



Laois Offaly
Children and Young People's
Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan
2021- 2023

Contact

The Laois Offaly 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 by the Chairperson of the CYPSC.

As Chairperson of the Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), I am delighted to publish our first Children and Young People's Plan 2021 – 2023.

Historically, there has been a pre-existing ethos and culture of interagency work across the two counties of Laois and Offaly, and it was due to the established positive working relationships, across the statutory, voluntary and community organisations, that led to the decision to form a two-county CYPSC for the area. Relations have continued to strengthen and the LAOIS OFFALY CYPSC is becoming a cornerstone in encouraging and enabling collaborative work to develop even further, between local children's services across the two counties.

The Laois Offaly CYPSC plan was developed based on a solid foundation of interagency collaborative working, enhanced further through ongoing consultations with key stakeholder groups, children and young people in Laois and Offaly.

The Laois Offaly CYPSC will continue to work in partnership with children, young people, families, and communities so as to strengthen service provision and ultimately improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

I would like to thank the Laois Offaly CYPSC and subgroup members for their hard work, commitment and input into the development of the Laois Offaly CYPSC over the last three years and also into the development of the Laois Offaly CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan, and data sharing for the plan.

The implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan 2021 – 2023 will further strengthen our interagency collaborative working over the coming years and will result in securing better outcomes and brighter futures for the children, young people and families of Laois and Offaly.

Annette McGuire

Tusla Area Manager Laois Offaly Longford Westmeath
Chairperson Laois Offaly CYPSC

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List of Acronyms

BOBF	Better Outcomes Better Futures, National Policy Framework. DCEDIY 2014-2020
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CAS	Capital Assistance Scheme - Financial scheme for provision of social housing
CFL	Connecting for Life - HSE Mental Health Strategy
CFSN	Child and Family Support Network
CHO	Community Health Organisation
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
DCEDIY	Dept. of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DHPLG	Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DES	Dept. of Education and Skills
OLDC	Offaly Local Development Company
DOH	Dept. of Health
DEASP	Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
DRCD	Dept. of Rural and Community Development
YWI	Youth Work Ireland
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ESL	Early School Leaving
LOETB	Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board
EWS	Educational Welfare Services
FET	Further Education and Training
FRC	Family Resource Centre
GPS	General Population Survey
HBSC	Health Behaviour School Age Children Report
HI	Healthy Ireland, A framework for improved Health and Well-being 2013-2015
HAT	Homeless Action Team
HPI	Health Promotion and Improvement
HIQA	Health Information and Quality Authority
HSE	Health Service Executive
IPPN	Irish Primary Principals' Network
LAs	Local Authorities
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LHO	Local Health Organisation
Meitheal	Collaborative model forming a multi-disciplinary team around the child, Tusla
MWS 2	My World Survey 2
NAPDP	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals

NDS	National Drugs Strategy
NEETS	Refers to young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service – Non-government organisation
NOSP	National Office for Suicide Prevention
NSDF	National Service Delivery Framework for Tusla
NSRF	National Suicide Research Foundation
MRDATF	Midlands Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
OMYCA	Office of Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
PHN	Public Health Nurses
PPFS	Prevention Partnership and Family Support
SATU	Sexual Abuse Treatment Unit Mullingar
SCP	School Completion Programme
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
SPHE	Social Personal Health Education

Executive Summary

Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee was set up in 2017 as part of phase 6 of the national rollout of CYPSCs.

This plan highlights key priority areas for action under the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (BOBF) National Strategy 5 key outcome areas.

The plan has been researched and constructed based on the indicators for the BOBF outcomes to assure that the activities undertaken are in line with the National Strategy.

On initial assessment the demographics for Laois Offaly appear quite similar, however, on closer analysis there are very distinct differences, most notably, the rapid population increase in Laois over the past 10 years as reflected in the last 2 censuses of 2011 and 2016.

Within this striking population increase in Laois, the diversity in ethnicity and nationalities is very broad. In Portllington and Portlaoise there are certain electoral divisions that have had huge population increases thus creating demand on services and workforces in a short space of time.

In outcome 1: *Active and healthy-physical and mental wellbeing* - promoting youth wellbeing and services to respond to youth mental health issues is consistently an area of concern as identified by youth and adults. Anxiety is a concern at both primary and secondary school age and this is reflected in those who attend mental health services and in local family and youth services. While this plan focuses mainly on youth mental health initiatives, it is intended to introduce some infant mental health initiatives as it is widely recognised by those who engaged in the consultation phase that this time for families is crucial for better outcomes for children and parents.

In outcome 2: *Achieving full potential in learning and development* - there is a strong childcare and preschool sector engaged in early learning and supporting development. In this plan, the focus of work under this outcome is trying to provide community supports for children and young people with disabilities and their families. Given the problems in accessing therapeutic interventions for those awaiting a diagnosis etc. there is huge concern, worry and frustration in families and this is also evident in the school system where the pressures can be compounded due to the gap in early intervention. As this is a very complex area of concern in Laois Offaly, the CYPSC has decided to focus on the community supports aspect for now and foster better support systems going forward with other stakeholders.

In outcome 3: *Safe and protected from harm* - this is a very broad area with many cross-cutting themes with other outcome areas. For the purpose of this three year plan the focus is on community wellness in targeted areas, support for new communities through the Direct Provision Centres that are a feature of Laois Offaly and supporting the Domestic Violence and Regional Rape Crisis Centre through a collaborative education and awareness programme on healthy relationships.

In outcome 4: *Economic security and opportunity* - there are significant programmes in place across the two counties to support transitions and those at risk of early school leaving. Young Carers is a specific group that has been identified for support under this outcome area.

In outcome 5: *Connected, respected and contributing to their world* - child and youth consultation is at the core of this work. This outcome area allows us to engage with children and young people for their input and feedback in moulding the plan. The biggest issue to be addressed in this area is Gardai relationships and young people. Along with this is the interest that children and young people have in caring for their environment and supporting inclusiveness.

Through the course of formalising the CYPSC subgroups and CYPSC committee meetings, it is evident that there is a strong commitment to work together on collaborative initiatives across all outcome areas. The level of experience, knowledge and initiatives across professionals and volunteers working in Laois and Offaly is a real asset to the work of the CYPSC. This plan must now capitalise on its greatest assets to progress areas of support for children, young people and families by strengthening the infrastructure and services for this population.

Section 1: Introduction

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

CYPSC work towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland as per Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (BOBF) and Shared Vision Next Steps 2019-2024, DCEDIY.

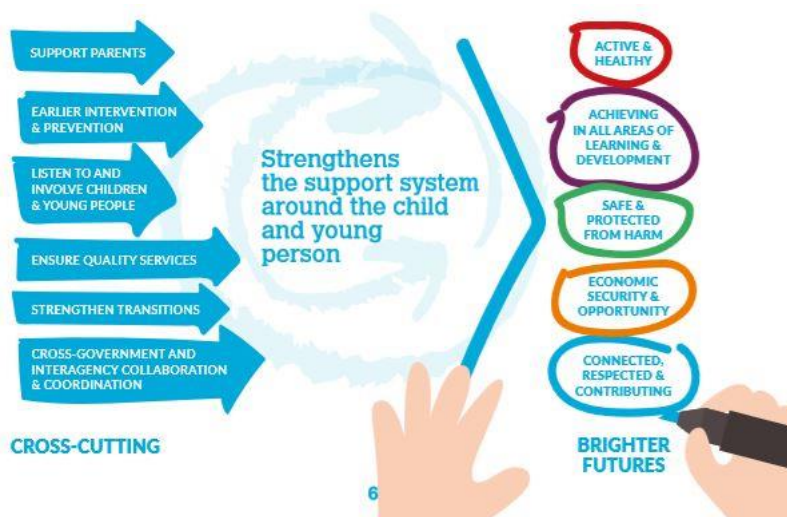


Figure 1 (below) indicates the governance structure for CYPSC including the relationship between the CYPSC Children and Young People’s Plans and the LCDC Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP).

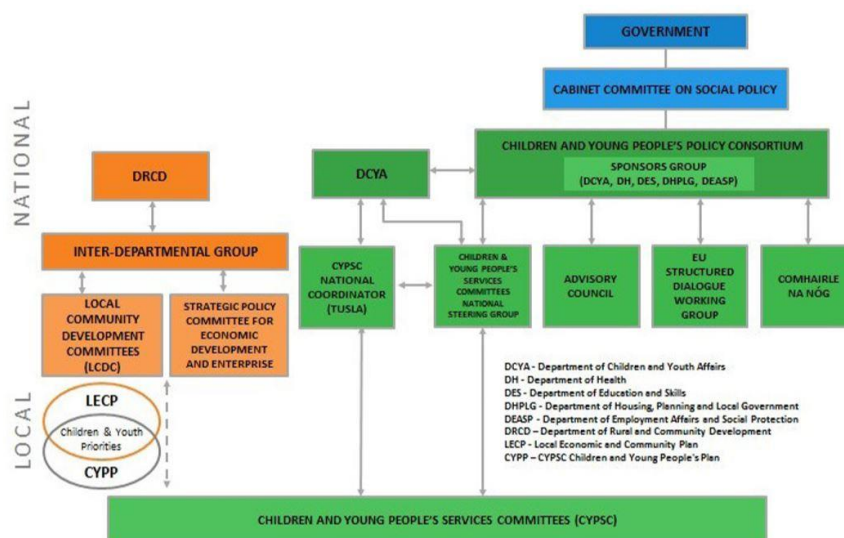


Figure 1 – Governance structure for CYPSC.

Since the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC), CYPSC and LCDC relationships have developed. The Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) – Children & Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSC) Guidance Document (2016) describes how LCDCs and CYPSCs should work together and sets out how engagement between the structures should be progressed.

For example, in 2018 CYPSCs and LCDCs in the Midlands demonstrated leadership by agreeing a common agenda to positively impact upon youth mental health across our communities. The Healthy

Ireland (HI) funds were used to take the lessons learnt from previous work to develop an implementation structure capable of scaling up PAX Good Behaviour Games (PAX GBG) in the Midlands. The PAX GBG is a set of strategies developed by the Paxis Institute that has been vetted through more than 40 years of research to be effective in supporting the social-emotional learning of students. In an era when investing in positive youth mental health is seen as essential for future societal and economic benefits. The results being generated by PAX GBG nationally and internationally indicate that there is a strong case for scaling up this programme so that all children and teachers in the Midlands can experience its positive benefits.

Background to Children and Young People’s Services Committees

Children and Young People’s Services Committees in Ireland

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

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

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

Children and Young People’s Services Committee in Laois and Offaly

The first committee meeting of the Laois Offaly CYPSC took place in April 2017. Laois Offaly CYPSC was part of Phase 6 of the rollout of CYPSCs nationally. Members were invited on to the committee as per the DCEDIY *Blueprint for the development of Children and Young People’s Services Committees June 2015*.

In June 2017 an initial Committee Planning Session was facilitated by Rita Burtenshaw. Eleven services were represented at this planning session whereby those in attendance identified a number of key priority areas. These key priority areas formed the skeleton of the CYPSC Action Plan. Further in-depth consultations, data gathering and analysis and thorough subgroup activity from May 2019 to date have helped realise this plan and its priorities.

In 2018 the Exodia research company carried out a socio demographic profiling of Laois Offaly concentrating on data to reflect outcome areas of the CYPSC e.g. ethnicity, population trends, areas of deprivation etc.

The CYPSC Co-ordinator was in place from April 2017 to November 2018. A new Co-ordinator then took over the role in May 2019.

Who we are

	Organisation	Name	Position
1	TUSLA	Annette Maguire	Area Manager
2	TUSLA	Steve Wrenn	PPFS Manager
3	Laois County Council	Carmel Mc Nichol	Senior Executive Officer
4	Offaly County Council	Ann Dillon	Senior Executive Officer
6	HSE Health Promotion	Josephine Rigney	Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention
7	HSE	Vacant	
8	An Garda Síochána	Karen Reilly	Sergeant
9	ETB	Linda Tynan	Director of Schools
10	Laois County Childcare Committee	Muriel Dempsey	Manager
11	Offaly County Childcare Committee	Aine Brummell	Manager
12	Youth Work Ireland Laois	Clive Davis	Regional Director
13	Youth Work Ireland Midlands	Geraldine Lacey	Regional Director
14	Barnardos	Clare Deane	Assistant Director
15	Foróige	Colin McAree	Regional Director
16	Primary Schools IPPN	Bridget Clear	Principal
17	Post-primary Schools NAPD	Brian Kehoe	Principal
18	Offaly LDC	Donna Quinn	Finance Manager
19	Laois Partnership	Catherine Cowap	Acting CEO
20	Educational Welfare Services Tusla	Bernadette Mohan	
19	Probation Services	Pauline Downey	
20	Department of Social Protection	Vacant	
21	Family Resource Centres	Liz Fleming	Co-Ordinator
22	NEPS	Vacant	

How we work

The CYPSC Committee meets six times a year.

The work of the CYPSC is carried out across five subgroups that are guided by the national outcomes and aims outlined in Better Outcomes Brighter Futures.

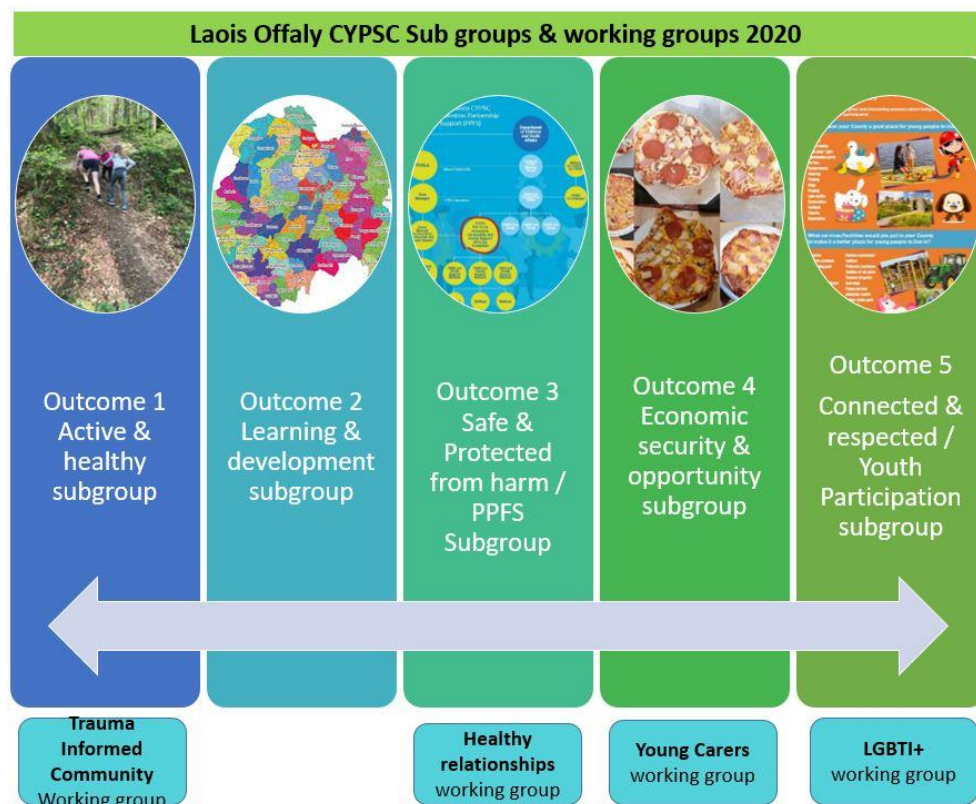
The subgroups meet five to six times per year depending on the work programme and is chaired by a member of the CYPSC Committee to allow for two-way feedback from the CYPSC committee to each subgroup. (See appendix A for a list of members of each subgroup.)

Table 1 Laois Offaly CYPSC Subgroups set up

BOBF Outcome area	Subgroup topic	Name of subgroup	Details
Outcome 1:	Active and healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing	Active & healthy subgroup	Set up 2019
Outcome 2:	Achieving full potential in Learning and Development	Learning & development subgroup	Set up 2019
Outcome 3:	Safe and Protected from Harm	PPFS subgroup	Set up 2018 Re-est. 2019
Outcome 4:	Economic Security and Opportunity	Transitions subgroup	To be established
Outcome 5:	Connected, Respected and Contributing	Youth participation subgroup	Set up 2019
	Transformational Goals	Communications research & development	2017-2018 Re-est. 2020

Aligned to each subgroup are a number of working groups as per figure 2 below. These working groups have emerged to respond to key topic areas for development in Laois Offaly over the lifetime of this plan that could not be realised within the broad parameters of each subgroup and require specialist focus. It is hoped that these working groups will add to the overall goals of each subgroup and have a lasting impact on service delivery and supports in the future.

Figure 2 - Working groups linked to each CYPSC subgroup.



There is great commitment and interest in each of the subgroups as reflected in the table below, which captures the range of services that are actively involved in CYPSC subgroups.

Table 2 - Services represented on Laois Offaly CYPSC.

Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee services represented on subgroups				
Laois County Council	Jigsaw Laois Offaly	TUSLA	Laois Offaly Families For Autism	Offaly Traveller Movement
Offaly County Council	Laois Offaly ETB	Barnardos	Inclusion Ireland	Laois Traveller Action Group
Laois County Childcare Committee	Irish Primary Principals Network	Laois Partnership	Laois Library Service	Edenderry Youth Café/ Acorn Project
Offaly County Childcare Committee	Post Primary Schools NAPD	Offaly Local Development Company	Offaly Library Service	Sub Project Birr
HSE Health Promotion	Foroige	Portlaoise Community & FRC	Parents First Laois Offaly	Laois Comhairle na nÓg
HSE Suicide Prevention	Youth Work Ireland Midlands	Mountmellick Youth & FRC	Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service	Offaly Comhairle na nÓg
HSE Primary Care Psychology	Youth Work Ireland Laois	Clara Community & FRC	Laois Domestic Abuse Service	
HSE CAMHS & YAMHS	An Garda Siochana	Tullamore Community & FRC	Regional Rape Crisis Centre Tullamore	
HSE CADS & MYDAS	Probation Services	Laois Sports Partnership	Offaly Sports Partnership	

Achievements to date

Activity
Supported the set-up of two new LGBTI+ groups set up in Edenderry and Tullamore via CYPSC partners collaboration and DCEDIY funding in 2019 and 2020.
Round 3 funding from Healthy Ireland has allowed 18 partners to work together under the CYPSC umbrella to support existing initiatives, embed good practice across the two counties and support the children, young people and families we serve as a collaboration of agencies working for better outcomes for all concerned. Laois Offaly CYPSC were supported by Laois and Offaly LCDCs with funding from their Community Engagement Healthy Ireland budgets in 2020.
<p>Healthy Ireland Natural Outdoor Play Programme (HI round 2 funding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of this programme was to support Early Years Services (EYS) to incorporate natural outdoor play and physical activity into their daily curriculum. Funding was available for 16 EYSs, eight in each county. Mentoring was provided from Laois & Offaly County Childcare Committee (CCCs) to participating services to develop their outdoor environment to promote daily opportunities for children to engage in age appropriate adventurous outdoor play. Five support visits were carried out with each individual EYS to enable them to overcome challenges and gain confidence in implementing strategies that promoted natural outdoor play and to link their practice to both Aistear and Síolta. Benefits to the EYSs included support in re-organising their outdoor area to allow for free flow, natural outdoor play to be extended. Wet gear was provided and some outdoor equipment of choice to meet the needs of the service. This equipment will have a long-term benefit to the service. Benefits to the children participating in this programme included supporting their cognitive, social and emotional development through outdoor play and improved childhood health and wellbeing through natural outdoor play and physical activity.

Implementation of PAX Good Behaviour Games in the Midlands (HI round 1 Funding)

In 2018 CYPSCs and LCDCs in the Midlands demonstrated leadership by agreeing a common agenda, to positively impact upon youth mental health across our communities. These funds were used to take the lessons learnt from previous work to develop an implementation structure capable of scaling up PAX GBG in the Midlands.

