency, Barnardos, and then local implementation support and supervision will be led by the specialist agency Sonas Domestic Violence.

DLR CYPSC has secured Healthy Ireland funding (2020 -2021) to coordinate this initiative to build interagency service capacity in terms of training and co-delivery. It also will ensure that mothers with children exposed to and in recovery from domestic violence can quickly access a programme which research indicates has the potential to reduce adverse effects and to strengthen the protective factor of the maternal -child relationship.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will continue to actively facilitate an interagency planning process to secure a Domestic Violence Refuge, a Crisis Intervention Services and Interagency Training and Delivery of an evidence based Child and Mother Recovery group programme in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.

Outcome 3: Safety & Protection from Harm

Identified Unmet Need 3.1: Access to safe, supervised, community-based 'contact' for children and young people to continue their relationship with their non-resident parent in situations where parents have separated acrimoniously

Stakeholder family support services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown report that the relationship between separated parents can often be acrimonious and that it is deeply distressing for the child/children involved when it comes to maintaining contact with their separated parent, even more so if there is a history of domestic violence, child welfare concerns or risk of child abduction. Internationally, many countries recognise the need for and provide for 'contact centres' to facilitate healthy and safe contact between children, young people and their non-resident parent. Contact generally requires three types of supervision:

1. **Handover:** Cases where parents do not have to meet and the non-resident parent collects the child at the contact centre and takes the child out of the centre for the visit
2. **Supported Contact:** Cases where the parent and child are facilitated to develop and maintain positive relationships with minimum supervision and support
3. **Supervised Contact:** Supervision by professionals in cases where it has been determined by the Courts that the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering harm during contact.

Based on research from countries that have contact centres, international provision would indicate that one centre may be required per between 22-28,000 children. Given that there are 47,794 children aged 0-18 in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (CSO, 2016), this would indicate that there is a need to establish two such 'Contact Centres' or appropriate safe spaces for contact in the county. Evidence of local need is as follows:

- The total 'Lone Parent' families with children under the age of 15 residing in DLR in 2016 was **3,363 families. This represents 15.4% of the families with children under the age of 15.** Lone mothers accounted for 14.2% (3,102) and lone fathers 1.2% (261).
- In some disadvantaged small areas, **the lone parent rate rises to very high rates of over 55% of the area, such in Sallynoggin, Loughlinstown and Ballyogan** (AIRO, 2017).. Over one fifth of the families with children under 15 in the Shankill Tusla Child and Family Support Network area (22.3% or 369) and in Loughlinstown/Ballybrack Child Family Support Network area, 20.1% or 612 families were lone parent families.
- **'Conflict between parents'** as well as 'Domestic Violence' is one of the top concerns expressed by both Tusla social workers and family support services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in 2019 (Tusla Commissioning Survey, Dublin South, Dublin South East & Wicklow March 2019).

Therefore the DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup will further discussions regarding assessing the actual need, and capacity to support family contact spaces where the safe and healthy contact of children with their non-resident separated parent can be supported. This may involve identifying a research partner/process and project partners to compile a research summary of best practise in the area of 'contact centre' provision & developing funding applications to enable service provision.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will proactively explore the need, research and potential funding streams to establishing contact spaces to support children and young people to have safe and healthy contact with their non-resident separated parent.

Outcome 3: Safety & Protection from Harm

Identified Unmet Need 3.2: Support for male victims and male perpetrators of Domestic, Gender Based Sexual Violence to recover from and change the intergenerational transmission of violent attitudes and violent behaviours towards women

In the DLR CYPSC Consultation 2018-2019, stakeholder services working with families where male violence has resulted in the mother and child leaving the relationship or the child being taken into State care note that male perpetrators of violence continue to have contact with and to parent their children. Services note it is imperative that these men are enabled to recover from and change the intergenerational transmission of violent attitudes and violent behaviours .

Additionally male children and young people traumatised by violence need specific supports to recover and to prevent re-victimisation and possible offending in the future. Otherwise there is a high likelihood of vulnerability to and/or perpetuation of violence for the next generation entering relationships.

Nationally there are not many services available yet to male victims and to male perpetrators besides the organisation AMEN and a helpline for a new Men's Network service. The recently published service data for this Men's Network is Tel: [1800 816 588](tel:1800816588) and the website is <https://mens-network.net/male-advice-line/>.

In Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown there are currently no specialised supports and services for male survivors and male perpetrators of DSGBV. Therefore it is proposed that the DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup would

- Engage with academic experts in the field to **identify evidence based programmes** and approaches to prevention and early intervention of youth male anti-social behaviour and violence to consider best practise models e.g. Scotland's Catalonia project.
- Work with existing **Men's groups and networks in DLR** with a community development ethos to develop partnership, capacity building and training in evidence based programmes
- Appoint a **designated person to work with vulnerable high risk groups** e.g. adolescent and young men engaged with Tusla services; young men engaged with the Youth Diversion programme; young Traveller men; fathers in prison; adolescents/young men/fathers in homelessness accommodation
- Work with **schools and youth clubs and ethnic minority organisations** to encourage participation by young at risk men in the evidence based programmes.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC will seek to work with stakeholder services to identify and support the implementation of evidence based programmes to support male victim recovery from violence and abuse and to enable male perpetrators of violence to change violent attitudes and behaviour.

Outcome 4: Economic Security

Identified Unmet Need 4.0 Coordinated interagency planning and support for children and young people experiencing homelessness in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Homelessness is a deeply traumatic experience for children and their parents (Ombudsman for Children, 2019) and has the potential to have adverse effects on child development with lifelong consequences for physical and mental health, educational attainment, economic security and future vulnerability to homelessness. (Mayock, 2011; 2014; Childrens Rights Alliance 2018; Ombudsman for Children, 2019).

The DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup acknowledges there is progress being made on a number of fronts in DLR with regards to homelessness placements, particularly with regards to the participation of DLR County Council Housing in the Dublin Regional Homelessness Executive (DRHE) which is a shared service approach across the 4 Dublin Local Authorities, the provision of 'own door' accommodation to a number of families, the provision of two homeless hubs in the county as well as Private Emergency Accommodation sites.

However the feedback from stakeholder service providers on the ground working with children and young people experiencing homelessness in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is that this population need additional support for their developmental needs, particularly in regards to their health, mental health, educational, social and recreational wellbeing.

This concern arising from observations from local services is supported by national research. For example, a recent roundtable organised by Focus Ireland presented a discussion paper based on research by Rikke Siersbaek called '*Supporting the mental health of children who are homeless*'. Siersbaek notes the inherently traumatising experience of homelessness greatly increases the risk of mental health difficulties for children but is not predictive, as protective factors and resiliency can buffer the child from the toxic effects of trauma.

The report notes key protective factors:

- Strengthen core life skills through parent support so parents can help themselves and their children manage the trauma of homelessness.
- Reduce stress on families so adults can provide responsive relationships to mitigate the impact of trauma.
- Provide practical assistance, emotional support and hope needed to survive trauma.
- Provide routine assessment for developmental and mental health problems.
- Provide timely and appropriate therapeutic supports, including clinical evaluation and treatment, when indicated by assessment.
- Train staff working with homeless families at all levels to be knowledgeable about the effects of trauma and the course of normal child development.

The DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup will therefore seek to work with services on the DLR CYPSC Health and Mental Health Subgroup, and services on the DLR CYPSC Parenting Subgroup, to explore what key protective factors may be possible to put in place to improve health and mental health outcomes for children, young people and their parents.

A number of pragmatic actions have been identified by stakeholder services in the DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup which have the potential to improve outcomes for homeless

children and young people in the county, who are currently experiencing significant risks to their safety and development in temporary emergency homeless accommodation. These actions include:

- **Identification of good practise recommendations** and planning of initiatives aligned with those to support resiliency factors for children and young people in homelessness
- **Data sharing to improve outcomes:** - Establish an interagency information sharing group of stakeholder services to monitor the number of, the ages of, and the location of children and young people in homelessness accommodation in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown so that a service response can be planned.
- **Assessment of Need:** - Agree an appropriate sensitive assessment measure to assess the presenting domain needs of the children and young people to inform a potential integrated service response.

DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup have also proposed discussing the feasibility of the following:

- A regular 'health/mental health/parenting advice' drop in clinic in the hub with visiting PHN/OT/SLT/Psychology.
- A mobile health/mental health/parenting advice' clinic for families in hotels/PEAs
- Concession or free access to parent/child activities recreational such as swimming, exercise *etc.*
- Training for staff in homelessness services in trauma-informed approaches to appropriately support children, young people and parenting across the key developmental stages.

Finally a key finding from Sierbaek's review of the literature is that finding a sustainable housing solution is the most important contributor to reducing the stress of homelessness. This is consistent with the approach of the Homeless Action Plan, and it is acknowledged that housing provision and housing policy is the domain of the local authorities and of the Governmental Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

However the DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup note it is still appropriate to progress several interagency actions with the stakeholders that could prevent or minimise the harm experienced by homeless children and young people. The DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup recommended further discussion and agreement with stakeholders on a co-ordinated approach and support for children and young people experiencing homelessness in DLR and potentially seeking funding for a Homeless Project Worker to progress interagency work.

The services on the DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup are keen to work constructively together with a range of services across sectors to enable an interagency focus to be on the early identification of needs of children and young people and appropriate service planning and responses, and look forward to further dialogue with relevant stakeholder services regarding the potential implementation of these recommendations.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will support an interagency working group to focus on a coordinated approach and collaborative action to progress evidence informed recommendations to improve safety and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people at risk of or living in homelessness.

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Identified Unmet Need 5.0: To give voice and influence to children and young people as young citizens experiencing homelessness in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Homelessness is an extremely disempowering experience where children and families feel traumatised by the lack of fundamental shelter, safety and security in their lives. This sense of being disconnected from and disregarded by society can be easily internalised resulting in a sense of worthlessness or externalised into anger and anti-social behaviour.

Giving meaningful voice to disempowered children and young people enables them, as young citizens with the right of civic participation, to regain some sense of 'agency', control and influence over their lives. Facilitating the creative expression of lived experience can be also inherently therapeutic and healing for participants, if facilitated in an informed and ethical way. Additionally ensuring that children and young people's voice reaches an appropriate audience of decision makers with the power and influence to act on recommendations is part of national policy (*National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making* (2015-2020), DCYA).

The CYPSC is specifically tasked by the DCYA to consult and ensure the participation of 'seldom heard' groups of children (*Guidance for Children and Young People's Services Committees on participation by children and young people in decision-making*, DCYA, 2018). Therefore it is appropriate for the DLR CYPSC to consider how best to ethically and sensitively empower children and young people to express their lived experience of homelessness in ways that can inform service providers and policy makers of their needs, experiences and recommendations.

South Dublin CYPSC recently conducted a powerful 'photo-voice' project (2019) entitled 'Many Hearts, No Home' which concluded: *"Very importantly, we also illustrate the necessity of, and capacity for interagency collaboration to make things work, to think and act creatively and to refuse to be fettered by the seeming enormity of the issue. It is our responsibility to be hopeful, to act positively and to work beyond the bounds of our organisational roles in order to find solutions to homelessness, to minimise the negative impacts of these experiences on children and families."*

The DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup propose to find similarly ethical and sensitive ways to use the Lundy model of participation (2007) and child/youth centred methodologies. This will help ensure that children and young people are given a safe space to voice their lived experience and needs as citizens to inform decision-makers and policy makers. Suggestions include the following:

1. Develop an action plan in each CYPSC Subgroup (Health & Mental Health; Safety; Education; Youth Leadership) to respond where possible to the needs and recommendations.
2. Brief the service leaders and elected public representatives on the experience, needs and recommendations of homeless children & young people, and of the potential trajectory without planned collaborative interagency intervention.
3. Raise public awareness of homelessness as a public health & child welfare issue (host the photovoice exhibition, secure media coverage, host public panel discussion evenings).

4. Conduct an ethical consultation to directly hear the voice, experience, needs and recommendations of children, young people and families experiencing homelessness in DLR.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will support an interagency working group to focus on how to ethically and sensitively offer children, young people and their parents, who are experiencing homelessness, the opportunity to express their experience, needs and recommendations with a view to influencing and improving service provision and outcomes.

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Identified Unmet Need 5.1: Information for parents on available parenting supports in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown

Parenting is critically important to healthy child development across all outcome domains and parenting support is a 'transformational goal' that the 'Better Outcomes Better Futures' national policy tasks CYPSC with progressing at a county population level.

A High- Level Policy Statement on Parenting and Family Support (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2015) promotes the '*development of a of a coherent continuum of local supports to all parents and families which can be accessed easily and in a timely way, which seeks to build on family strengths, values informal support networks; and which can readily deliver supports to children and their families based on inter-agency, cross-organisational and interdisciplinary working.*' (Connolly et al, 2017, NUIG). The policy statement further affirms the significance of the CYPSC as the key forum for engagement and planning between service providers.

Access to quality services significantly impacts on parenting capacity, particularly if parents do not have access to family based/peer/community support. Additionally there are different levels of parenting capacity, often transmitted culturally and inter-generationally, which also impact on the experience of being parented and may require different levels of service support. Therefore, universal access to good-quality parenting advice and programmes, access to affordable quality childcare, as well as targeted, evidence-based supports to those parents with greatest needs is a stated national policy objective (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2014).

Nationally, the importance of parents in a child's life along with the benefits of positive parenting, and the national commitment to provide better support for parents are identified in the national policy framework for children and young people; Better Outcomes, Brighter Future (DCYA 2014). The policy names the 'planning and co-ordination of parents supports at local levels through Children's Services Committees' (now CYPSC) as one of the key transformational goals for each CYPSC to collaboratively progress. (Better Outcomes Brighter Futures 2014, DCYA).

The DLR CYPSC Needs Analysis identified that there is a mixed variety and quality of services available to children and their parents in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and the challenge for parents, and indeed for referral services, is that there is not currently a clear picture of what and where parenting support services are in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and what and when these services are offered to whom. It's therefore difficult for parents to access services easily, and for the DLR CYPSC to plan collaboration and further investment in services, without first establishing current parenting support service provision. As a critical first step, the DLR CYPSC needs to provide detail and map the parenting support activity occurring in the county, delivered by a range of stakeholder services.

These stakeholder services include Tusla Child and Family Agency which operates:

- The Tusla Family Support service for families who can be referred to the service for support. Referrals are made from a range of professionals including social workers, schools and PHNs. Depending on an assessment of suitability, a family support worker, is allocated to the case and a home visit is arranged.

- Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) team lead an early intervention approach called 'Meitheal', a case coordination multi-agency approach to support children in families with additional needs who require intervention but who do not meet the threshold for referral to the Social Work Department under Children First. Training and support for Meitheals is offered by the Tusla Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) Senior Coordinator located in Tusla Blackrock.

Tusla also fully or partially funds services that include parenting support in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown:

- Family Resource Centres – provision of community based early years services in Mounttown FRC Early Years, Hillview FRC Early Years and Ballyogan FRC Early Years
- CrossCare Teen Counselling –provision of individual and joint counselling for teenagers and their parents
- MY Project Mounttown –provision of therapeutic interventions aimed at meeting the different needs of young people and families including one to one support, youth and family programmes. MYP is also the Meitheal Hub for the Dún Laoghaire CFSN
- Barnardos – provision of early years services with family support in three locations, Dún Laoghaire, Loughlinstown and Ballyogan
- Carr's Child & Family Services – provision of early years service and supported accommodation for mothers and babies by referral from Tusla Social Work Department
- Springboard (Loughlinstown) provision of direct support to children and parents In Loughlinstown and Ballybrack; counselling service for parents, Meitheal, group work for parents which includes NVR , Parenting When Separated, SPACE programme and PEEP Group.

The statutory Health Services Executive also offers a range of parenting supports and programmes:

- HSE Primary Care Psychology team offer individual assessments, psychological counselling and group evidence based parenting programmes such as the Incredible Years (Dublin South East area) and Parents Plus (Dublin South area).
- The HSE Speech and Language, the HSE Occupational Therapy Services and the HSE Early Intervention services also offer parenting supports following assessment of need.

Community and voluntary stakeholder organisations are key providers also of community based parenting supports:

- Barnardos deliver a range of supports and programmes for parents experiencing adversity.
- Southside Partnership offer some parenting support through community centres in disadvantaged locations and through delivery of the evidence based programme PEEP in partnership with other services.
- Sonas Domestic Violence offer supports to parents experiencing domestic violence.
- Ballyogan FRC and Barnardos Ballyogan supported by the DLR Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce offer supports to parents experiencing substance misuse issues.

Some primary and secondary schools offer parenting talks and parenting education programmes. Those schools located in a DEIS area of disadvantage have the additional

resources of services such as the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) and the School Completion Programme (SCP) r, which are now part of the Tusla Educational Support Service (TESS).

There are no doubt many other organisations and parenting supports available in the county, however there is no centralised and up to date, easily accessible database which informs both parents and services wishing to refer parents for supports. The recently developed Dublin CYPSC online directory of services is now available for services involved in the provision of parenting support to register their service on www.dublincypscdirectory.ie

However, an interagency process of consultation with key stakeholder services, with parents as service users and with the new CYA Parenting Support Unit is necessary to develop an database of parenting supports available in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown that can be easily updated by service providers and easily accessed by parents from a range of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

The parenting support database would also facilitate interagency planning at CYPSC Subgroup and Strategic Area Management Committee level, reduce duplication of programme delivery targeting similar populations in geographical areas and address identified gaps where there is a lack of parenting supports and/or programmes available to the parent population in specific areas or experiencing specific parenting challenges.

Finally collating this information into a tiered model of parenting supports available will ensure the DLR CYPSC is aligned with the new national 'First Five' policy which has as a key strategic objective to provide information on services and supports for parents (Strategic actions 2.1 and 2.2., DCYA, 2019). It will also support services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to contribute to the national Framework for Parenting Support in Ireland which is currently being developed by new DCYA Parenting Support Unit.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will support an interagency Parenting Support Subgroup to focus on mapping and identifying parenting supports and services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to improve knowledge and access to parenting support resources and services.

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Identified Unmet Need 5.2: Capacity building for services working with parents to engage in outcomes based, evidence informed practise and to implement sustainable evidence based programmes

Parenting support programmes and practise must be informed by sound evidence if outcomes for service users are to be optimized (Munro 2011; Connolly et al 2017). Publically funded services are ethically obliged to use the best evidence available to provide programmes and interventions in ways that are most likely to benefit the target population of parents and children.

However there is an extensive array of new knowledge, programmes and interventions in the field of Parenting Support, many of which claim to be 'effective'. The range of choice and the accompanying research evidence can be confusing to both service commissioners who fund services and to service providers under pressure to provide Parenting Supports with limited time and financial resources.

Implementation science is the relatively new field of how to implement evidence, or what we know through research, into the 'real world' of service delivery. Several 'implementation science' guides have been produced in the UK, USA and more recently in Ireland that summarise and classify the type of evidence underpinning a range of parenting interventions for a range of populations and parenting related issues.

The challenge is supporting practitioners, service managers and service commissioners to easily and quickly access this evolving evidence base, so that decisions made regarding funding applications, interagency collaboration, resource allocation and service provision in DLR are informed by a clear evidence-informed rationale.

At a national level, significant investment has taken place in the last 15 years to implement and evaluate a range of parenting support programmes to improve outcomes for children and young people though the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme funded by the DCYA and Atlantic Philanthropies. As a consequence a number of programmes have been proven to work well, or to have high levels of efficacy in an Irish context as well as key factors that enable successful implementation of parenting programmes (Centre for Effective Services, 2016).

At local level, the need for greater investment in population level evidence based parenting programmes is clear. At the local level, in the Tusla Commissioning Survey conducted in April 2019, 12 family support services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown stated that they are collectively supporting over 800 parents per year.

Of these 12 services, 79% of respondents stated that that parenting skills and capacity is a significant issue for parents struggling to cope who access their services. This finding was further supported by a similar Tusla Commissioning survey of Tusla social work and social care staff, where 73% of 26 Tusla staff stated they work directly with parents who need parenting support.

The most recent Tusla Child and Family Agency data from 2017 supports this as the referral reasons to the Tusla Child Welfare Team identifies 'parents who lack parenting skills' as constituting 5.8% of all 1104 referrals to the Dublin South, Dublin South East

and Wicklow in 2017. In Dublin more 6–12 year olds were referred for this reason than other ages. In Wicklow it was most often children younger than 5 years

However primary referral reasons are only recorded and therefore it is important to acknowledge that there is a range of other referral reasons which impact negatively on parental capacity such as physical abuse of child (10% of families referred), misuse of drugs or alcohol (7.6%), emotional abuse of child (7%), family with significant relationship difficulties (6.4%); neglect of child (5.8%), domestic violence (5.5%), sexual abuse (4.8%), parents with mental health problems (4.4%), child with behavioural problems (3.3%), child with mental health needs (2.8%), child with emotional problems (1.5%) or poor quality housing or homelessness (1.8%).

(Data Source: 2019 Commissioning report for Tusla Dublin, Dublin South East and Wicklow, In press)

When services were asked in the Commissioning Survey (April 2019) 'Do you think staff in your service have sufficient knowledge, training and support to deal with the range of parenting issues that impact on children and young people in your work?', 38.5% of practitioners and managers replied 'no' and stated they need additional training to be able to adequately support parents.

This is not surprising given the complex range of issues that family support organisations are observing can be seen in the frequency of presentation of the following parenting issues to the services as either 'always' or 'very often' or 'often'. These included lone parenting (93%), parental separation (93%), mental health difficulties (86%), alcohol and/or substance misuse (79%), hostile relationship between the parents (72%), parental financial difficulties (79%), at high risk of homelessness (64%) and parental learning difficulties (61%). This illustrates the range of additional supports that some parents need and the requirement for services to engage in good interagency collaboration in efforts to offer effective support.

At the initial meeting to inform the new DLR CYPSC Parenting Support Subgroup in July 2019, where an outcomes based accountability approach was used, stakeholder services advised that it would be helpful for the CYPSC to (1) map the existing evidence based programmes that are available in the county, (2) to support a scheduling process of evidence based programmes across the county so that a more distributed schedule of parenting support programmes are available and (3) to coordinate implementation network support for services that wish to train in and deliver evidence based parenting support programmes.

Services acknowledged that there is already some evidence based parenting programmes available such as the PEEP programme (delivered in partnership with Barnardos and Southside Partnership), the Parents Plus programmes (delivered by HSE Psychology), the Incredible Years programmes (delivered by HSE Psychology), the Parenting Teens Odyssey (Springboard), and that there has also been the historical training and delivery of the Strengthening Families programme in the county.

However it is not currently known which services are offering evidence based programmes, what the outcomes of these programmes are, and if there is need and capacity to scale these programmes up to serve greater population numbers. Therefore it was suggested that a 'parenting support' survey would be useful to develop so parents can identify what they would like additional support with, and so services can clarify what evidence based programmes are currently being implemented in the county and what supports they would like with the implementation process.

Additionally services suggested that it would be useful to offer training support to organisations around the various tools and ways to measure a range of outcomes as they are increasingly required to evidence outcomes which can be challenging given much of the 'soft skills' based work that takes place with parents and families. It is proposed that an outcomes based accountability workshop would be offered to services in the Parenting Support Subgroup so that meaningful outcomes to both the service providers and the service users can be developed.

Finally the development of the new national Parent Support Unit in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) is a welcome governmental policy unit with the following aims:

- To strengthen leadership and cross-sectoral action for parenting supports
- To include the perspective of parents at a national policy level
- To identify and bridge any gaps between high level policy and practice
- To promote coherent approaches to parenting support service provision
- To promote collaboration not competition between services
- To share learning about effective parenting supports and strategies

The Parenting Support Unit is actively seeking input from CYPSCs around Ireland to inform policy development and practise supports. While a number of services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown are involved in providing high quality parenting support services, the challenge is that research has not yet taken place in the county to ascertain the experience, view and recommendations of the parent population, of children/young people being parented and of service providers providing parenting support services. Therefore it is not yet possible to respond to the DCYA Unit's request to clearly communicate county and local area needs, to provide examples of good practise in service provision in the county and to contribute to the development of a national Parenting Framework to improve service provision.

Therefore DLR CYPSC will aim to establish a positive and reciprocal relationship between the new national Parent Support Unit in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), and the DLR CYPSC Parenting Subgroup member services. This may involve commissioning an independent researcher to design a co-production consultation with parents, children and services in DLR to establish parenting support needs, local/service good practise and recommendations, establishing a feedback loop between the DCYA Parenting Unit and DLR CYPSC to report findings and recommendations from DLR and to contribute to the national Framework, and seeking support from the DCYA Parenting Unit regarding funding streams, training and support for DLR services engaged in parenting support

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC will develop a parenting support survey, will facilitate greater access for DLR Parenting Support Services to the evidence base and training in 'what works', and will establish contribute to the development of a national parenting support framework through the national CYPSC infrastructure and the DCYA Parenting Unit.

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Identified Unmet Need 5.3: Participation of children and young people as service users and young civic leaders in DLR CYPSC structures

Historically children and young people as service users have been excluded from the adult decision making processes of service planning, service delivery and service evaluation. This is changing to a more inclusive culture of service user 'participation', where children are regarded as the 'experts' on their own lives and services engage with them to identify needs, supports and services that can lead to improved outcomes across all domains.

Creating an appropriate space for children and young people to voice their experience and opinions on matters that concern them, and ensuring that their voice is heard by decision makers with the necessary influence and authority to act on their recommendations is a central tenet of both UN policy (Article 12, UN Convention of Rights of Children) and of national Irish policy (National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making (2015-2020).

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs specifically requires each CYPSC will put structures and mechanisms in place to ensure children and young people's active participation in planning, development, delivery and evaluation of children's services (G14.6, DCYA, 2015) and has issued guidance regarding how this may be implemented (DCYA, 2019).

This process has begun in DLR CYPSC, initially through consultations using age-appropriate, participatory creative methodologies conducted during 2017 – 2018 by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator with young people aged 12 – 24 years of age in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to hear what key issues they identify as priority for the DLR CYPSC to address per National Outcome i.e. Health & Mental Health; Learning & Education; Safety; Economic Security and Participation.

Since available resources did not permit a random sampling approach, it was decided to conduct 'purposive sampling' consultations.

To ensure that the voice of more seldom heard young people was also taken into account, the DLR CYPSC Coordinator facilitated several consultations in 2018. These included a consultation with over 60 young people attending the largest Youth service in the county, Crosscare Youth Services, a consultation with social workers supporting children and young people in care in Tusla Child and Family Agency, and a consultation with a group of young Travellers attending Southside Travellers Action Group (STAG).

The priority issues identified by Crosscare youth service users was that educators would take a more holistic approach to student development and proactively promote mental wellness and coping strategies, such as mindfulness, and that more efforts would be made to address the waiting lists for counselling and to clarify the pathway to access counselling and mental health services. The young people also recommended access to guidance counselling would be provided for all school students and identified not knowing what further/higher educational or training course to pursue as a significant source of stress and concern. Finally young people recommended more 'healthy food options' at school like a free healthy breakfast and more workshops and information on mental health and wellbeing and awareness about drug and alcohol misuse.

Ethically it was not feasible to consult directly with children and young people in care and so a consultation was held with the team of Tusla Child and Family Agency Social Workers supporting children and young people in State care instead. Issues reported included difficulty in obtaining psychological and educational assessment for children in care as schools have the mistaken belief that the State will provide funding for these, the lack of supports for vulnerable young people aged 21 to 23 when they leave 'after care', and the lack of recognition by STEP and National Learning Network of the vulnerable status of young care leavers.

Social workers recommended that (1) funding be secured for psychological and educational assessment for children and young people in care, noting their higher likelihood of having learning difficulties perhaps due to early life traumas and disrupted education due to complex family life circumstances. Social workers advised a (2) pathway into planning service support after a young person leaves State 'aftercare' would be helpful, and perhaps a supporting adult role similar to the old supported lodging system could be useful. Social workers further advised that the Probation service has access to an educational and training services officer which would be very helpful for care leavers and queried whether it would be possible to share this (3) career guidance resource.

Consultations were also conducted with the selected youth leaders of the Comhairle Na N-Og at post-primary level and the elected student leaders of the two higher education institutions in the county, University College Dublin (UCD) which is Ireland's largest university attended by 32,000 students and IADT, Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT) which has a much smaller student population of 2,000. These consultations took place in 2019.

The priority issues identified by UCD student leaders included (1) the challenge for students in accessing childcare in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown due to the high prices and low availability of childcare places (2) finding work placements relevant to their college course which most students have recently been required to do (3) navigating sexual health and healthy relationships amidst changing norms and diverse advice online. They recommended that the CYPSC would create an interagency DLR Youth Leadership Forum by organising meetings with the elected UCD and IADT student union representatives, the Comhairle Na Nog and community based youth leaders to brief them on CYPSC Subgroup actions, to invite participation where relevant, to hear concerns, and to progress projects from there.

