



Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2015 – 2017

February 2015

Contact

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

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Foreword

Foreword from the Chair:

The development of Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (KCYPSC) second 3-Year Plan is the culmination of the efforts of many individuals and organisations in Co. Kildare.

It is heartening to experience the continued commitment of member organisations to the work of KCYPSC in the context of increasing demands, reduced resources & a changing environment.

The new Plan is built on a solid foundation of inter-agency collaborative working that has further grown and developed over the last 3 years.

The Plan reflects the growing realisation by KCYPSC of the value of our collective voice in achieving our shared goal of improving outcomes for children, young people and families in our county by highlighting their needs and accessing the necessary resources from national level to respond appropriately.

The Kildare CYPSC Plan (2015-2017) is a vital tool to assist us with this important task.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the development of the Kildare Children and Young People's Plan and who remain committed to its implementation.

Patricia Finlay
Tusla Area Manager Kildare/West Wicklow/Dublin South West
Chair, Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee
February 2015

Section 1: Introduction

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

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

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

Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees

Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland

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

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

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

Children and Young People's Services Committee in Kildare

Children & Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) were set up by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) in 2007 in 4 pilot areas: Donegal, Dublin City, Limerick City and South Dublin.

Kildare joined Phase II of the initiative, along with 5 other areas, in 2009. Following the establishment stage, the inaugural meeting of the Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee took place in June 2010.

In March 2011, a Coordinator was appointed to support the work of the Committee.

In September 2011, the Committee's first 3 –Year Plan was submitted to the Department of Children & Youth Affairs.

In June 2014, the Children's Services Committee became the Children & Young People's Services Committee, reflecting policy change at national level.

Planning for the second 3-Year plan commenced in 2014, with the plan submitted in early 2015.

Who we are

The current membership of Kildare CYPSC is below:

It is intended to enhance the membership of the Committee over the lifetime of the new 3-Year Plan to reflect the expanded remit (up to 24 years):

Organisation	Member	Role
Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership	Pat Leogue	Social Inclusion Manager
Garda Siochána	Garry Madden	Sergeant
HSE	Ann O'Shea	General Manager Primary Care
	Noreen Hynes	General Services Manager, Naas Hospital
Irish Primary Principals Network	Mary Pierce	Principal (Retired)
Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board	Patricia O'Brien	Education Support Officer
Kildare County Childcare Committee	Julie McNamara	Manager
Kildare County Council	Peter Minnock (Vice Chair)	Director of Service
Kildare Youth Services	Tom Dunne	Regional Director
National Educational Psychological Service	Annette Corkery	Senior Educational Psychologist
Probation Service	Deirdre Matthews	Senior Probation Officer
South West Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force	Lisa Baggott	Coordinator
Teach Tearmainn	Jacinta Carey	Manager
Tusla, Child and Family Agency	Patricia Finlay (Chair)	Area Manager
Tusla, Education Welfare Service	Jean Rafter	Regional Manager

Achievements to date / Review of previous plan

Achievements

- The continued commitment of member organisations to the work of the CYPSC in the context of increasing demands, reduced resources & changing environment.
- The implementation of the first 3-Year Plan.
- The development of the second 3-Year Plan.
- The strengthening of inter-agency relationships among organisations.
- The enhanced understanding among member organisations of the role & value of the CYPSC.
- The development of the CYPSC as a forum for highlighting the needs, issues, gaps & successes in terms of service provision for children & families in Co. Kildare.
- The development of a range of new initiatives to enhance the support available to children, young people & families in Co. Kildare e.g. iScoil hub, Junior Transition programme, support to parent & toddler groups.
- The establishment of a CE Placement to support the work of the Committee, as part of a collaboration between a number of member organisations.
- The development of positive links with the Local Community Development Committee.
- The delivery of the Strengthening Families programme on a multi-agency basis and the commitment to run the programme annually in the county.

- Laying foundations for the roll out of Meitheal/LAP and the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework via work undertaken in relation to inter-agency working & the development of local inter-agency protocols.
- The gathering, analysis & dissemination of relevant data including some previously unpublished & some that had never previously been collected.
- Engaging with the post primary schools in gathering data in relation to students who leave school.
- The comprehensive profiling of Kildare - demographics, services, statistics – in an accessible way.
- The consultation with children & Young people that was undertaken as part of the planning process.
- The development & maintenance of fora for early school leaving & youth mental health.
- The strengthening of the CYPSC as an information hub.

Learning

- It is important to strike a balance between the strategic focus of the work of the CYPSC and the action focus of the work – both elements are required to maintain commitment, momentum & to facilitate positive change.
- Building and maintaining positive inter-agency relationships is essential to the work of the Committee.
- The pace of new developments can be slower than anticipated but allowing new initiatives to build on a phased basis over time is important for future sustainability and ongoing success.
- In order for actions from the plan to be implemented, it is essential that a sole lead agency is identified to drive the initiative forward.
- In order for collaborative actions to be implemented, it is important that they appear in individual organisational work plans, to reaffirm that they are a priority for the organisation that will be taken into account when allocating resources (financial & human).

Challenges

- Implementing the plan in the context of significant changes within & across organisations is challenging, including changes at Departmental level.
- Implementing a collaborative plan in the context of ongoing budget cuts to organisations is challenging.
- Joint planning and implementation can be a challenge when individual organisations operate to different timelines and processes.
- Multi-agency funding of initiatives, while desirable, can be challenging due to different requirements for applying, drawing down & reporting, as well as different timeframes.
- Maximising the use of the CYPSC as a forum for highlighting issues, gaps, needs, & successes by workers on the ground is a challenge.
- A number of valuable services in the county ceased due to funding constraints, highlighting the limitation of the CYPSC at local level in responding to difficulties posed by significant funding deficits requiring national input.
- Addressing needs at local level that result from systemic issues at national level is a challenge.

Impact

- There is now a recognised forum in the county to act as a focus for highlighting the issues, needs, gaps and successes for children & families and developing appropriate responses.

- Communication has been enhanced in terms of the information flow as to what is available in the county to support children & families and those who work with them.
- The processes for achieving greater coordination in planning & delivery of services have been strengthened, in tandem with an enhanced understanding of what this means in practice.
- Several new initiatives have been developed in the county, enhancing the support available to children & families e.g. iScoil hub, Junior Transition programme, Local Area Pathway Working Group.
- There is a growing awareness among individual member organisations of the value of the collective voice via KCYPSC in accessing supports for Co. Kildare from national level.

How the Children and Young People’s Plan was developed

The development of the plan took place over several months from June 2014 to February 2015 and included a number of different elements:

- Agreeing the “plan for the plan”
- Review of previous plan
- Literature Review
- Consultation
- Data Collection
- Analysis

Agreeing the “plan for the plan”

A proposed methodology was presented to the CYPSC and was agreed following discussion. The main components were:

- A number of facilitated sessions with the full Committee, including with an external facilitator.
- Review of the previous plan.
- Consultation with children, young people & parents at the annual Play Day that takes place in the county.
- Input from young people via Comhairle na nÓg AGM.
- Literature review, including of all meeting Minutes of relevant local fora to identify key themes, target groups, issues and gaps.
- Data collection from CYPSC member organisations & relevant others – local, regional & national.

Review of previous plan

The review of the previous plan took place as part of a main CYPSC meeting, facilitated by the Coordinator.

This was supplemented by existing information provided by the CYPSC via the annual review process.

On foot of the findings of the Review process, the following was taken into account in the planning for the new 3-year Plan:

- It was ensured that a balance was maintained between a strategic focus and an action focus in the content of the plan.
- Any proposed action for which a sole lead agency was not identified from among CYPSC members was not included in the plan.

- Any proposed action for which there was no partner agency (in addition to the lead) was not included in the plan.
- Any proposed action areas for which it was deemed a national response was required was referenced in the plan document but was not included as a specific action in the Action Plan section.
- A number of existing actions areas were agreed for continuation or expansion.
- The number of actions in the action plan was reduced (77 in original plan, 42 in this plan).
- It was ensured that a balance was maintained between universal and targeted interventions and supports for children, young people & families in the county.
- The importance of establishing an evidence base for issues, needs and gaps that are identified anecdotally was reiterated.

Literature Review

The literature review element of the planning process was extensive. A review was undertaken of local, regional & national documents – Annual Reports, strategic plans, thematic reports, pre-budget submissions, evaluations, research reports and work plans.

In addition to the above, the meeting Minutes from several relevant local fora were analysed for the period from submission of the first plan (September 2011) to new plan submission date (February 2015) to identify themes, issues, vulnerable groups, blocks & gaps e.g. Parenting Forum, Early School Leaving group, Youth Mental Health group, Mental Health Promotion Steering Group.

These fora operate on an ongoing basis as a means for workers on the ground to highlight current & emerging issues experienced by the children, young people & families with whom they work. The consultative nature of these groups was recognised by the CYPSC and it was agreed that the analysis of meeting Minutes would form the basis of the input from a cross section of organisations working with children, young people and families in the county.

Consultation

Consultation took place with members of the CYPSC Main Committee during and between Committee meetings. There were 3 face-to-face group planning sessions. One facilitated by an external facilitator, 2 facilitated by the Coordinator.

In addition to this, there were 1-2-1 meetings with CYPSC members.

Direct consultation with children, young people & families took place at “Play Day”, an annual family event that takes place in the county. Attendees were invited to film their views using a videobooth – answering a number of questions posed to them e.g. what is it like growing up/raising a family in Co. Kildare? What do you think would make Co. Kildare a better place to live?

Additional input from young people was gained via involvement with Comhairle na nÓg. The CYPSC Coordinator was a member of the Steering Group for the AGM, co-facilitated a workshop & participated on the discussion panel on the day.

Data Collection

In addition to the data gathered from the elements of the planning process outlined above, there were a number of data collection exercises undertaken:

- Member organisations were invited to complete data sheets based on key messages emerging via other aspects of the planning process.

- Post Primary schools were invited to provide data for students who left school in the academic year 2013/2014.
- Data on the Juvenile Liaison Programme was accessed via the Garda Pulse system.
- Members were invited to submit brief real case studies outlining a block, gap or unmet need experienced by a child, young person or family with whom they work.

A number of documents were particularly useful for the socio-demographic profile of the county. The *County Level Data Analysis to support the Children's Services Committees Initiative* Factsheets, the *State of the Nations Children (2012)* and the LCDC Data Profile: Kildare Local Authority (2014).

The updated audit of services was informed by the ongoing work in relation to the development of a service directory for the county.

Analysis

The process of local needs analysis and the identification of priority areas & related actions took place on a phased basis.