These funds have allowed for the first time in Ireland. Three Midlands teachers were accredited by the PAXIS Institute as PAX GBG trainers. Forty teachers from across the four Midlands counties were trained in PAX GBG resulting in 1,000 pupils routinely exposed to PAX GBG.

CYPSC Seed Funding 2017-2019 from DCEDIY

	Service	Project	Amount	Outcome under BOBF
2017	Predevelopment supports	Socio demographic Profile, CYPSC Start-up costs	€5,176.90	Transformational goals
2018	Predevelopment supports	Mapping tool, administration	€20,000.	Transformational goals
2019	Youth Work Ireland	Youth participation – follow up and feedback re. CYPSC plan	€5,450.00	Connected and respected
2019	Laois & Offaly Family Resource Centres	Family wellness Programme	€12,000.	Safe & protected from harm
2019	OLDC	Outdoor materials- for targeted community project	€3,600.00	Active and healthy
2019	OLDC	Equine Assisted Learning	€5,000.	Learning and development
2019	MakePort Makerspace	Summer Camps- non sport focused	€1,9500.	Economic security & opportunity

Healthy Ireland Funding

Funding	Project	Total amount
Round 1	PAX Good Behaviour Games for Schools	€ 38,000
Round 2	Outdoor Play equipment	€40,000
Round 3 (2019-2021)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community supports for disabilities. 2. Developing a trauma informed community across CYPSC stakeholders/partners. 3. Support for a part-time LGBTI+ worker across the two counties. 4. Support for children in direct provision centres. 5. Flourishing families wellness programme across the four Family Resource Centres in the area. 	€128,050

How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

Year	Process	Stakeholders Consulted	Outputs
2017	Independent facilitated session	CYPSC Committee	CYPSC Identified initial priority areas for the plan under the 5 outcomes of BOBF
2018	Identify the Services to Children and Families in Laois Offaly	Service providers	Listing of services- Identification of services and resource provision
2018/2019	Children and Young Person's Consultation	Refer to report https://bit.ly/30LtcC6	Key areas under the 5 outcomes were identified by the consultation and reflected in the plan
2018	Area Commissioning Plan Consultation & Research consultants	Two stakeholder consultation events	Area commissioning plan and Exodia socio demographic profile
2019	Data gathering, Statistical analysis, socio economic-demographic profile of Laois Offaly CYPSC area. and discussion at subgroup meetings	Co-ordinator and subgroups	Desktop review of services and resources available. Needs and gaps identified
2019/2020	1:1 Interviews carried out by the CYPSC Co-ordinator	Over 50 1:1s with frontline staff from community, voluntary and statutory service providers	Further insights to emerging issues to be considered in the plan
Oct. 2019	First draft of Children and Young People's Plan consultation meetings	Updates at subgroups and presentations at CYPSC Committee meetings	Engaged services in consultation with draft plan. Reviewed comments and incorporated suggestions
Autumn 2019- Spring 2020	Focus groups	Public Health Nursing Team Laois (See appendix P) & Family Support Workers Laois Offaly (See appendix Q)	Consistency of emerging issues explored
2019 Spring 2020	Set up of subgroup meetings	Subgroup members (See table 2)	Subgroup action plans for each outcome area
May 2020	Children and Young People's report finalised	CYPSC Committee	Children & YP Consultation report signed off by CYPSC Committee
July 2020	Presented CYPSC draft plan and 2 nd draft to CYPSC Committee	CYPSC Committee	Draft plan

Section 2: Socio demographic profile of Laois Offaly

A. Table 3 CYPSC Indicator data

Indicator	Measure – Provide for CYPSC area and National Comparator	Laois	Offaly	State	Source
Child and youth population	The number of children and young people under 25 (0-24)	30,247 35.71%	27,085 34.74%	1,583,004	Census 2016
Child population	The number of children under 18 (0-17)	24,264 28.6%	21,127 27.1 %	1,190,502 25%	Census 2016
Young adult population	The number of young people aged 18 – 24	4,107 4.84%	3,948 5.06%	392,502	Census 2016
Infant mortality*	The number of deaths among infants	1.7	2.0	3.3 (2016)	CHO 2018 Indicators
Child mortality	The proportion of deaths among children under 18	1.6	2.8	2.4 (2016)	CHO 2018 Indicators
Ethnicity	The percentage of children and young people by ethnicity or cultural background	17.9%	14.3%	17% (2016)	CSO StatBank / Profile 8 - Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion / E8001
Non-Irish national children and young people	The number of non-Irish national children and young people	5000	3379	155,976	CSO StatBank / Profile 8 - Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion / E8001
Family structure	The number and percentage of children under 18 who live in family household units with only one parent or primary care-giver resident	18.1 Rate	19.2 Rate	19.9 Rate	HP Dep Index 2016
Parental education level	The percentage of children under 18 whose mother has attained (a) primary, (b) lower secondary, (c) upper secondary or (d) third-level education	(a) 897 (b) 2,830 (c) 9,375 (d) 6,356 Non – stated 541 TOTAL: 19,999	(a)1,091 (b)3,097 (c) 8,355 (d) 5,501 Non-stated 446 TOTAL: 18,490	(a) 48,040 (b) 141,329 (c) 416,407 (d) 364,299 Non –stated 23,590 TOTAL: 993,665	DCEDIY: State of the Nation’s Children 2016
Traveller children and young people	The number of Traveller children and young people 0-24 years	468	479	18,018	CSO StatBank / Profile 8 - Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion / E8001
Separated children seeking asylum	Living in Direct Provision	74	3	2054	Direct Provision Figures IPAS April 2020
Children and young people with a disability	The number of children with a disability	58 (P& S) 68 (I)	68 (P&S) 95 (I)	66,437	State of the Nation’s Children report 2015 O4C
Youth dependency ratio (those of 15 to 64 years of age)	the number of young people of 0-14 years of age as a % of the population of working age	38.3% ratio	35.7% ratio	32%	37.4 % over 2 Counties Census 2016

*Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births, classified by area of residence of mother. Infant and neonatal mortality rates in some areas, based on small numbers are subject to considerable fluctuation and caution should be exercised in their interpretation.

Figure 3 - Statistical Yearbook of Laois 2019

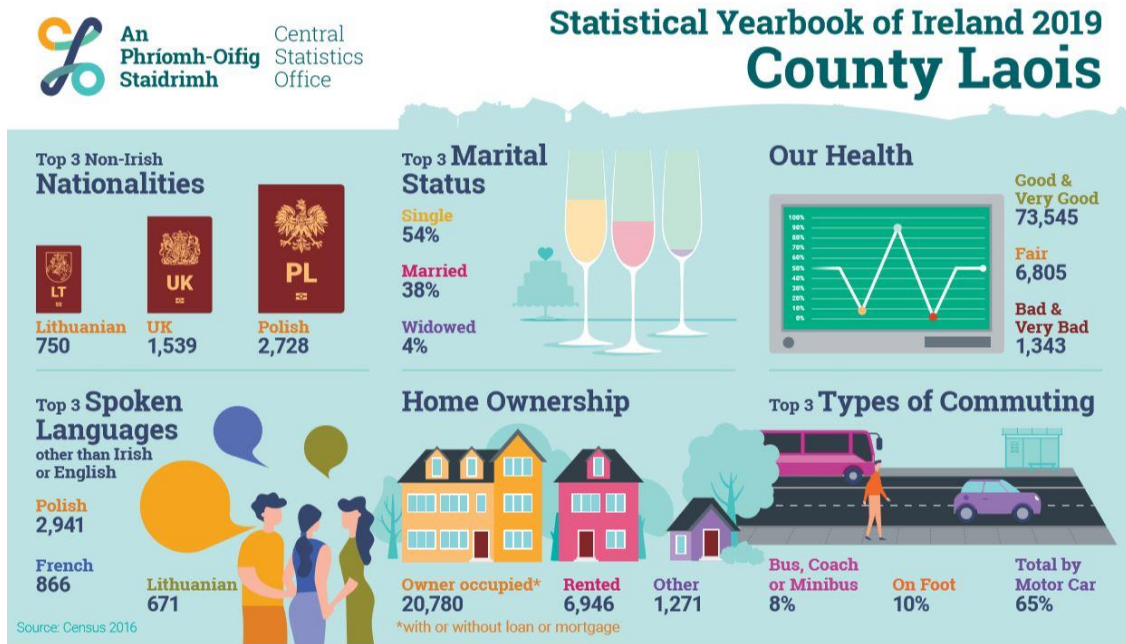
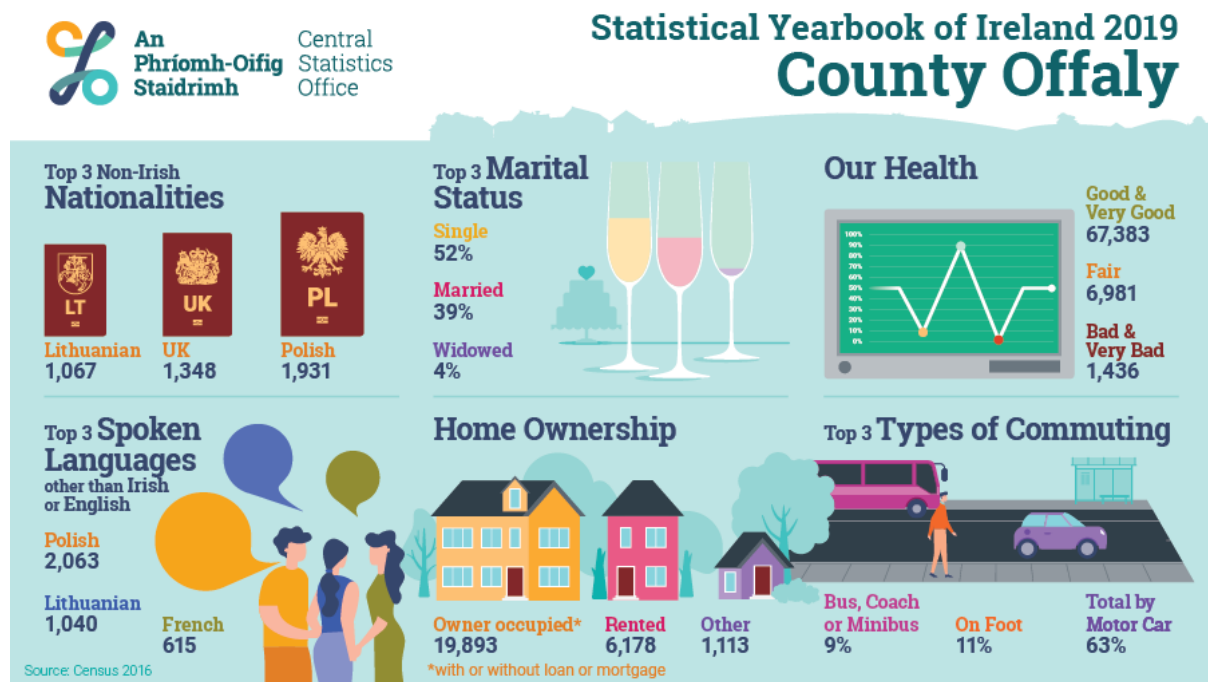


Figure 4 - Statistical Yearbook of Offaly 2019



At a glance Laois and Offaly present with some very similar socio demographic profiles as reflected in the tables above.

B. Table 4 Population demographics overview

LAOIS	What's in a county?	OFFALY
84,697	Total Population	77,961
3,672	Registered births 2017-2019	2,886
30,247	0-24 years	27,085
18,235	0-12 years	15,364
3223 F 3421 M	Under 4s	2766 F 2865 M
63	No. of Primary Schools	68
5	Primary DEIS Schools	13
2	Secondary DEIS Schools	3
10	No. of Secondary Schools	11
85	No. of Childcare services	71
Jack & Emily	2018 Most popular baby names	Conor & Grace

Source: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

The population of the total CYPSC area of Laois and Offaly at the time of the 2016 Census was 162,658.

Figure 5 - Laois Key Statistics

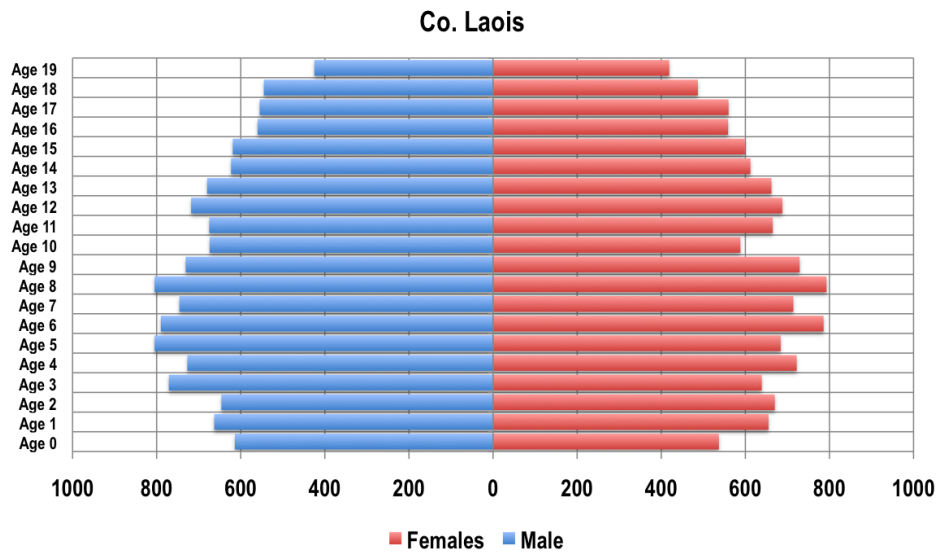
LAOIS – Key Stats. from Census 2016



C. Age & family

Population Pyramids by Gender Age 0-19

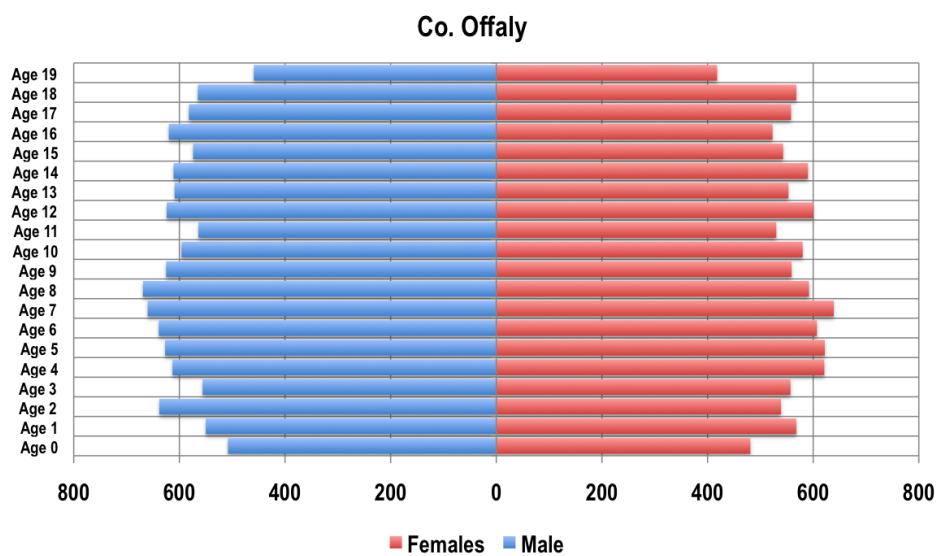
Figure 6 - Population Pyramid Co. Laois 2016



Eight year olds represent the largest age cohort (5.2% of all under 24s) followed closely by six year olds, these children are now aged 12 and 10 respectively highlighting the need for young teen services in Laois.

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Figure 7 - Population Pyramid Co. Offaly 2016



Seven year olds (4.8% of all under 24s) represent the largest age cohort followed by five year olds (4.6%), these children are now aged 11 and 9 respectively highlighting the need for pre-teen and teenage services in Offaly.

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Table 5 - Age profile of population Laois & Offaly

Age range	Laois	% of total population	Offaly	% of total population
0-24	30,247	36	27,085	35
0-4	6,644	8	5,631	7
5-9	7,583	9	6,239	8
10-14	6,585	8	5,857	8
15-19	5,328	6	5,410	7
20-24	4,107	5	3,948	5

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

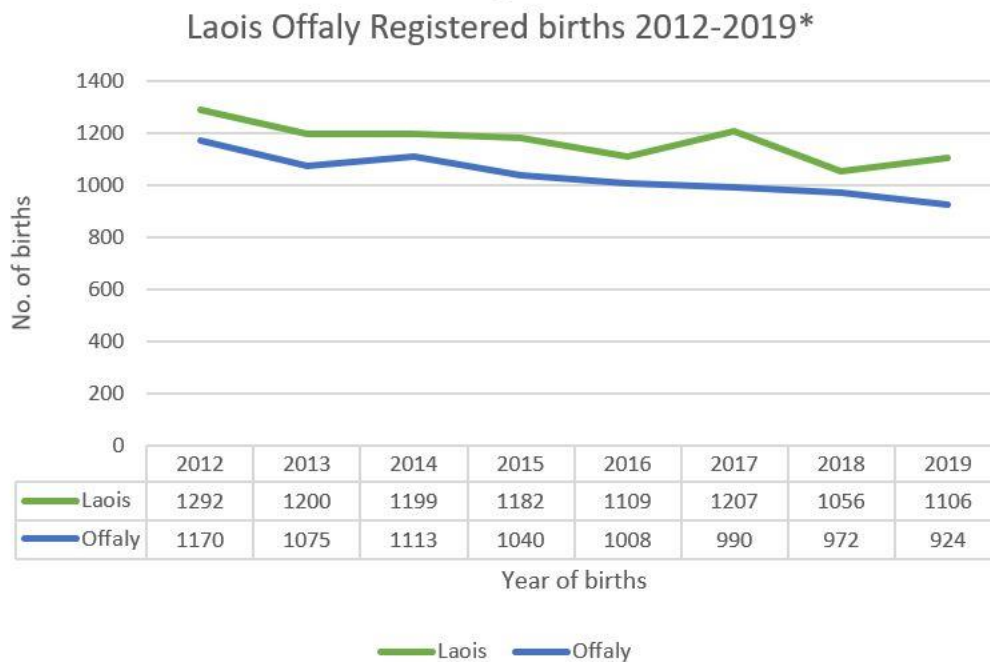
Both counties have similar age cohorts for the 0-24 year olds relative to their population size.

Population & families - what does family look like in Laois /Offaly?

- Birth rate
- Young dependency ratio
- Family structure
- Age of youngest child
- Lone parent ratio

Birth Rate Trend

Figure 8 - Laois Offaly registered births 2012-2019



*2017-2019 Birth figures are provisional

Source: CSO StatBank/Births Registered / VSQ12 <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

Youth Dependency Ratio

The youth dependency ratio is the number of young people of 0-14 years of age as a percentage age of the population of working age. The working age population is defined as those of 15 to 64 years of age.

- In 2016, the LO CYPSC area had a total population of 38,539 of 0-14 years of age.
- In 2016, the total working age population of 15 to 64 years of age in the Laois Offaly CYPSC area was 103,920.
- In 2016 the young dependency ratio in the Laois Offaly CYPSC area was 37.08%.
- By comparison, Meath had the highest young dependency ratio at 39%, followed by Laois at 38.3%.
- At other end of the spectrum Cork City (20.4%), Dublin City (20.9%), Galway City (23.4%) and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (27.9%) all had the lowest young dependency ratios.