The priority issues identified by IADT student leaders included the need for further and higher educational institutes to offer mental health, diversity and sexual assault response programmes. Specifically recommended programmes to train higher and further education staff and students in included (1) Assist –student facing support if feeling like self harm (2) Safetalk (3) sexual assault delivered by Rape Crisis Centre (4) Shout out LGBTI (5) disability and inclusion training.

Both UCD and IADT student leaders recommended linking students into a DLR Volunteer exchange service so that UCD and IADT students can keep their accommodation by finding course work placements in the county and so that the community and voluntary sector who are seeking support for their service/clients can benefit from student volunteers. Finally it was recommended that the DLR CYPSC would consider inviting a representative from the Union of Students onto the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee as this national representative body

have a good overview of the issues encountered by young students in Ireland as well as a representative from UCD and IADT if feasible.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will support the development of a rolling 'Young Leaders' participation forum so young people engaged in organisations from the educational, community, health and social care organisations in DLR can be informed about CYPSC Subgroup action plan, be invited to participate in DLR CYPSC structures where feasible, be given space and resources to directly express their concerns/needs, and to work with other young leaders to progress priority projects with DLR CYPSC support where possible.

Identified Unmet Need 5.4: Support for services in DLR to engage in participatory practise with young service users

The term 'participation' refers to more than just taking part in terms of engaging with a service. Participation refers to the term given to conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) ratified by Ireland which states that children and young people are entitled to have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

In 2015 the Irish Government launched the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015 – 2020 which outlines the following objectives and priority areas for action:

1. Children and young people will have a voice in decisions made in their local communities.
2. Children and young people will have a voice in decision-making in early education, schools and the wider formal and non-formal education systems.
3. Children and young people will have a voice in decisions that affect their health and well-being, including on the health and social services delivered to them.
4. Children and young people will have a voice in the Courts and legal system.

From the perspective ensuring that the DLR CYPSC is aligned with national policy, there are several participation models that can helpfully inform the further development of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee (DLR CYPSC) structures and projects and to establish a baseline for 2020 as to where services are in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown are at with regards to the implementation of the national policy of Participation and with regards to the national outcome of children being connected, respected and contributing to their world.

The first model is the 'Lundy Model' (2007) which has been adopted by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs as the recommended participatory model to use with children and young people. This has also been adopted as the practise model by Tusla Child and Family Agency to ensure that children and young people have the appropriate 'space' to give 'voice' to their needs and experience, that they are offered the opportunity to express their views to an appropriate 'audience' who has sufficient authority to can take decisions on the basis of this feedback.

This model facilitates the participation of children or young people in consultations, the participation of children and young people to be heard in spaces run by adults like meetings where decisions are made, their participation in various stages of service design, delivery and evaluation and importantly facilitates space for children and adolescents' autonomous ideas and priority actions to be developed.

Another useful model to augment this is the 'Pathways to Participation' model (Shiers, H. 2001) which pragmatically acknowledge three levels of organisational commitment including: (1) Openings: When the service provider or service is ready and willing to engage in participatory practises (2) Opportunities: When the service provider or services has the skills and resources to be able to work at this level (3): Obligation: When the organisation's agreed policy requires the service provider to work at this level.

This model also advises on the five levels of participation including (1) Children are listened to (2) Children are supported in expressing their views. (3) Children's views are

taken into account. (4) Children are involved in decision-making processes. (5) Children share power and responsibility for decision-making.

Additionally 'Hub na nÓg' in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) is an excellent national resource available to the CYPSC and to member services which supports government departments, state agencies and non-government organisations to give children and young people a voice in decision-making on issues that affect their lives, with a particular focus on those that are seldom-heard.

The DLR CYPSC will support training workshops in collaboration with the DCYA Hub Na N-Og and other stakeholder services to increase both services and young people's knowledge and skill base in participatory practises to build further capacity in the county to benefit from the participation of children, young people and indeed parents in needs analysis, service design, service delivery, service evaluation and civic change initiatives.

Strategic Action Agreed: The DLR CYPSC in 2020-2022 will support a skill building initiative so the range of services involved with DLR CYPSC have the opportunity to learn more about the models of participatory practise and develop a skill set to implement this good practise with their young service users.

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
<p>Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To improve supports for expectant and new parents including breastfeeding, attachment, group peer support and access to evidence based information 2) To develop an Infant Mental Health Network to strengthen the capacity of professionals and services working therapeutically with children aged 0-5 and their parents 3) To increase knowledge of, access to and the range of youth mental health supports available to young people aged 10-24 4) To improve access to early intervention physical and mental health supports for homeless children and their parents 5) To improve community based supports for children and young people with ADHD and ASD 6) To support Traveller children, young people and parents to access physical and mental health supports 7) To reduce self-harm and suicide among young people aged 10-24 years of age in DLR
<p>Achieving full potential in learning and development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8) To improve safe and informed cyber-behaviour among children aged 10-18, supported by parents, teachers & youth workers 9) To pilot early intervention ‘Nurture Rooms’ in Early Years, Care & Education services to support young children with additional social, emotional, behaviour and learning needs 10) To identify and connect young people not in education, employment or training into appropriate training and educational supports 11) To increase interagency action to proactively support the retention of young Travellers in all levels of education 12) To establish a junior ‘REACH’ programme for young people aged 12 to 15 years of age experiencing mental health difficulties 13) To offer evidence based healthy relationships and safe sexuality programmes to children and young people in schools and further/higher educational settings 14) To improve educational transitions from pre-school to primary school, from primary to post-primary and from post-primary to further and higher education

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
Safe and protected from harm	15) To increase the provision of domestic violence support services for children, young people and parents 16) To offer evidence based healthy relationships and safe sexuality programmes to children and young people in community & youth settings 17) To increase support for male victims and male perpetrators of Domestic, Gender Based and Sexual Violence
Economic security and opportunity	18) To increase early intervention supports to children, young people and parents at risk of homelessness 19) To support children and young people in homelessness to access early learning and after school study/tutor support 20) To offer homeless families access to cooking, laundry and support services in community based centres in DLR
Connected, respected and contributing to their world	21) To establish a 'young leaders' participation forum for young people from community, youth and educational organisations to inform and advise the DLR CYPSC as to needs, emerging issues and service improvement recommendations 22) To work with young people to develop a youth friendly services website so they can more easily access services and supports 23) To promote the best practise direct participation of children and young people in service design and on-going service evaluation 24) To increase support for children & youth people whose parents have separated 25) To support children, young people and families experiencing homelessness in DLR to inform services & policy makers of their experience and recommendations 26) To increase support for parents through provision of information on available parenting supports 27) To promote the evidence base of 'what works' to organisations delivering parenting supports and programmes

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
Transformational Goals & Emerging Issues	<p>28) Development of interagency information protocols to facilitate earlier, appropriate response to child/young person in need of support including information sharing.</p> <p>29) Interagency efforts to commission and support research & training to gather relevant data to guide service interventions in specific areas or with specific population of children and young people.</p>

Section 6: Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services 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 national outcome(s) or Transformational Goal(s)
1.1 Perinatal Parental Support	Improve perinatal supports for expectant and new parents through building capacity in services to provide access to evidence based information and group peer support programmes	<p>No. of meetings of the DLR Infant Mental Health Network</p> <p>Qualitative feedback from services attending</p> <p>No. of reflective supervision sessions held for services</p> <p>No. of services trained in specialised evidence based programmes</p> <p>% increase in parental knowledge of</p>	<p>10 services regularly attending the Infant Mental Health Network</p> <p>6 services regularly attending reflective supervision group</p> <p>30 service providers trained in specialised evidence based programmes</p> <p>4 new evidence based programmes/approaches to support perinatal and early years parent-child relationship and mental health available in DLR</p>	<p>Establishment of an interagency DLR Infant Mental Health Network for services working with the perinatal (pregnancy to 1 year old) population</p> <p>Annual provision of specialised evidence-based training to services working with parents and babies in the perinatal period</p> <p>Monthly provision of interagency group reflective supervision sessions to services working with parents and babies in the perinatal period</p>	January 2020 – Dec 2022	<p>HSE Psychology (CHE)</p> <p>Partners: HSE Child Health (CHE)</p> <p>Barnardos</p> <p>DLR CYPSC Health and Mental Health Subgroup</p> <p>Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Steering Group</p>	<p>First Five: A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028</p> <p>Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing (2013-2025)</p> <p>Healthy Dún Laoghaire-</p>	<p>Transformational Goals:</p> <p>Earlier Intervention and Prevention</p>

		<i>perinatal parenting supports in DLR</i>	<p><i>10% increase in parental knowledge of available supports in DLR</i></p> <p><i>Positive qualitative parental feedback about the usefulness of the evidence based programme/approach to their relationship with their early years child</i></p> <p><i>10% increase in parental knowledge of perinatal parenting supports in DLR</i></p> <p><i>10% increase in parent reported access to evidence based information on healthy pregnancy and infancy</i></p>	<p><i>Fund training of evidence informed perinatal and early years parent-child relationship/mental health support programmes</i></p> <p><i>Conduct a parental survey in DLR to establish a baseline of where information is currently sourced, service knowledge & felt levels of support</i></p> <p><i>Conduct a public awareness campaign of the www.mychild.ie resources</i></p>		<p><i>Family Resource Centres in DLR</i></p> <p><i>DLR County Childcare</i></p>	<p><i>Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)</i></p> <p><i>CHE Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan (HSE, 2019)</i></p>	
1.2 Breastfeeding support	<i>To increase breastfeeding rates among new mothers in Dún Laoghaire Local</i>	<i>Percentage increase in mothers breastfeeding on discharge from hospital</i> <i>Qualitative feedback from new mothers in</i>	<p><i>4% increase in numbers of mothers breastfeeding on discharge in Dún Laoghaire LHO</i></p> <p><i>4% increase in numbers of</i></p>	<p><i>Map and promote breast feeding support groups</i></p> <p><i>Conduct baseline focus groups with pregnant and new mothers in disadvantaged areas</i></p>	<i>January 2020 – Dec 2022</i>	<i>HSE Child Health Office HSE PHN DLR CYPSC Health and Mental Health Subgroup</i>	<i>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children</i>	<p>Transformational Goals:</p> <p><i>Support parents</i></p> <p><i>Earlier Intervention</i></p>

	<i>Health Office area</i>	<i>2021 that they felt supported to breastfeed in DLR Engagement of DLR services including the public and the private sectors in the Breastfeeding friendly programme</i>	<i>mothers breastfeeding at 3 month PHN visit in Dún Laoghaire LHO 2% increase in overall breastfeeding rates in Dún Laoghaire LHO by 2021</i>	<i>of Dún Laoghaire LHO to clarify where they source information on breastfeeding, and what supports they identify/recommend Collaboratively plan and implement the Healthy Ireland Breastfeeding Friendly City programme Conduct post-intervention focus groups with pregnant and new mothers in disadvantaged areas of Dún Laoghaire LHO to assess any change in knowledge/behaviour</i>		<i>Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Steering Group DLR Child & Family Support Networks (CFSNs)</i>	<i>& young people (2014 - 2020) Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022) HSE Regional Strategy HSE National Breastfeeding Action Plan (2016 - 2021) First Five: 2019-2028 (DCYA)</i>	<i>and Prevention</i>
1.3 Child & Youth Population Health Data	To collaborate with services to gather reliable data on the health needs of children and young	Increase in reliable data reports available regarding key indicators of child and youth health in specific areas of the county and among at risk populations	Commissioning and production of independent research by 2021 with regards to child and youth health in DLR.	Create an interagency research steering group Develop terms of reference for the research informed by the CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee and the CYPSC Health &	<i>January 2020 - Dec 2022</i>	<i>University College Dublin HSE Child Health Office DLR Sports Partnership DLR CYPSC Health and Mental</i>	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people	

	people in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown,			<p>Mental Health Subgroup members</p> <p>Commission an independent researcher with expertise in child and youth health and participatory needs assessment</p> <p>Review and produce the report to inform service planning in DLR responsive to identified need</p>		<p><i>Health Subgroup Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Steering Group</i></p>	<p>(2014 - 2020)</p> <p>Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)</p> <p>Healthy Ireland Framework</p>	
1.4 Youth mental health support	<p>Improve visibility of and access to services that support young people aged 12 to 24 with mental health</p>	<p>Number of services profiled and interviewed on the DLR Youth Mental Health website</p> <p>Number of 'hits' on the DLR Youth Mental Health website</p> <p>Number of service 'knowledge exchange' events held on youth mental health</p> <p>Qualitative feedback from young service users</p>	<p>10 young people with lived experience of mental health service use advise the website project development team</p> <p>15 services from statutory and community sectors profiled and interviewed on the DLR Youth Mental Health website</p> <p>15 'knowledge exchange' service events held on topics related to youth mental health</p> <p>Increased knowledge among</p>	<p>Development of a youth advisory panel on youth mental health and wellbeing</p> <p>Development of a website detailing services offering mental health support to young people & signposting to evidence based mental health information</p> <p>Development of a 'knowledge exchange' youth mental health network where services regularly share information and expertise</p>	2020-2022	<p>DLR CYPSC Mental Health Subgroup</p> <p>Partners: Crosscare Youth Services</p> <p>Crosscare Teen Counselling</p> <p>HSE Psychology (Dublin South and Dublin South East)</p>	<p>Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)</p> <p>Connecting for Life: Dublin South East, Dún Laoghaire and East Wicklow, Reducing Suicide Together 2015-2020'</p>	Earlier Intervention and Prevention

		Qualitative feedback from mental health service providers	young people and service providers as to where/how mental health support can be accessed in DLR			HSE Suicide Resource Office (CHE) Lucena CAMHS Adult Community Mental Health Services (SJOG)	National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health report 2017	
1.5 Health & Mental Health Supports for Children & Parents in Homelessness	Improve child and parent health and mental health in homelessness through the provision of services and/or programmes responsive to identified needs	Amount of play and sports equipment allocated to homelessness services Training offered to staff in homelessness services on play, exercise & child development Number of early years play & development events/trainings/supports offered to homelessness services	2 mobile playgrounds allocated to homeless hub and to PEA's 3 sets of exercise & sports kits allocated to homeless hub and to PEA's 3 training sessions/courses offered to staff in homelessness services play, exercise & child development 6 early years play & child development events/supports	Access to physical play and exercise opportunities for children in homeless hub and temporary emergency accommodation Supported early years play & development opportunities for babies/toddlers/pre-schoolers Funded afterschool/school holidays activities for children and parents Parental access to health, mental health and parenting advice and support on a	2020-2022	PMV Trust Focus Ireland Sophia Housing DLR Council - Housing/Welfare Crosscare Teen Counselling HSE Psychology (Lucena CAMHS Adult Community Mental Health Services (SJOG) DLR CYPSC Health &	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people (2014 - 2020) Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)	Earlier Intervention and Prevention