An initial analysis identified key messages from the literature review, data collection & consultation.

This was presented to the main Committee for discussion, comment & feedback over the course of the 3 facilitated group sessions.

In addition, members completed individual data sheets where they were invited to provide evidence from their own organisation to support the key messages that appeared to be emerging. This involved consulting directly with their own colleagues/staff.

In deciding on priority areas and related actions, the CYPSC took account of the following:

- Data/Evidence
- Available resources
- CYPSC role (to identify needs, gaps, blocks; make best use of resources we have; access resources to meet needs; implement national strategy; develop local strategy, improve outcomes).
- Consultation
- Experience & learning from last 3 years
- Strategic direction (what we are being asked to do)
- Gaps
- Existing priority areas.

Proposed actions were presented to CYPSC members, under the 5 national outcomes.

Organisations were invited to consider each action & identify if their organisation would be a lead or partner.

Actions without an identified lead organisation were not included in the plan.

Actions without at least one partner, in addition to the lead organisation, were not included in the plan.

Action deemed to warrant a national response rather than a local one in the first instance were not included in the plan.

Indicators were chosen on the basis of relevance and feasibility as a means of measuring if the outcome was achieved.

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Co. Kildare

Introduction

The relevant socio-demographic information for Co. Kildare is presented below under a number of headings. The figures are drawn from the 2011 Census figures unless otherwise stated. County and sub-county information has been included where available. Where possible the Co. Kildare figures are compared to the national context. The section concludes with a summary of the notable findings from the socio-demographic profile.

The main data sources for the demographic profile below are: The *County Level Data Analysis to support the Children's Services Committees Initiative* Factsheets, the *State of the Nations Children* (2012) and the LCDC Data Profile: Kildare Local Authority (2014).

Data was sourced directly from the National Registry of Deliberate Self Harm.

In addition to the above, data was sourced directly from DCYA, the Post Primary schools in Co. Kildare, Newbridge Family Resource Centre, the Garda Pulse system via the local Garda representative on the CYPSC, CYPSC member organisations – Tusla, SWRDATF-funded project (ARAS), KYS, KCCC and Teach Tearmainn.

Acronyms

MD = Municipal District

LA = Local Authority

ED = Electoral Division

Nwb-K = Newbridge-Kildare Municipal District

Cel-Lxp = Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

OD = Overdose

Population

- The population of Co. Kildare is 210,212.
- This is the 5th highest population of all 31 Local Authority areas in the country.
- Co. Kildare has the 6th highest population growth rate between the 2006 & 2011 Census: 12.9%, which significantly exceeds the national figure of 8.2%.
- 82 of the 89 EDs in Co. Kildare experienced population growth over this period.
- Maynooth MD experienced the highest rate of population growth of the 5 Municipal Districts in the county (19.2%).

Age Profile of Population

Age Range	No.	No./31 LAs	% of Co. pop.	%/31 LAs	% State	+/- State	Highest no. MD	Highest % MD
17 years & under	59,449	5 th highest	28.3	3 rd highest	25	+	Nwb-K	Athy
0-4	18914	4 th highest	9	4 th highest	7.8	+	Nwb-K	Nwb-K
5-12	26800	5 th highest	12.75	2 nd	11	+	Nwb-K	Athy
13-17	13735	5 th highest	6.5	13 th lowest	6.3	+	Nwb-K	Nwb-K
18-24	18383	6 th highest	8.7	13 th highest	9	-	Maynooth	Maynooth

Since 2006 there has been a population decrease of 10.5% in the 18-24 cohort reflecting high levels of emigration since the economic decline 2009/10.

Births

- There were 3417 births to Co. Kildare residents in 2013.
- The birth rate in the county in 2013 was 16.1 births per year per 1,000 population.
- This exceeds the national birth rate of 15.

Age of mother

Under 20 years	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40+
69	274	702	1321	854	197

Deaths

There were 931 deaths of Co. Kildare residents in 2013.

This is a rate of 4.4 per year per 1,000 population and is less than the national rate of 6.5.

Families

Co. Kildare exceeds the national figures for a number of family types as a proportion of all families i.e. pre-family, pre-school family, family with 5-9 year old, family with 10-14 year old.

Although the proportion of lone parents in the county is below the national average, the number of lone parents in the county is high – 5th highest of the 31 Local Authority areas in the country.

The proportion of lone parent families in Athy Municipal District exceeds the national figure.

Family Type	No.	No./31 LAs	% of Co. pop.	%/31 LAs	% State	+/- State	Highest no. MD	Highest % MD
Lone Parent	8892	5 th highest	21.9	6 th lowest	25.8	–	Nwb-K	Athy (+ State)
Pre-family	6644	5 th highest	11.9	6 th highest	11.1	+	Maynooth	Maynooth
Pre-School	7426	5 th highest	13.3	4 th highest	12	+	Nwb-K	Maynooth
5-9	7415	5 th highest	13.3	3 rd highest	11.3	+	Nwb-K	Athy
10-14	6957	5 th highest	12.5	2 nd highest	11.1	+	Nwb-K	Athy
15-19	6526	5 th highest	11.7	19 th highest	11.5	–	Nwb-K	Naas
20 +	12364	6 th highest	22.2	3 rd lowest	24.9	–	Nwb-K	Cel-Lxp

Travellers

- Co. Kildare has the 12th highest population of Travellers out of the 31 Local Authority areas.
- It has the 5th lowest rate of Travellers as a proportion of total population of the county.
- Since 2006, the Traveller population has increased by 393 (+81.7%), which is the 3rd

highest rate of increase of the 31 Local Authority areas in the country.

- Highest number of Travellers live in the Newbridge-Kildare MD (232)
- Highest rate (as a proportion of the total population) is in Athy MD (0.49% of the total population are Travellers)

	Co. Kildare	State
No. of Travellers	874	
Travellers as % of total population	0.42%	
No. of Travellers aged 17 & under	490	
Travellers aged 17 years & under as % of total population of Travellers	56%	
Traveller children as % of total child population	0.82%	1.2%
Change in Traveller children as % of total child population from 2006	+0.5%	

Disability

	Co. Kildare	State
No. of people with a disability	24369	
No. of children aged 17 & under with a disability	3556	
Children aged 17 years & under with a disability as % of total population of people with a disability	14.59%	
Children aged 17 years & under with a disability as % of total child population	5.98%	5.78%

A total of 58 childcare services in Co. Kildare reported to have children with a disability attending and 21 services reported to have a Special Needs Assistant in place.

Children as Carers

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
No. of children	275		
Rate per 1000	4.6	5.6	-

New Communities

There has been a 50% increase in the number of foreign national children in Co. Kildare since the 2006 Census.

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
% of Population that is White Irish	84.88%		
% Change from 2006 of Population that is White Irish	-0.92%		
No. of foreign national children	4542	93005	
% increase in no. of foreign national children from 2006	+50%	+49.5%	+
Foreign national children as % of total child population	7.77%	8.25%	-

Asylum seekers

There are 68 residents in the Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre in Newbridge. 28 % are children.

Number of children and ages in Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre on Oct 9th 2014

Eyre Powell D. P Centre	0-4	5-12	13-18	Total
No of children in Centre	11	7	1	19

Educational Attainment

241 students from the 2007 Cohort in State-aided schools in Co. Kildare did not complete the Leaving Certificate. Of these, 66 did not complete the Junior Certificate.

There is a higher proportion of post-primary students absent for 20 days or more in Co. Kildare than the State average.

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
Average % of children absent for 20 days or more at primary level (2010/2011)	10.6%	10.6%	
Average % of children absent for 20 days or more at post-primary level (2010/2011)	21.8%	18.4%	+
Leaving Certificate Retention Rate (2007 cohort)	90.76%	90.13%	+
Junior Certificate Retention Rate (2007 cohort)	97.47%	96.93%	+
% of the population aged 15 years+ with upper secondary education only	21.18%	20.02%	+
% of the population aged 15 years+ whose education ceased at 17 years	9.17%	8.18%	+
% of children living in a household with mother with primary only or no formal education	3.9%	4.8%	-

Early School Leaving

A local data collection exercise was undertaken with the 25 Post Primary schools in the county to establish the number of students who left each school in the academic year 2013/2014 and the destination on leaving school.

The cooperation from schools was very positive, with 100% response rate.

The data will not be published at this time. It is intended to convene a briefing session for the schools to feedback the findings from the data and agree how the data can best be used to inform the work of the CYPSC and improve outcomes for students.

Commuting to Work

46.4% of residents in Co. Kildare with a fixed place of work are classed as Outbound (Out of County) Commuters.

Co. Kildare has the 6th highest rate of Outbound Commuters from the 31 Local Authority areas nationally.

The main destination for Outbound commuters is Dublin.

Journey Time to Work, School or College

In Co. Kildare 12% of the population aged 5 years and over have a journey time to work, school or college of at least 1 hour. This exceeds the national figure of 7%.

Social Welfare**Number of Recipients of Child Related Payments 2013**

Child Benefit		Family Income Supplement	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance	Guardian's Payment (non-contributory)	Guardian's Payment (contributory)
Recipients	Children				
31,942	61,526	1,873	8,129	17	32
3 rd highest after Dublin & Cork		6 th highest after Dublin, Cork, Galway, Donegal & Limerick	5 th highest after Dublin, Cork, Donegal & Galway		

Number of recipients of Illness, Disability and Caring Payments 2013

Disability Allowance	3,442	Injury Benefit	11
Blind Pension	29	Interim Illness Benefit	41
Carer's Allowance	1,922	Invalidity Pension	2,127
Domiciliary Care Allowance	1,272	Disablement Benefit	525
Respite Care Grant	2,664	Incapacity Supplement	39
Illness Benefit	2,644	Carer's benefit	68

Income Supports**Number of recipients of Working Age on Income Supports 2013**

Jobseekers Allowance	12,210	Pre-Retirement Allowance	41
One Parent Family Payment	3,348	Other Supplements	367
Widow's/Widower's/surviving civil partner's Non-Contributory pension	49	Jobseeker's Benefit	2,515
Deserted Wives Allowance	5	Deserted Wives Benefit	298

Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance	965	Health & Safety Benefit	5
Farm Assist	39	Maternity Benefit	1,163

Unemployment

According to 2011 Census figures, the highest number of unemployed people in Co. Kildare are in the Newbridge-Kildare MD (5290). The highest rate of unemployment is in the Athy MD (24.1%). (State 19%)

Live Register

The number on the Live Register in Co. Kildare has increased from 4350 in 2004 to 17,208 in 2013, representing a percentage increase of 295.6%. This is the second highest percentage change in the country and far exceeds the national figure of 149%.