Table 6 - Youth dependency rate Laois

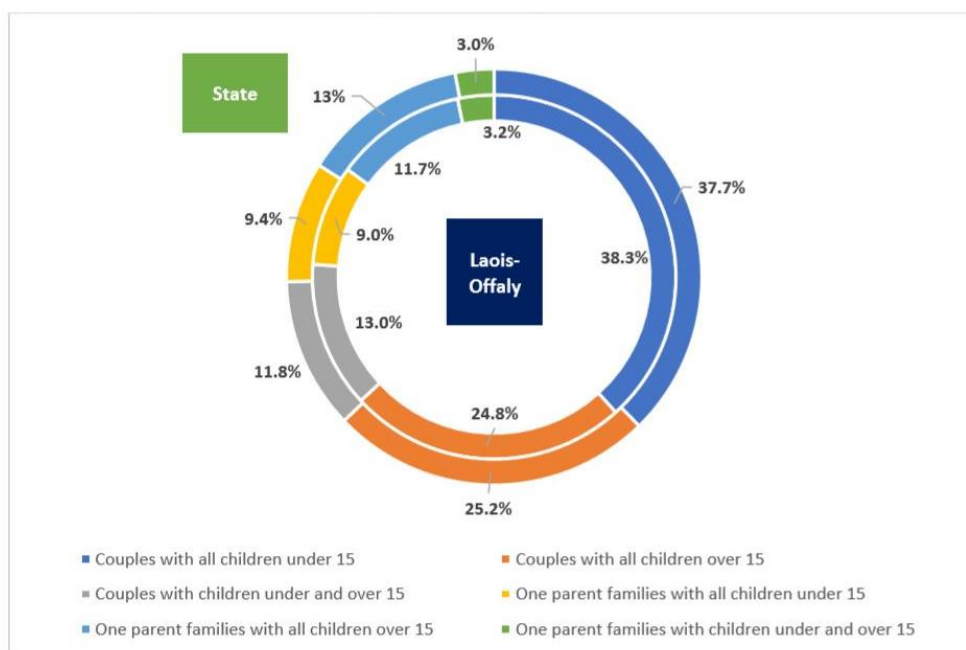
ED's	Rate	No. of persons 0-14
Portlaoise	38% youth dep rate	5,608
Portarlington	44% youth dep rate	2,322
Mountmellick Urban	6%	
Dangans	33%	541
Ballyinan	28%	408
Abbeyleix	21%	593
Mountrath	23%	540

Family type

- There are 29,028 families with children in Laois-Offaly.
- 22,093 (76.1%) of these families were couples with children and 6,935 (23.9%) were one parent families.
- Figure 9 below shows the proportion of family types with children (under and over 15) in 2016 for Laois Offaly and compared nationally.
- In the constituency, there are less one parent families with children over 15 than nationally (11.7% compared to 13%) and more couples with children under and over 15 than nationally (13% compared to 11.8%).

Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

Figure 9 - Family units with children, by type of family and age

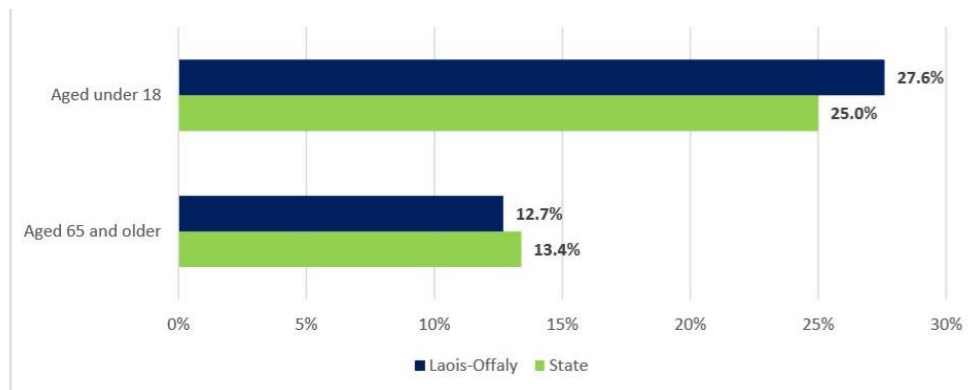


There are more couples in Laois Offaly with children under and over 15 than nationally (13% compared to 11.8%).

There are more couples in Laois Offaly with children under 15 than nationally (38.3% compared to 37.7%).

Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

Figure 10 - Population under 18 and 65 or older in Laois-Offaly compared to the state



Laois-Offaly, 27.6% of population was aged under 18 and 12.7% were aged 65 or older in 2016. The corresponding national measures were 25% aged under 18 and 13.4% aged 65 or older.

Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

Family Structure

In 2016 there were 42,835 families in the LO CYPSC area, with 3,109 (7.26%) families at pre-family stage, with 4,204 (9.81%) at pre-school stage, and 5,445 (12.71%) at early school stage.

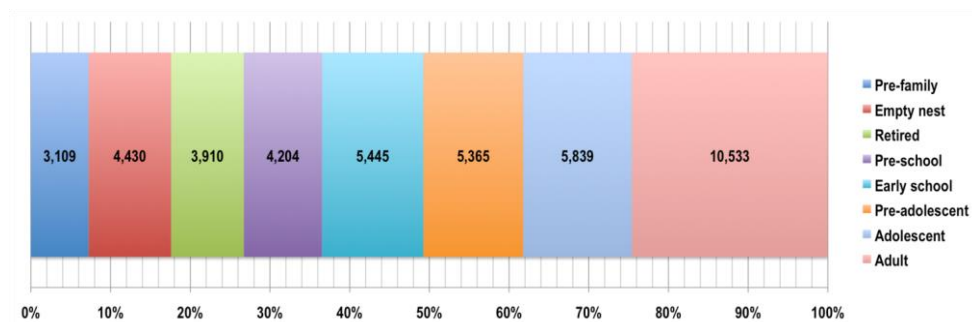
Table 7 - Families by Family Cycle 2016

	Pre-family	Empty nest	Retired	Pre-school	Early school	Pre-adolescent	Adolescent	Adult	Total
LO CYPSC Area Population	3,109	4,430	3,910	4,204	5,445	5,365	5,839	10,533	42,835
LO CYPSC Area %	7.26	10.34	9.13	9.81	12.71	12.52	13.63	24.59	100.00

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Almost half of all families (48.6%) are from pre-school to adolescent.

Figure 11 - Families by Family Cycle 2016



Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Table 8 - Families by Age of Youngest Child 2016

	Families with youngest child aged 0 - 4	Families with youngest child aged 5 - 9	Families with youngest child aged 10 - 14	Families with youngest child aged 15 - 19	Families with youngest child aged 20 and over	Total
LO CYPSC Area Population	9,215	6,184	4,695	3,984	7,308	31,386
LO CYPSC Area %	29.36	19.70	14.96	12.69	23.28	100.00

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Where are our lone parents?

Table 9 - Laois Offaly ED's by LONE PARENT RATE >20

LAOIS		OFFALY	
ED_Name	LONEPA16	ED_Name	LONEPA16
CASTLETOWN	28.3	CLARA	30.1
CLONASLEE	26.1	TULLAMORE URBAN	27.5
RATHDOWNEY	25.9	TEMPLEHARRY	26.9
MOUNTRATH	25.8	O'DEMPSEY	26.1
STRADBALLY	25.5	BIRR URBAN	25.6
BORRIS-IN-OSSORY	24.8	SHINRONE	25.5
PORTLAOIGHISE (MARYBOROUGH) URBAN	24.3	BALLYCUMBER	24.8
ABBEYLEIX	23.9	PORTARLINGTON NORTH	24.3
DANGANS (Mountmellick/Emo)	23.8	GORTEEN	24.1
GRAIGUE RURAL (Carlow)	23.6	KILCORMAC	24.1
MARYMOUNT	23.5	DAINGEAN	23.8
BORRIS (Portlaoise)	23.0	SRAH	23.2
MOUNTMELLICK URBAN	22.4	CLOGHAN	22.7
PORTARLINGTON SOUTH	22.0	LUMCLOON	22.6
BALLYLYNAN (Stradbally / Carlow)	21.9	EDENDERRY URBAN	22.0
MEELICK	21.8	BIRR RURAL	21.7
CLONIN	21.7	LETTER	21.1
LACKA	21.4	RAHEENAKEERAN	20.5
PORTLAOIGHISE (MARYBOROUGH) RURAL	20.7	BALLYBURLY	20.1

Source: 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index: Haase, T. and Pratschke, J. (2017)

D. Urban/rural population

Population Density- Where are our U.24's living?

Table 10 – Areas of highest number of U 24's Laois

SAP Area	% pop U.24
Portlaoise (Maryborough Rural)	20 %
Portlaoise (Maryborough Urban)	4 %
Portarlington South	9 %
Graigie Rural	6%
Mountmellick Urban	3%
Mountmellick Rural	3%
Dangans	3%
Abbeyleix	3%

Source: SAPS Census 2016

❖ 24% of under-24s are living in Portlaoise.

Table 11 – Areas of highest number of under 24s Offaly

Tullamore Urban	13.5
Tullamore Rural	4.7
Edenderry Urban	9.8
Birr Urban	5.3
Clara	5.2
Portarlington North	3.1

Source: SAPS Census 2016

❖ 18.2 % of under 24s live in Tullamore.

Table 12 – Areas of highest number of population growth Laois 2011 and 2016 census

	2011	2016
Portarlington South	16.2	0.1
Borris	12.9	0.1
Portlaoise Maryborough (Urban)	2.7	0.1
Portlaoise Maryborough (rural)	1.1	0.1
Clondarrig	1.1	0.3

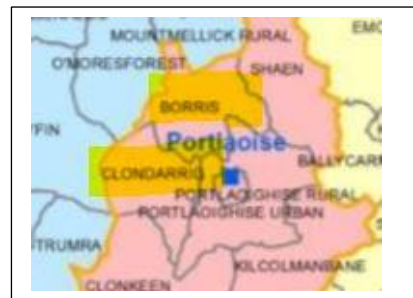


Table 13 – Areas of highest number of population growth Offaly 2011 and 2016 census

	2011	2016
Tullamore Rural	1.2	0.1
Portarlington North	0.9	XX
Edenderry Urban	.5	0.1
Templeharry	0.3	0.1

The EDs of Portarlington South (Laois) Portarlington North (Offaly) Ballybrittas in Laois, Clonygowan in Offaly are all linked to the town of Portarlington which emphasises further the significant population increase in this area.

Population Density

In 2016, the total population density for the State was 70 persons per sq. km. The most densely populated ED in the state at 23,860.4 persons per sq. km is Rotunda A, located in the Dublin City North CYPSC Area.

Table 24 - Most Densely Populated ED by County

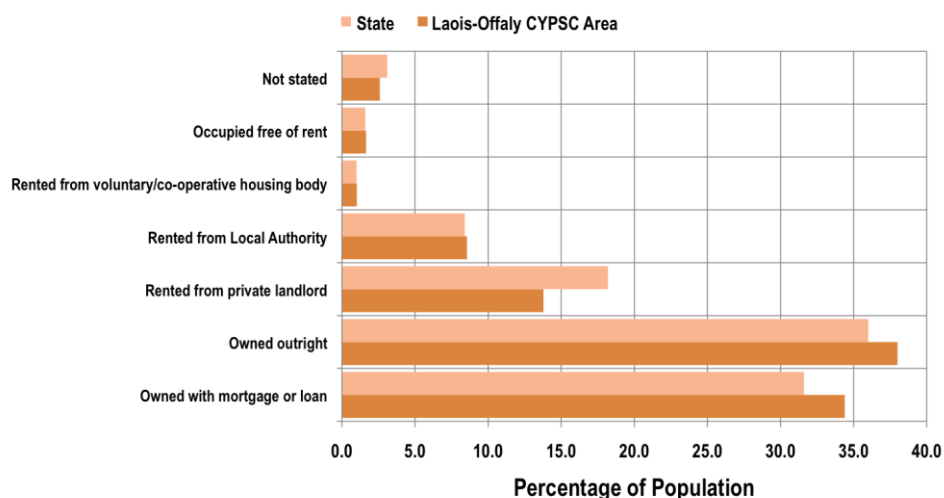
County	Most Densely Populated EDs	Population - 2016	Population Aged 0-24	Percentage Population Aged 0-24	Actual change 2011-2016	Percentage change 2011-2016	Population density (persons per sq. km)	Area (sq. km)
Co. Laois	Portlaoise (Maryborough) Urban	3,878	1,156	29.81	239	6.6	1908.3	2.03
	Mountmellick Urban	2,994	960	32.06	-4	-0.1	1333.5	2.25
Co. Offaly	Tullamore Urban	11,437	3,669	32.08	91	0.8	1476.7	7.75
	Edenderry Urban	7,001	2,650	37.85	511	7.9	905.3	7.73

Source: CSO StatBank/Profile 2 - Population Distribution and Movements/E2013

The two most densely populated EDs in Laois and Offaly are noted above: Portlaoise and Moutmellick Urban in Laois and Tullamore and Edenderry Urban in Offaly.

E. Households & Housing

Figure 12 - Comparative Housing Tenure 2016



Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

From the above it can be seen that, in 2016, a higher proportion of households in the LO CYPSC area were living in accommodation that was mortgaged or owned outright, than was the case in the state generally.

Social Housing

In 2016, a total of 572 households in the Laois Offaly CYPSC area was living in accommodation that was rented from a voluntary or co-operative housing body. This represents 1.02% of all households in the area and compares with 0.98% nationally.

Local Authority Housing

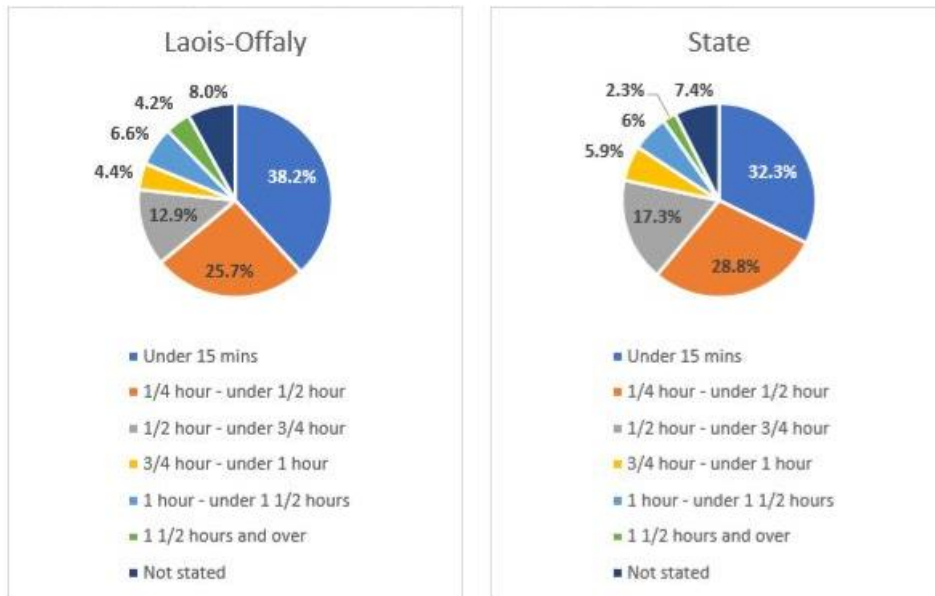
Of the 56,181 households in the LO CYPSC area in 2016, a total of 4,807 were rented from the local authority. This represents 8.56% of all households in the area and compares with 8.4% nationally.

Table 15 - Population aged five years and over by time leaving home to travel to work school or college

Offaly	Before 8 AM	21%
	Before 8.30	32%
Laois	Before 8 AM	22%
	Before 8.30	35%

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Figure 13 - Journey times to work/school/etc. in Laois- Offaly compared to the state as per census 2016



38.2 % of over 5s spent under 15 mins journey time to work/school in Laois Offaly which is significantly higher than state figure of 32.3%. However, for journey times 1 hour up and over 1 ½ hours, this figure is higher for Laois Offaly than the state figure.

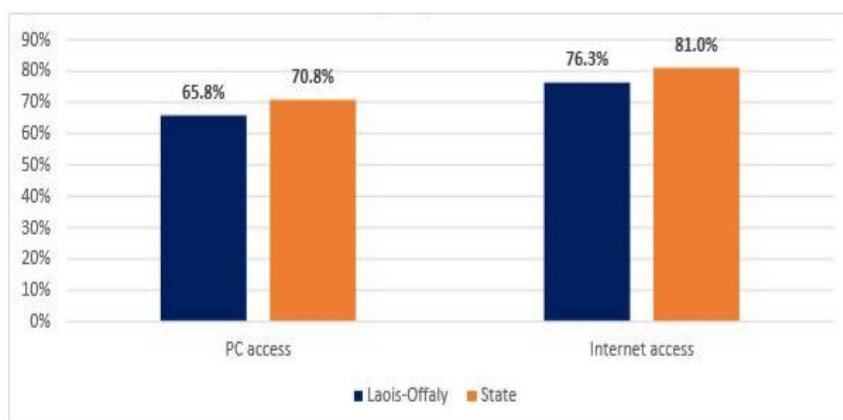
Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

Table 16 - Number of households with internet access as per census 2016

	Laois	Offaly
Broadband	18960	16412
Other	3209	3319
No	5977	6708
Not sated	851	745
Total	28997	27184

Figure 14 - PC and internet access in Laois-Offaly 2016 compared to the state

Laois Offaly has lower rates of PC access (65.8% compared to 70.8%) and internet access (76.3% compared to 81%) than households in the state overall.



In 2016 Census 25% of households in Offaly had no internet access while 20% in Laois had no household internet access. While it would be expected that this has decreased, significant digital poverty was noted during the Covid 19 pandemic across certain communities of young people in their homes.

Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

F. Nationality and ethnicity

Laois Integration Strategy 2019 Nationalities in Laois

At least 94 nationalities from around the world are represented in the Laois population, according to the 2016 Census. The 10 largest national groups represent 80% of the non-Irish population in Laois and include Polish, UK, Lithuanian, Latvian, Slovak, Romanian, Pakistani, Nigerian, Czech and German nationals. The remaining 20% of the non-Irish national population represent 83 nationalities.

Polish nationals represent the largest national group, comprising 32% of the non-Irish national population in Laois and over 3% of the total Laois population.