		<p>Number of funded afterschool/school holidays activities for children and parents</p> <p>Number of parent advice clinics held/parents referred to</p> <p>Number of children offered developmental assessments/social emotional/mental health supports</p>	<p>offered to homelessness services</p> <p>30 funded afterschool/school holidays activities for children and parents</p> <p>10 parent advice clinics held</p> <p>30 children offered developmental assessments/social emotional/mental health supports</p>	<p>regular drop in basis at an accessible location)</p> <p>Access to child development OT/SLT/Psychology assessments & family support if need is indicated</p>		Mental Health Subgroup		
1.6 Health & Mental Health Supports for Traveller Children, Young People & Parents	<p>Improve Traveller access to and use of child, youth and parent health and mental health support services in DLR</p>	<p>Number of Traveller children, young people and parents attending a new Traveller health clinic in DLR</p> <p>Qualitative feedback from Traveller children, young people and parents on the new Traveller health clinic in DLR</p>	<p>50 children/young people/parents from the Travelling community in DLR attend the new Traveller health clinic in DLR</p> <p>Positive qualitative feedback from the Traveller community about the Traveller health clinic in DLR</p> <p>20 young Traveller men aged 16-25 engage in the physical health &</p>	<p>Interagency planning of a new health clinic for Travellers in DLR</p> <p>Interagency delivery of a new health clinic for Travellers in DLR</p> <p>Interagency planning of a new Physical Activity & Mental Health initiative for young Traveller men aged 16-25.</p> <p>Delivery of a professional development workshop on Traveller health, mental health</p>	2020-2022	<p>Exchange House & Southside Travellers Action Group</p> <p>Partners: HSE Primary Care Suicide Resource Office Lucena CAMHS Community Adult Mental Health Services, SJOG DLR Sports Partnership</p>	<p>Providing Effective Health Services To Travellers – A Guide (Pavee Point, 2013)</p> <p>Connecting for Life – CH East strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2020</p> <p>Healthy Dún</p>	Earlier Intervention and Prevention

		<p>Number of young Traveller men aged 16-25 engaged in the physical health & mental health initiative</p> <p>Number of health & mental health professionals that engage in professional development training on Traveller health, mental health and culture</p>	<p>mental health initiative</p> <p>30 health & mental health professionals that engage in professional development training on Traveller health, mental health and culture</p>	<p>and culture to a range of services in DLR</p>			<p>Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)</p> <p>DLR County Sports Partnership Strategy 2018-2022</p>	
<p>1.7 A supported programme for adolescents who have withdrawn from school due to mental health difficulties</p>	<p>To develop an educational and mental health support programme for adolescents aged 12-15 who have withdrawn from school for more than 3 months due to</p>	<p>Amount of interagency budget and benefit in kind resources that is invested in creating this programme</p> <p>Number of referrals to the programme</p> <p>Number of participants on the programme</p> <p>Mental health baseline and</p>	<p>€100,000 invested by several services to staff and evaluate the programme</p> <p>24 adolescent participants (6 per 12 week programme) in 2020-2021</p>	<p>Create an interagency steering group</p> <p>Research best practise in the provision of education and mental health supports to out of school adolescents</p> <p>Agree the best format of the programme for DLR</p> <p>Plan the logistics of staffing, programme delivery, referrals & assessments</p>	<p>2020-2021</p>	<p>Lucena Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</p> <p>Partners: St John of God's Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board (DDLRETB) Tusla Child & Family</p>	<p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people (2014 - 2020)</p> <p>Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic</p>	<p>Earlier Intervention and Prevention</p>

	<p>mental health difficulties</p>	<p>follow up assessment data</p> <p>Qualitative feedback from participating adolescents, parents and service providers</p> <p>Number of participants that return to education and/or training</p>		<p>Develop an interagency application for research funding to evaluate the programme using a participatory, mixed methods methodology</p> <p>Commission an evaluation report documenting outcomes of the programme</p>		<p>Agency Educational Welfare Service HSE Psychology National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS) DLR CYPSC Mental Health Subgroup DLR CYPSC Educational Subgroup</p>	<p>Plan (2019-2022)</p> <p>Connecting for Life – CH East strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2020</p> <p>National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health report 2017</p>	
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Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.1 Social-Emotional-Behavioural Difficulties in Early Childhood Care & Education	Improve social-emotional development for children with difficulties in ECCE	Increased attainment scores on standardised Social Emotional Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) Boxall assessment tool	10 % increased attainment scores on standardised assessments	Establish a small working group to plan the pilot	February 2020	Blackrock Education Centre Partners: DLR County Childcare Committee; HSE – Early Intervention Service; Community based childcare services	First Five: A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028 Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people (2014 -2020) Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)	<i>Transformational Goal:</i> <i>Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination</i>
				Secure resources for implementation and evaluation of the 'Nurture' programme	June 2020			
				Identify and work with a cluster of ECCE services to pilot the Nurture programme	Sep 2020			
				Evaluate the outcomes	June 2020			

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.2 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Programmes	To support training, implementation & evaluation of evidence based Social Emotional Learning programmes	Number of services trained in evidence based SEL programmes	20 services trained in SEL	Establish a small working group to research & plan the SEL initiative	Feb 2021	DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup	Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice: 2018-2023 (DES) Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022) Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people (2014 -2020)	
		Number of SEL programmes delivered per year	40 SEL programmes delivered	Secure resources for training, implementation & evaluation	May 2021	Partners: UCD School of Education Blackrock Education Centre IPPN NAPD NEPS DDL ETB Community Training Colleges Youthreach		
		Social-Emotional Outcomes	Improvement in social-emotional scores of children & young people	Identify and work with a cluster of schools for interagency delivery of SEL programmes	Sept 2021			
					Sept 2022	Evaluate the SEL outcomes		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.3 Educational supports for Homeless Children & Young People	To plan and deliver interagency educational supports to children and young people living in homelessness in DLR	<p>Number of educational resources, supports and sessions organised to support children & young people's learning and education</p> <p>Qualitative feedback from parents and where appropriate from children & young people</p>	-2 mobile playgrounds for Emergency Accommodation sites	Establish a small working group to plan the educational support initiative	Jan 2020	DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup	Homelessness in the Classroom (Focus Ireland & INTO, 2019)	
			-50 baby educational play-mats & Physical exercise & sports equipment for the homeless services	Work with Volunteer Ireland's Education Matters programme & Focus Ireland & educational stakeholders to organise volunteer tutors	Feb 2020	Focus Ireland PMV Trust Sophia Housing Tusla EWS SCP HSCL UCD IADT IPPN NAPD	Home Works: A Study on the Educational Needs of Children Experiencing Homelessness and Living in Emergency Accommodation	
			-2 sessions per site with homeless service staff on play support skills	Secure resources for training, implementation & evaluation	Dec 2020			
			Vouchers for 200 children for recreational activities/camps	Work with interagency services to deliver supports	Ongoing with services			
			-Volunteers to support 50 children & young people with homework/study	Collect qualitative feedback in appropriate ways			Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)	

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.4 Educational supports for Traveller Children & Young People	To identify the barriers and implement enablers to increased Traveller participation and representation in education in DLR	Number of services participation in the seminar	50 services to participate in educational seminar	Establish a small working group to plan a participatory educational seminar on improving educational outcomes for Traveller children & Young People	Feb 2020	Southside Travellers Action Group (STAG)	National Traveller Education Strategy (2006)	
		Follow up feedback from seminar	Progress reported by stakeholder services regarding inclusion action plans	Host the educational seminar	May 2020	Partners: Exchange House Tusla EWS SCP Coordinators HSCs UCD	Report and Recommendations for a Traveller Education Strategy (Department of Education)	
		Implementation of recommendations from seminar	Progress reported by STAG focus group	Evaluate seminar learning and action intentions – provide any interagency support needed	June 2020	IADT IPPN NAPD Blackrock Education Centre	National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 (Department of Justice & Equality)	
		Qualitative feedback from STAG focus group		Follow up twelve months later to assess degree of implementation of recommended actions	May 2021			

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.5 Safe & Informed Online Behaviour	To improve children & young people's safe and pro-social behaviour online	Number of Cybersafe Ireland workshops delivered in DLR	32 workshops on Cybersafety	Secure UCD ethics permission for RCT research	Jan 2020	DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup		
		Number of participating schools in the Random Control trial on cyber-behaviour change	8 primary schools (including their 4 th and 5 th classes)	Organise & deliver Cybersafety workshops to a cluster of schools	June 2020	Partners: Cybersafe Ireland UCD TESS		
		Results of the Random Control Trial	8 community based organisations (including schools) in a defined area	Evaluate the impact through a Random Control Trial	Sept 2020	Blackrock Education Centre Participating schools		
		Number of organisations in the Depublish pilot	Clarity of efficacy of the online platform to change online behaviour	Organise a small working group to plan the training, intervention & evaluation	Jan 2021	Depublish Ltd Community orgs DCU Anti-Bullying Centre		
		Number of reports of anti-social/bullying/illegal behaviour online		Monitor & evaluate the outcomes	Sept 2021			
		Knowledge & behaviour change evaluation						

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.6 School withdrawal due to mental health difficulties	To engage out-of-school adolescents in a brief educational and mental health support programme	Number of adolescents referred and number supported	Clinical measurements of baseline & post-intervention levels of Mood, Anxiety Levels, Self Esteem, Quality of Life	Set up interagency working group	January 2020	Lead: Lucena Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), St John of God's	A National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland: Chapter 13: CAMHS Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)	
		Clinical assessments		Secure St John of God's research ethics permission				
		Educational assessments	Satisfaction rates & qualitative focus group feedback	Secure Tusla Child & Family research ethics permission	March 2020			
		Qualitative feedback from participants, parents & services	Thematic analysis of the participant's education plans & progression post intervention	Recruit/deploy staff (tutors & clinicians)	August 2020	DDLETB TESS HSE Psychology		
				Seek referrals from Tusla Educational Welfare Service	May 2020	DLR CYPSC		
				Deliver 8 -12 week programme, to three cohorts	Sept 2020 - June 2021	Education Subgroup DLR CYPSC		
		Conduct evaluation Analyse data & report	Nov 2021	Mental Health Subgroup	Connecting for Life: Dublin South East, Dún Laoghaire and East Wicklow, Reducing Suicide Together 2015-2020'			

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.7 Safe Relationships Skills & Sexual Violence Prevention	To improve the safe relationship skills of children & young people and to prevent sexual violence	Number of services engaged in training in the Manuela programme	15 services train in the Manuela programme	Establish a small working interagency group	February 2020	DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup & DLR CYPSC Educational Subgroup Tusla DSGBV An Garda Siochana My Project (Mountown) Barnardos Crosscare Youthreach IPPN NAPD NEPS Blackrock ED UCD IADT Further Education Colleges	Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Strategic Plan (2019-2022)	Transformational Goals: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
		Number of adolescent youth participants in the REAL U programme delivery	The REAL U programme is delivered in an additional three sites in DLR	Fund the implementation of the REAL U programme	February 2020			
		Number of post-primary school students who receive the Manuela programme		Fund & schedule training & implementation of Manuela programme	April 2020			
		Assessment of attitudinal change and increased knowledge		Identify & resource implementation of suitable programmes for early years/primary	October 2020			
				Support the HEA Consent Framework through social media & interagency events	Dec 2022			

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
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Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.8 Educational Transitions for adolescents & young adults	To improve educational transition outcomes for adolescents entering post-primary school and for young adults leaving school	Attendance of a range of educational organisations at a Transition seminar Identification and implementation of Transition strategies and initiatives by educational organisations	60 participants from a range of educational organisations in DLR attend the Transitions conference 50% of participants have implemented Transition supports within 12 months of attendance	Establish a small working group to plan the Transitions conference in 2020-2021 Development of a youth friendly website listing supports for young people in DLR in 2020 Host the conference on Transitions in DLR & launch website Evaluate impact	Jan 2020 March 2020 May 2020 May 2021	UCD Partners: Blackrock Education Centre IPPN NAPD NEPS IADT DDLETB Community Training Colleges Further Education Colleges		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
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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)
2.9 Young people not in Education, Training or Employment	To support further interagency collaboration to identify young people not in education, training or employment & to connect them with supports	Development of a secure & ethical interagency data sharing system subject to rigorous information sharing protocols & GPDR	15 stakeholder services work with DCYA and DLR CYPSC to develop and pilot a data transformation system to improve outcomes for at risk youth over a three year period	Seek support from DCYA 'What Works' to develop data driven transformation system	Jan 2020	DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup & DLR Safety Subgroup Partners: DDL ETB Tusla Children in Care and Aftercare Team Tusla EWS, Department of Social Protection, Department of Justice Department of Education An Garda Síochana,		
		Data analytics create an early warning system when at risk factors for young person escalate		Negotiate and develop a secure and confidential interagency data sharing system with stakeholders	March 2020			
		Appropriate interventions recommended		Conduct a focus group with stakeholders on how best to prevent early school leaving (ESL) and how to re-engage 18-24 year old NEETS.	April 2020			
		Standardised outcome measures evaluate intervention efficacy		Re-establish the database of young people at risk of ESL Update the guide to Alternative Education courses in DLR	May 2020			
					June 2020			
			Sept 2020					