Co. Kildare has the 7th highest number of residents on the Live Register in the country after Dublin, Cork, Galway, Donegal, Limerick & Wexford.

Number of recipients of Employment Supports 2013

Community Employment	817	JobBridge	256
Rural Social Scheme	23	Back to Education Allowance	926
TÚS	252	Partial Capacity Benefit	49
Back to Work Allowance Self Employed	353	Short Term Enterprise Allowance	19
Back to Work Allowance Employee	0	Part Time Job Incentive	9

Live Register Figures June 2013 Gender & Age Profile

	Co. Kildare	State	Athy Office	Newbridge Office	Maynooth Office
No. on Live Register	19,156	435,357	2787	9934	6435
No. of Males	11,571	270,937	1,746	6144	3681
No. of Females	7,585	164,420	1,041	3790	2754
Males as % of total	60%	62%	63%	62%	57%
Females as % of total	40%	38%	37%	38%	43%
No. under 25 years	3063	71,309	483	1634	946
Under 25s as	16%	16%	17%	16%	15%

% of total					
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Housing

There is a high level of mortgage indebtedness in the county.

- 3rd highest rate of Owner Occupiers with a Mortgage in the country.
- Newbridge-Kildare MD highest number (7596)
- Celbridge-Leixlip MD highest rate (50.1%)

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
No. of households with children in need of social housing	2924		
% of households in need who are one parent households	62%		
% of households who are owner occupied with mortgage	46.06%	35.35%	+
% of households who are renting	24%	27.24%	-
% of renting households who rent from Local Authority or voluntary body	6%	8.73%	-

There were 4135 recipients of rent supplement in Co. Kildare in 2013. This is the 3rd highest number in the country after Dublin and Cork.

There were 794 recipients of Mortgage Interest Supplement. The second highest number after Dublin.

Co. Kildare has the highest number of private rented households in the country (12,178) outside of Dublin and Cork.

Medical Card Holders

There were 75,578 persons (including dependents) eligible for GMS medical cards in Kildare/West Wicklow in 2012, representing 1.65% of the total population of Ireland.

The number & percentage of eligible persons in Kildare/West Wicklow is the 6th highest of the 32 HSE Local Health Office areas nationally.

27,713 of eligible persons in Kildare/West Wicklow are under 25 years. This is 37% of the total number of eligible persons in the area.

Health

The percentage of low birth weight babies born in Co. Kildare has increased by 10% since 2008.

There has been a decrease of 50% in the proportion of babies born to mothers aged 17 years & under since 2009.

The percentage of babies who are breastfed is above the national average.

The percentage of newborn babies in Kildare/West Wicklow visited by PHN within 48 hours of hospital discharge is below the national average.

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or -
No. of low birth weight babies born	234		
% change in low birth rate babies born since 2008	+10%		
% of babies who are breastfed	56.4%	55.2%	+
No. of babies born to	14		

mothers aged 10-17 years			
% change in babies born to mothers aged 10-17 years since 2009	-50%		
Babies born to mothers aged 10-17 years as % of all babies born	0.35%	0.53%	-
% of newborn babies visited by PHN within 48hours of hospital discharge	79.7% (Kildare/West Wicklow)	83.6%	-
% of children reaching 10mths who have had 7-9mth check on time	90.6% (Kildare/West Wicklow)	82.2%	+

Child Welfare and Protection

There were 1791 referrals to the Social Work department from Kildare/West Wicklow in 2012. Of these referrals 1098 (61%) were welfare referrals & 693 (39%) were child protection referrals.

The rate of referral per 10,000 child population in 2012 in Kildare/West Wicklow was 275 per 10,000. This exceeded the rate in Dublin South West with 255 referrals per 10,000 population. Child welfare referrals per annum in Kildare/West Wicklow increased by 324% (+839) from the 2008 figure of 259 to the 2012 figure of 1098.

This was the 2nd highest increase in number & percentage nationally.

Child Protection referrals also increased from 2008 to 2012. These referrals increased by 240% (+489) – from the 2008 figure of 204 to the 2012 figure of 613. This is the highest percentage increase in the country.

64 young people were admitted into care in 2013. 35 males & 29 females.

37 young people were discharged from care in 2013. All 37 returned to home/family.

17 young people in care in 2013 were turning 18 and were assessed as needing aftercare.

All 17 were offered an aftercare service. 15 accepted.

Young people in care in Kildare/West Wicklow on 31/12/2013

Total no.						212
Gender	Male	Female				
	114	98				
Age	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	
	21	42	42	69	38	
Total Length of Time in	Less than a year	1-5 years	5 years +			

Care						
	29	78	105			
Type of care	Residential Special Care	Residential High Support	Residential Care General	Foster Care General	Foster Care with Relatives	Other Care Placements
	0	0	19	158	31	4
Primary Reason for Admission	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Child Welfare Concern	
	9	2	11	72	118	
Legal Reason for Admission	Emergency Care Order	Interim Care Order	Court Order	Detention Order of the High Court	Another Court Order	Voluntary admission
	0	27	96	0	2	87

Mental Health

The rate of psychiatric admissions of children exceeds the national average.

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or -
No. of psychiatric admissions of children	27	435	
Rate of psychiatric admissions of children per 100,000	45.4	37.9	+

Deliberate Self Harm

Self-harm by Co. Kildare residents

The data below refers to deliberate self harm presentations to *hospitals* only.

On average 1 young person per week from Co. Kildare presented to a hospital because of Deliberate Self Harm in 2013.

	2010	2012	2013
No. of persons	372	419	397
No. of presentations	431	534	514
17 years & under	44	61	58
18-24 years	71	78	91
25 – 44years	170	198	169

Presentations by hospital (all ages)

The vast majority of Co. Kildare residents who present to hospital because of Deliberate Self Harm access Naas Hospital.

Hospital	2010	2012	2013

Naas General Hospital	292	310	286
James Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown	31	47	44
Adelaide & Meath & National Children's Hospital, Tallaght	8	18	31
Other (20 different hospitals)	41	44	36
Total	372	419	397

Presentations by hospital (17 years & under)

For Co. Kildare residents under 18 who present to hospital because of Deliberate Self Harm, there was a significant increase in numbers accessing Tallaght hospital in 2013 compared to 2012 or 2010.

Hospital	2010	2012	2013
Adelaide & Meath & National Children's Hospital, Tallaght	4	13	24
Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise	2	5	2
Naas General Hospital	25	29	23
Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin	7	5	6
James Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown	6	4	3
St. James's Hospital	0	1	-
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	0	2	-
St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny	0	1	-
Wexford General Hospital	0	1	-
Total	44	61	58

Method of self-harm (17 years & under)

Drug Overdose is the most common method of Deliberate Self Harm for those under 18. The numbers using self-cutting as a method of deliberate self harm has increased since 2010.

	OD	Alcohol	Poisoning	Attempted Hanging	Attempted drowning	Self-cutting	Other	Total
2010	34	9	0	4	2	11	0	44
2012	38	8	1	6	0	18	2	61
2013	35	7	0	3	1	24	2	58

Brought by ambulance (17 years & under)

60% are not brought in by ambulance.

	Brought in by Ambulance	No	Other Emergency Services	Total
2010	16	28	-	44
2012	22	37	1	60
2013	24	32	2	58

Repeat presentations (17 years & under)

The number of young people with repeat presentations has trebled since 2010.

The percentage of young people with repeat presentations has more than doubled since 2010.

	Number of persons	Number who repeated	% repeating
2010	44	3	6.8%
2012	61	9	14.8%
2013	58	9	15.5%

Recommended next care (17 years & under)

Gender	Admission Ward	Admission Psychiatry	Patient refused to be admitted	Left without being seen/ Without decision	Not admitted	Total
2010	16	3	0	4	21	44
2012	22	3	1	4	31	61
2013	26	2	1	4	25	58

Self-harm persons by Municipal District (aged 17 years & under)

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District & Naas Municipal District have experienced large increases in the number of young people presenting to hospital because of Deliberate Self Harm since 2010.

Municipal district	2010	2012	2013
Maynooth	12	6	12
Kildare-Newbridge	9	14	14
Athy	8	17	7
Naas	5	14	15
Celbridge-Leixlip	10	10	9
Unknown address	-	-	1
Total	44	61	58

Suicide

In 2013 there were a total of 23 suicides in Co. Kildare. 17 Males and 6 Females.

The suicide rate in Co. Kildare (10.9 deaths per year per 100,000 population) marginally exceeds the State rate of 10.3.

The female suicide rate of 5.6 deaths per 100,000 population substantially exceeds the national rate of 3.4.

There are only 3 Local Authority areas in the country that exceed the Kildare figure for death by suicide in 2013 – Dublin City (48), Cork County (42) and Kerry (28).

Juvenile Crime

The total number of referrals to the Juvenile Diversion Programme in the Kildare Division (covering all of Co. Kildare) in 2012 was 742. In 2011, the total was 824.

564 of the 2012 referrals were male (76%). 178 (24%) were female.

345 (47%) were referred from the Kildare Garda District. 193 (26%) from the Leixlip Garda District. 204 (27%) from the Naas Garda District.

269 (36%) of the referrals were 17 years old. 175 (24%) were 16 years old. 132 (18%) were 15 years old. 83 (11%) were 14 years old. 53 (7%) were 13 years old. 24 (3%) were 12 years old. 1

was 11 years old.

Substance Misuse

Drug/Alcohol Treatment

The data refers to episodes of treatment in a calendar year, rather than on the individual person treated. This means individuals may appear in the figures more than once if they receive treatment at more than one centre or at the same centre more than once per year.

Co. Kildare 2012					
	Total	Alcohol	Cannabis	Opiates	Other
All Ages	615	279	117	182	37
Under 18	55	5	55	0	0
18 - 34	312	97	54	130	31

The treatment figures for under 18 years have increased year on year since 2010 (17), 2011 (34).

Methadone Treatment in South Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Area (includes Co. Kildare) 2013

Total				487
Gender	Male	Female		
	341	146		
Treatment Location	Clinic	National Drug Treatment Centre	GP	Prison
	127	57	266	37
Age of Client	0-15 years	0	30-34 years	144
	16-19 years	0	35-39 years	122
	20-24 years	22	40-44 years	72
	25-29 years	62	45+ years	65

Domestic Violence

170 women accessed the Teach Tearmainn Information & Support Service in 2014.

The refuge accommodation (2 x self-contained units) opened in 2014 & operated over 7 months of the year. In this 7 month period, 16 women were accommodated.