Figure 15 - Non-Irish Nationalities in Laois (Census 2016) Source: Laois Integration Strategy

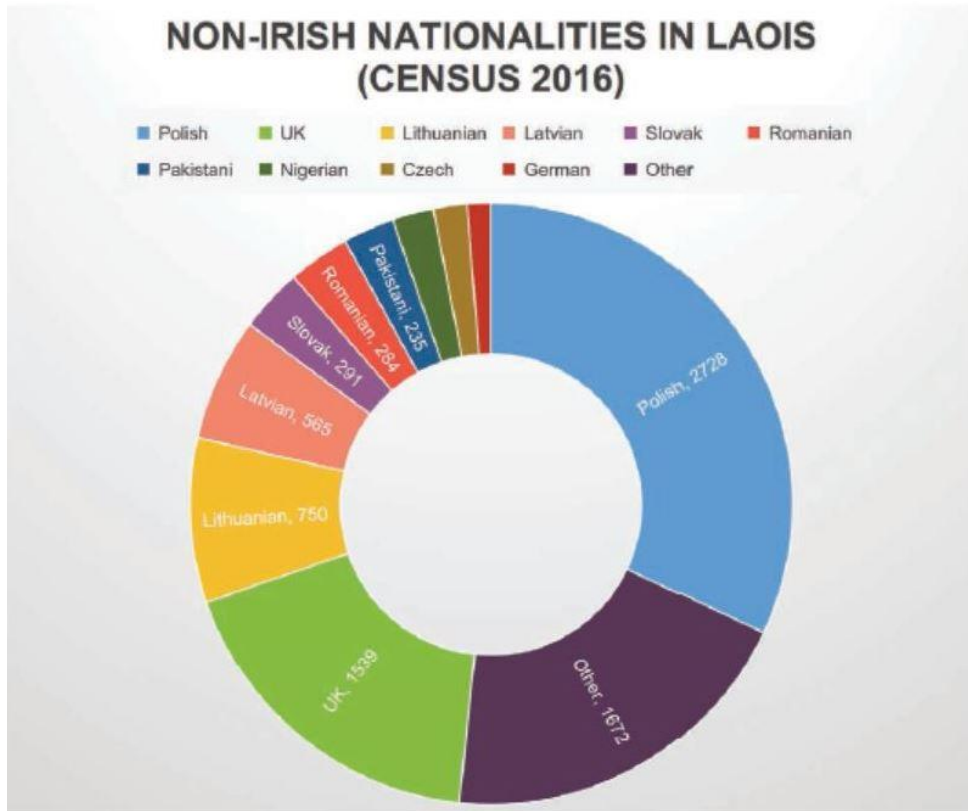
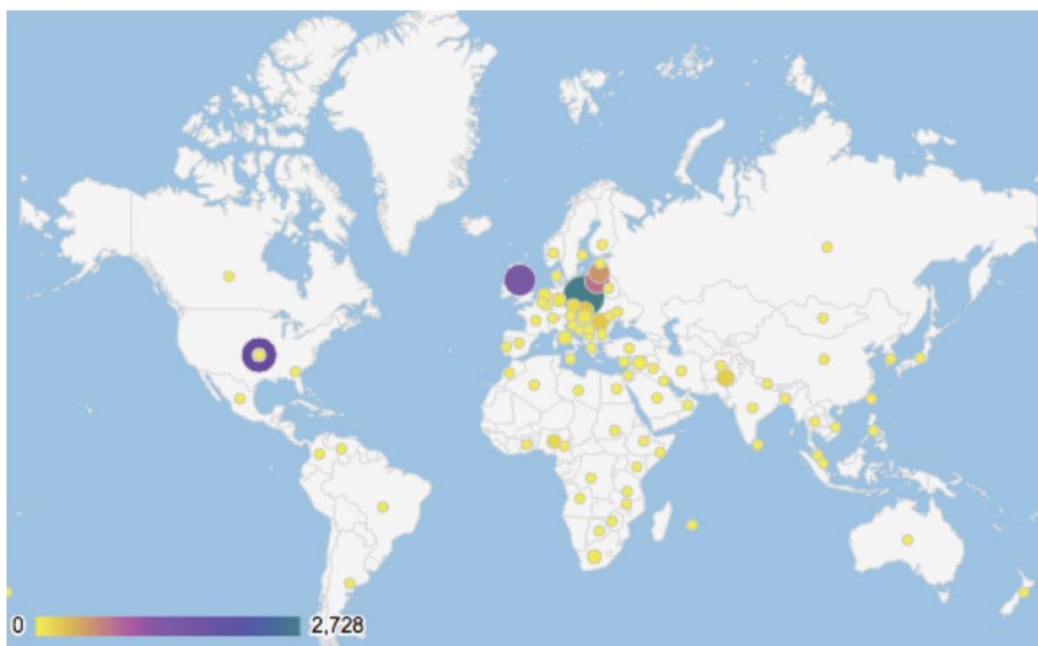


Figure 16 - World map of 94 nationalities in Laois Source: Laois Integration Strategy



Population distribution in Laois

People of non-Irish nationality are resident across County Laois, representing a small proportion of almost every town.

The largest concentration of people of non-Irish nationality is in Portlaoise, comprising 21% of the total Portlaoise population - a significantly higher proportion than the average for County Laois.

Source: Laois Integration Strategy

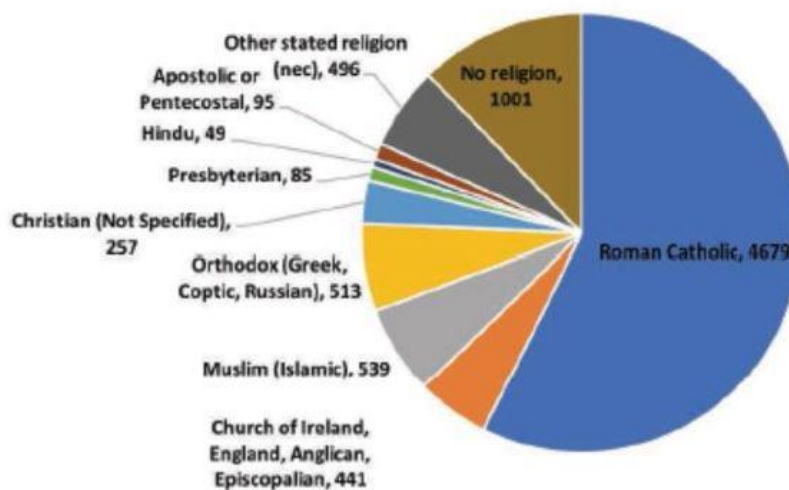
Religious Faith

More than 20 religious faiths are adhered to by people living in Laois. The majority of the population of Laois identify as Roman Catholic (82%). Almost 5,000 people stated that they have “no religion” in the 2016 Census and a further 3,000 people align to Church of Ireland, Church of England, Anglican or Episcopalian faiths.

In 2016, just over 500 people of non-Irish nationality indicated that they practice the Muslim faith. In total, more than 1,000 people of the Muslim faith lived in Laois, including people of Irish nationality.

Figure 17 - Religion of non-Irish Nationalities in Laois (Census 2016)

RELIGION OF NON-IRISH NATIONALS IN LAOIS (CENSUS 2016)



Source: Laois Integration Strategy

Figure 18 - Age group of non-Irish Nationals in Laois (Census 2016)

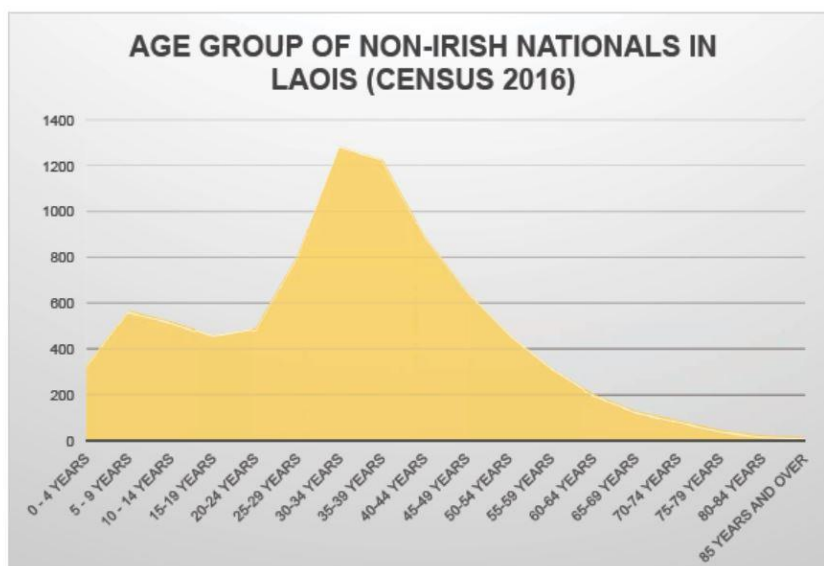
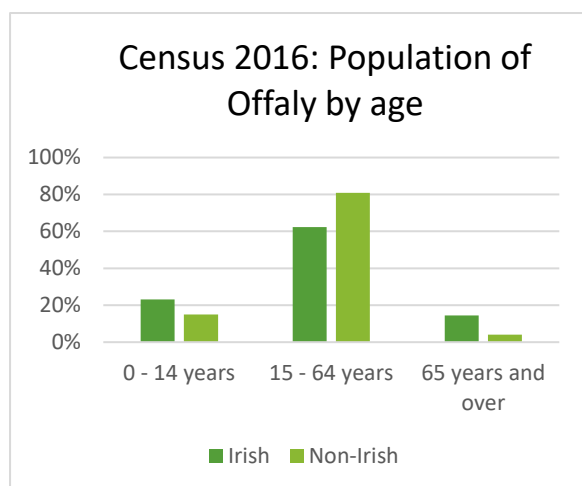


Figure 19 - Population of Offaly Irish/non-Irish by age



The age profile of migrants living in Offaly is different to the Irish population. In Offaly 80% of the non-Irish population are aged between 15 and 64 years. 62% of the Irish population fall within this age bracket. Likewise, 14% of Irish born people are 65 and over but only 4% of migrants are to be found in the same age group. The gap between non-Irish nationals and Irish is far less in the 0-14-year-old cohort.

Source: Offaly Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2024

Offaly has lower than the national average % of non-Irish nationals as per census 2016. The number of persons 6617 that identified as Non-Irish represents 8.5% of the total population.

Table 17 - Census 2016: Usually resident population by nationality Offaly v's state

		Non-Irish Population	Dual Nationals	Total usually resident population	% of non-Irish nationals
State	Persons	535,475	104,784	4,689,921	11.4%
	Male	267,088		2,320,460	
	Female	268,387		2,369,461	
Offaly	Persons	6,617	1,143	77,750	8.5%
	Male	3,386		38,660	
	Female	3,232		39,090	

Source: Offaly Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2024

Appendix J, K and L highlight the concentrations of non-Irish population in North Offaly, Mid Offaly and South Offaly respectively.

Who are the families and under 24s in Laois Offaly?

Figure 20 - Ethnicity of population of Laois Offaly census 2016

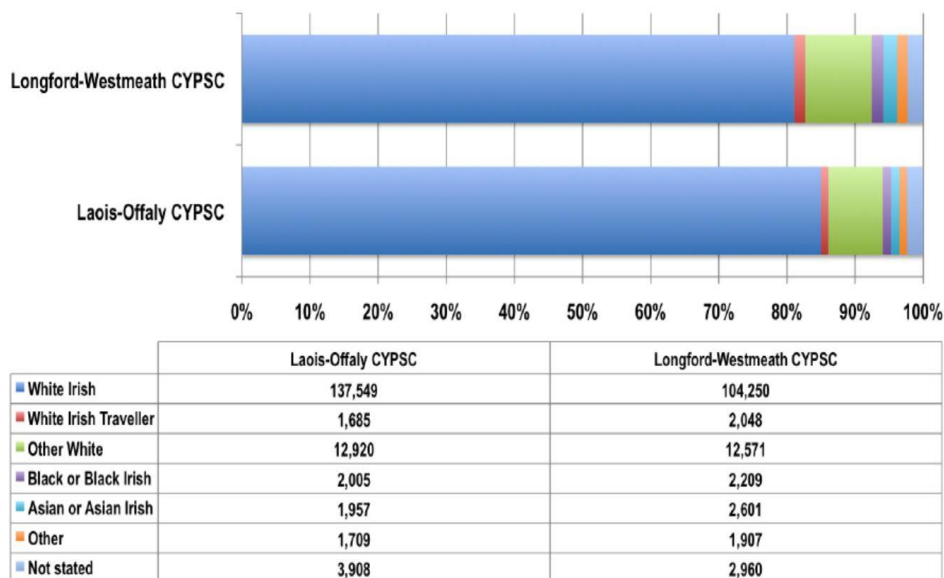


Table 18 - Ethnicity by Age Bands 2016

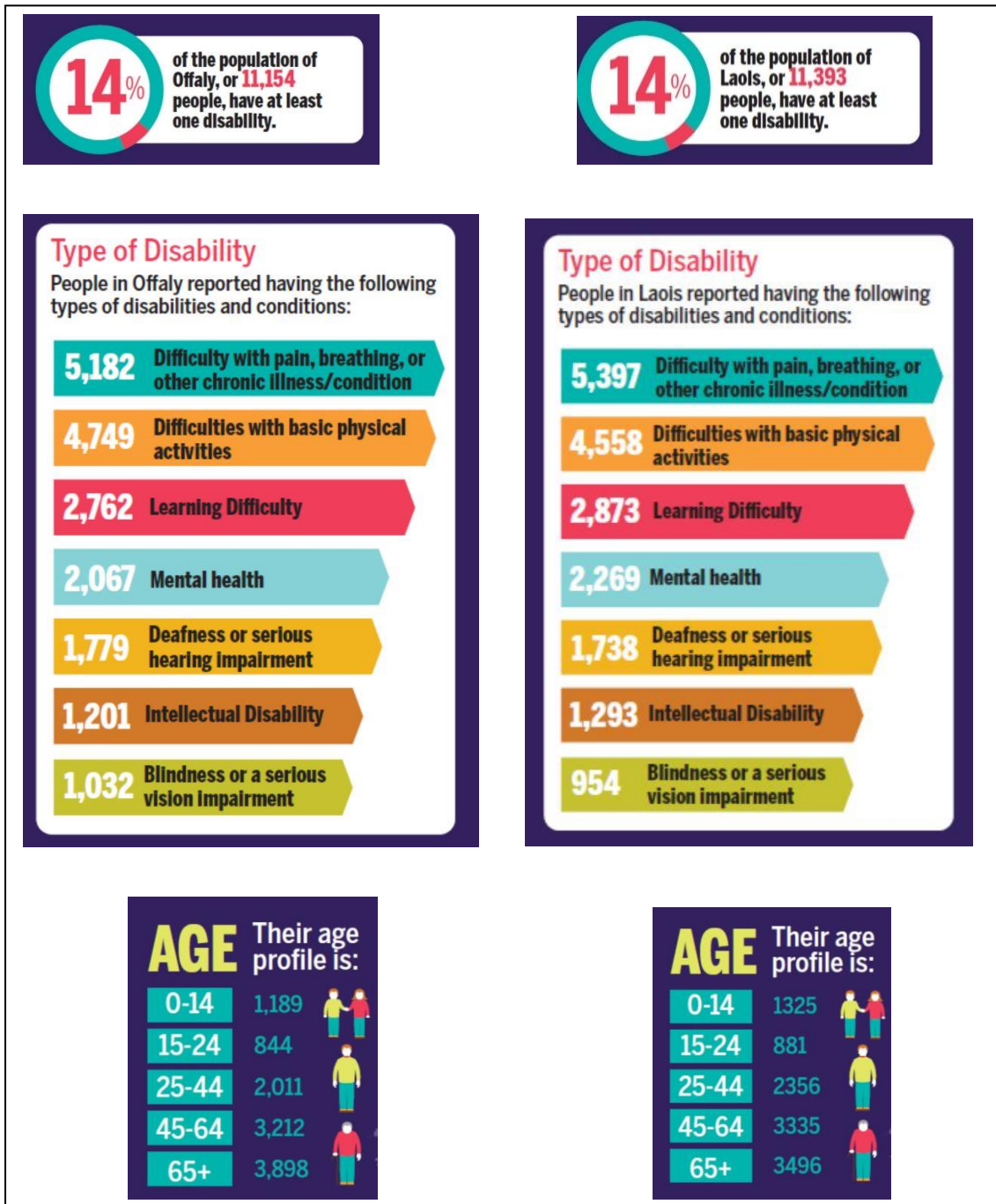
	White Irish	White Irish Traveller	Any other White background	Black or Black Irish - African	Black or Black Irish - any other Black background	Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	Asian or Asian Irish - any other Asian background	Other including mixed background	Not stated
Age 0-4									
Laois	5,367	119	478	147	22	13	113	146	210
Offaly	4,778	120	373	29	3	12	56	76	187
Laois Offaly CYPSC	10,145	239	851	176	25	25	169	222	397
State	265,856	4,317	27,093	5,181	708	1,552	7,540	7,926	9,839
Age 5-9									
Laois	6,182	121	602	222	12	16	128	151	150
Offaly	5,260	120	480	44	4	15	81	92	142
Laois Offaly CYPSC	11,442	241	1,082	266	16	31	209	243	292
State	287,020	4,318	27,804	7,822	778	1,350	8,740	8,045	8,683
Age 10-14									
Laois	5,427	92	427	283	19	19	98	108	135
Offaly	5,008	101	356	81	10	20	68	68	114
Laois Offaly CYPSC	10,435	193	783	364	29	39	166	176	249
State	261,616	3,678	21,304	9,975	738	1,274	6,124	6,084	6,971
Age 15-19									
Laois	4,662	78	356	134	8	6	59	74	121
Offaly	4,727	77	359	33	3	8	40	58	90
Laois Offaly CYPSC	9,389	155	715	167	11	14	99	132	211
State	252,300	3,074	19,367	5,358	479	1,045	4,640	4,799	7,255
Age 20-24									
Laois	3,366	58	350	77	5	2	48	63	198
Offaly	3,476	79	331	7	5	10	20	34	70
Laois Offaly CYPSC	6,842	137	681	84	10	12	68	97	268

State	210,694	2,631	26,283	3,105	543	2,330	5,335	5,638	7,429
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Source: CSO StatBank / Profile 8 - Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion / E8001

G. Disability

Figure 21 - Disability profile Laois Offaly (Census 2016)