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of 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)
				<p>Work with DES to create home tuition panel for children and young people with SEBD</p> <p>Work with CAMHS & in-patient psychiatric services to support the transition of young people back to school</p> <p>Link at risk young people into appropriate supports</p> <p>Evaluation with young people & service providers</p>	<p>Dec 2020</p> <p>Ongoing to June 2022</p> <p>Sept – Dec 2022</p>	<p>Garda Youth Diversion, Southside Partnership DLR DATF Youthreach Educational institutions & community partners as appropriate</p>		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
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)
3.1 Domestic Violence protective & recovery services	Access to a Domestic Abuse Refuge, a wraparound Crisis Intervention Service & a child/mother recovery support programme	Specialist support staff funded for the county	Appointment of a fulltime DV Outreach worker for DLR	Interagency work to secure a DV Outreach service for DLR	April 2020	DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup An Garda Siochana; Tusla Child Protection/Duty; Tulsa DSGBV ; DLR LCDC; DLR County Council; SAVE forum; Sonas Domestic Violence; Women's Aid; Barnardos; Southside Partnership; Southside Travellers Action Group; other community partners as indicated		
		Number of emergency accommodation/DV refuge spaces available in DLR	Refuge provision to accommodate 9 family units	Interagency work to secure a DV Refuge/Emergency Accommodation for DLR	April 2021			
		Inte agency work to develop a suite of wraparound DV services	Production of an interagency plan to develop DV wraparound supports for DLR	Interagency planning of suitable model of wraparound DV services and supports in DLR	Dec 2021			
		Psycho-social/educational programmes available to children/young people & mothers in recovery from DV	Training of six services in TLC Kidz programme in 2020	Training & implementation of the TLC Kidz programme in collaboration with services	June 2021			

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
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)
3.2 Contact centre for children and separated parents	To enable children of separated parents to maintain contact with their non-resident parent in a safe, healthy environment	Identified contact centres or locations in DLR for safe and healthy child contact with separated non-resident parent	Staffed, safe spaces for children and parents for contact visits	<p>Evidence informed interagency discussion as to suitable model of a contact centres for children of separated parents in DLR</p> <p>Interagency work with DLR LCDC, Tusla DSGBV, An Garda Siochana, DLR CYPSC, & stakeholder services to secure building space and staff</p>	<p>June 2022</p> <p>June 2022</p>	<p>Tusla Child Protection/Duty;</p> <p>Partners: DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup; SAVE forum; Sonas Domestic Violence; Women's Aid An Garda Siochana; SAVE forum; Women's Aid; Barnardos; Southside Partnership; Southside Travellers Action Group; other community partners as indicated</p>		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
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)
3.3 Male Domestic Violence	Behaviour change for male perpetrators of DV & support for male DV victims	Available evidence-based behaviour change and support programmes	Training of six services engaged with men in evidence based treatment and/or recovery programme	<p>Engage with academic experts in field of male recovery from DV a</p> <p>Identify and invite collaboration from key services</p> <p>Plan training & implementation & evaluation</p> <p>Secure funding for the above</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>June 2020</p> <p>Oct 2020</p> <p>March 2021</p> <p>Sept 2021</p> <p>Jan 2022</p>	<p>Tusla Family Support (to be confirmed)</p> <p>Partners: DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup; SAVE forum; Sonas Domestic Violence; Women's Aid An Garda Siochana; Tusla Child Protection/Duty; SAVE forum; Women's Aid; Barnardos; Southside Partnership; Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce; Southside Travellers Action Group; other community</p>		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
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)
4.1 Improving outcomes for Homeless children & young people	Coordinate interagency data sharing and collaborative action to improve outcomes for children and young people in homelessness	Number of interagency initiatives agreed	<p>Interagency agreement on data sharing protocol</p> <p>Interagency agreement & training in common assessment framework</p> <p>Interagency agreement on mobile/on site health and mental health supports for homeless children & parents</p> <p>Collaborative action on a number of recommended actions</p>	<p>Engage with key stakeholder services to discuss potential interagency agreements</p> <p>Support participating services to access training and supports to implement agreed collaborative actions</p>	<p>May 2020</p> <p>May 2021</p>	<p>CYPSC Safety Subgroup;</p> <p>Partners; DLR CC (Housing); Focus Ireland; Peter McVerry Trust; Sophia Housing; HSE Psychology; HSE Early Intervention; DLRSP SJOG; Sonas DV; Women's Aid An Garda Síochána; Tusla Child Protection;; SAVE forum; Barnardos; SSP; STAG; other community</p>		
4.2 Hearing Homeless	To give voice and influence to children and	Number of children and young people and parents consulted	40 children & parents consulted in age appropriate ways over 2 years	Engage with key stakeholder services	March 2020	CYPSC Safety Subgroup;		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
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)
children, young people & parents	young people as young citizens experiencing homelessness in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Number of information sharing meetings/events to convey the experience/needs/recommendations of homeless children & parents The outcome of these meetings/events	Four meetings with senior decision makers over 2 years to convey consultation findings Specific service/practise/policy changes noted	Conduct consultation & document findings Report findings to senior decision makers including DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management, DLR LCDC, Healthy DLR Steering Committee; DLR CC SSP	May 2020 Ongoing until May 2021	Partners; DCYA Participation Unit Focus Ireland; Peter McVerry Trust; Sophia Housing; DLR County Council (Housing); DLR LCDC; DLR Healthy Ireland; DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
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)
5.1 Information for parents on available parenting supports	All parents in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown can easily access accurate, up to date online and printed information on available parenting supports in the county	Number of services engaged in providing information on parenting support Number of users of the parenting online app	Development of an online app	Collate and map parenting supports currently available & identify gaps. Work with stakeholders services to schedule an annual parenting support programme Publicise parenting support information Collaboratively address identified Parenting Support service gaps with stakeholders	Dec 2020	To be confirmed	TBC	TBC

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
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)
5.2 Accessible 'What Works' parenting support evidence base	Services involved in commissioning and/or delivering support work in DLR have access to the evidence base of 'what works' with regards to parenting programmes and interventions	Number of services trained in accessing 'What Works' evidence base	50 services attending training seminars in accessing reliable evidence based on what works in parenting	Organisation of 'what works' evidence seminar Dissemination of relevant publications/guides	Dec 2020	To be confirmed	TBC	
5.3 Participation of parents & services users	Services providing Parenting and/or Child Support services in DLR are directly informed by the lived experience and the recommendations of parents and their children as service users.	Number of services trained in participatory methods to engage service users Survey data post-training	30 services attending training seminars on participatory service user feedback	Organisation of seminar on participatory methods of hearing service user feedback Dissemination of relevant publications/guides Conduct survey to assess services' implementation of participatory methods in	Dec 2021	To be confirmed	TBC	

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
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)
5.4 Engage with DCYA Parent Support Unit	Establish a positive and reciprocal relationship between DCYA Parent Support Unit & DLR CYPSC Parenting Subgroup	Level of engagement with local services Level of engagement with DCYA Parent Support Unit	Production of an evidence informed report on parenting needs, good practise in the county & recommendations	Consultation with parents, children & services in DLR to establish parenting support needs, local/service good practise & recommendations Establish a feedback loop between the DCYA Parenting Unit and DLR CYPSC to contribute to the national Framework. Seek support from the DCYA Parenting Unit re: funding streams, training and support for DLR services engaged in parenting support.	Dec 2022	To be confirmed	TBC	
5.6 Young Leaders	To develop an inclusive, diverse,	Identification of young	A membership of at least six to ten young leaders	Seek nominations from services working directly	Sept 2020	DLR CYPSC Education Subgroup		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
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)
Participation Forum	participatory forum for young people who are nominated representative youth leaders or who are representative by their 'expertise by experience' in a CYPSC priority outcome area	leaders by services	<p>who are keen to influence service provision and policy to improve outcomes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown & committed to a year's engagement</p> <p>Four scheduled quarterly meeting dates for the Youth Leadership Subgroup</p>	<p>with young people with a range of life experiences and needs</p> <p>Meet each young person individually</p> <p>Support the participatory facilitation of the Youth Leadership Subgroup</p> <p>Seek interagency support and resources to implement and evaluate youth driven collaborative actions</p>	<p>Oct 2020</p> <p>Jan 2021</p> <p>Sept 2021</p>	<p>Crosscare Youth Services DDLETB UCD IADT Comhairle na N-Og/DLR County Council (Community)</p>		

Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Change management								
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)
1) Interagency information sharing protocols	Development of interagency protocols for clarifying pathways and process for interagency collaboration	Number & nature of the protocols e.g. information sharing, area crisis protocol etc.	All CYPSC member agencies will either participate or be aware of the protocols	All agencies locally to ensure own plans align with CYPSC Crisis plan	October 2021	Strategic Area Management Committee members	Relevant protocols and plans of CYPSC members	Transformational Goal: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination
2) Interagency commissioning of research and/or training	Interagency identification & commissioning of training and research to guide area interventions	No of training events or commissioned research with specific population of children and young people	All CYPSC member agencies will discuss and/or participate in the process	Interagency efforts to commission and support research to gather relevant data to guide interventions	Dec 2021	Strategic Area Management Committee members	Growing Up in Ireland Longitudinal Studies DCYA Population Outcome Indicators	Transformational Goal: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination
Commitment of senior personnel across member agencies to CYPSC	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

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

The CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework is premised on a number of core principles to be adopted by all tiers of CYPSC implementation. These principles unite CYPSC stakeholders in their approach to CYPSC planning and reporting and are in addition to the principles underpinning the CYPSC Initiative as a whole which are outlined in the *Blueprint for the development of Children and Young People's Services Committees*, page 7. The principles underpinning the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework are:

- Evidence-informed: That CYPSC puts the best available evidence at the heart of planning and reporting processes.
- Outcomes based: CYPSC planning is outcomes based i.e. its purpose is to achieve agreed outcomes.
- Mutual accountability: CYPSC members hold themselves and others accountable to the common agenda as expressed in national policy and in local plans.
- Data supported decision-making: CYPSC are committed to collecting and using data to make informed decisions.
- Learning: CYPSC stakeholders at local and national level are open to learning through reflection on how well the work has lived up to performance expectation.
- Communication: Regular and open communications will flow - bottom up, top down and across the CYPSC initiative.

The performance of each CYPSC will be monitored by the CYPSC itself on an ongoing basis, applying the principle of mutual accountability, and annually by TUSLA - Child and Family Agency, on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, through the CYPSC's submission of an annual progress report

The implementation of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CYPSC plan will be monitored and reviewed locally by the DLR Strategic Area Management Committee during the course of its 3 year lifespan in alignment with the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework (2017) in the following ways.

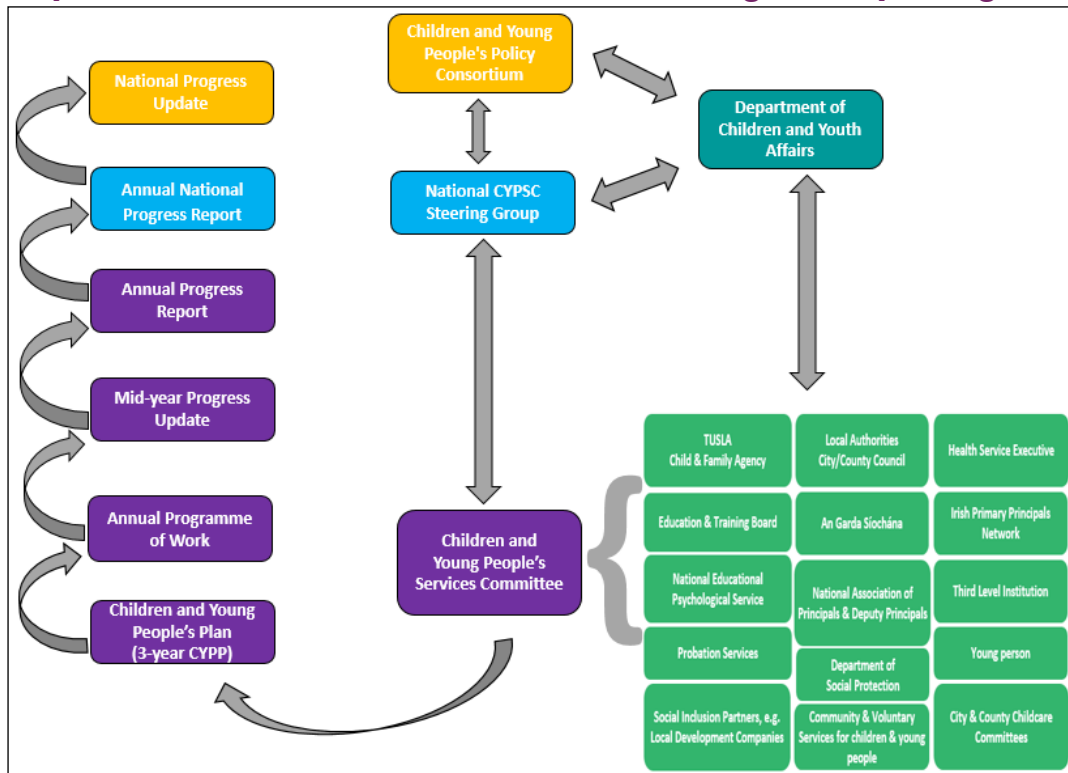
- (1) The Subgroup Chairs will report progress and flag any challenges to implementation of the Subgroup plan at the DLR Strategic Area Management Committee meetings.
- (2) A Mid-Year Review will be conducted mid-way through each year of the plan to support member's review and if necessary refinement of actions, resources and plans. The Mid-year Progress Update will be utilised locally by each CYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. It is primarily a monitoring tool to determine whether the CYPSC annual programme of work is on schedule. This Mid-year Progress Update will also provide CYPSC with a mid-year opportunity to highlight to national level structures any issues or challenges being experienced locally. See Figure 8 for a diagrammatic representation of the local CYPSC Planning and Reporting Cycle.

- (3) The CYPSC will produce an annual statement of intent / action outlining the work to be undertaken and achieved by the CYPSC in each calendar year. This statement of intent will be called the Annual Programme of Work and it will be derived from the CYPSC's three-year Children and Young People's Plan. It will provide a high level overview of what and how the CYPSC will deliver against each of the agreed local objectives and strategic actions for that calendar year. An annual review will be conducted comprising of the following
- ✓ An overview of how children and young people in the county / CYPSC area are doing under the five national outcomes for children and young people. Highlighting any significant changes, improvements and areas requiring further attention or exploration by the CYPSC.
 - ✓ Detail of progress on those actions set out in the Annual Programme of Work to improve outcomes for children and young people.
 - ✓ Detail of CYPSC inter-agency activity including membership, engagement, distribution of leadership across CYPSC members and alignment of / linkages to CYPSC member agencies operational plans.
 - ✓ Detail of how the CYPSC is involving children and young people in its structures and decision-making.
 - ✓ CYPSC progress on national policy objectives and commitments as relevant.
 - ✓ Challenges, achievements, the value add of the CYPSC model of interagency working and lessons learned from implementation.
 - ✓ Record of leveraged funding into the county / CYPSC area and record of pooled resources by CYPSC member agencies.