In 2014, 157 women & 271 children were unable to be accommodated. Of these, 41 women & 82 children were inappropriate referrals (homeless as opposed to domestic violence).

The remainder were unable to be accommodated due to unavailability of space.

Disadvantage**Kildare has been affected by the economic downturn**

- Co. Kildare has experienced the 7th highest decrease in Absolute Index Score of the 31 Local Authority Areas.
- Co. Kildare has dropped from the 3rd to the 5th most affluent county in Ireland.

Although Kildare is the 5th most affluent county in Ireland, there are areas of disadvantage.

	Number	Out of...	%
No. of Disadvantaged EDs in Co. Kildare	3	89 EDs	3%
No. of <i>Very Disadvantaged</i> Small Areas in Co. Kildare	14	731 SAs	2%
No. of <i>Disadvantaged</i> Small Areas in Co. Kildare	61	731 SAs	8%

ED	No. of <i>Disadvantaged</i> SAs	No. of <i>Very Disadvantaged</i> SAs	Total
Athy Rural	1	0	1
Athy East Urban	3	1	4
Athy West Urban	4	3	7
Ballitore	1	0	1
Ballysax East	1	0	1
Ballysax West	1	0	1
Carbury	2	0	2
Castledermot	2	0	2
Celbridge	4	0	4
Clane	2	0	2
Downings	1	0	1
Newbridge Urban	6	5	11
Grangemellon	1	0	1
Kilberry	1	0	1
Kilcock	2	0	2
Kilcullen	2	0	2
Kildare	5	1	6
Kilmeage North	1	0	1
Kilpatrick	2	0	2
Leixlip	2	0	2
Maynooth	1	0	1
Monasterevin	3	0	3
Morristownbillar	4	0	4
Naas Urban	5	1	6
Nurney	1	0	1
Rathangan	1	1	2
Robertstown	1	2	3
Windmill Cross	1	0	1
	61	14	75

Early Childhood Care and Education

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
No. of children	3758		

accessing the Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) scheme.			
No. of early years services operating the scheme	214		
% of services meeting basic capitation criteria	84.6%	85.4%	-
% of services meeting higher capitation criteria	15.4%	14.6%	+

Some Notable Findings

- Co. Kildare has experienced exceptional population growth since the last census, at a rate that far exceeds the national average.
- Kildare is highly populated, with a significant youth population.
- Kildare has been affected by the economic downturn.
- Kildare has been affected by emigration.
- The birth rate in Co. Kildare exceeds the national rate.
- There is a significant population of young families in Co. Kildare.
- There are a relatively small number of Traveller families in the county, but with a high proportion of children (over half). The Traveller population has increased since the 2006 Census.
- The percentage of children with a disability in the county as a proportion of the child population exceeds the national average.
- The number of foreign national children in the county has increased by 50% since 2006.
- Kildare is one of 16 counties that have an Asylum Seeker Direct Provision Centre. There are 19 children under 18 living in the Centre.
- Absenteeism at post-primary level is above the national average.
- The percentage of the population aged 15 years+ with upper secondary education only exceeds the national figure.
- The percentage of the population aged 15 years+ whose education ceased at 17 years exceeds the national figure.
- A significant proportion of Co. Kildare workers commute to work.
- The proportion of the population whose journey time to work, school or college is at least 1 hour is greater than the national average.
- Co. Kildare has experienced a major increase in numbers on the Live register since 2004, far exceeding the national figure for percentage change.
- 16% of those on the Live Register are under 25 years old.
- There is a high level of mortgage indebtedness in the county.
- Co. Kildare has the 3rd highest number of Rent Supplement recipients in the country.
- Kildare/West Wicklow experienced the highest percentage increase in Child Protection referrals from 2008 to 2012 among all Local Health Areas in the country.
- The rate of psychiatric admission of children exceeds the national average.
- On average 1 young person per week from Co. Kildare presented to a hospital due to deliberate self harm in 2013.
- The most common method of deliberate self harm amongst under 18s in Co. Kildare is drug overdose.
- There has been an increase in self-cutting as a method of self-harm for under 18s

presenting to hospital due to deliberate self harm.

- The number of young people with repeat presentations for deliberate self harm has trebled since 2010.
- The percentage of young people with repeat presentations for deliberate self harm more than doubled since 2010.
- The suicide rate in Co. Kildare (10.9 deaths per year per 100,000 population) marginally exceeds the State rate of 10.3.
- The female suicide rate of 5.6 deaths per 100,000 population substantially exceeds the national rate of 3.4.
- A significant number of women and children could not be accommodated in the domestic violence refuge in Co. Kildare in 2013 due to unavailability of space.
- In some areas of the county there are very high proportions of lone parent households. Overall, the number of lone parents in the county is high.
- There are areas of the county with high levels of early school leaving and low levels of educational attainment amongst the adult population.
- Unemployment has increased considerably and spread far beyond areas traditionally associated with unemployment in the county.
- In spite of being categorised as the 5th most affluent county in Ireland, there are many areas of considerable deprivation on Co. Kildare.

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Kildare

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both
UNIVERSAL			UNIVERSAL
Education	Early Years Care & Education: 206 services, 17 of which are community services.	Private & Community	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	100 Primary schools 7 DEIS Primary schools – Curragh, Kildare Town, Newbridge, Athy	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	26 Post Primary schools 8 DEIS Post primary schools – Rathangan, Prosperous, Naas, Monasterevin, Kildare Town, the Curragh, Athy, Newbridge	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	NUI Maynooth: third level university	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Foróige	Drug Prevention and Education Initiative: train-the-trainer in drug awareness for parents, youth leaders, drug policy development,	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Voluntary youth clubs	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Garda Siochána	Garda stations x 15	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Community Policing e.g. neighbourhood watch, community alert	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Schools Programme	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
HSE Primary Care	Health Centres x 16	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
HSE Public Health Nursing Service	Developmental screening, immunisations, breastfeeding support.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board	Post Primary schools x 14 (4 of which as Joint Trustee) Primary school x 1	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Post Leaving Certificate Programmes: 5 centres.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Adult Education Guidance Service: countywide career and education information and advice service.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Kildare County Childcare Committee	Parent & Toddler Group grant scheme.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Quality Outreach Service for childcare service providers	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1

	Training for parents, childminders and childcare service providers	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Information service for parents, professionals, students and childcare providers.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Parent Support: information, training, networking	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Support for administration of Government schemes: ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme) 206 services, CETS (Childcare Education and Training Support Scheme) 67 services, CCS (Community Childcare Subvention Scheme) 8 services, CEC (Community Employment Childcare Scheme) 62 services & ASCC (After-School Childcare Scheme) 63 services.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Kildare County Council	Planning & Economic Development, Transportation & Public Safety, Water & Environmental Services – schools programmes	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Leisure services – playgrounds, leisure centre, swimming pools.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
National Educational Psychological Service	Support & development : whole school approaches, SEN team cluster meetings, newly qualified Teacher-training, Incredible Years training	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Parent & Toddler Groups	35 Parent & Toddler Groups in the county.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Tusla	Early Year Services: Information, advice & inspection of early years services e.g. pre-school, daycare.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Universal & Targeted			Universal & Targeted
HSE Out-of-Hours GP Service	KDoc out-of-hours GP service.	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1, 2, 3 & 4
HSE Primary Care Psychology Service	Psychologist in 4 of 5 Primary care Network areas: individual & group interventions	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2.
HSE Primary Care Social Work Service	Primary Care Social Work service in 3 of 5 Primary Care Network areas.	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2.
Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board	Community Education (16yrs +) group education and training programmes on a community outreach basis and/or centre-based.	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2

	Back To Education Initiative: education and training programmes for 16yrs + on a community outreach basis and/or centre-based.	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
Kildare County Council	Integrated Services Programme: inter-agency/community-led planning at town level: Kildare Town, Kilcock, Celbridge.	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Library & Arts Services: Libraries x 15; Riverbank Arts Centre	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
Kildare Sports Partnership	Club development grant scheme, volunteer training, information provision, support for enhanced participation in sport and recreation at local level especially for targeted groups.	Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
Kildare Youth Services	Youth Information Service	Voluntary	Universal & targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Youth Counselling Service for 11-25 year olds & their parents.	Voluntary	Universal & targeted, Hardiker Level 1, 2 & 3.
	Youth Projects x 6 (Athy, Leixlip, Naas/Clane, Newbridge, the Curragh, Kildare Town)	Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
National Educational Psychological Service	2 teams in Naas - North Kildare & South Kildare/West Wicklow 9 x psychologists	Statutory	Universal & targeted, Hardiker Level 1, 2 & 3.
South West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	Funded project: DPEI (see above under Foróige)	Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker 1, 2 & 3
	Regional Family Support Network to support the development of family support groups for family members of people with substance use issues.	Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker 1 & 2
Targeted Level 2 +			Targeted Level 2 +
Barrettstown Gang Camp	Palliative/Respite Care for children.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership	Local Training Initiatives for unemployed x 6 (Athy, Rathangan, Naas, Allenwood)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	TUS Work Placement Programme for long term unemployed	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Rural Social Scheme	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Co. Kildare Primary Health Care Project for Travellers	Outreach visits, health promotion information, advocacy, assistance with literacy issues	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Department of Social Protection	Intreo offices x 3: Athy, Newbridge & Maynooth – single point of contact for all employment & income supports.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2