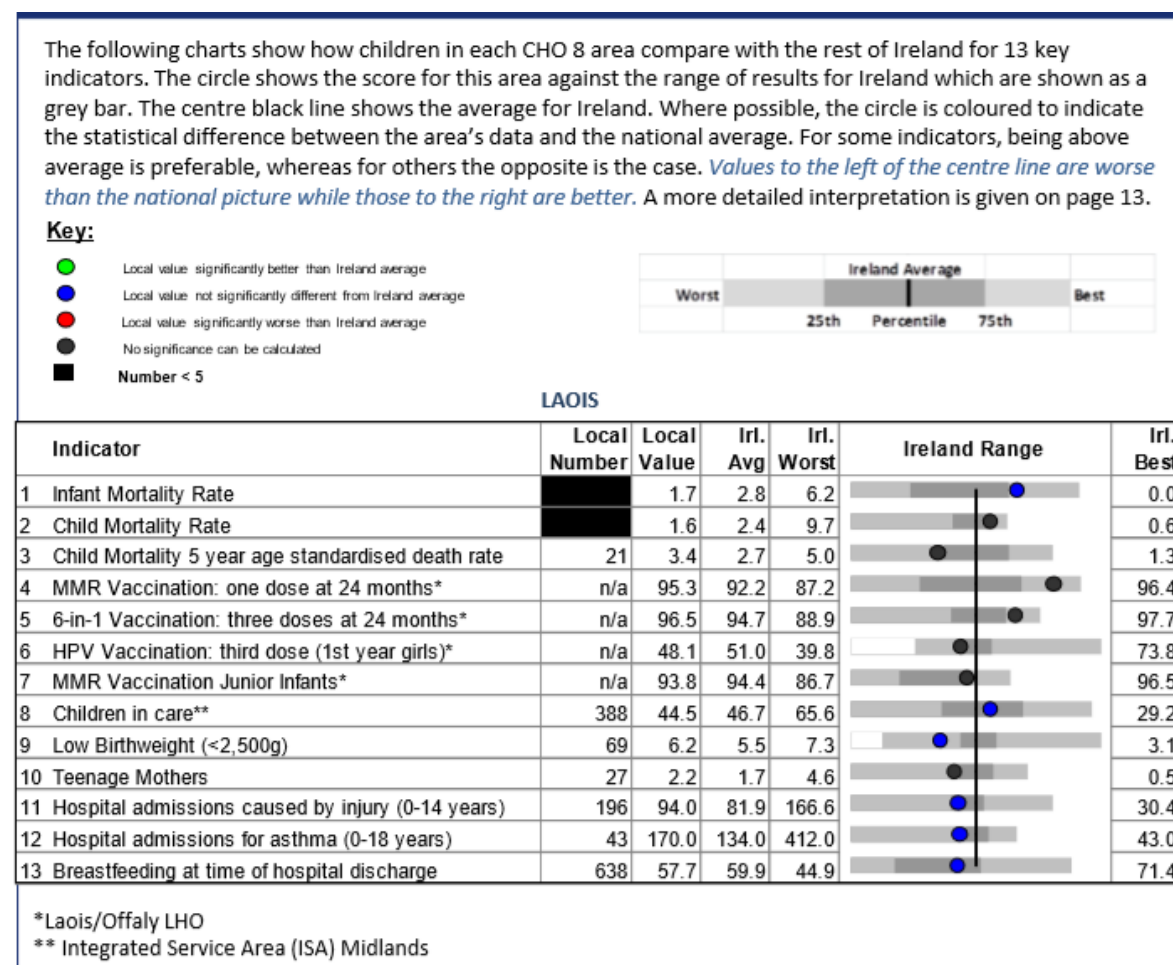


Source: Disability Federation of Ireland Census 2016

Outcome 1: Active & healthy Indicators

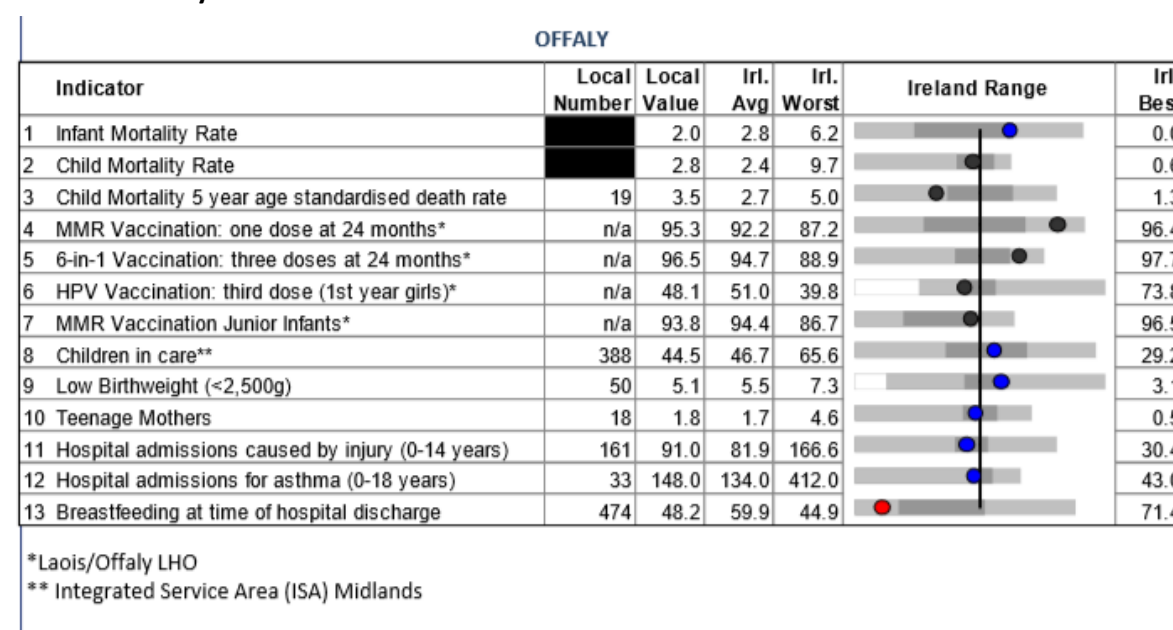
Health

Table 19 - Laois Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Area 8 Health Indicators 2018



Source: CHO 8

Table 20 - Offaly CHO 8 Health Indicators 2018



Source: CHO 8

*Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) are the broad range of services that are **provided outside of the acute hospital system** and includes Primary Care, Social Care, Mental Health and Health and Wellbeing Services. Each CHO will have a Chief Officer in the area who will lead a local management team that includes focus on all of the specialist services in their area.

Physical activity

HBSC Report 2018 asked children aged 10-17 about their physical activity and exercise levels.

Table 21 - HBSC Report 2018

<i>Vigorous exercise 4 or more times a week</i>	Overall, 52% of children report exercising four or more times a week (52% in 2014). Boys, younger children and children from higher social class groups are more likely to report exercising four or more times a week.
<i>Physical inactivity</i>	Overall, 9% of children report participating in vigorous exercise less than weekly (9% in 2014). Boys, younger children and children from higher social class groups are less likely to report participating in vigorous exercise less than weekly.
<i>Physically active on 7 days in the last week</i>	Overall, 23% of children report being physically active on 7 days in the last week (23% in 2014). Boys and younger children are more likely to report being physically active on 7 days in the last week. There are no significant differences across social class groups.

<i>Vigorous exercise 4 or more times a week</i>	Overall, 70% of 3 rd and 4 th class children report exercising four or more times a week (71% in 2014). There are no significant gender or social class differences.
<i>Physical inactivity</i>	Overall, 5% of 3 rd and 4 th class children report participating in vigorous exercise less than weekly (6% in 2014). There are no significant gender or social class differences.

Source: Health Behaviour School Age Children 2018 Report

As per the Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) Study 2018 Key findings Republic of Ireland - National Physical Activity Guidelines:

- 13% of children met the National Physical Activity Guidelines of at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity every day (17% primary school pupils and 10% post primary school pupils). These figures are lower than the 19% and 12% recorded in primary and post primary schools respectively in 2010.
- While boys were more likely to meet the guidelines than girls at all ages, the most significant change since 2010 was the decline in the proportion of primary school boys reporting meeting the guidelines from 27% to 23%. However, this is still significantly more than the 13% of primary school girls who met the guidelines. At post primary school 14% of boys and 7% of girls met the guidelines.

Source: Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) Study 2018 Key findings Republic of Ireland

The CSPPA Study 2018 reflects similar outcomes to the HBSC Report 2018 with regard to the physical activity rate being more if you are in a higher social class group. *At post primary school level, those in the highest socio economic class were most likely to meet the physical activity guidelines, while functional difficulty status (as a measure of disability) did not influence the likelihood of meeting the guidelines.*

Source: CSPPA Study 2018, pg. 31.

Suicide

Overall suicide rate 2016

Ireland's overall suicide rate in 2016 is not high by European comparison.

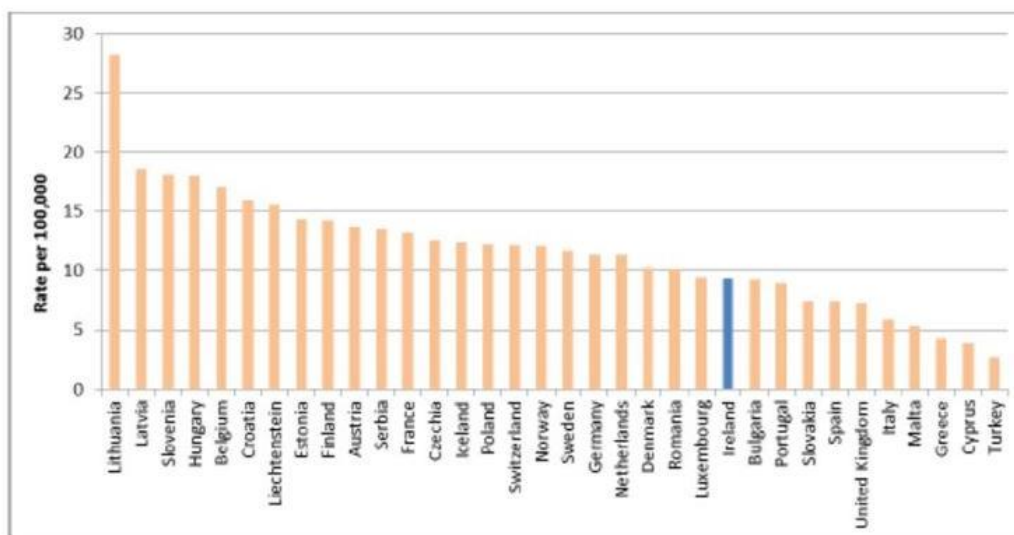
Irish rate 9.37 per 100,000. 11th lowest among 34 countries

Highest rate Lithuania 28.27 per 100,000

Lowest rate Turkey 2.64 per 100,000

Average rate 10.33 per 100,000 (34 countries)

Figure 22 - Suicide rates per 100,000 for males & females 2016 by European comparison*



*Death rate of a population adjusted to a standard age distribution. The standardised death rates used here are calculated on the basis of a standard European population (defined by WHO).

Source: NOSP Briefing on Eurostat Suicide Data Updated 4 November 2019

Suicide rate of females and males together, aged 15-19, 2016

For females and males together, aged 15-19 in 2016:

Irish rate 10.21 per 100,000. 2nd highest among 33 counties

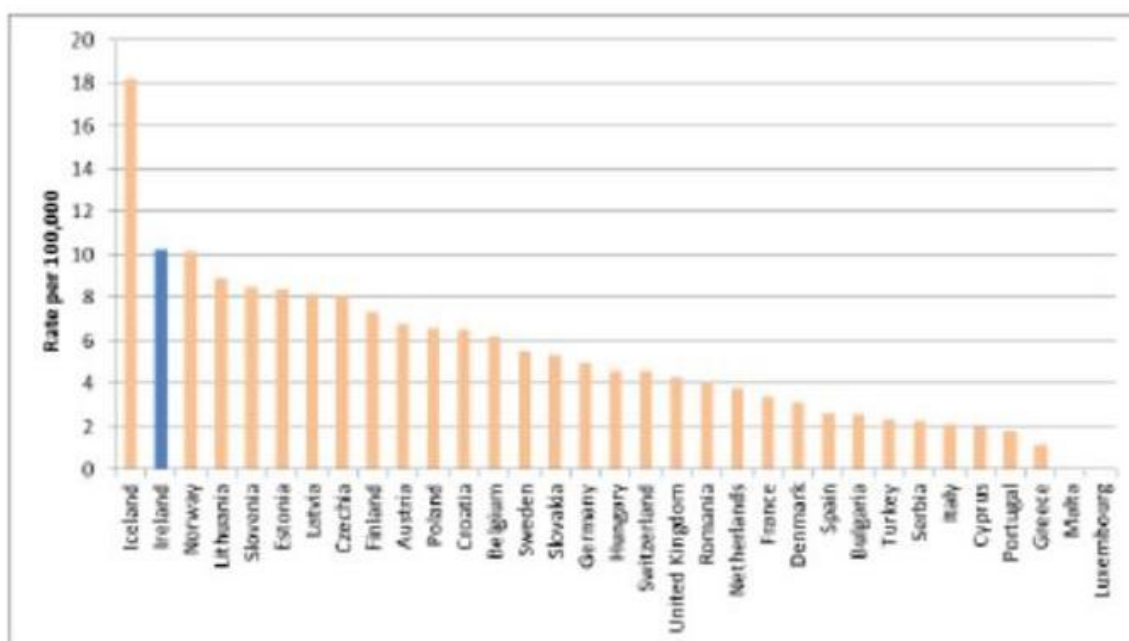
Highest rate Iceland 18.64 per 100,000

Lowest rate Greece 1.12 per 100,000

Average rate 4.22 per 100,000 (33 countries)

Source: NOSP Briefing on Eurostat Suicide data Updated 4 November 2019

Figure 23 - Suicide rates per 100,000 for males and females aged 15-19 years 2016 by European comparison*



*Data presented as the crude death rate from suicide per 100,000 people. Figures should be interpreted with care as suicide registration methods vary between countries and over time.

Source: NOSP Briefing on Eurostat Suicide Data Updated 4 November 2019

Table 22 - Rate of suicide for males and females aged 15-19 Ireland as a comparative per Eurostat

The table below gives an outline of Ireland's position in relation to the rate of suicide for males and females (aged 15-19 years) across countries for which Eurostat reported data, from 2011 to 2017.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Rate	11.72 per 100,000	9.56 per 100,000	7.33 per 100,000	4.45 per 100,000	6.73 per 100,000	10.21 per 100,000	6.18 per 100,000
Rank	2 nd highest out of 31 countries	3 rd highest out of 31 countries	6 th highest out of 32 countries	13 th lowest out of 33 countries	9 th highest out of 33 countries	2 nd highest out of 33 countries	13 th highest out of 31 countries

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/tps00202> NOSP Briefing on CSO Suicide figures 2nd June 2020.

Table 23 - Three-year moving average rate of suicide per 100,000 population, by county of residence of deceased (2004-2016)

	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011	2010-2012	2011-2013	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016
Ireland	11.6	11.0	10.9	11.3	11.4	11.7	11.6	11.5	11.	10.1	9.6
Laois	8.8	10.4	11.6	10.9	13.5	16.5	16.8	12.2	8.1	7.6	8.8
Offaly	12.8	11.8	13.7	14.7	17.6	16.1	16.	12.4	11.5	9.7	11.4

Source: NOSP Briefing on CSO Suicide Figures 2nd June 2020

LGBTI+

Based on the LGBT Ireland Report a study of the mental health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Ireland by GLEN, BeLoNG To, the National Office for Suicide Prevention and Trinity College Dublin 2016:

- 21% of LGBTI+ people had attempted suicide with one quarter of these doing so in the past year. Two thirds said their suicide attempt was related to their LGBTI+ identity.
- One third told nobody about their suicide attempt. Younger LGBTI+ people were more likely to have attempted suicide:
 - 1 in 3 14-18 year olds had attempted suicide with 50% doing so in the past year.
 - 1 in 5 19-25 year olds had attempted suicide with 25% doing so in the past year. Attempted suicide was three times higher among 19-25-year-old LGBTI+ people in comparison to a similar age group (17-25) in the My World national youth mental health study. Transgender and intersex people were more likely to attempt suicide than lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

Source: LGBTI+ Ireland Report: national study of the mental health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Ireland 2016 Belong To

Self-harm

For 2018, table 24 details the population (derived by the National Census 2016), number of men and women who presented to hospital as a result of self-harm and the incident rate (age –adjusted to the European standard population) for each LHO area.

Table 24 - Self harm in 2018 by HSE Local Health Office (LHO) area of residence and gender.

HSE Region and LHO		MEN				WOMEN			
		Population*	SELF-HARM			Population*	SELF-HARM		
			Persons	Rate**	Rank		Persons	Rate**	Rank
DUBLIN MID LEINSTER	Dublin South City	71533	112	145	27	73410	143	198	24
	Dublin South East	62054	66	104	32	66642	99	159	30
	Dublin South West	78334	208	269	2	82564	233	295	2
	Dublin West	76727	174	227	8	78616	195	255	9
	Kildare/West Wicklow	120121	192	168	17	121417	228	195	26
	Laois/Offaly	81649	125	165	19	81009	163	217	20
	Longford/Westmeath	64669	77	129	30	64974	149	247	10
	Dun Laoghaire	64842	85	137	29	71232	133	202	23
Wicklow	60581	102	187	13	62810	139	239	13	

Source: National Self-harm registry Ireland Annual Report 2018

Table 25 - Individuals who presented to hospital with self-harm in the HSE Dublin Midlands Hospital Group, 2018.

	ADELAIDE AND MEATH HOSPITAL, TALLAGHT		MIDLAND REGIONAL HOSPITAL, PORTLAOISE		MIDLAND REGIONAL HOSPITAL, TULLAMORE		NAAS GENERAL HOSPITAL		ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<16yrs	0	0	10	20	<5	7	<5	<5	0	0
16-17yrs	25	52	11	16	<5	12	9	13	13	18
18-24yrs	106	83	29	29	13	17	60	61	90	95
25-34yrs	75	56	45	48	21	14	51	38	113	89
35-44yrs	73	93	19	28	10	16	39	62	79	73
45-54yrs	30	39	22	20	8	15	19	25	43	52
55-64yrs	14	38	5	8	<5	<5	<5	13	26	25
65yrs+	10	11	<5	0	<5	<5	8	<5	7	12
Total	333	372	144	169	61	87	189	215	371	364

Source: National Self-harm registry Ireland Annual Report 2018

Table 26 - Repetition by gender and hospital for individuals who represented with self-harm in the HSE Dublin Midlands Hospital Group 2018.

		ADELAIDE AND MEATH HOSPITAL, TALLAGHT	MIDLAND REGIONAL HOSPITAL, PORTLAOISE	MIDLAND REGIONAL HOSPITAL, TULLAMORE	NAAS GENERAL HOSPITAL	ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL
Number of individuals who presented	Men	281	109	56	151	290
	Women	306	131	71	163	291
	Total	587	240	127	314	581
Number who repeated	Men	50	25	6	24	77
	Women	38	17	9	24	60
	Total	88	42	15	48	137
Percentage who repeated	Men	17.8%	22.9%	10.7%	15.9%	26.6%
	Women	12.4%	13%	12.7%	14.7%	20.6%
	Total	15%	17.5%	11.8%	15.3%	23.6%

Source: National Self-harm registry Ireland Annual Report 2018 <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/nsrf-national-self-harm-registry-ireland-annual-report-2018.html>

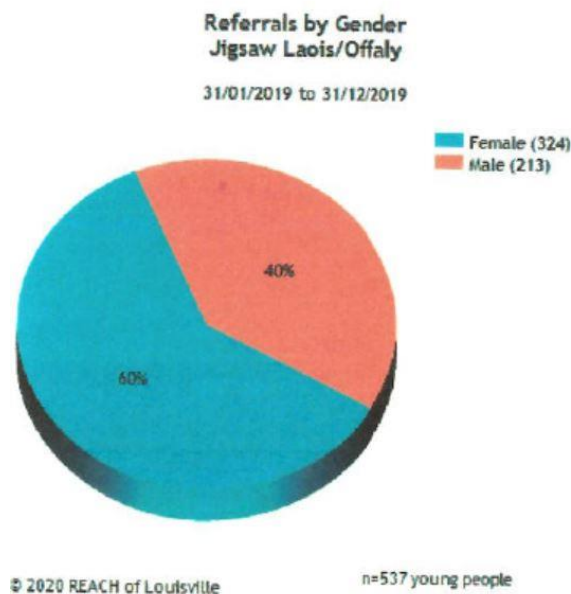
JIGSAW Offaly

537 people aged between 12-25 were referred to Jigsaw Laois/ Offaly in 2019.

The Jigsaw service operates one day per week in Laois since April 2019 with a Jigsaw clinician on site at the Family Resource Centre in Portlaoise. The initial assessment is carried out at the Jigsaw Offaly service and follow up sessions are then available at the Family Resource Centre. Referrals are taken from all sectors for the Portlaoise service now. Initially it was just through healthcare professionals.

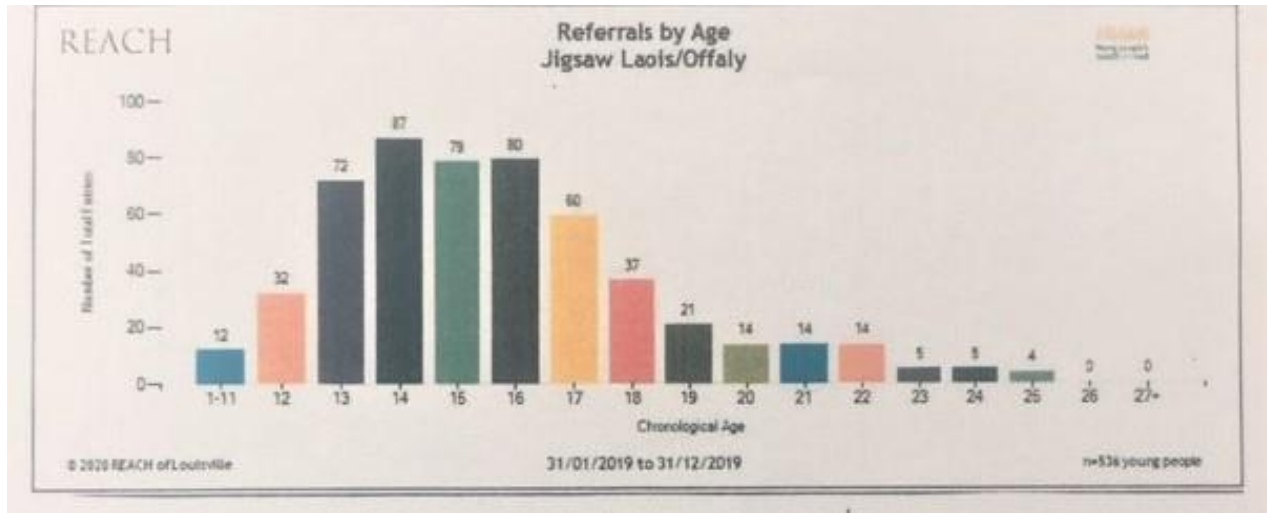
- Out of the total referrals in 2019, the number of Laois referrals equate to approx. 80/100.
- Of the 537 total referrals 60% were female and 40% were male.