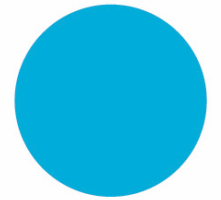
This local CYPSC report as outlined above will be synthesised by Tusla - Child and Family Agency into an Annual National Progress Report which will be submitted to the CYPSC National Steering Group and to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to enhance the monitoring and oversight of CYPSC and for the information to inform national policy and development. The report will be also provided to the National Children and Young People's Policy Consortium for information.

The figure below illustrates the reporting process between the local and national CYPSC structures.

**Figure 7: CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework
(reproduced from the National CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework, Version 1.0, June 2017)**



Section 8: Appendices



Appendix 1: Detailed Phased Development Process of DLR CYPSC 2017-2019

Phase 1: Establishing a reliable evidence baseline of quantitative data

The first phase was to establish a reliable quantitative database regarding the key indicators for children and young people's health, education, safety and wellbeing. In order to do so, in April 2017 the DLR CYPSC Coordinator facilitated a large stakeholder event with 60 key statutory, community and voluntary services where the known data was presented to the services, and services were invited to collaboratively identify data and service gaps that could usefully inform future interagency collaboration. This information was gathered through written questionnaires at the event and subsequently analysed by an independent researcher.

Based on these findings and recommendations from key services, a Socio-Demographic Baseline Evidence Report was commissioned to detail census and other reliable data sources on the child and youth population aged 0-24 years of age in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Where possible the report includes validated small area population data and comparative data with other counties in the Republic of Ireland. The report is freely available [here](#).

Phase 2: Service Mapping

The second phase was to map services to establish a reliable database of current service provision for children and young people across the five domains of health, mental health, education, safety and wellbeing. A research consultant was contracted, the range of services per outcome areas was developed and the research process was managed by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator.

Services were initially mapped in 2017 into a database to inform the Dublin CYPSC website <http://www.dublincypscdirectory.ie/>.

This service database was subsequently shared with both the HSE and with the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board to inform their 2019 mapping and service directories.

The DLR CYPSC service listing was updated in July 2019 to include brief service descriptors and the service's Hardiker level of service provision. See **p.38** of this plan for this service listing.

Phase 3: Securing inter-sectoral senior management representation

The third phase was to secure senior management commitment from all relevant sectors to participate in the new CYPSC structure. This required several months of networking, presentations to services on the function of CYPSC, individual meetings with service managers, and eventually formal invitations. The inaugural meeting of the 'DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee' was held on 23rd August 2017 was attended by 27 senior managers representing all sectors recommended by the Irish government (Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2015) *Blueprint for the development of Children and Young People's Services Committees*, Dublin).

Membership Terms of Reference were established and quarterly meetings of the DLR CYPSC Committee have been held since then. Current membership can be seen on **p.176**.

Phase 4: Conducting an inclusive and transparent needs analysis process

The fourth phase was to conduct a qualitative Needs Analysis process to engage interagency stakeholders so that all sectors had the opportunity to identify what unmet needs they were observing in their work with children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and to make practise-informed recommendations. To achieve this, 10 interagency focus groups and two large consultations with young people were facilitated by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator during 2018. To ensure transparency, each focus group with services was transcribed in real time by either an independent researcher or by a Tusla administrator.

Between 10 and 20 different services participated in each focus group, and the themes were as follows:

1. **Perinatal services** - the unmet needs of parents and babies pre and post birth and services recommendations for interagency collaboration
2. **Early years services** - the unmet needs of children aged 0-5 and services recommendations for interagency collaboration
3. **Primary schools** - the unmet needs of children aged 5-12 with regards to the five national outcomes and services recommendations for interagency collaboration
4. **Post-primary schools** - the unmet needs of children aged 12-18 with regards to the five national outcomes and services recommendations for interagency collaboration
5. **Tusla Care and Aftercare** services - the unmet needs of children and young people in state care and services recommendations for interagency collaboration
6. **Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Communities** - the unmet needs of children and young people and services recommendations for interagency collaboration
7. **Tusla Parenting, Prevention and Family Support Services (PPFS)** - services engagement in the DLR PPFS
8. **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)** -services recommendations as to how interagency collaboration could children and young people with ACES across the sectors and the developmental age spectrum

9. **Cyberlife** – services observations on how online engagement is impacting children and young people’s health, mental health, safety, belonging and education, and their recommendations to improve outcomes.
10. **Traveller children and young people** –the unmet needs of children with regards to the five national outcomes and recommendations from the Traveller community via the Southside Traveller’s Action Group (STAG).
11. **Local Authority services** – the identification of services provided to children and young people and suggestions as to how the local authority can best support the achievement of the 5 National Outcomes in terms of services provided was discussed both with staff supported by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator and an independent research consultant. A consultation also took place with 137 children and young people regarding 6 dlr work areas including community development, sports and recreation, environment, parks, the arts and libraries. The results have been shared with CYPSC and have informed drafting of a Council specific plan for their services inclusive of Children and Young People.
12. **Young people** – To ensure the needs analysis was inclusive of a range of young people’s lived experience, the DLR CYPSC Coordinator facilitated a roundtable consultation on the five national outcomes with over 60 young people aged 12 to 18 attending Crosscare Youth Services including representatives from the youth council, dlr Comhairle na N-og.

The evening youth consultation event was supported by Crosscare Youth workers who planned creative consultation activities, the ethical and inclusive participation of young people from a range of diverse background, the roundtable facilitation of tables themed according to the 5 national outcomes (*Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, 2014, DCYA*) and the write up of the findings from the consultation.

A consultation on the five national outcomes was also held by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator with 20 young people who are active members of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown youth council structure, ‘Comhairle Na N-Og’ using participatory methods. This was supported by the DLR Comhairle Na N-Og Coordinator, and the Foroige support worker.

A further consultation with over 100 young people attending the Comhairle Na N-Og annual conference was held in 2019 when the draft plan was ready. The key priorities were presented by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator and young people had the opportunity to provide written feedback and to rank the priorities.

Young elected leaders from UCD and IADT also participated in consultation groups and interagency meetings to contribute their perspective and that of their student bodies.

Phase 5: Data analysis & selection of strategic priorities

To ensure objectivity, all of the qualitative data (gathered at the large stakeholder area event with the 60 services, the written transcripts of the 12 focus group attended by over 100 services and the key findings from the two initial consultations with over 80 young people) was subsequently analysed by a contracted independent research consultancy (Outcomes Imps Limited) to distil the key unmet needs reported by services and young people and the recommendations from the interagency and youth consultations.

The key findings from the AIRO Socio-Demographic report had previously been presented to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee on 23rd November 2017 by Dr Justin Gleeson, Director of AIRO. The Needs Analysis data was synthesised and presented in written format to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee on the 16th May 2018 by Dr Helga Sneedon, Director of Outcomes Imps.

The DLR CYPSC SAMC Committee were then facilitated in a full day event by Dr Sneedon to identify the most pressing needs from the evidence synthesis and to discuss in both roundtable and plenary sessions as to how these priorities could benefit from future interagency collaboration. A participatory toolkit called 'Ketso' was used to ensure all SAMC members got equal say in the decision making process. By the end of the day, there was consensus on the broad priority areas under each National Outcome which the Committee wished to see enhanced interagency collaboration on, in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Phase 6: Interagency identification of key outcomes and actions to progress the strategic priorities

To ensure that the development of the DLR CYPSC plan was not a 'top down' approach and to offer services 'ownership' of the collaborative plan, the DLR CYPSC Coordinator then returned to the larger interagency collective of services during the following six month period to invite all interested services in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to consider the identified strategic priorities and to identify how their service could contribute to improving outcomes in these areas.

At day-long workshops facilitated by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator, the Ketso toolkit was used with participating services to identify interagency strengths, challenges to potential solutions and 'bright ideas' as to what interagency actions could improve outcomes in the priority areas agreed by the SAMC.

These service consultation workshops were well attended by 113 participants from a range of statutory, community and voluntary services and resulted in a significant body of recommended actions for each of the Strategic Priorities. These recommended actions were documented by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator and presented to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee.

Phase 7: Creation of interagency Subgroups with leadership expertise and stakeholder commitment to the agreed priority outcomes.

In 2019, the next phase focused on the development of Interagency CYPSC Subgroups which needed to reflect the National Outcomes, the identified strategic objectives and the interagency services collective recommendations for action.

To develop strong leadership of the Subgroups and to ensure clear communication between the DLR CYPSC structures, members of the Senior Area Management Committee with significant expertise in their sector were invited and kindly accepted the Co-Chair positions of the following DLR CYPSC interagency Subgroups - the Safety Subgroup; the Health and Mental Health Subgroup; the Education and Learning Subgroup; the Youth Leadership Subgroup and the Parenting Support Subgroup. A list of the Subgroup leadership can be found on **p.176**.

All the stakeholder services that had participated in previous DLR CYPSC consultations were invited to consider if they were willing to join one of the CYPSC Subgroups. Potential participants were advised the Subgroups would focus first on reducing the many recommended actions by services and young people into tangible interagency projects for the 3 year CYPSC plan and then the Subgroups would need to actively support the implementation of these projects through agreed outcomes, measurable performance indicators, actions, timelines, drivers, stakeholders and resources.

Once services had self-selected onto the DLR CYPSC Subgroup that was aligned with their area of professional expertise and interest, the DLR CYPSC Coordinator worked with each of the Subgroups to facilitate Subgroup members in an '*Outcomes Based Accountability*' process to collectively clarify the priority outcomes, the data story behind those, the 5 key actions to achieve the outcomes, key performance measures and stakeholder partners.

This process resulted in interagency consensus on each of the DLR CYPSC Subgroups as to the key outcomes that participating services are willing and committed to work on through the three year CYPSC interagency planning, implementation, evaluation, reporting and reflection process.

Phase 8: Refinement of Subgroup plans by the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee

On the 19th June 2019, the DLR CYPSC Subgroup Chairs supported by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator presented a summary document detailing each of the priority outcomes, data story and the recommended interagency actions on behalf of the collective of services participating in their respective interagency Subgroup to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee.

These documents formed the core of the proposed DLR CYPSC plan as they contained the culmination of services engagement in a two year data-gathering, consultation and planning process.

Senior managers from the wide range of sectors represented discussed and debated the recommended actions proposed by the multiple services participating in the DLR CYPSC Subgroups. This discussion was particularly useful in terms of ensuring all members were fully briefed on the proposed actions by the larger collective of services, and members helpfully refined some of the proposed actions in some cases through queries, clarifications, offering additional contextual information and offering leadership of particular actions.

Overall there was broad agreement that the proposed outcome areas and allied actions would result in improving the strategic priority areas and ultimately outcomes for children and young people.

Phase 9: Writing the draft DLR CYPSC plan for review by the National CYPSC Coordinator

The DLR CYPSC Coordinator subsequently wrote the draft DLR CYPSC plan which was sent to all DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee members for feedback at the October 2019 meeting.

Members noted and discussed edits and/or additional information and a final round of edits were implemented in November and December 2019.

The DLR CYPSC Coordinator submitted the plan to the National CYPSC Coordinator in December 2019 for the Quality Assurance Process review. Following minor edits, the plan was then sent for review by the National Review Committee comprised of representatives from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and from the National CYPSC Office.

Phase 10: Public Launch & Implementation of DLR CYPSC Plan 2020-2022

The plan was fully approved in February 2020, and a large in-person launch was planned for May 2020 to celebrate the interagency achievement. However due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this launch was then rescheduled for September 21st 2020, and restructured to take place online.

Subgroup implementation meetings continue to progress the agreed actions from 2020-2022 and to refer emerging issues to the Strategic Area Management meetings for county and national level attention.

Appendix 2: Terms of reference for the CYPSC



Terms of Reference for the Strategic Area Management Committee (SAMC) Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services (DLR CYPSC)

1. Mandate of DLR CYPSC

The mandate for CYPSC's has derived from Government policy over time and is renewed in the context of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020* (DCYA, 2014). This national policy charges CYPSC's with providing 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 aged 0-24 years in a county/counties.

2. Purpose of DLR CYPSC

The purpose of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Service Committee (DLR CYPSC) is to provide strategic direction and area leadership to facilitate effective interagency collaboration to improve the following 5 national outcomes for children and young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and 6 cross cutting transformational goals as outlined in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020 (BOBF)*. The 5 outcomes are that children and young people:

Outcome 1: Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental well-being

Outcome 2: Are achieving their full potential in all areas of learning and development

Outcome 3: Are safe and protected from harm

Outcome 4: Have economic security and opportunity

Outcome 5: Are connected, respected and contributing to their world.

The 6 cross-cutting transformational goals are to:

1. Support parents
2. Earlier intervention and prevention

3. Listen to and involve children and young people
4. Ensure quality services
5. Strengthen transitions
6. Cross-governments and interagency collaboration and coordination

3. DLR CYPSC Objectives - 2017-2018:

- 3.1 To collaboratively review the DLR area evidence base with regards to children and young people's health, mental health, learning and education, safety and protection from harm, economic security and participation, social connection and societal contribution.
- 3.2 To provide strategic management oversight and interagency support for the priority outcomes identify for action by the DLR CYPSC interagency Subgroups to improve outcomes for children and young people in DLR.
- 3.3 To review & sign off on the three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown 2019-2021 with reference to an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) Framework.
- 3.4 To align organisational human and financial resources, and strategic planning in 2019-2021 to support the successful implementation of the three year DLR CYPSC plan.
- 3.5 To participate and/or support staff to participate in Subgroup development, implementation activities and evaluations from 2018 onwards.
- 3.6 To utilise learning from DLR CYPSC to continuously improve service quality and outcomes for children and young people.

DLR CYPSC Operational Criteria:

1. Meetings shall be Chaired by either the DLR CYPSC Chair, the Tusla Area Manager (Integrated Service Area Dublin South East & Wicklow) or the DLR CYPSC Vice-Chair, DLR County Council (Director of Community & Cultural Development).
2. DLR CYPSC members shall be senior managers of key agencies, or senior management nominees mandated and empowered to act on behalf of their nominating organisation.
as per the *'Blueprint for the development of children and young people's services committee'* (DCYA, 2014). To ensure consistency of representation, members are requested not to send other staff members to represent/replace their attendance.
3. The DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee shall meet at least 4 times per year.