	Local Employment Service: Newbridge	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Central Rent Unit: assessment of applications from Co. Kildare for rent supplement.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Education	4 Special Schools – Celbridge, Curragh, Newbridge, Naas	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Family Resource Centres	2 x Family Resource Centre – Newbridge & the Curragh	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Foróige	Strengthening Families Programme: 14 week family skills programme (multi-agency)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Garda Siochána	Juvenile Liaison Officers x 3	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Garda Youth Diversion Projects x 2 (Celbridge, Newbridge/Curragh)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Specialist Officers e.g. Immigration, Diversity, Crime Prevention, Family Liaison	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
HSE Addiction Service	Addiction Services – counselling (Newbridge), Outreach workers x 2, Education Officer, needle exchange service	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4
HSE Adult Mental Health Service	4 x Multi-disciplinary mental health teams – North Kildare, North West Kildare, Mid East Kildare/West Wicklow, South Kildare/West Wicklow. Services include: outpatient community services, day hospital, home care, day centre, inpatient treatment.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4
HSE Alba Counselling Service	Individual counselling for adults who have been abused in childhood.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3.
HSE Community Dietetic Service	Dietary assessment, advice & support for children & young people.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3.
HSE Community Speech & Language Service	Service for children, young people & adults with speech & language difficulties.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3.
HSE Counselling in Primary Care	1-2-1 counselling of up to 8 sessions for adults with a medical card experiencing mild to moderate difficulties.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
HSE Dental Service	Dental services, including emergency services for children aged 16 years & under.	Statutory	Targeted, Level 2
HSE Disability Services	3 x Disability Network Teams (North, Mid & South Kildare): multi-disciplinary teams including	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3

	speech & language therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, clinical nurse specialist, social work.		
	Assessment of need Service: assessment of child's disability-related health needs.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
HSE General Hospital	Naas Hospital – Emergency Department (14 years+) Social Worker, Clinical Nurse Manager	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4.
HSE Paediatric OT service	Assessment, intervention, advice/consultation for children & young people presenting with fine & gross motor difficulties.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board	Youthreach x 3 Leixlip, Naas, Athy (16-20yrs)	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	VTOS (Vocational Training Opportunity Scheme) for 21yrs+ 2 x centres (Leixlip and Athy)	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Basic Education - literacy, numeracy, ESOL(English for speakers of other languages), Family Literacy	Targeted	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Kildare County Council	Housing service, including Homeless Outreach Workers x 2, Community team	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4.
Kildare County Council	Social Worker for Traveller families x1	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4.
Kildare Traveller Action	Information, education and community development supports for Travellers	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2.
National Educational Psychological Service	Individual case work: Psychological assessments, plans	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Critical incident support: support in the aftermath of a tragedy, bereavement or other traumatic event.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Consultative service for schools and parents in relation to children at risk.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Assessment of student's eligibility for RACE (Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations).	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
National Learning Network	Training courses and support services for people 18 years+ who need specialist support (job seekers, unemployed, people with an illness or disability) in two centres: Naas & Maynooth	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Probation Service	Young Persons Probation Worker	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker

	x 1 Individual case work 12-18yrs		Level 2 & 3
	Athy Alternative Project 16-25yrs group programmes, drop-in, outreach	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Le Chéile Mentoring Service – youth (12-18yrs.) & parent, group parenting programmes	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Family Conference/ Restorative Justice:	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Teach Tearmainn	Domestic Violence Information and Support Service	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4
Tusla	Family Support Service: home-based family support service	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Education Welfare Service: service to families and schools where there are issues regarding school attendance, school places & home education. 2 x Education Welfare Officers; 1 x Senior Education Welfare Officer.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4.
Targeted Level 3 +			Targeted Level 3 +
Cuan Mhuire	140 bed residential treatment & rehabilitation centre in Athy for adults with addiction issues.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
HSE Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service	3 x multi-disciplinary teams: North Kildare, Mid Kildare & South Kildare for young people aged 17 years & under experiencing mental health difficulties.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3.
Jack & Jill Foundation	Palliative/Respite Care for children	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
Kildare Youth Services	HALO Project Adolescent Substance Misuse service	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3
	Naas Child & Family Project: parenting & family assessment & intervention.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	EOLAS Project: mental health information and support programme for adults with mental health disorders & their family/close friends.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
Probation Service	Community Service for 16yrs+ as an alternative to custody. Individual placements and supervised placements	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3
South West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	Funded project: HALO (see above under Kildare Youth Services)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3
	Funded project: ARAS Community Addiction Service (18years+). 2 centres (Newbridge and Celbridge).	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3

Teach Tearmainn	Refuge accommodation (2 x self-contained units)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
Tusla	Child Protection & Welfare Intake Service: discuss child protection & welfare concerns & respond to referrals	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Children in Community Team x3 in Kildare/West Wicklow: assessment of child protection & welfare concerns. Coordinate child protection & family support plans.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Children in Care Team x 3 in Kildare/West Wicklow: service to children & young people in foster and residential care.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Fostering Team x 1 in Kildare/West Wicklow: Recruitment, assessment, training and support for foster carers.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
Targeted Level 4			Targeted Level 4
Probation Service	Sex Offender Risk and Management Committee (SORAM): 6-weekly meeting of Gardaí, Probation & Tusla.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 4

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Co. Kildare

This local needs analysis takes account of:

- Key evidence from the data, socio-demographic profile, audit of services & literature review
- Key themes emerging from the consultation.

The results of the local needs analysis highlight the following issues that pertain to children, young people and families in Co. Kildare.

Service Levels in Co. Kildare are not sufficient to meet the needs of children, young people & families in our county.

An overreliance on deprivation measures in regional and national resource allocation, without due consideration of baseline service levels has negatively affected service development in Co. Kildare.

This approach, coupled with exceptional population growth and historically low levels of service in the county makes the task of achieving the 5 national outcomes extremely challenging. This has been further compounded by budget cuts resulting in service reductions and closures in recent years making it increasingly difficult to sustain existing service levels, let alone develop new service provision.

Demands on services are growing, both in terms of the number and complexity of referrals which is negatively impacting on the ability of children, young people & families to access the services they need when they need them, evidenced by increased waiting lists.

Service Levels

A sample of inadequate service levels:

GPs

The number of GMS contracted GPs in Kildare/West Wicklow is 98. The rate of GP per 10,000 of child population (0-17 years) is 15.2 in Kildare/West Wicklow. This is significantly below the national rate of 24.7 GPs per 10,000 child population.

Gardaí

In 2009 there were 321 Gardaí in Co. Kildare. In 2014, the figure is 310, representing a decrease of 3.4%.

Excluding Gardaí who are members of special unit or based at Garda Headquarters, there were an average of 24.5 Gardaí per 10,000 people across the Republic in 2013.

In Co. Kildare the figure is 15 Gardaí per 10,000 of population – the lowest in the country.

Family Support Services

There is only one Springboard family support project in the county.

There are only 2 Family Resource Centres in Co. Kildare with a population of 59,449 under 18 years. In Co. Kerry, the population under 18 is 34,940 and there are 13 Family Resource Centres in the county.

Primary Care

Of the 5 Primary Care Network areas in Kildare/West Wicklow 2 do not have any Primary Care Social Work service. This includes North of the county - Kilcock, Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth and surrounding areas (Network 5) and Kildare Town, Rathangan, Monasterevin and surrounding areas (Network 4).

There are also gaps in coverage of the Primary Care Psychology service – Network area 5 is not covered by the service.

Substance Misuse Services

- There is no Registrar to support mental health needs of young substance misusers.
- There is no methadone maintenance clinic in the county.
- There are only two Level 2 methadone-prescribing GPs in the county (Naas & Celbridge) & five Level 1 GPs (Naas, Leixlip, Athy, Celbridge & Monasterevin).

Comparison of two adolescent drug & alcohol treatment services:

HALO – Naas, Co. Kildare	YoDA – Tallaght, Dublin 24
Under 18's treatment service for young people with substance misuse issues funded by SWRDATF via HSE.	Under 18's treatment service for young people with addiction issues funded by HSE.
Catchment area: Kildare/West Wicklow	Catchment area: Dublin South West & Dublin South City
Population 0-17 years in Kildare West Wicklow: 64,573	Population 0-17 years in Dublin South West & Dublin South City: 61,077
Full time Child & adolescent Psychiatrist 0	Full time child & adolescent psychiatrist 1
Full time family therapist 0	Full time family therapist 1
Full time clinical nurse 0	Full time clinical nurse 1
Psychiatric or medical assessment X	Psychiatric or medical assessment ✓
Family therapy X	Family therapy ✓
Medication service X	Medication service ✓
85 % of its clients presented with cannabis and alcohol problems in 2011	60% of its clients presented with cannabis and alcohol problems. (Tallaght drugs task force 2011)
Castledermot 46.6km Athy 41km, Baltinglass 36.2km, Monasterevin 31.1km, Leixlip 25.9km. Transport and access to the Halo project is problematic for families.	All areas of Tallaght are within 5km from YoDA & can be easily accessed.

Disability Services

There are a number of unfilled therapy grades on the new Network Disability teams.

Domestic Violence Services

Two of the four self-contained accommodation units remain unopened due to resource constraints. This is in the context of significant numbers of women & children seeking refuge, but unable to access it due to unavailability of space.

Youth Services

Kildare Youth Services receives no funding to provide services in large parts of the county i.e. in places such as Monasterevin, Maynooth, Kilcock, Carbury, Clane, Allenwood, Rathangan, Prosperous, and Robertstown.

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programmes

There is one approved PLC place per 589 of population in Co. Kildare (1:589). The figure is 1:58 in Cavan & 1:61 in Carlow. Co. Kildare has the 4th highest ratio of population per place in the entire country.

Resource allocation

Department of Children & Youth Affairs funding per capita (aged 10-24 years) for Local/Regional Drugs Task Force, Special Projects for Youth and Youth Information Centres in Co. Kildare in 2011 was €13.55. The national average was €22.31 per capita. The figure for Waterford City was €111.56. The figure for Westmeath was €51.91.

In terms of funding to Local Authorities per capita. The amount in Co. Kildare is €585. This is the 3rd lowest per capita of the 31 Local Authority areas in the country.

A recent review of the allocations framework to County Childcare Committees nationally found that Co. Kildare was underfunded.

There has been a number of high quality, yet ultimately unsuccessful, funding applications from Co. Kildare in recent years (since the first CYPSC plan was submitted). There is a sense that the needs of Co. Kildare may be at risk of being eclipsed by urban areas within the same HSE region i.e. Dublin South West (Tallaght, Clondalkin etc.) which historically have experienced high levels of need. The system of allocating resources does not appear to be taking account of this growing disparity in service levels across the region.

Examples of unsuccessful funding applications:

- Area Based Response to Child Poverty Initiative
- Jigsaw Youth Mental Health application
- National Early Years Access Initiative
- Genio 2014 grant application

Budget Cuts

A sample of some of the budget cuts experienced in the county:

- HALO, the substance misuse treatment service for under 18s in the county experienced a 44% cut in budget from 2008.
- Funding for the Drug Prevention & Education Initiative (DPEI) has reduced by 42% since 2008.
- The only Springboard Family Support Project in the county has experienced a reduction in funding of 25% since 2010.
- Funding to the county Youth Service (Kildare Youth Services) from DCYA has reduced by 31% since 2007.
- Funding from the Irish Youth Justice Service for the two Garda Youth Diversion Projects in the county has been reduced by 12.5% since 2008.
- Funding to Kildare County Childcare Committee has reduced by 19.12% since 2008.
- The Family Resource Centre budget has been reduced by 5% per annum for the last 3 years.
- Over the same period, funding to the Youth Counselling Service (Kildare Youth Service) from the Family Support Agency Counselling Grant has reduced by 33%.
- The capitation rates for the Government childcare schemes – ECCE, CETS & CCS were

reduced in 2012.