Figure 24 - Referrals by gender Jigsaw Offaly 2019



In 2020 January referrals were up in Laois and Offaly. Anxiety, bullying, school issues and self-harm remain the main presenting issues. Until June 2020 the service maintains a one day a week presence in Portlaoise.

Figure 25 - Referrals by age Jigsaw Offaly 2019

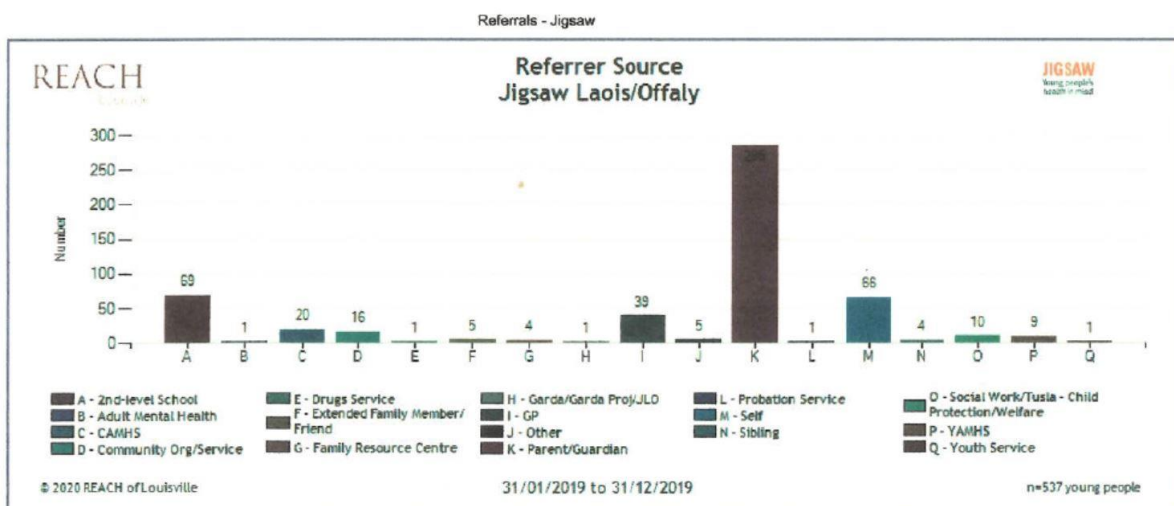


Jigsaw user age profile: 2019

- 8% aged 11-12
- 30% aged 13-14
- 41% aged 15,16,17
- 21% aged 18-25

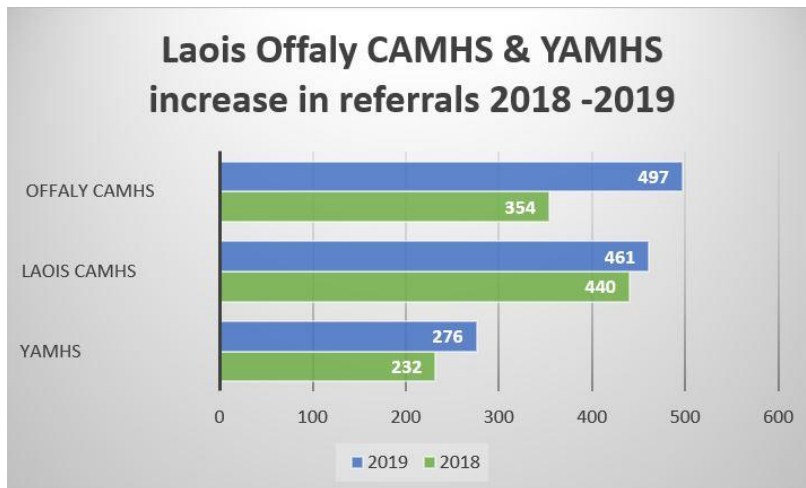
Q 4 2019 saw a huge increase in referrals with 100+ in the first half of Q 4 2019, increasing the wait time to three to four weeks for an initial appointment as a result. Jigsaw’s One Good School™ is an initiative which supports the mental health and wellbeing of young people by developing a shared responsibility across the whole school community. Jigsaw’s One Good School is being piloted with Kilcormac, Birr and Banagher secondary schools, this has brought in more referrals. The main presenting issues are 1. Anxiety 2. Low mood 3. Depression 4. Relationship and self-harm.

Figure 26 - Referrer source to Jigsaw Offaly 2019



Source: Jigsaw Offaly 2020 email correspondence

The referrer source for Jigsaw Offaly is varied which reflects the support and awareness for Jigsaw as a youth mental health support service across the community. As per the table below, the vast majority of referrers are parents/ guardians, followed by second level schools, self and GPs.



Overall the number has increased from 1026 to 1234 in a one-year period.

Source: CAMHS Laois-Offaly July 2020 email correspondence

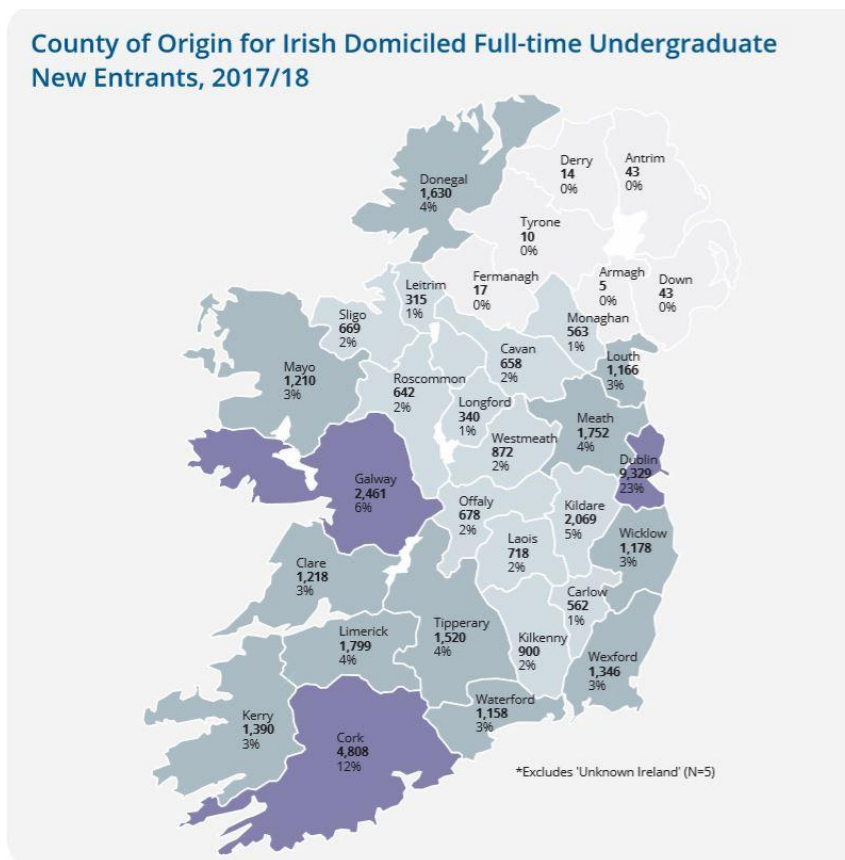
The main presentations that young people present with are:

- Anxiety related disorders e.g. school refusal/phobia, generalised anxiety, OCD, eating disorders.
- Mood disorders: low mood, depression, emotional regulation difficulties, self-harm, suicidal ideation and intent.
- Psychosis: Premorbid or drug induced.
- Co-morbid mental health difficulties in relation to an autistic spectrum disorder.

Outcome 2: Learning and development indicators

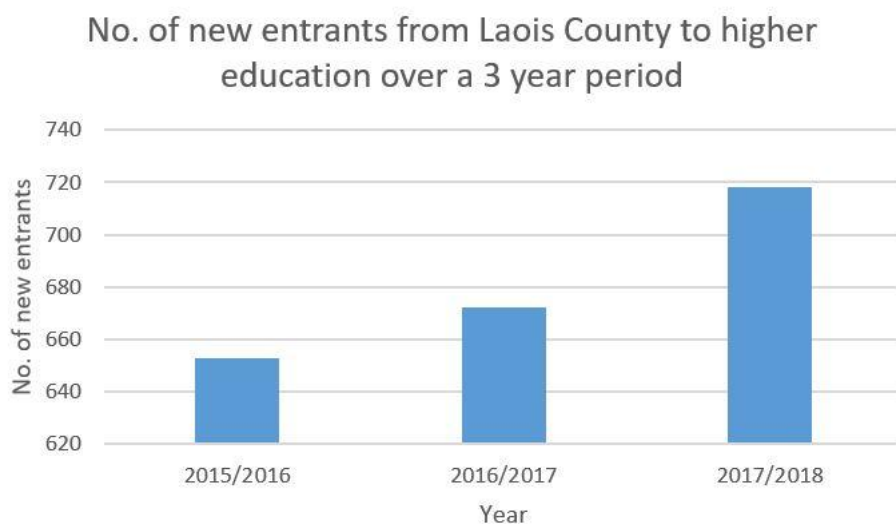
Education

Figure 27 - Full time undergraduate new entrants by County 2017/2018



Source: <https://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2019/01/Higher-Education-Authority-Key-Facts-Figures-2017-18.pdf>

Figure 28 - No. of new entrants from Laois to higher education 2015-2018



From a total of 920 students in 2017/2018 in Laois there was a significant increase in the number of those progressing to higher education. 718 were enrolled for full or part time higher education. 202 persons did not proceed to higher education from Laois.

Source: Laois Co. Council Socio Economic Profile of Co. Laois

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm indicators

Children in Care and Aftercare

At the end of 2019 the stats were as follows:

- 333 children in care in Midlands
- 11 children in residential care
- 232 in general foster care
- 90 in relative foster care

112 children and young adults receive support from the aftercare service.

Source: Tusla Midlands Children in Care & Aftercare Service 2019 Figures email correspondence

Drugs & alcohol

Figure 29 - General Population Survey- Alcohol and drug use in people aged 15 to 64.

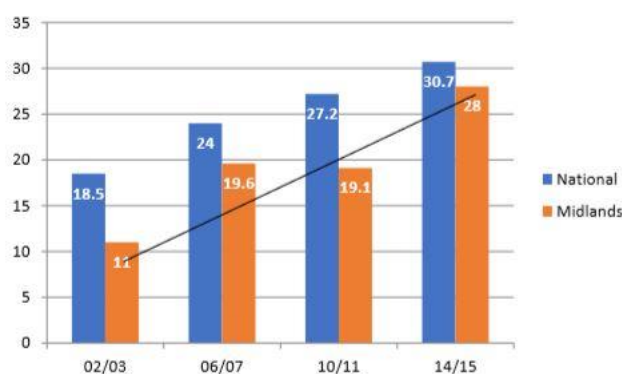


Figure 29 shows data from the GPS illustrating that the proportion of people who have ever used drugs increased nationally from 18.5% in 2002/03 to 30.7% in 2014/15. In the Midland region (Laois-Offaly Longford Westmeath), the increase was more than double, rising from 11% to 28% over the same period, reflecting a similar overall trend nationally.

Source: National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol, Northern Ireland. Department of Health. (2016) Prevalence of drug use and gambling in Ireland & drug use in Northern Ireland. Bulletin 1. Dublin: National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol. <https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/26364/>

Table 27 - Comparison of characteristics of those in treatment, 2017

Table 27 presents a comparison of the characteristics of those in treatment in 2017 both nationally and in Laois. It highlights a slightly younger age profile in Laois with more under 18s and an average age of 33 years as against the national age of 35 years.

	National	Laois
Men	68.9%	70.1%
Median age in treatment	35 years	33 years
Under 18	4.3%	4.7%
Homeless	9.1%	3.0%
Irish Traveller	2.6%	2.7%
Employed	20.5%	14.5%
Early school leaver	29.8%	22.5%

Table 28 - Drug related deaths in Laois 2010-2015

Table 28 illustrates a total of 74 drug-related deaths in Laois in the five-year period 2010 – 2015 poisoning.

Poisoning deaths	Deaths in people who used drugs
<p>43 people died due to poisoning.</p> <p>The most common drugs implicated were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opiates (heroin, methadone, other opiates) • Alcohol • Benzodiazepines • Anti-depressants 	<p>31 non-poisoning deaths in people who used drugs (excluding alcohol).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths due to hanging • Medical causes, mainly cardiac

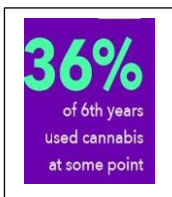
Summary

In terms of drug and alcohol misuse in Laois, national data indicates:

- Similar upward trends in drug use among the general population.
- Alcohol is the drug most commonly treated and the most common single drug implicated in poisoning deaths.
- High rate of problem opiate users with opiates also implicated in poisoning deaths.
- Very high levels of social deprivation among those treated.

Drugs and alcohol from My World Survey (MWS 2)

While there is no local data available, the My World Survey 2 (MWS 2) asked young people about watching pornography. See appendix M of who participated in the MWS 2 as a reference point for young people in Ireland.



Cannabis Use – approximately 15% of adolescents reported that they had smoked cannabis, 18% of males reported this compared to 13% of females. A clear trend of increasing likelihood of having smoked cannabis was evident across school year. Reported use in first year was 3%, while this increased to 27% in fifth year and 36% in sixth year.

Psychotic-like experiences

When assessing psychotic-like experiences, 14% of adolescents said that they definitely thought that people were following or spying on them at some point (31% indicated maybe, while 55% said no), and 21% said they had definitely heard voices or sounds that no-one else could hear (24% maybe, 55% no). Furthermore, 16% had definitely seen things that other people could not see (20% maybe, 65% no). Females (M=.92, SD =.91) scored significantly higher on the psychotic like experiences indicator than males (M= .83, SD =.91)

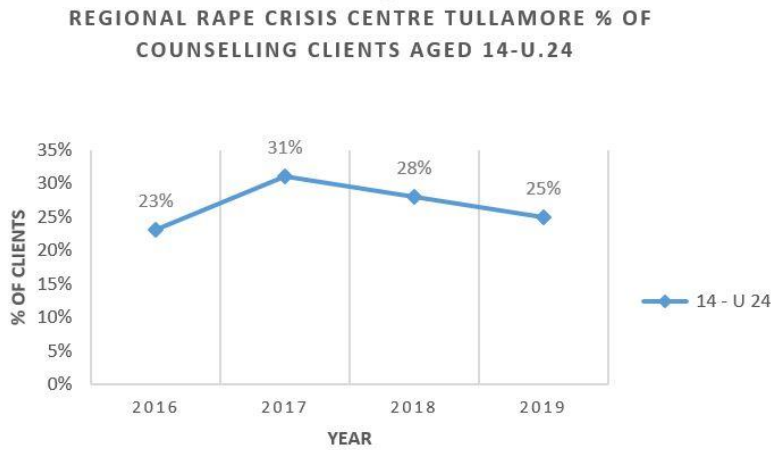
Alcohol behaviour

- Of the sample, 57% reported never drinking alcohol, 22% reported doing so less than monthly, 16% monthly, 4 % weekly and <1% daily.
- Most first years (92%) reported that they had never drank alcohol with 81% of second-years, 63% of third-years, 41% of fourth-years, 24% of fifth years and only 13% of sixth years reporting that they never drank alcohol.
- Of those who had drank alcohol, 65% fell into the low-risk drinking range, 28% were classified as problem drinkers, 4% as harmful and hazardous drinkers, and 3% as potentially alcohol-dependent.

Source: My World Survey 2

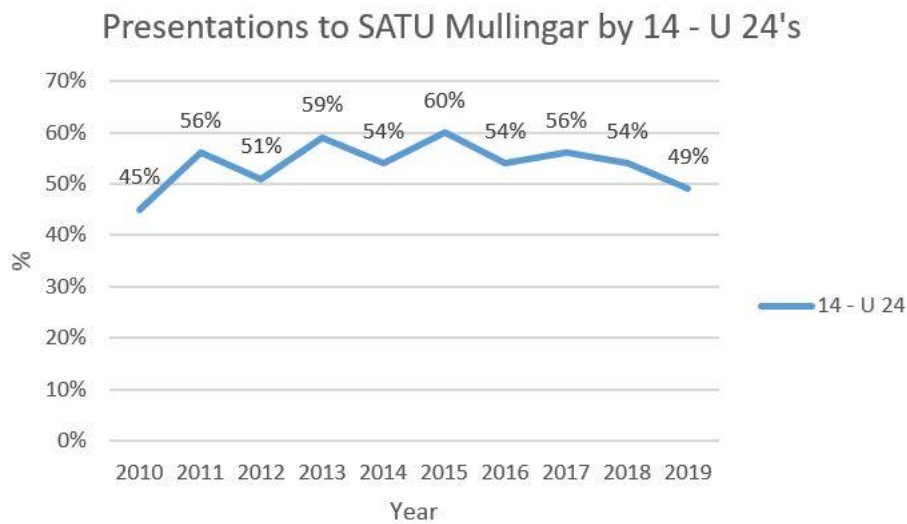
Regional Rape Crisis Centre

Figure 30 - Counselling clients aged 14-under 24



Source: Regional Rape Crisis Service Jan 2020 email correspondence

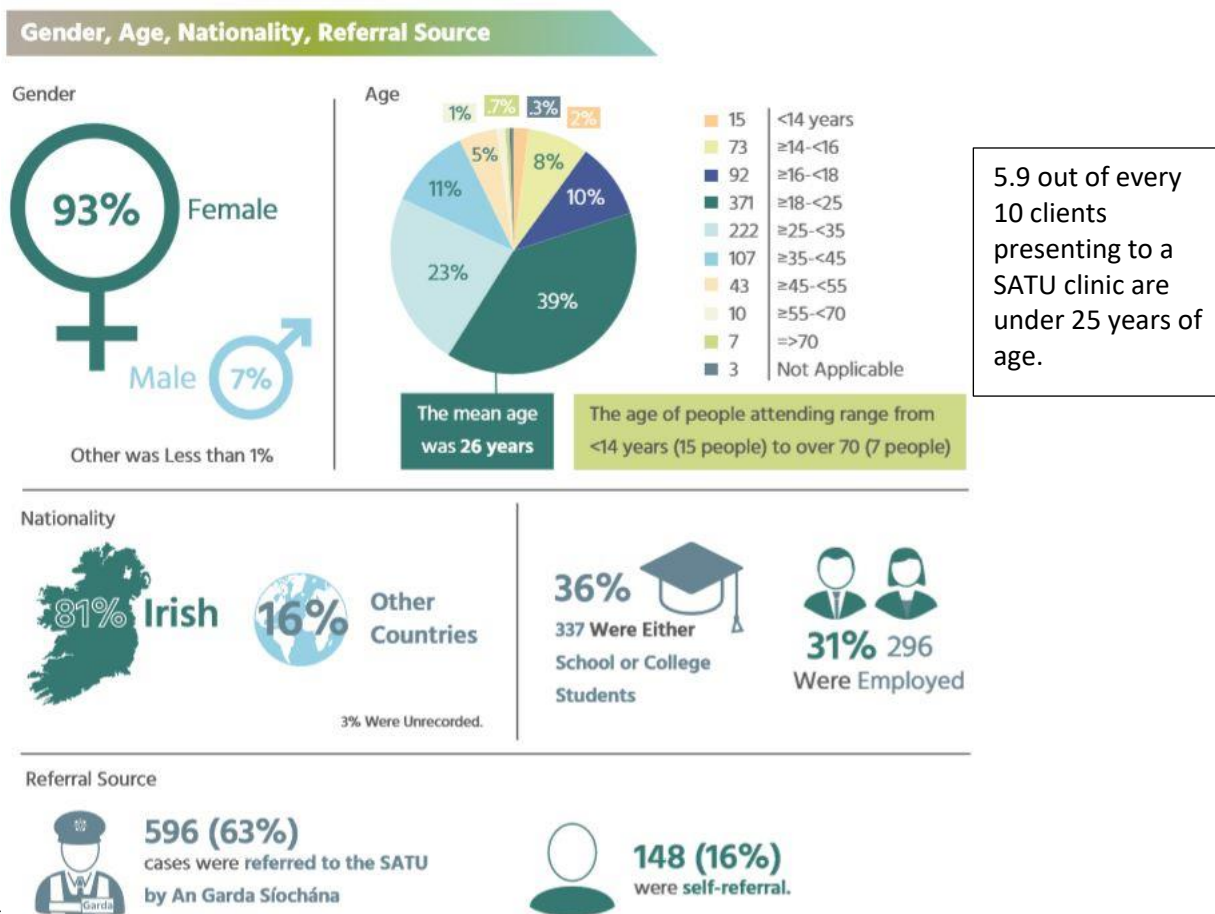
Figure 31 - Presentations to SATU aged 14-under 24



Source: Regional Rape Crisis Service Jan 2020 email correspondence

The trend above in figure 31 is reflective of the national trend in presentations to SATU Clinics in 2019 where 59% of clients were under 25.