4. A DLR CYPSC meeting quorum shall consist of least 8 members from the member DLR area stakeholder services.
5. It is expected that each member of the CYPSC will be prepared for the meetings, having read the relevant documentation in advance.
6. It is expected that each member will communicate absence, queries, requests and progress reports if relevant directly to the DLR CYPSC Coordinator at least one week ahead of each Strategic Area Management meetings.
7. If a member is unable to attend three consecutive meetings, their nominating organisation will be asked to identify an alternate senior management member to sit on the DLR CYPSC.
8. Members may be nominated to the Expert Working Sub-Groups of the DLR CYPSC.
9. Members who are nominated as Chairpersons of these Sub-Groups are expected to provide strategic leadership and direction to the respective Sub-Group.
10. The DLR CYPSC shall endeavour to make decision through dialogue and by consensus. In the absence of unanimous consensus, decisions will be made by majority vote with dissenting opinions acknowledged with respect. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson may exercise a casting vote.

DLR CYPSC Principles

The work of the DLR CYPSC will be underpinned by the following principles as outlined in the 'Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services' (DCYA, 2015):

- ✓ **Children's rights:** The rights of children as outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are recognised and child-centred approaches are adopted.
- ✓ **Family-oriented:** The family is recognised as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of children and young people
- ✓ **Equality:** The diversity of children and young people's experience, abilities, identities and cultures is acknowledged, and reducing inequalities is promoted as a means of improving outcomes and achieving greater social inclusion.
- ✓ **Evidence-informed and outcomes-focused:** To be effective, policies and services must be supported by evidence and focused on the achievement of agreed outcomes.

Accountability and resource efficiency: Clear implementation, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and lines of responsibility for delivery are in place to drive timely and effective policy implementation.

Appendix 3: Linkages between DLR CYPSC & Other County Interagency Structures

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The governing legislation underpinning the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) is set out in Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which provides for the establishment of LCDCs in all local authority administrative areas “for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development”.

Nationally there is a protocol regarding interagency working between the LCDCs and the CYPSCs issued by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in 2017. This protocol states that

'The work and planning of both groups (LCDCs and CYPSCs) in respect of children and young people is framed by Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures. This provides the overarching framework for the development and implementation of policy and services for children and young people. The commitments in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures have the backing of all Government Departments. The Framework is recognition by Government of the need to connect all of the resources available to support our vision for children and young people.'

Beyond the general principles shared by all stakeholders, there are a number of areas for progression that are of mutual interest for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government. These include: ensuring that local county-level implementation and monitoring through the CYPSC will be formally linked with LCDC, and ensuring consistency between the priorities for children and young people set out in the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures Framework and the priorities and actions set out in the relevant Local Economic Community Plan.'

In the local authority area of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, good communication channels have been established between the LCDC and CYPSC through mutual representation on key structures. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has ensured consistent, senior representation on the CYPSC to maintain communications and on-going engagement with regard to issues relating to children and young people. The Director of Community and Cultural Development, Dearbhla Lawson, was nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of DLR County Council, Philomena Poole, to the position of the Vice-Chairperson of the CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Additionally the Chief Officer of the DLR LCDC, Mary Ruane, is a member of the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee which ensures that relevant LCDC matters are communicated and considered by the DLR CYPSC.

Additionally, the DLR CYPSC Coordinator represents Tusla Child and Family Agency as a non-voting member on the DLR LCDC which meets every six weeks. This representation ensures that relevant CYPSC and Tusla information is offered to the LCDC meetings where appropriate and that the Tusla Area Manager and DLR CYPSC Chair are kept updated on DLR LCDC developments. The DLR CYPSC

Coordinator also serves as a member of the LCDC Subgroup which reviews the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) Grants Programme. This representation promotes the consideration of the shared CYPSC and LCDC priority goals for children and youth on this funding allocation committee.

Finally the Chairperson of the DLR LCDC, Ms Dearbhla Lawson was nominated in 2019 to the CYPSC National Steering Group in a representational role of Vice-Chair of a CYPSC. Participation in this national CYPSC structure further increases the Local Authority and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) understanding of the vision, mission and operational structures of the Children and Young People's Services Committee.

The Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Steering Group

When the Healthy Ireland funding stream for CYPSC's and LCDC's was first established in 2017, an interagency Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Steering Group was set up with representation from key stakeholders including the DLR LCDC, DLR CYPSC, the DLR Council Community and Cultural Department, the Southside Partnership, the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, and HSE Health Promotion. The respective budgets allocated to the CYPSC and the LCDC were jointly shared to create a new post in the county, the Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Projects Coordinator, to support the implementation of the Healthy Ireland funded projects.

The DLR CYPSC Coordinator has participated in the Steering Group for the last three rounds of Healthy Ireland funding from 2017 through to 2019. Additionally the CYPSC is further represented by the Chair of the DLR CYPSC Education and Learning Subgroup, Professor Jason Last from UCD, and the Chair of the DLR CYPSC Health and Mental Health Subgroup Aisling White, HSE Psychology. This has resulted in joint planning and applications to the national funding stream by DLR LCDC and DLR CYPSC for projects to improve population health in the county.

A range of interagency projects designed and delivered by CYPSC stakeholder services to improve health outcomes for children and young people were project managed by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator with implementation support provided by the Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Projects Coordinator. This interagency Steering committee meets every six weeks to report on the progress of the projects which results in good knowledge exchange between services and strengthens interagency collaborative relationships.

Additionally the interagency Steering Group collaborated on the development of a three year Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown strategic plan which incorporated findings from the DLR CYPSC Needs Analysis and the DLR CYPSC socio-demographic baseline report to inform a number of the strategic actions to improve population health in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. This report was launched in May 2019 and is available in full here https://www.dlrcoco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/healthy_dun_laoghaire-rathdown_plan_2019-2022.pdf .

Of particular relevance to DLR CYPSC is the commitment in this county plan that Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown will support the population of children and young people (0-24years) in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to be healthy and active, specifically to:

- 4.1 Improve information provision and raise awareness of services working with the health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- 4.2 Advocate for and progress effective early intervention and evidence informed actions to address the needs of children and young people facing particular health and wellbeing challenges.
- 4.3 Increase the participation of children and young people in physical activity and sport.
- 4.4 Develop and promote initiatives that support the social-emotional wellbeing and the mental health of children and young people.
- 4.5 Support physical and mental health interventions in a range of statutory, community and voluntary settings in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown.
- 4.6 Support programmes that address the particular health and wellbeing needs of the perinatal and early years’ population in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown.

The Connecting for Life Steering Group (HSE Community Healthcare East)

The ‘Connecting for Life’ suicide and harm reduction strategy for HSE Community Healthcare East (CHO 6) was launched in 2017, with specific actions for services to collaborate on to reduce harm and suicide in the area. A number of these actions involve services working with children, young people and parents.

The DLR CYPSC Coordinator therefore participates in several ‘Connecting for Life’ interagency structures including the Oversight Committee, the Communications Workstream and the Psychotherapeutic Support for Children & Adults Workstream. These interagency structures are coordinated by, the Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Division, HSE CHO Area 6 (Dublin South East and Dún Laoghaire).

The HSE Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention, Pauline O’Reilly, attends the DLR CYPSC Health and Mental Health Subgroup as a member and this facilitates timely communication across the structures with regards to interagency collaboration to reduce self-harm and suicide in the county.

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown Comhairle Na No-Og

Comhairle na nÓg are youth councils for young people under the age of 18 in each of the 31 local authorities of the country, which give children and young people the opportunity to have a voice on services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area. In Dún

Laoghaire Rathdown, the Comhairle na nÓg is coordinated by Foroige, and supported by the Community and Cultural Department in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

The DLR CYPSC Coordinator is an active member of the DLR Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee which includes representation from Comhairle na nÓg youth membership, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Foroige, the DLR Public Participation Network and the Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board, An Garda Síochána, Southside Travellers Action Group and the DCYA Participation Office.

Several DLR CYPSC consultations have taken place with DLR Comhairle na nÓg members in 2017, 2018 and 2019, all of which have informed the DLR CYPSC Needs Analysis. The DLR CYPSC Coordinator has presented at and consulted with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meetings to ensure the voice of the youth council is reported back to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee.

Representation on the DLR CYPSC Youth Leadership Subgroup has also been invited from the Comhairle na nÓg to ensure that members have the opportunity to contribute in an age appropriate way to development of this structure and work packages. Finally to ensure senior area managers have the opportunity to hear from, and meet with, the voice of youth council, annual presentations from DLR Comhairle na nÓg to the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee are invited.

DLR Sports Partnership

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership (DLRSP) is a Sport Ireland initiative that is a sub-structure of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. DLRSP works closely with other key partners to promote participation, inclusion and coordination in sport and physical activity at a local county level including children, young people and young adults. The Coordinator of DLR Sports Partnership is a member of the DLR CYPSC Health and Mental Health Subgroup and also is a member of the DLR Healthy Ireland Steering Group.

Previous collaboration between the Coordinator of the DLR CYPSC and the Coordinator of the DLR SP took place in 2018 on an action research project to identify the needs of young people living locally and the opportunities which a Youth Sports and Physical Activity might provide for them in the disadvantaged community of Ballyogan. This has resulted in area level baseline data which informed the establishment of the Ballyogan Youth Sports and Physical Activity. DLR Sports Partnership continues to provide ongoing leadership to the interagency collaboration in the area regarding youth physical activity.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (DLR DATF)

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (DLR DATF) is a Health Services Initiative that works with a range of statutory, community and voluntary stakeholders to reduce population harmful drug and alcohol use. The Coordinator of the DLR DATF is a member of the DLR CYPSC Strategic Area Management Committee since 2018. Collaboration has taken place between the DLR DATF and the DLR CYPSC Subgroup, the DLR PPFS, with regards to planning early intervention and prevention family support initiatives and

with regards to planning an interagency response to 'Hidden Harm' as per the Tusla and the HSE strategic statement and practice guide, '*Seeing through Hidden Harm to Brighter Futures*'.

The Tulsa PPFS Subgroup

The CYPSC has a particular relationship with the interagency structure of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS), which is managed by Tusla Child and Family Agency (Dublin South East & Wicklow).

The PPFS programme seeks to embed prevention and early intervention into the culture and operation of Tusla. The DLR PPFS Steering Committee was established in October 2014 as a multi-agency forum to support the development of Tusla's PPFS programme, particularly the new Meitheal framework offering early help to children and families. The Committee advised on how best to create this multi-agency response including training staff in Meitheal and the establishment of Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) boundaries across the county, based around existing community based family support projects as local hubs for families.

The DLR PPFS Steering Committee was the only multi-agency family support forum in the county until the CYPSC was formed in 2017 and such the PPFS Steering Committee was an important precursor to the establishment of CYPSC and most members have now also joined other CYPSC sub groups; primarily the Safety Sub Group, Health & Mental Health Sub Group and Parenting Sub Group. The DLR PPFS Steering Committee is now a DLR CYPSC Sub Group under National Outcome 3 Safe and Protected from Harm in line with the national service delivery framework.

The PPFS Steering Committee has an annual work plan which is structured around the main national PPFS work streams. While the main focus is on implementing Meitheal through the local CFSN's, the Committee also sets actions in relation to a number of other themes. Tusla's Child and Youth Participation and Parent Participation Strategies involve small amounts of seed funding to encourage child-led and parent-led initiatives in the area.

One significant local example of this has been the development of www.changingfutures.ie a national website with Tusla information for young people by young people. A Parent Support Champion initiative also sits with PPFS, supporting staff from Tusla and funded services to highlight Tusla's various parent support materials e.g. www.parenting24seven.ie

More recently Tusla has held annual Public Awareness Week events to highlight the positive early intervention work done by the agency. In 2019 the local area developed a Commissioning Plan which sets out themes for developing family support and social work services in to the future. Finally, a local response to the joint Tusla/HSE Hidden Harm Framework working with parental problem alcohol and substance use is being developed focussing on collaboration between services using the Meitheal framework.

The implementation of Meitheal has been somewhat limited to date due to the limited spread of funded family support projects and PPFS staffing capacity. This has particularly been the case in the west of DLR county.

Meitheal Metrics Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown 2017 - 2019

Year	Total Number of Meitheal Requests
2017	26
2018	16
2019 to date	14

In August 2019, a dedicated Senior Child and Family Support Co-ordinator for DLR and a local Child and Family Support Co-ordinator for the west of the county were appointed. In the last two years the DLR Drug and Alcohol Task Force have funded a new family support project in Ballyogan and staff supporting young people with problem substance misuse across the county.

In addition, the national Tusla Family Resource Centre (FRC) programme will appoint a Family Support Worker for each Integrated Service Area (ISA) in 2019. These additional resources will see an increase in capacity to deliver Meitheal in DLR during the lifetime of the CYPSC plan 2020-22.

Child and Family Support Networks

Child and Family Support Networks are the basis for supporting Meitheal implementation at a local level by bringing together workers from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to try to provide an integrated response to families seeking support (see map of CFSN's below).

The three CFSN's in the east of the county (Dún Laoghaire/Mountown, Loughlinstown/Ballybrack and Shankhill) each host an annual network meeting with a shared invite list of local workers. The two CFSN's in the west of the county (Ballinteer/Dundrum and Sandymount/Carrickmines) are currently being established and will similarly collaborate in convening meetings. This is to avoid having workers being expected to attend multiple meetings.

Appendix 4: Interagency Achievements during the development of the DLR CYPSC plan 2017-2019

In summary initial interagency work during the development of the DLR CYPSC plan resulted in seven interagency training events to build service capacity, the interagency delivery of five evidence-informed group programmes for mothers, children and young people, three research partnerships, and the creation of three new full time positions to improve service provision in the areas of youth mental health, domestic violence and population health promotion.

Specifically,

1. **The voice of stakeholder services and young people informing service development** of the Ballyogan Youth Sports Hub through an action research process in 2017-2018. The DLR CYPSC seed funded the research element of the DLR Sports Partnership led initiative to develop a sports hub in the disadvantaged area of Ballyogan, funded by Sports Ireland. The action research process built capacity among local area services to collaborate with each other and with young people to design the new Ballyogan Youth Sports Hub. The DLR CYPSC Coordinator engaged in the developmental stage of the project which resulted in an interagency committee which continues to meet to exchange information and improve service provision.
2. **The creation of a new interagency post 'Healthy DLR Coordinator' for the county** to support interagency collaboration to improve population health outcomes in 2017-2019. This post was funded from DLR CYPSC and DLR LCDC Healthy Ireland funding streams, the position was hosted by Southside Partnership DLR, and the post-holder reported to an interagency 'Healthy DLR Steering Committee' on the progress of the DLR CYPSC and DLR LCDC funded projects.
3. **Successful interagency planning, delivery and independent evaluation of a 'Healthy Parent, Healthy Baby' community based initiative** in four disadvantaged communities to 76 parents and babies, including fathers and Traveller parents from 2017-2019. This pre and post-natal wellness programme, consisting of pregnancy and post-natal yoga, baby massage, nutritional advice and access to expert health advice, was designed by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator with stakeholder services. The programme was delivered by a qualified midwife and nurse and HSE Psychology colleagues in the three disadvantaged communities of Ballyogan, Dundrum, and Shanganagh, supported by Family Resource Centres.
4. The creation of a **new interagency post 'Youth Wellness Project Worker'** for the county to support interagency collaboration to improve youth mental health and wellbeing outcomes. The DLR CYPSC Coordinator successfully applied for Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Quality Capacity Building Initiative funding with lead partner Crosscare Youth Services. The position is now hosted and line managed by Crosscare Youth Services, and working with young services users as well as the

services on DLR CYPSC Health and Mental Health Subgroup to progress the 'service bridge' initiative to improve the visibility, accessibility and provision of youth mental health services.