- There has been an annual reduction in budget for the School Completion Programme in DEIS schools.

Service Reductions & Closures

- Since 2008, there has been a loss of 14 Whole Time Equivalent posts from the Kildare Youth Services team of 30 Full Time & 26 Part Time staff.
- In 2014 there are 15 Garda stations, following the closure of 3 stations.
- Naas Child & Family Project Community Playgroup closed in 2014.
- A number of Naas Child & Family Project community programmes have ceased including the annual summer camp, parenting programmes, therapeutic groupwork programmes, sibling group work programmes, sensory groupwork programmes, creative arts programmes, developmental workshops etc.
- Since 2012, the number of childcare services in the county has reduced by 13.
- The homeless hostel in Newbridge closed in 2014.
- The posts of Visiting Teacher for Travellers & Traveller Resource Teacher ceased to exist.
- The early intervention/family support project, Lifestart, closed.
- The Pathways Tracking & Mentoring Project for Early School Leavers ceased.

Increasing demands on services

Number of referrals

- Referrals to HALO, the substance use service for under 18s grew from 44 in 2009, to 62 in 2010 to 96 in 2013. This represents an increase of 118% over the period.
- Overall referrals to KYS Counselling increased by 22% from 2011 to 2013 (from 297 to 361). The largest increase by number was in Naas (80 to 102) the largest percentage increase was in Athy (54%) from 26 to 40 referrals.
- Referrals to Naas Child & Family Project increased by 52% from 23 in 2010 to 44 in 2014.
- ARAS – the adult substance misuse service in the county received 226 new referrals in 2014.

Complexity of referrals

The nature of the challenges facing children, young people & families in Co. Kildare is becoming increasingly complex:

- Deliberate self harm is a significant feature among referrals. For Kildare Youth Services Counselling service in Celbridge, there was a 60% increase in referrals for Deliberate self harm from 2012 to 2013.
- In the Counselling Service overall in 2013, 22% of young people were deemed to be at risk of Deliberate self harm at initial assessment; 15% at risk of suicide and 7% at risk of harm to others.
- Naas Child & Family Project reports that children at a young age are being referred for anxiety and worries. 25% of referrals made to NCFP in 2013 were from schools that were identifying this issue, alongside low mood in children.
- Naas Child & Family Project has also experienced an increase in referrals for attachment issues; for behavioural issues; and for children and their siblings with Autism /Aspergers.
- There has been a notable increase in the *total difficulties* scores in children on completed Goodman Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires at intake in Naas Child & Family Project.
- In the HALO substance misuse service for under 18s there has been an almost 50% increase in presentation of substance misuse & mental health issues - 21 referrals from GP/mental health services in 2011; 31 referrals from GP / mental health services in 2013.
- HALO reports a number of complex issues emerging in the course of engaging young

people in treatment e.g. young people going missing / running away from home; young people in residential / foster care; young people self harming & presenting with suicide ideation; young people presenting with mental health issues; young people presenting with learning difficulties; young people with underage sexual activity disclosures requiring CPN; parents presenting as extremely distressed / overwhelmed; Parents presenting as extremely demanding; non Irish National families with limited English language.

- There is evidence that referrals from specialist services such as CAMHS & the Social Work department are increasing. In 2011, referrals to HALO from social services for young people in care represented 2% of all referrals to the service. In 2013, it had grown to 20%.
- Referrals to the Youth Counselling Service from CAMHS/GPs rose from 20% in 2012 to 24% in 2014.

Waiting lists

The increasing demands on services both in terms of volume and profile of referrals have impacted on access to services, evidenced by increases in waiting lists.

- Naas Child & Family Project had to make changes to the model of service delivery in 2010 to respond to the lengthy waiting times experienced by families in accessing the service— 25 families on the waiting list, with a wait time of 8 months. The service has worked hard to reduce this waiting time but at the expense of and loss of community services for families in need.
- The time young people spend on a waiting list for the Youth Counselling service is increasing. In 2013 waiting times ranged from 4 to 7 months for KYS Counselling. From 2011 to 2013, waiting times increased in 4 of the 6 areas in which counselling is provided.
- In addition, 98 referrals were received by the Counselling service for young people living outside the catchment area for services, of which 93 were from areas in Co. Kildare which are not covered by the counselling service.
- It is also reported that some organisations & individuals are choosing not to refer to the Counselling service because of the length of wait.
- ARAS – the adult substance misuse service in the county employed temporary relief staff to address the waiting list. This was successful as a short term measure, however, the waiting list returned when the temporary post ceased (50 on a waiting list).
- As a consequence of reductions in the funding for counselling, Newbridge Family Resource Centre counselling service waiting list has increased from 0 to 4-6 months.
- In Co. Kildare as a whole, there were 191 children on a waiting list for a childcare place. This rose to 226 in 2013.
- There are significant waiting times across the range of specialist services including speech and language, Occupational Therapy, assessment of need, disability services, psychology, CAMHS.

There is a concern that the low service levels, the increasing demands on existing services and the growing waiting lists means that children, young people and families are not getting the support they need when they need it, leading to an escalation of difficulties.

It is arguable that this may explain in part the substantial increase of 240% (+489) in Child Protection referrals from 2008 to 2012 - the highest percentage increase in the country.

Some Additional Service Gaps

- There is a dearth of community childcare services in Co. Kildare. The ratio of private to community childcare services nationally is 2:1. In Co. Kildare the ratio is 11:1.
- Family support is a significant gap that is repeatedly highlighted by stakeholders – general family supports, supports for families of children with a disability, families of substance misusers, families affected by suicide.
- There is no Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) clinic in the County.

- There is a lack of aftercare for stable substance misusers and/or those who are abstinent.
- There is an absence of a homeless hostel that will accommodate active users.
- There is no detox facility or residential treatment for substance misusers under 18 years in Co. Kildare.
- There is no dedicated Youth Officer post (ETB) for Co. Kildare.

Themes

A number of key themes emerged through the data analysis, consultation and literature review.

Three of these themes emerged over the course of the planning process for the 3-Year plan 2015-2017, that did not feature to any significant degree among the issues identified for the previous plan: Domestic violence, Homelessness & Disability.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has been identified as a growing concern across a range of service providers – from specialist services such as Tusla to Family Resource Centres to universal pre-school providers. The data from Teach Tearmainn, the local domestic violence support service, clearly indicates that service levels are inadequate to meet the presenting needs. Domestic violence has become more prevalent as an issue among referrals to Naas Child & Family Project, with 10% of families who access NCFP being referred to Teach Tearmainn.

Link to Action Plan:

- Explore the provision of supports to children living in refuge accommodation.
- Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children and their families affected by domestic violence to identify issues, gaps & possible responses.

Homelessness

The data in relation to housing in the county indicates high levels of mortgage indebtedness, high numbers in receipt of Rent Supplement & high numbers living in private-rented accommodation. Reductions in allowances under Rent Supplement, coupled with rising rents in the private rented sector points to potential difficulties with security of tenure for many families. Increases in homelessness are being reported across services such as Naas Hospital Emergency Department, Newbridge Family Resource Centre and the Simon Community. In 2014, Newbridge Family Resource Centre supported 4 families who were homeless. In the previous 5 years, the Centre had supported two cases of homelessness. There has been a reported increase in the number of queries to the Centre in relation to housing. For the Simon Community in 2014 the vast majority of clients were families, whereas in the previous year it was individuals.

Link to the Action Plan:

- Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children and their families who are homeless to identify issues, gaps & possible responses.

Disability

The percentage of children with a disability in the county as a proportion of the child population exceeds the national average.

Concern for children & young people with a disability has been expressed by the young people involved in Comhairle na nÓg and this concern, along with concern for their parents, is shared by a range of service providers including schools, Youth Counselling Service, Naas Child & Family Project, Kildare County Childcare Committee and Tusla. 30% of the referrals on the Tusla Family Support Service waiting list have a primary referral reason of child with disability or special need. There is a need for greater clarity as to referral pathways & roles & responsibilities following the recent reconfiguration of services under the *Progressing Disabilities* initiative. There are service gaps where therapy grades remain unfilled and waiting times for services are a challenge.

Link to Action Plan:

- Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children with disabilities and their families to identify issues, gaps & possible responses.

Substance misuse

This is identified as an issue by young people via Comhairle na nÓg and their concerns are echoed by service providers and are clearly reflected in the data e.g. increase in referrals to HALO project. Coupled with the significant service gaps identified means that this theme continues to be a priority for Kildare CYPSC over the next 3 years:

Link to the Action Plan:

- Support for the continued delivery of the Strengthening Families programme on an annual basis.
- Support for the development of an initiative relating to alcohol use utilising Dormant Accounts resources.
- Support the delivery of the pilot programme for children/siblings of substance misusers.
- Support the roll out of the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework via the NRF Working Group.

Family support

There are a large number of families in the county. Significant gaps have been identified in relation to family support in general, as well as for specific groups. It is widely acknowledged in research & good practice literature that supporting parents is the best way to support children & young people.

Link to the Action Plan:

- Support the development & sustainability of existing and new Parent & Toddler groups.
- Support the Kildare West Wicklow Parenting Forum in the development of a local Parenting Strategy.
- Develop the parentingsupport.ie website as an information hub for parents & professionals in the area of parenting & family support.

Mental health

There are gaps in the universal services in this area, with significant waiting lists for both universal & specialist supports. The mental health of children & young people is of growing concern to schools, parents and service providers. The data supports the validity of this concern e.g. presentations for deliberate self harm are increasing, repeat presentations are increasing and the female suicide rate in the county exceeds the national rate.

Link to the Action Plan:

- Support the local implementation of the national mental health promotion campaign #littlethings
- Support a review and renewed roll out of the Community Response Plan to death by suspected suicide.
- Explore options for provision of the SPACE programme (for parents of young people who self harm), the Working Things Out Programme (mental health programme for young people), Decider skills and other relevant evidence-based mental health programme in the county.
- Support the development & delivery of a support programme for families in the aftermath of death by suicide.

Early School Leaving

The data suggests that there is small but significant cohort of young people who are not engaged in education, training or employment in Co. Kildare. School absenteeism figures in the county are higher than national figures as is the proportion of the population with second level education

only. The impact of early school leaving on future outcomes is well documented. The importance of supporting transitions in the education lifecycle to promote retention is widely acknowledged in the research. Early school leavers are a common group featuring among referrals to the HALO under 18s substance misuse treatment service and KYS Youth Counselling service. School refusal has been identified as a growing issue by service providers e.g. Tusla Family Support Service, Education Welfare Service, HALO & Youth Counselling Service. A quality early education enhances positive educational outcomes.

Link to the Action Plan:

- Promote the free pre-school year and Aistear to parents.
- Support the local implementation of the National Early Years strategy.
- Support the expansion of the Junior Transition Programme (I CAN Book) in the county.
- Continue the data collection exercise with Post Primary schools on an annual basis to establish the number, profile and destination of students in the county who leave school. Discuss the key findings with schools and explore together possible responses.
- Map the progression pathways in education, training and employment for young people out-of-school, those who left school early and 18-24 year olds with a Leaving Cert, identify gaps & develop responses.
- Explore the expansion of *iScoil* in the county.

Poverty & Unemployment

Co. Kildare did not escape the negative impact of the economic downturn that has taken place across Ireland in recent years. Unemployment has increased considerably and spread far beyond areas traditionally associated with unemployment in the county.

The number on the Live Register in Co. Kildare has increased from 4350 in 2004 to 17,208 in 2013, representing a percentage increase of 295.6%. This is the second highest percentage change in the country and far exceeds the national figure of 149%.

A significant proportion of those who are unemployed in Co. Kildare are under 25 years old.

Service providers report that family poverty is on the increase and the negative effects on the wellbeing of parents and children are evident. Services are reporting an increase in the demand for food vouchers, requests for support from St. Vincent de Paul & similar charitable organisations and use of the food bank at a local church. Services are visiting homes that are without heating & where the diet for children and family is very poor. The issue of difficulty with arrears for rent & utility bills is more prevalent.

Link to Action Plan:

- Support the development & sustainability of community childcare services in the county to reduce access to childcare as a barrier to education, training and employment.
- Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to youth unemployment to identify issues, gaps & possible responses.
- Support the multi-agency Steering Committee under the National Aftercare Policy for young people 18+ making the transition from a care placement to independent adult life in the community.

Youth Facilities and Activities

The need for enhanced access to youth facilities and activities was strongly identified as an issue by participants of Comhairle na nÓg and by parents and young people who were consulted as part of "Play Day". This is echoed by service providers who repeatedly highlight the importance of social, recreational and sporting activities for the wellbeing of children and young people.

Link to the Action Plan:

- Continue to support the development of the Youth Hub in Kildare Town.
- Support the development of dedicated youth space in areas where a need has been identified e.g. Newbridge, Monasterevin, Rathangan.

Direct Provision

The particular challenge posed to families living in an asylum seeker Direct Provision centres has been the subject the national attention in recent times. Service providers acknowledge that children, young people and families living in these circumstances over an extended period of time are increasingly vulnerable. Co. Kildare is one of 16 counties in which there is an asylum seeker Direct Provision Centre.

Link to Action Plan:

- Explore the provision of socialisation, recreational and developmental supports for children and young people living in the asylum seeker Direct Provision Centre in Newbridge.
- Provide support for families moving from Direct Provision to independent living in the community.

Youth Participation

Research supports the link between youth participation and positive mental health and wellbeing. The theme of the 2014 Comhairle na nÓg AGM in Co. Kildare was: *Open your Mind to Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* - 'Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account.' The value of the voice of young people is widely recognised among service providers in the county.

Link to Action Plan:

- Support the development of a Participation Strategy for children, young people and parents utilising the resources being made available from Atlantic Philanthropies via Tusla.
- Support the voice of children and young people to be heard on the Children and Young People's Services Committee, Public Participation Networks, Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee & other relevant local structures.

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for Kildare

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas * <i>(to be identified following the local needs analysis and the audit of services)</i>
Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	<i>Substance Misuse, Mental Health, Youth Facilities & Activities</i>
Achieving full potential in learning and development	<i>Early school leaving, Family Support, Disability</i>
Safe and protected from harm	<i>Homelessness, Domestic violence</i>
Economic security and opportunity	<i>Unemployment</i>
Connected, respected and contributing to their world	<i>Direct Provision, Youth Participation</i>

Change Management	Local Priority Areas
Change management - CYPSCs may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level, e.g. development of information sharing protocols, interagency training	<i>Resourcing, Kildare CYPSC Development, Evidence, Inter-Agency Working, Training, Information, Influencing policy & practice</i>

Section 6: Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee

Action Plan for Kildare 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	Link to other plans
Substance Misuse	To increase the range of supports available to children, young people and families affected by substance misuse.	No. of families participating in Strengthening Families Programme	20 families will complete the Strengthening Families Programme	Support the delivery of the Strengthening Families Programme on an annual basis in the county.	2015, 2016, 2017	SWRDATAF	National Drugs Strategy (2009 – 2016) SWRDATAF Service Review & Strategic Plan (2011-2014) Final Report
		No. of new alcohol-themed initiatives in the county.	A new alcohol-themed initiative will be developed	Support the development of an initiative relating to alcohol use utilising Dormant Accounts resources	2016	SWRDATAF	
		No. of young people participating in the pilot programme for siblings/children of substance misusers.	10 young people will participate in the pilot programme for siblings/children of substance misusers.	Support the delivery of the pilot programme for siblings/children of substance misusers.	2015	SWRDATAF	
Mental Health	To raise awareness of how to promote positive mental health – self and others.	No. of awareness raising activities taking place in the county.	4 awareness raising activities in the county.	Support the local implementation of the national mental health promotion campaign #littletings	2015, 2016	HSE	Healthy Ireland (2013) NOSP/HSE WorkPlan

Action Plan for Kildare 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	Link to other plans
Mental Health	To increase the range of supports available to children, young people and families affected by mental health issues.	No. of new programmes available in the county	2 new programmes available in the county	Explore the options for the provision of the SPACE programme (for parents of young people who self harm), the Working Things Out programme (mental health programme for young people), Decider skills & other relevant evidence-based mental health programmes in the county.	2016, 2017	HSE	Vision for Change (2006) Reach Out Strategy (2005-2014)
	To improve the coordination and effectiveness of the response following a death by suicide in the county.	No. of stakeholder organisations aware of the Community Response Plan. No. of reviews completed.	All relevant stakeholder organisations aware of the Community Response Plan. Review of Community Response Plan completed.	Support a review and renewed roll-out of the Community Response Plan to death by suspected suicide.	2016	Tusla	Reach Out Strategy (2005-2014)

Action Plan for Kildare 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	Link to other plans
		No. of programmes developed. No. of individuals participating in pilot training programme.	Programme developed. 12 individuals participate in pilot training programme.	Support the development and delivery of a support programme for families in the aftermath of death by suicide.	2017	Tusla	Reach Out Strategy (2005-2014)
Youth Facilities and Activities	To increase the number of youth facilities in the county.	No. of youth facilities in the county.	1 new facility established in Kildare Town.	Continue to support the development of the Youth Hub in Kildare Town	2016	KYS/Board of Youth Hub	KYS Strategic Plan
		No. of youth facilities in the county.	Youth space created in 2 areas of need.	Support the development of dedicated youth space in areas where a need has been identified e.g. Newbridge, Monasterevin, Rathangan	2017	KYS	Monasterevin Youth Needs (2013)

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee							
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Early School Leaving	To raise awareness of the importance of the early years in influencing future outcomes.	No. of briefing sessions hosted in the county	2 briefing sessions hosted in the county	Support the implementation of the National Early Years Strategy	2016	KCCC	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (2014) KCCC LIP (2015)
		No. of information sheets distributed to parents per annum	2000 information sheets distributed to parents per annum	Promote the free Pre-school Year & Aistear to parents.	2016	KCCC	Right from the Start: Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the Early Years Strategy (2013)
		No. of pre-schools participating in programme. No. of primary schools participating in programme	20 pre-schools participating in programme. 18 primary schools participating in programme.	Support the expansion of the Junior Transition Programme (I CAN Book) in the county.	2015, 2016, 2017	KCCC	KCCC LIP (2015)
	To build a clearer picture of the number, profile and needs of students in co. Kildare who are leaving school early.	No. of schools participating in data collection exercise	25 schools will participate in data collection exercise.	Continue the data collection exercise with Post Primary schools on an annual basis to establish the number, profile and destination	2015, 2016, 2017	Tusla EWS	
		No. of feedback	2 feedback				

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
		sessions for schools.	sessions will take place for schools.	of students in the county who leave school. Discuss the key findings with schools and explore together possible responses.			
Early School Leaving	To establish a clear picture of the education, training and employment opportunities and gaps for young people in the county.	Level of clear information available in relation to education, training and employment for young people.	Clear information will be presented in relation to education, training and employment for young people.	Map the progression pathways in education, training and employment for young people out-of-school, those who left school early and 18-24 year olds with a Leaving Cert, identify gaps & develop responses.	2015	KWETB	
	To establish if <i>iScoil</i> is a viable & appropriate alternative education support to provide in the county.	No. of stakeholder meetings to discuss viability of <i>iScoil</i>	2 stakeholder meetings to discuss viability of <i>iScoil</i>	Explore the expansion of <i>iScoil</i> in the county	2015	Tusla EWS	

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Family Support	To enhance coordination in approach & delivery of supports to parents.	No. of strategies developed.	1 strategy developed.	Support the Kildare West Wicklow Parenting Forum in the development of a local Parenting Strategy.	2016	HSE	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (2014)
	To strengthen universal community-based supports to parents	No. of hits per annum on parentingsupport.ie No. of posts per annum on parentingsupport.ie	Increase no. of hits per annum on website Increase no. of posts per annum on website	Develop the parentingsupport.ie website as an information hub for parents & professionals in the area of parenting & family support.	2015	HSE	
		No. of new parent & Toddler groups established. No. of supports offered to existing parent & toddler groups.	1 new Parent & toddler group established. 35 information leaflets distributed per annum. 15 outreach visits per annum.	Support the development & sustainability of new & existing Parent & Toddler Groups.	2015, 2016, 2017	KCCC	KCCC LIP (2015)

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee							
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Disability	To identify the needs of children with a disability and their families.	No. of workshops convened.	2 workshops convened.	Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children with disabilities and their families.	2016	HSE	