5. Interagency training for multiple community and youth stakeholder services and the successful **pilot of an evidence informed programme 'REAL U' to improve Relationship and Sexual Health** among adolescents in a disadvantaged area. This initiative was funded by DLR CYPSC from the Healthy Ireland funding stream, project managed by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator and delivered by Mountown Neighbourhood Youth Project (now 'My Project').
6. Interagency training for multiple community and youth stakeholder services and the successful **pilot of an evidence informed programme 'Working Things Out' to improve mental health** among adolescents in a disadvantaged area. This initiative was funded by DLR CYPSC from the Healthy Ireland funding stream, project managed by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator and delivered by Barnardos and St Tiernan's school.
7. Interagency training for multiple mental health services in both **'Infant Mental Health'** (with Youngballymun) and in **'Developmental Attachment and Psychopathology'** across the lifespan of children and young people with Dr Patricia McCrittenden, an international specialist in the field of childhood adversity. This has resulted in the creation of a reflective, supervised space for direct service providers and the wider DLR Infant Mental Health Network which is just commencing in the county with the support of the DLR CYPSC.
8. Participation of the DLR CYPSC Coordinator in the **Tusla Dublin South, Dublin South East and Wicklow Commissioning planning committee and the development of an online survey by the** DLR CYPSC Coordinator (as Tusla Research Mentor) for Tusla staff and family support services to identify needs, trends, service gaps and recommendations. This data has also usefully informed the DLR CYPSC and the Wicklow CYPSC plans as well as the Tusla DS, DSE & Wicklow Commissioning plan.
9. Participation of the DLR CYPSC Coordinator in the pilot of the **Tusla 'Outcomes for Data' hub** involving training and offering subsequent feedback offered to the national Tusla development team. The data hub is an online interactive area-based system to visualise published data sets as they related to children and young people. This powerful data tool to inform service providers, researchers and policy makers and is now available online at <https://outcomes4children.tusla.ie/>
10. The DLR CYPSC Coordinator worked as part of the **CYPSC/DCYA event management team for the 2018 National CYPSC conference**. 160 individuals attended the two day conference, opened by Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone on 4th October 2018. The DLR CYPSC Coordinator and the Vice Chair of DLR CYPSC also had the opportunity to briefly meet with the Minister to advise on progress on the DLR CYPSC.

11. The DLR CYPSC Coordinator worked with homelessness service providers and stakeholders services to identify unmet needs of children and young people living in emergency homelessness accommodation. This resulted in the creation of the 'Happy, Healthy Families' project funded by Healthy Ireland which **supported homeless children and their parents to access a range of play-based activities in the community and in the Peter McVerry homeless hub** to strengthen protective factors. These included parent-baby swimming classes, parent-toddler movement classes, parent-child cooking classes, a mobile 'imagination' playground for the homeless hub and visiting musical and theatrical artists to stimulate parent-child imaginative and social play.
12. Facilitation of interagency meetings by the DLR CYPSC Coordinator to identify solutions to reports of rising Cyberbullying and Cybercrime. This resulted in the allocation of DLR CYPSC **seed funding for cybersafety training in 8 primary schools** in DLR; the negotiation of a **Random Control Trial study with UCD** to evaluate the impact of this school based training; the agreement with **DCU Anti-Bullying Centre to organise participation for secondary schools in DLR** in their pilot to improve cyber-education in post-primary schools in 2019-2020; and negotiation with **'Depublish' enterprise to pilot a rapid response platform** to report/take down offensive online material in selected communities in DLR.
13. Participation of the DLR CYPSC Coordinator in the **DCYA 'What Works' Action Planning training** for QCBI grantees. This will result in the development of an 'reflect-act-plan-evaluate' iterative cycle throughout all the DLR CYPSC structures to support interagency service collaborative learning, planning and improvement.
14. The creation of a **new interagency post 'DLR Domestic Violence Project Worker'** for the county in 2019. This post is to support interagency collaboration to improve domestic violence service provision in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and to provide direct support to domestic violence survivors and their children. Funding for this post has been committed by the national Tusla Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Service following significant data collection through the DLR CYPSC needs analysis. Agreement to prioritise Domestic Violence was secured at both DLR CYPSC Safety Subgroup interagency meetings and DLR LCDC interagency meetings, and meetings between Tusla DSGBV and local stakeholder agencies.

Appendix 5: Interagency Membership of the DLR CYPSC Subgroups

DLR CYPSC - Health & Mental Health Subgroup Members

NAME	ROLE	ORGANISATION
Aisling White (Co- Chair)	Principal Psychologist Manager	HSE, Community Health East, (DL LHO)
Kevin Madigan (Co-Chair)	Quality Improvement Manager	Lucena CAMHS, St John of God's
Teresa O' Mahony	Principal Psychologist Manager	HSE Community Health East, (DSE LHO)
Caroline Farrell	Disability Manager	HSE, Community Health East
Caoileann Cassidy	Occupational Therapy Manager	St John of God's
Ann Prendergast	Senior Psychotherapist	Teen Counselling, Crosscare
Aoife Byrne	Senior Speech & Language Therapist	HSE, Community Health East
Anne Marie Bolger	Clinical Nurse Specialist	HSE, Community Health East
Emma Hanaway	Child Health Officer	HSE, Community Health East
Niamh Garavin	Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapist	HSE, Community Health East (DL LHO)

Orla Dunne	Educational Psychologist	National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS), Department of Education & Skills
Pauline O'Reilly	Suicide Resource Officer	HSE, Community Health East
Geraldine Dunne	Manager	Southside Travellers Action Group
John O'Brien	Senior Mental Health Service Lead	Exchange House National Travellers Service
Lorraine Stewart	Manager (Early Prevention & Family Support)	Southside Partnership DLR
Sarah Rush	Project Worker	Barnardos (Ballyogan)
Loukia Moussilades	Parent Advocate	PRISM Dir
Emma O'Brien	Deputy Manager	Crosscare Youth Services (DLR)
Shane McArdle	Coordinator	DLR Sports Partnership
Lorraine Dillon	Assistant Director, Public Health Nursing	HSE, Community Health East, (DL LHO)
Annabel Meehan	Director of Nursing	Cluain Mhuire Adult Mental Health Services, St John of Gods
Dr Therese Thornton	Consultant Psychiatrist	Lucena CAMHS, St John of God's

*With thanks to past members Allyson Coogan (Exchange House), Sarah Mulcahy (Crosscare Youth Services)

DLR CYPSC - Safety & Protection From Harm Subgroup Members

NAME	ROLE	ORGANISATION
Ciara Murphy (Co-Chair)	<i>Principal Social Worker (Duty/Child Protection)</i>	Tusla Child & Family Agency
Matthew Nyland (Co-Chair)	<i>Chief Superintendent</i>	An Garda Siochana
John Burke	<i>Inspector DMR East (Protective Services Unit)</i>	An Garda Siochana
Georgina Reilly	<i>Sergeant (Cabinteely & Shankill Community Policing Unit)</i>	An Garda Siochana
Sinead Carolan	<i>Housing Welfare Officer</i>	DLR County Council
Neasa Mooney	<i>Manager</i>	Peter McVerry Trust
Kathleen Cummins	<i>Head of Services (acting) for the family hubs</i>	Peter McVerry Trust
Niamh Lambe	<i>Project Leader</i>	Focus Ireland
Ciara Heaslip	<i>Case Manager</i>	Focus Ireland
Padraic Cassidy	<i>Manager</i>	Sophia Housing
Sonya Logan	<i>Manager Community Services</i>	Sonas Domestic Violence
Daniela Naab	<i>Women's Programme Coordinator</i>	Southside Partnership DLR

Úna Kenny	<i>Manager</i>	My Project
Colette Farrington	<i>Manager</i>	Ballyogan Family Resource Centre
Louise Keogh	<i>Manager</i>	Rosemount Family Resource Centre
Sharon Perry	<i>Coordinator</i>	Southside Women's Action Network
Biljana Josipovic	<i>Social Worker -- Child Welfare</i>	Tusla Child & Family Agency
Vanessa Lynch	<i>Social Worker- Child Welfare</i>	Tusla Child & Family Agency
Claire McEwen	<i>Manager</i>	Hillview Family Resource Centre
Emma Campbell	<i>Manager</i>	Crosscare (Dún Laoghaire Youth Services)
Aileen Mulligan	<i>Manager</i>	Crosscare (Dundrum Youth Services)
Niall Nolan	<i>Family Support Coordinator (Dublin South East)</i>	Tusla Child & Family Agency
Mary Daly	<i>Manager</i>	Barnardos
Karen Hall	<i>Team Leader - Child Welfare</i>	Tusla Child & Family Agency

With thanks to past members Chief Superintendent Anne Marie Cagney, Sergeant Pat McDonald (An Garda Síochána), Orna Sweeney (Tusla), Ioland McAuley (Rosemount FRC)

DLR CYPSC - Education Subgroup Members

NAME	ROLE	ORGANISATION
Dr Jason Last (Co-Chair)	Dean of Students	University College Dublin
Aisling Crowley (Co-Chair)	Youth Development Officer	Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board
Dr Glenn Perry	Senior Educational Welfare Officer	Tusla Educational Welfare Services
Neil Cadogan	Principal	Our Lady of Good Counsel Boy's National School
Aileen Ryan	Deputy Principal & NAPD Area Representative	St Colmcilles Community School & National Association of Post-Primary Principal (NAPD)
Aoife Reddington	Home School Community Liaison	Columbus National School, Loughlinstown
Mary O'Sullivan	Home School Community Liaison	Scoil Mhuire, Shankill
Breeda Keenan	Chief Executive Officer	Depublish Ltd
Alex Cooney	Chief Executive Officer	CyberSafe Ltd
Eoin MacMaoillir	School Completion Programme Coordinator	Scoil Mhuire, Shankill
Mary King	TASK assistant (QQI level 4	Southside Travellers Action Group
Gerry O'Shea	General Manager	Dún Laoghaire Community Training College
Sinead McDonagh	Coordinator	Youthreach Sallynoggin

Fiona Sweeney	Access	University College Dublin
Brid Corcoran	Youth Sports Officer	Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board
Jenny O'Connor	Coordinator	Dlr Music Generation
Stephen Crosby	Education Officer	UCD Student's Union
Grace Latham	Education Officer	IADT Student's Union
Oran Moten	Education Officer Candidate	IADT Student's Union
Michele Relihan	Manager	DLR County Childcare Committee
Sharon McCormick	Project Lead	Barnardos
Orla Dunne	Educational Psychologist	NEPS
Dr Alison Doyle	Psychologist	PRISM DLR
John Williams	Principal & Area Representative	Irish Primary Principals Network
Niamh Donnelly	HSCL	St Tiernan's School
Susan Gibney	Director	Blackrock EC
Catherine Bell	Manager	DL CTC
Brian Cotter	Manager of REACH	SJOG
Colette Farrington	Manager	Ballyogan FRC
Peter Lennon	School Completion Programme Coordinator	Balally Dundrum SCP

DLR CYPSC – Parenting Subgroup Members

NAME	ROLE	ORGANISATION
Teresa O’Mahony (Co-Chair)	Principal Psychology Manager (Dublin South East)	HSE (CHO 6)
Kerri Smith (Co-Chair)	Assistant Director	Barnardos
Colette Farrington	Manager	Ballyogan Family Resource Center
Louise Keogh	Manager	Rosemount Family Resource Center
Claire Mc Ewen	Project Manager	Hillview Family Resource Center
Clare-Louise Bligh	Family Support Development Worker	Balally Family Resource Centre
Ciara Heaslip	Team Leader (Family Homeless Action Team)	Focus Ireland
Folashade Olotu	Deputy Manager (Monkstown Family Hub)	Peter McVerry Trust
Neasa Mooney	Manager	Peter McVerry Trust
Caroline Jordan	Deputy Project Leader	Springboard Family Support Project, Loughlinstown
Sharon Perry	Coordinator	Southside Women’s Action Network (SWAN)
Emma Jane Nulty	Development Officer	DLR County Childcare Committee (CCC)

Debbie Stapleton	Development Officer	DLR County Childcare Committee (CCC)
Lorraine Stewart	Manager Early Years	Southside Partnership DLR
Madeline Connolly	Senior Social Worker and Systemic Family Therapist	Lucena CAMHS, St John of God's Community Mental Health Services
Aoife Dolan	Senior Coordinator Child & Family Support Network (CFSN)	Tusla Child & Family Agency
Jane Walsh	Senior Practitioner	Barnardos
Alison Doyle	Voluntary Representative	PRISM Dlr

DLR CYPSC – Youth Participation Subgroup Members

Ger Magee (Co-Chair)	Regional Manager	Crosscare Youth Services
Lorna Kerin (Co-Chair)	Coordinator Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown Children & Young People’s Services Committee	Tusla Child and Family Agency
Emma Campbell	Manager of Dun Laoghaire Youth Services	Crosscare Youth Services
Julie Kelleher	Youth Services Information	Crosscare Youth Services
Nominated Youth Representatives	Change annually	Colleges of Further Education & Training in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown
Elected Student Union Representatives	Change annually	University College Dublin
Elected Student Union Representatives	Change annually	Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT)
Sandra Kelly	Coordinator, Comhairle Na N-Og (Youth Council)	Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council

DLR Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Subgroup

(Membership, Terms of Reference & Subgroup Action Plan convened by the Senior PPFS Manager, Subgroup supported by the Senior CFSN Coordinator)

Kevin Webster (Chair)	Senior PPFS Manager	Tusla Child and Family Agency
Aoife Dolan	Senior Coordinator Child & Family Support Network (CFSN)	Tusla Child & Family Agency