Action Plan for Kildare 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	Link to other plans
Homelessness	To establish a clearer picture of homelessness in Co. Kildare.	No. of workshops convened.	2 workshops convened.	Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children and their families who are homeless to identify issues, gaps & possible responses.	2016	KCoCo	Homelessness Protocol 2014: Mid East Region
Domestic Violence	To enhance the supports provided to children and families affected by domestic violence.	No. of workshops convened.	2 workshops convened.	Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children and their families affected by domestic violence to identify issues, gaps & possible responses.	2016	TT	National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence (2010 – 2014)
	To enhance the supports provided to children and families affected by domestic violence.	No. of models of good practice identified in supporting children in refuge. No. of meetings convened to discuss resourcing of supports.	3 models of good practice identified. 1 meeting to discuss resourcing of supports.	Explore the provision of supports for children living in refuge accommodation.	2015	TT	

Action Plan for Kildare 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	Link to other plans
Unemployment	To identify the issues, gaps and possible responses in relation to young people who are unemployed, including the most vulnerable	No. of workshops convened.	2 workshops convened.	Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to youth unemployment to identify issues, gaps & possible responses.	2016	CKLP	Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan (2013) Programme for Government (2011 – 2016)
		No. of meetings with representatives of Steering Committee	1 meeting with representative s of Steering Committee	Support the multi-agency Steering Committee under the National Aftercare Policy for young people 18+ making the transition from a care placement to independent adult life in the community.	2016	Tusla	National Aftercare Policy (2011)
	To reduce barriers to employment.	No. of community childcare services receiving support	9 services receive support.	Support the development & sustainability of community childcare services in the county to reduce access to childcare as a barrier to employment.	2016	KCCC	KCCC LIP (2015)

Action Plan for Kildare 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	Link to other plans
Direct Provision	To identify the needs of the children & young people living in the Direct Provision Centre in Newbridge & options for resourcing a response to these needs.	No. of meetings to identify needs. No. of options for resourcing the response.	1 meeting to identify needs. Options identified for resourcing the response.	Explore the provision of socialisation, recreational and developmental supports for children and young people living in the asylum seeker Direct Provision Centre in Newbridge.	2015	KYS	Co. Kildare Integration Strategy (2014)
	To increase the likelihood of a positive transition from institutional life to community life.	No. of supports agreed to be provided to families.	Agreed supports provided to families.	Provide support for families moving from Direct Provision to independent living in the community.	2015, 2016, 2017	CKLP	
Youth Participation	To enhance the role of children and young people in influencing decisions that affect their lives.	No. of strategies produced.	1 strategy produced.	Support the development of a Participation Strategy for children, young people & parents utilising resources being made available from Atlantic Philanthropies via Tusla.	2016	Tusla	CNN Work Plan Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (2014)

Action Plan for Kildare 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	Link to other plans
Youth Participation	To enhance the role of children and young people in influencing decisions that affect their lives.	No. of mechanisms agreed for representing the voice of young people on relevant structures.	A range of mechanisms agreed for representing the voice of young people on relevant structures.	Support the voice of children & young people to be heard on Kildare CYPSC, Public Participation Networks, Local Community Development Committees, Joint Policing Committee & other relevant local structures.	2017	KYS	

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Resourcing	To increase the level of resourcing in the county from regional & national level.	No. of briefing sessions hosted for relevant decision –makers & influencers.	4 briefing sessions	Utilise the data & analysis contained in the Children & Young People’s Plan as a tool to make the case for enhanced resourcing for Co. Kildare, including via Public Representatives.	2015, 2016, 2017	ALL	
Kildare CYPSC Development	To ensure that Kildare CYPSC continues to develop, with a shared vision & plan that is clearly communicated.	Existence of communication plan.	Communication plan agreed & documented	Develop a communication plan for Kildare CYPSC.	2015	ALL	
		Existence of shared vision & values.	Shared vision and values agreed & documented	Review & agree the values & vision of Kildare CYPSC, taking account of new members and expanded remit.	2015	ALL	
		No. of CYPSC meetings at which implications are discussed.	2 meetings per annum.	Scope out the implications of the expanded age remit of Kildare CYPSC including membership, priorities & actions.	2017	ALL	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (2014)

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Evidence	To ensure that the work of Kildare CYPSC is underpinned by clear evidence drawn from relevant data.	No. of meetings with NIRSA/AIRO	2 meetings with NIRSA/AIRO	Work in partnership with NIRSA/AIRO to develop & maintain a data management system to include indicators relevant to children, young people & families.	2016	KCoCo	
		No. of relevant indicators included in the data system.	A range of relevant indicators included in the data system.				
		No. of CYPSC meetings at which Block & Gaps system discussed.	2 meetings per annum. <i>Blocks & Gaps</i> system for children and family services agreed & documented.	Explore the development of a <i>Blocks & Gaps</i> system for children and family services, based on the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework model.	2015	ALL	
Inter-Agency Working	To enhance coordination & collaboration in the planning and delivery of services and avoid fragmentation and duplication.	Existence of formal links with relevant structures	Clear roles and lines of communication established	Develop formal links with the Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee & other relevant structures.	2015	ALL	

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
		No. of relevant stakeholders operating in accordance with Local Area Pathway/ Meitheal	Local Area Pathway/ Meitheal operating in the county.	Support the roll out of the Local Area Pathway/Meitheal via the LAP Working Group.	2015, 2016, 2017	Tusla	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (2014) Tusla Workplan
Inter-Agency Working	To enhance coordination & collaboration in the planning and delivery of services and avoid fragmentation and duplication.	No. of relevant stakeholders operating in accordance with the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework	National Drug Rehabilitation Framework operating in the county.	Support the roll out of the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework via the NRF Working Group.	2015, 2016, 2017	SWRDATAF	SWRDATAF Strategic Review (2014)
		Existence of Critical Incident Policy	Critical Incident Policy in place.	Develop a multi-agency Critical Incident Policy	2016	Tusla	
Training	To establish the training needs of personnel in Co. Kildare.	No. of respondents to training needs request.	Training needs analysis completed.	Undertake a training needs analysis of personnel working with children & families in the county to identify gaps & develop responses, including the possibility of a regional approach to training in partnership with neighbouring	2016	ALL	

Action Plan for Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
				CYPSCs.			
Information	To increase awareness of services & supports that exist in Co. Kildare for children, young people and parents.	No. of information dissemination methods.	Website operational. Twitter & Facebook operational.	Continue to develop Kildare CYPSC as an information hub, including via enhanced use of social media.	2015, 2016, 2017	ALL	
		No. of service directories circulated.	Directory of services produced and disseminated to relevant stakeholders	Develop & disseminate a directory of services for Co. Kildare.	2015, 2016, 2017	ALL	

Lead Partners:

Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership has been identified as lead for a number of actions in this plan. The ability of CKLP to assume this role is dependent on the outcome of the SICAP tender process.

Actions omitted from the action plan:

A number of actions identified by Kildare CYPSC were omitted from the final plan as they were deemed to be systemic issues and/or more appropriately addressed at national rather than local level:

- Coordinate the supports to schools in relation to student wellbeing
- Expand the data collection exercise to primary schools in the county to establish the number, profile and destination of students who leave school at primary level.
- Explore the development of an initiative to enhance the engagement & participation of Traveller students in education.

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

Local Level

An annual Work Plan will be agreed for each of the 3 years of the plan.

A Work Plan Progress update will be presented at every Kildare CYPSC meeting.

An annual review of the Work Plan will be completed by the first quarter of the subsequent year.

An overall review of the 3-year Plan will be completed as part of the planning process for the next 3-year Plan (2018-2020).

National Level

A quarterly submission is made to the National Coordinator, the National Steering Group and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs by the Coordinators Network, which reports on progress under the 5 national outcomes and includes contribution from all CYPSCs, including Kildare.

Section 8: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

List of Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
ARAS	Abbey Regional Addiction Service
ASCC	After School Childcare Scheme
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCS	Community Childcare Subvention Scheme
CE	Community Employment Scheme
CEC	Community Employment Childcare Scheme
Cel-Lxp	Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District
CETS	Childcare Education & Training Support Scheme
CKLP	Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership
CNN	Comhairle na nÓg
CPN	Child Protection Notification
CYPSC	Children & Young People's Services Committee
DCYA	Department of Children & Youth Affairs
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DPEI	Drug Prevention & Education Initiative
DSH	Deliberate Self Harm
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme
ED	Electoral Division
ESL	Early School Leaving
ESOL	English for speakers of other languages
EWS	Education Welfare Service
GP	General Practitioner
GS	Garda Síochána
HSE	Health Services Executive
ISP	Integrated Services Programme
JPC	Joint Policing Committee
KCCC	Kildare County Childcare Committee
KCoCo	Kildare County Council
KCYPSC	Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee
KTA	Kildare Traveller Action Ltd.
KWETB	Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board
KYS	Kildare Youth Services
LA	Local Authority
LAP	Local Area Pathway
LTi	Local Training Initiative
MD	Municipal District
NCFP	Naas Child & Family Project
NDTRS	National Drug Treatment Reporting System
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NOSP	National Office for Suicide Prevention
NRDSH	National Registry of Deliberate Self Harm
NRF	National Rehabilitation Framework
Nwb-K	Newbridge-Kildare Municipal District
OD	Overdose
OMCYA	Office of Minister for Children & Youth Affairs
PS	Probation Service
RACE	Reasonable Accommodations at Certificate Examinations

SA
SEN
SICAP
SWRDATAF
VTOS
YoDA

Small Area
Special Educational Needs
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
South Western Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme
Youth Drug & Alcohol Service

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DATA SOURCES

- *County Level Data Analysis to Support CSC Initiative* Factsheets
- CSO Census 2011
- CSO Vital Statistics 2013
- Expenditure per capita by Local Authorities www.publicpolicy.ie
- LCDC Data Profile: Kildare Local Authority AIRO/NIRSA (June 2014)
- Methadone Treatment Data Analysis per L/RDTF Area 2013 (HSE National Social Inclusion Office, 2014)
- National Drug Treatment Reporting System online database (2012 data)
- PLC Data TUI Research www.tui.ie
- Primary Care Reimbursement Service: Statistical Analysis of Claims & Payments 2012
- Retention Rates of Pupils in Second Level Schools 2007 Entry Cohort (Dept. of Education & Skills, 2014)
- Review of Adequacy for HSE Children and Family Services 2012
- State of the Nations Children 2012
- Statistical Information on Social Welfare Services 2013 (DSP, 2014).

In addition to the above, data was sourced directly via Kildare CYPSC member organisations and others:

- An Garda Síochána
- ARAS Community Addiction Service
- Department of Children & Youth Affairs
- Kildare County Childcare Committee
- Kildare Youth Services
- National Registry of Deliberate Self Harm
- Newbridge Family Resource Centre
- Post Primary Schools
- Teach Tearmainn
- Tusla