Figure 32 - SATU Report 2019 Gender, Age, Nationality and Referral Source of clients



5.9 out of every 10 clients presenting to a SATU clinic are under 25 years of age.

Source: National Sexual Assault Treatment Unit SATU Annual Report 2019; Dr Maeve Eogan and colleagues from all 6 SATUs June 2020

Sexual Assault Treatment Unit Mullingar/Midlands Area referrals

Table 29 - Attendances in each SATU 2018

SATU	Number	Percentage
Dublin (Rotunda Hospital)	319	34%
Mullingar (Midlands Regional Hospital)	203	22%
Cork (South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital)	165	18%
Galway University Hospital - (Hazelwood House, Parkmore Rd)	97 (Not inclusive of those who attended CASATs)	10%
Letterkenny University Hospital (NoWDOC Premises, Oldtown)	84	9%
Waterford University Hospital	73	8%
	941	100%

Mullingar SATU had its busiest year in 2018 to date with 203 new cases attending Mullingar SATU. Patient referrals were received from 19 counties with 49 patients coming from Dublin. The large number of counties is reflective of the geographical position of SATU Mullingar and the ease of access. Patient referral numbers reflect the bidirectional referral pathway between the units in the Rotunda and Mullingar and the staffing issues that exist in both the units in 2018.

The Sexual Assault Treatment Unit in the Regional Hospital Mullingar delivered care to 122 patients in 2019. The previous year had seen exceptionally high numbers due to referrals mainly from Dublin. Patient referrals were received from 16 counties with the majority of patients coming from Westmeath (27). Ten cases were seen from Dublin which reflects the bidirectional referral pathway between the units in the Rotunda and Mullingar and the ease of access to both units. The large number

of counties is reflective of the geographical position of SATU Mullingar which results in the ease of access to this unit.

Source: National Sexual Assault Treatment Unit SATU Annual Report 2019; Dr Maeve Eogan and colleagues from all 6 SATUs June 2020

Table 30 - Gardai child protection and referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme 2018 and 2019

CHILD WELFARE NOTIFICATIONS TO/FROM TUSLA 2018	CHILD WELFARE NOTIFICATIONS TO/FROM TUSLA 2019																																								
<table border="1"> <tr><td>EMOTIONAL</td><td style="text-align: center;">793</td></tr> <tr><td>SEXUAL</td><td style="text-align: center;">158</td></tr> <tr><td>PHYSICAL</td><td style="text-align: center;">95</td></tr> <tr><td>NEGLECT</td><td style="text-align: center;">110</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figures not exclusive to children and may refer to adults 	EMOTIONAL	793	SEXUAL	158	PHYSICAL	95	NEGLECT	110	<table border="1"> <tr><td>EMOTIONAL</td><td style="text-align: center;">799</td></tr> <tr><td>SEXUAL</td><td style="text-align: center;">125</td></tr> <tr><td>PHYSICAL</td><td style="text-align: center;">87</td></tr> <tr><td>NEGLECT</td><td style="text-align: center;">60</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figures not exclusive to children and may refer to adults 	EMOTIONAL	799	SEXUAL	125	PHYSICAL	87	NEGLECT	60																								
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REFERRALS TO THE GARDA YOUTH DIVERSION OFFICE 2018	REFERRALS TO THE GARDA YOUTH DIVERSION OFFICE 2019																																								
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Criminal Damage</td><td style="text-align: center;">62</td></tr> <tr><td>Public Order</td><td style="text-align: center;">121</td></tr> <tr><td>Criminal Justice (Theft & Fraud) Offences Act *</td><td style="text-align: center;">175</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-Fatal Offences Against the Persons Act **</td><td style="text-align: center;">97</td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual related offences ***</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td>Misuse of Drugs Act</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td></tr> <tr><td>Firearm's & Offensive Weapons Act</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td></tr> <tr><td>Road Traffic Act</td><td style="text-align: center;">33</td></tr> <tr><td>Prison Offences</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Liquor Licensing</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> </table> <p>* Includes offences of Theft/ Robbery/ Burglary/ Fraud ** includes assaults and threats of assault *** includes sexual assault & child pornography offences</p> <p>NOTE Above are for referrals only and not outcome. Offences may not have occurred in Laois-Offaly Division but young person resides or has come to reside in the Division. Figures are subject to change pending outcome of investigations.</p>	Criminal Damage	62	Public Order	121	Criminal Justice (Theft & Fraud) Offences Act *	175	Non-Fatal Offences Against the Persons Act **	97	Sexual related offences ***	16	Misuse of Drugs Act	21	Firearm's & Offensive Weapons Act	20	Road Traffic Act	33	Prison Offences	2	Liquor Licensing	3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Criminal Damage</td><td style="text-align: center;">108</td></tr> <tr><td>Public Order</td><td style="text-align: center;">104</td></tr> <tr><td>Criminal Justice (Theft & Fraud) Offences Act *</td><td style="text-align: center;">299</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-Fatal Offences Against the Persons Act **</td><td style="text-align: center;">123</td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual related offences ***</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td>Misuse of Drugs Act</td><td style="text-align: center;">74</td></tr> <tr><td>Firearm's & Offensive Weapons Act</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td>Road Traffic Act</td><td style="text-align: center;">69</td></tr> <tr><td>Prison Offences</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Liquor Licensing</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> </table> <p>* Includes offences of Theft/ Robbery/ Burglary/ Fraud ** includes assaults and threats of assault *** includes sexual assault & child pornography offences</p> <p>NOTE Above are for referrals only and not outcome. Offences may not have occurred in Laois-Offaly Division but young person resides or has come to reside in the Division. Figures are subject to change pending outcome of investigations.</p>	Criminal Damage	108	Public Order	104	Criminal Justice (Theft & Fraud) Offences Act *	299	Non-Fatal Offences Against the Persons Act **	123	Sexual related offences ***	15	Misuse of Drugs Act	74	Firearm's & Offensive Weapons Act	9	Road Traffic Act	69	Prison Offences	2	Liquor Licensing	4
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DOMESTIC RELATED OFFENCES 2018		DOMESTIC RELATED OFFENCES 2019	
Domestic callout (no court order)	534	Domestic callout (no court order)	603
Breach of Barring Order	18	Breach of Barring Order	24
Breach of Safety Order	20	Breach of Safety Order	25
Breach of Protection Order	41	Breach of Protection Order	71
Domestic related assault	161	Domestic related assault	139

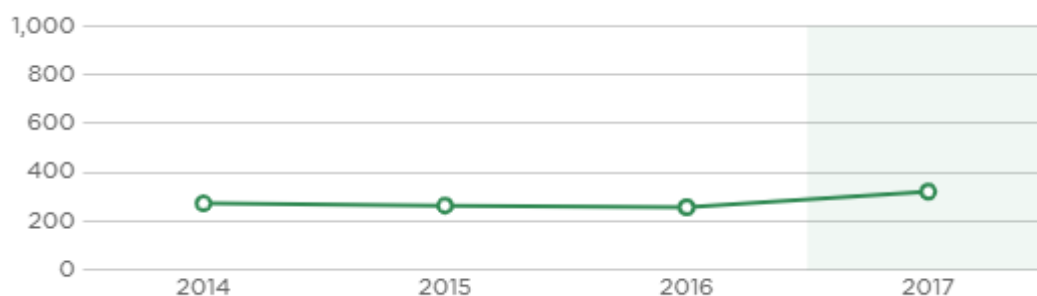
CHILDREN VICTIMS OF CRIME 2019	
Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person	117
Sexual Offence	20
Criminal Justice (Theft & Fraud) Offences Act	22
Public Order	6

NOTE:

- List not exclusive

Source: An Garda Síochána Laois Offaly 2020

Figure 32 - The number of children referred to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme LAOIS OFFALY 2017



Source: Department of Justice and Equality, Irish Youth Justice Service

The number of children referred to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme Laois Offaly 2017 = 321
The figures for 2018 and 2019 compound this rise in referrals to Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme Laois Offaly .

Laos Domestic Abuse Service

Table 31 - Laos Domestic abuse service summary of service to clients 2019

January to December 2019

387	Clients engaged with the service (of these clients 153 were new to the service)
312	Support sessions provided at the centre
24	Outreach support sessions provided
137	Counselling sessions provided
171	Court accompaniments provided
75	Referrals to Child and Family Agency
2 344	Support phone calls

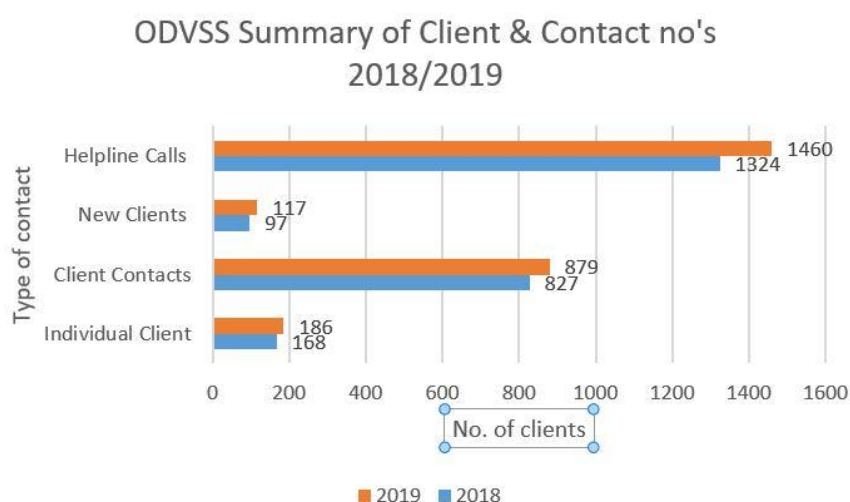
Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service (ODVSS)

Table 32 - ODVSS Client contacts 2019

Total Client Contacts 2019	879
Individual Clients	186
New Clients	117
Number of Children with protective parent	220
Ethnic Minority Women who accessed Support	29
Referrals to Barnardos	10
Helping Hands	10
Self-Referral	152
Outreach Appointments	75
Help line calls	1460
Still living with the Perpetrator	89

Source: ODVSS January 2020 email correspondence

Figure 33 ODVSS Summary of client and contact no's 2018/2019



Source: ODVSS January 2020 email correspondence

As per the figure above the demand for the service has risen again in 2019 and the complexities of these cases are alarming with many clients experiencing worrying physical violence.

Pornography

While there is no local data available, the My World Survey 2 (MWS 2) asked young people about watching pornography.

- Of the young people in Senior Cycle, 48% reported that they had watched pornography.
- Of those who watched pornography, 88% searched for a website themselves, while 12% received an email or clicked on a link and viewed pictures of sex that they did not want to see.
- With regard to how frequent these students watched pornography, 33% reported doing so more than once a week, 17% one a week, 21% 2-3 times a month, and 14% less than once a month.
- A notable gender effect was observed, with 86% of males in Senior Cycle reporting having ever watched pornography compared to 24% of females. Males were more likely to watch pornography once a week (21%) and more than once a week (44%), while females were more likely to watch pornography less frequently.

Source: My World Survey 2, refer to appendix M of who participated in the MWS 2 as a reference point for young people in Ireland.

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity indicators

Economy

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) defines the territory of the LO CYPSC as an element of the Midlands Region. The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Socio Economic Evidence Baseline Report (November 2017) provides an overview of the economy of the entire Regional Assembly area. The region covers nine counties containing twelve local authorities: Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Fingal, South Dublin and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Councils, along with Dublin City Council.

The Socio-Economic Evidence Baseline Report provides a summary of the economic and employment profile of the entire region, including the following key indicators:

- ❑ According to Census 2016, the total Labour Force in EMRA is 1,161,978 and equates to a Labour Force Participation Rate of 63.3% of the total Labour Force within the region - above the State average (61.4%).
- ❑ The Labour Force in EMRA is approximately 50.5% of the total Labour Force in the state (2,304,037). At the Local Authority level, highest rates are in Fingal (66.9%), Dublin City (64.7%), Kildare (64.1%) and South Dublin (64.0%). Lowest rates are in DLR (58.2%) and Offaly (59.8%).
- ❑ In total, four key settlements across EMRA have a *Labour Force at Work* rate less than 80%: Longford (69.4%), Dundalk / Mullingar (79.1%) and Portlaoise (79.6%). Lowest rates are in Longford (80.4%) and Louth (83.3%).
- ❑ In 2015 there were 125,441 active enterprises in EMRA. Overall, there has been a gradual increase in active enterprise with the total now 7% higher than the total in 2008 (117,227). Relative to the state total of 248,843, the EMRA area accounts for 50.4% of all active enterprises. As expected, Dublin is the most dominant location for active enterprises with a total of 79,537 in 2015.
- ❑ At the Local Authority level, the highest total Labour Force Unemployment Rates are in Longford (19.6%), Louth (16.7%) and Offaly/Westmeath (15.9%). In total, five key settlements across EMRA have more than a fifth of their labour force recorded as unemployed: Longford (30.6%), Dundalk (20.9%), Portlaoise (20.4%), Mullingar (20.9%) and Tullamore (20.1%).
- ❑ Disposable income per person is lower in the Eastern and Midland Strategic Planning Areas, and the Midland area recorded the second lowest level (although marginally higher than the Border area at €16,755), with the lowest in Longford and Offaly.

Source: The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Socio-Economic Evidence Baseline Report (November 2017)

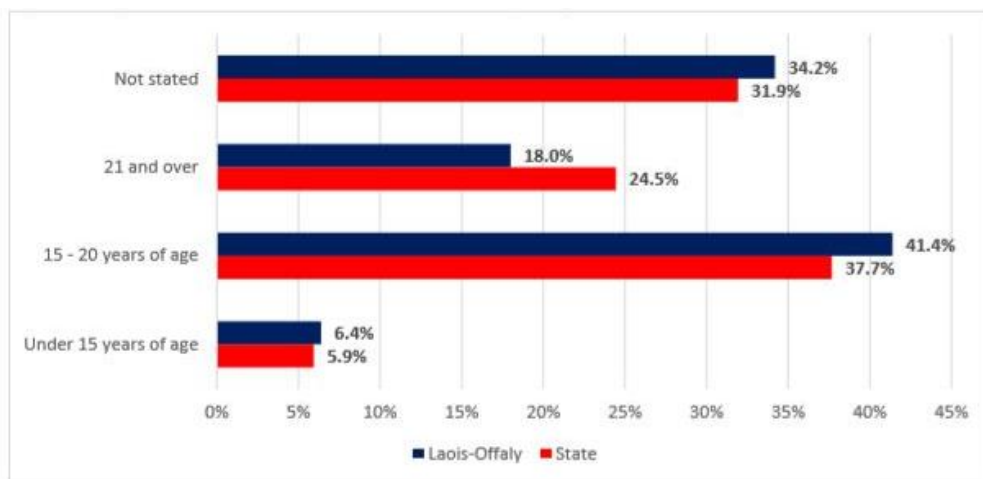
Table 33 - Social class in Laois Offaly compared to the state

The social class makeup of Laois Offaly and nationally in 2016. Laois Offaly has lower proportions of professional (5.4% compared to 8.1%) and managerial and technical workers (25.6% compared to 28.1%) than nationally. The constituency has a higher proportion of skilled-manual (16.1% compared to 14.1%) and semi-skilled (11.7% compared to 10.5%) workers compared to the State overall.

Social Class	Laois-Offaly	State
Professional workers	5.4%	8.1%
Managerial and technical	25.6%	28.1%
Non-manual	17.5%	17.6%
Skilled-manual	16.1%	14.1%
Semi-skilled	11.7%	10.5%
Unskilled	4.5%	3.6%
All other (gainfully employed and unknown)	19.2%	18%

Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

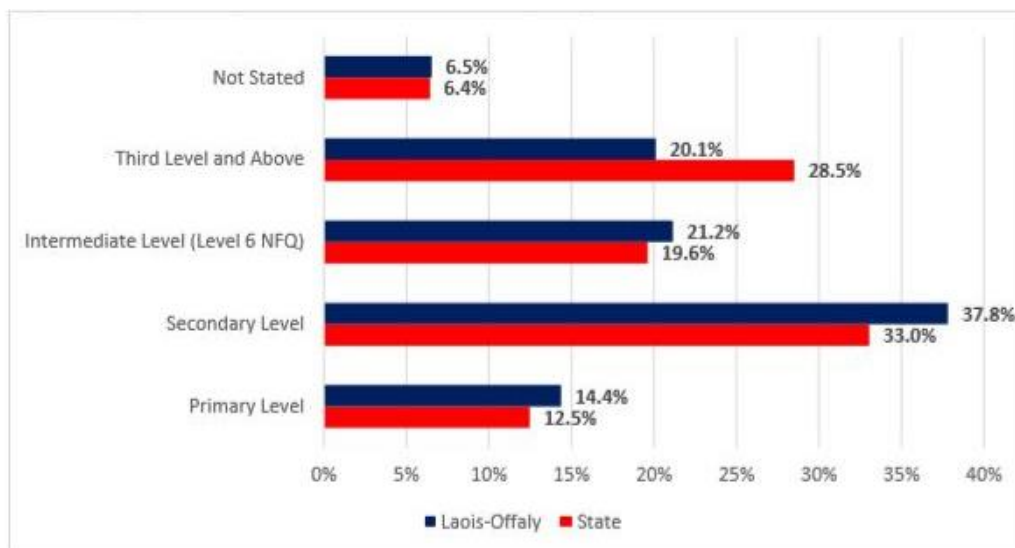
Figure 34 - Age at which education ceased in Laois Offaly compared to the state



Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

Figure 35 - Highest education completed in Laois Offaly compared to the State

Figure 35 shows the highest education completed in Laois Offaly and its comparison with the national proportion. In comparison with national proportions, the constituency displays higher proportions who have completed education at intermediate level (21.2% compared to 19.6%) and at second level (37.8% compared to 33%). Laois Offaly has a lower proportion of third level graduates than that seen nationally (20.1% compared to 28.5%).



Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2020/2020-02-09_laois-offaly-constituency-profile_en.pdf

Youth unemployment

Nationally, in terms of those aged 15-24 years, the youth unemployment rate remained high at 12.0% in quarter 4 2018 while the NEET rate (not in employment, education or training) was at 9.1%; although the youth unemployment rate declined marginally (by 0.2 percentage points) between quarter 4 2017 and quarter 4 2018, the NEET rate saw an increase of 0.3 percentage points.

Source: <https://www.solas.ie/f/70398/x/a6c2780d38/national-skills-bulletin-2019.pdf>

Nationally, the youth unemployment rate (under 25 years) was higher than the overall rate across the 12-year period and is still at a higher rate in 2019 than it was in 2007.

A third of all those unemployed aged 25 and under have attained only lower secondary education.

Source: <https://www.solas.ie/news-media/education-training-and-work-experience-the-solution-to-youth-unemployment-solas/>

Table 34 - LO Disadvantaged EDs 2016

	2016	2011
Laois	-2.53	-2.28
Offaly	-4.58	-4.61

There were no EDs in the LO CYPSC Area in 2016 that were either 'Extremely Disadvantaged' or 'Very Disadvantaged', according to the Pobal HP classification. However, there are some SAPs that are very disadvantaged. (See table 37.)

There were eight EDs classified as 'disadvantaged' in the LO CYPSC Area in 2016. These accounted for a total of 3,173 young people aged 0-24. The most disadvantaged ED in the LO CYPSC Area in 2016 was Srah, Co. Offaly with 229 young persons aged 0-24, and a Deprivation Score of -14.53.

Table 35 - Affluence and deprivation age 0-24 Laois-Offaly 2016

Population Aged 0-24	Disadvantaged	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Above Average	Affluent	Total Aged 0-24
LO CYPSC Area Population	3,173	41,063	12,951	145	57,332
LO CYPSC Area %	5.53	71.62	22.59	0.25	100.00

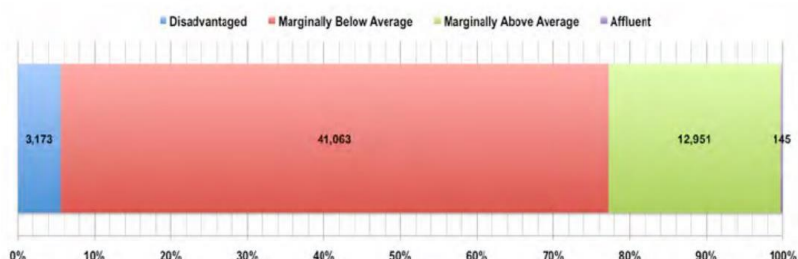
Source: 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index: Haase, T. and Pratschke, J. (2017)

Figure 36 - Rate of deprivation Laois Offaly under 24s



7/10 people aged 0-24 are marginally below average on the Deprivation Index

71 % of pop. aged 0-24 are living marginally below average.

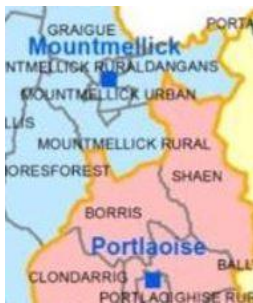


Source: 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index: Haase, T. and Pratschke, J. (2017)

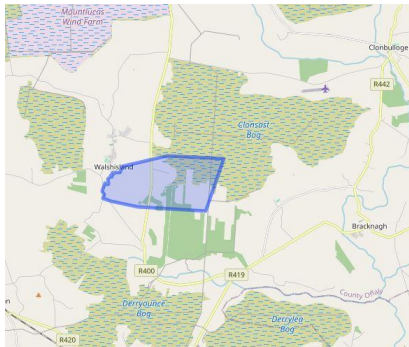
Table 36 Laois Offaly Disadvantaged EDs 2016

ED Name	County	Total Population 2016	Total Population Aged 0-24	Deprivation Score 2006	Deprivation Score 2011	Deprivation Score 2016	Classification 2016
Srah	Offaly	737	229	-11.30	-14.29	-14.53	Disadvantaged
Gallen	Offaly	597	147	-13.60	-11.38	-13.02	Disadvantaged
Raheenakeeran	Offaly	388	115	-5.72	-9.06	-12.45	Disadvantaged
Mountmellick Urban	Laois	2,691	960	-6.78	-8.83	-11.54	Disadvantaged
Doonane	Laois	550	269	-12.10	-9.04	-11.22	Disadvantaged
Rathdowney	Laois	1,292	355	-7.06	-9.43	-10.71	Disadvantaged
Shinrone	Offaly	921	309	-4.91	-9.21	-10.71	Disadvantaged
Dangans	Laois	1,191	789	-8.43	-9.07	-10.06	Disadvantaged
Total		8,367	3,173				

Source: 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index: Haase, T. and Pratschke, J. (2017)



Dangans and Mountmellick in Laois Urban adjacent EDs have the highest proportion of Under 24s living in disadvantaged ED's



Raheenakeeran in Offaly has the lowest number of under 24s living in disadvantaged ED.

Table 37 - LO Disadvantaged SAPs 2016 At SAP Level Deprivation scores

	Portlaoise	Portarlinton	Tullamore	Edenderry
No of SAP areas	78	31	(Awaiting data)	
Affluent	3	1		
Marginally above average	24	4		
Marginally below average	39	19		
Disadvantaged	7	7		
Very disadvantaged	5	0		

Portlaoise: The five SAP areas determined as ‘very disadvantaged’ are located primarily to the north west of Portlaoise. These SAP areas are relevant to the areas of Mountain View, Hillview Drive, Lake Glen and St. Brigid’s Place. Interestingly each of these SAPs have been determined as ‘very disadvantaged’ since 2006 except for the area in relation to Mountain View which was considered ‘disadvantaged’ in 2011.

Portarlinton: Seven out of the 31 SAP areas were determined as disadvantaged. All seven areas were also deemed disadvantaged in 2011 Spa Street, St Michael’s Park, Glenmire Close and four of which were determined disadvantaged since 2006; namely areas relevant to Arlington estate, Derrymore. Tullamore Road and Kilmalogue Park.

Source: Draft Socio Economic Profile of County Laois, Portlaoise and Portarlinton

Food poverty HBSC Report 2018

- Overall 12% of children report never have breakfast during weekdays (13% in 2014).
- Girls, older children and children from lower social class groups are more likely to report never having breakfast during weekdays.
- Going to school or bed hungry: 19% of children report ever going to school or to bed hungry because there was not enough food at home (22% in 2014).
- Boys, younger children and children from lower social class groups are more likely to report ever going to school or to bed hungry because there was not enough food at home.

Source: Health Behaviour School Age Children 2018 Report

Young Carers

The figures for young carers aged 10-17 living in Laois and Offaly:

- Laois Young Carers 10-17 Census Data: 165
- Laois Young Carers 10-17 NUIG Data: 1417
- Offaly Young Carers 10-17 Census Data: 164
- Offaly Young Carers 10-17 NUIG Data: 1340

Source: Young Carers Ireland https://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotionresearchcentre/hbscdocs/shortreports/2016-SR-MC-Carers_report-.pdf

Transitions

As per the CSO Educational Attainment Thematic report 2019, Early school leavers were less likely to engage in the labour market in Q2 2019. An early school leaver is three times as likely to be unemployed than another person aged 18-24 who is not an early school leaver. In Q2 2019, 25% of early school leavers were unemployed compared to 8% of other persons aged 18-24. Conversely, other persons aged 18-24 were twice as likely to be employed than early school leavers

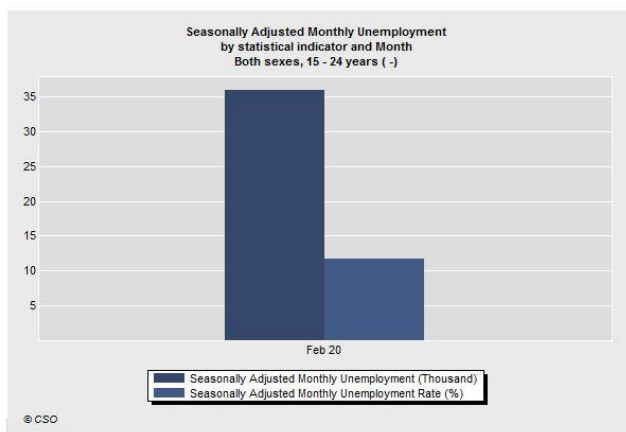
Source: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/eda/educationalattainmentthematicreport2019/>

Live Register

The Midlands figure for persons on the Live Register in February 2020 under 25 years of age is 1,765. Pandemic conditions thereafter skew the Live Register figures.

Source: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp> Table LRM 17

Figure 37 - Seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment U 24's



Source: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp> Table MUM01

Outcome 5: Connected and respected Indicators

My World Survey 2

While there is no local data available, the My World Survey 2 (MWS 2) is relevant to how we can ascertain how connected, respected and contributing to their world that young people are.

(Refer to appendix M of who participated in the MWS 2 as a reference point for young people in Ireland.)

The MWS2 asked young people about having at least one caring and consistent adult to confide in.

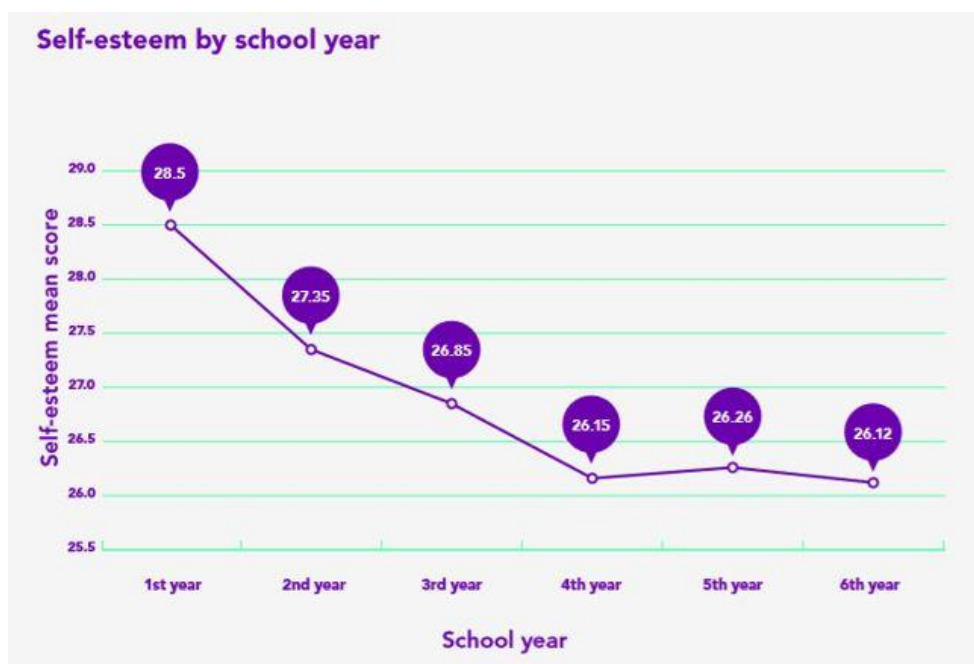
The survey showed that:



Sense of their own identity can be linked to the question in the MWS 2 on the self-esteem level of adolescents MWS 2

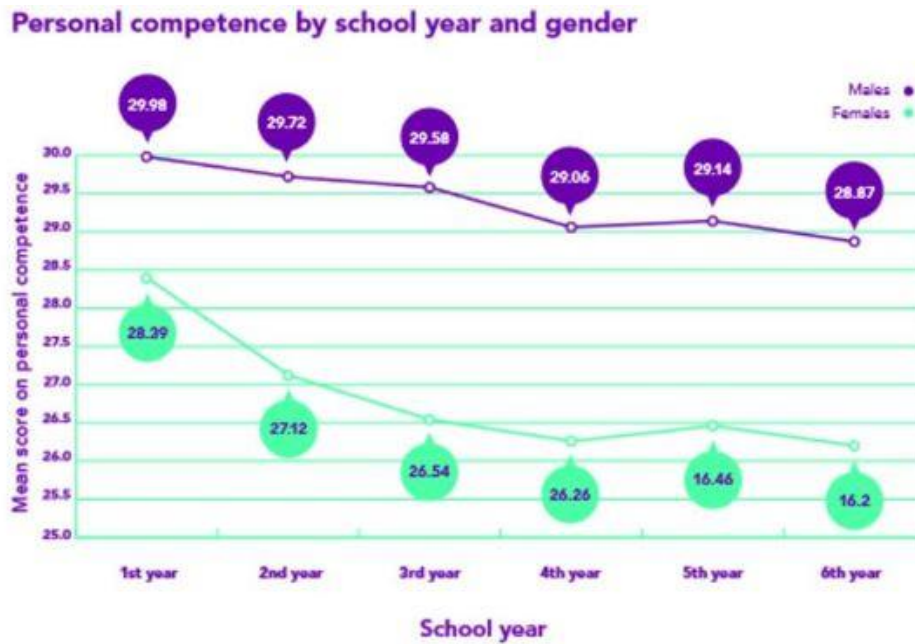
Overall, adolescents scored two points above the midpoint of 25 on this measure. Indicating average levels of self-esteem. Males ($M=28.78$, $SD=5.7$) displayed significantly higher levels of self-esteem than females ($M= 25.67$, $SD =5.99$), as did first-years compared to all other year groups. (See figure 38.)

Figure 38 – Self-esteem by School Year MWS 2



1st years had the highest self-esteem levels.

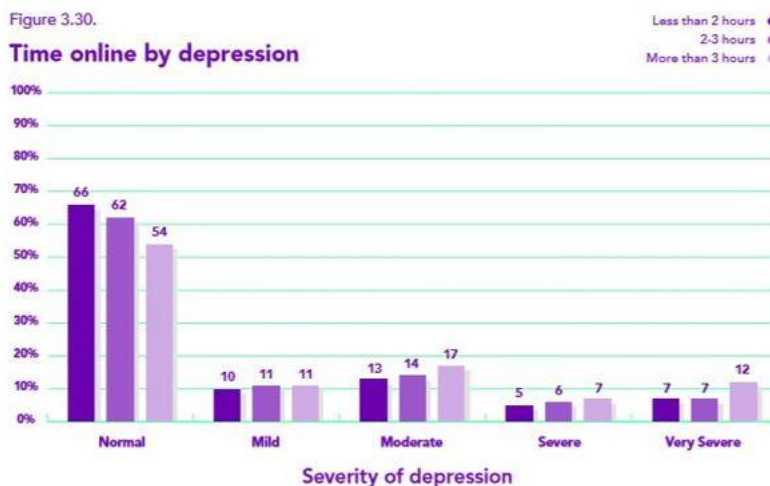
Figure 39 – Personal competency by School Year and gender MWS 2



Social media and Youth Mental Health

Approximately 35% of adolescents reported spending less than two hours online a day. 30% reported two to three hours and 36% reported spending more than three hours. Adolescents who reported spending less than two hours online were more likely to be in the normal range for depression, and adolescents who reported spending more than three hours online were more likely to be in the severe range for depression.

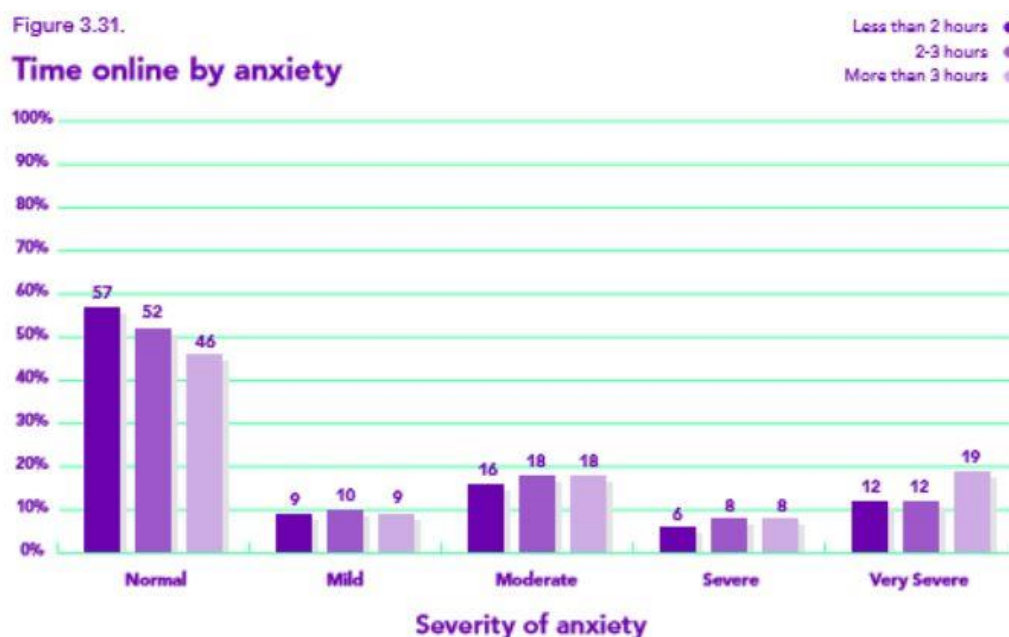
Figure 40 – Time online by depression MWS 2



Source: My World Survey 2

A similar pattern was observed for anxiety where adolescents spending more than three hours online were more likely to be in the very severe category for anxiety.

Figure 41 – Time online by Anxiety MWS 2



Source: My World Survey 2

Funding to child & youth sector

DCEDIY– ETB Funding 2020

Out of the 2020 DCEDIY funding envelope to ETBs, Laois Offaly received the lowest amount nationally at €402,022. This is 0.87 % of the total national budget of €46,354,601.

Kerry was the second lowest with €717,075 with remaining ETB areas receiving €800,000 or greater (See appendix N for full breakdown). Longford Westmeath allocation is 1.74% of the total.

Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/0e7b0f-minister-zappone-announces-61m-in-youth-funding-for-2020/>

Tusla Funding – Section 56 to C&V Sector

Community based services in the Midlands area are funded via Section 56 grants. The figure for 2018, €1.823 million, has remained similar for the past number of years. (See Appendix F)

When compared to budgets for other areas, it is important to acknowledge that Tusla areas are not homogenous, either in terms of geography, needs or population, but in identifying whether additional budget is required, it is useful to compare areas.

Firstly, looking at the Section 56 budget as a percentage of the overall budget for the areas, in the Midlands areas 8% of the total budget spent was on grant aid to Section 56 organisations. This is one of the lowest percentages spend nationally (with only Cavan/Monaghan, at 7% spending less). At the other end of the spectrum, Sligo/Leitrim spend 26% of their budget funding the community and voluntary sector. The average spend nationally on Section 56 organisations is 15% of the total budget.

A major difference between Tusla areas nationally is the population of children (0-17 year olds) in each area. Considering the Section 56 spend in each area per child shows large discrepancies in budgets to fund community organisations. In the Midlands, this equates to €22.74 per child spend on Section 56 organisations for 2018. Only Cavan Monaghan (€21.47) and Louth/Meath (€21.42) were lower. Conversely, €156.53 was spent per child in Dublin City North.

The levels of funding for Section 56 organisations in the Midlands, when compared to other parts of the country, illustrate the need to increase this budget.

As per the Tusla Commissioning Strategy 2019-2023 –Tusla’ s Strategic Intentions to advance Commissioning practice item six states that “Tusla will use the Resource Allocation Model to distribute national development funding to areas to promote equity of service availability and distribution nationally; to address historic broad anomalies in equity of resource distribution between areas whilst retaining a focus on weighting towards disadvantaged areas”.

Source: Tusla Commissioning Strategy 2019-2023

Laois SICAP 2019 Total cost €586,627

Total non-salary costs Goal 1 & 2 €133,576.

Non-salary costs for target group-disadvantaged children, young people and families €27,657

Breakdown of these actions:

Supporting Community Childcare	€8,200
Childhood Education Supports	€13,757
Working with Young People	€5,700

20% of SICAP non-salary costs 2019 budget targeted children, young people and families.

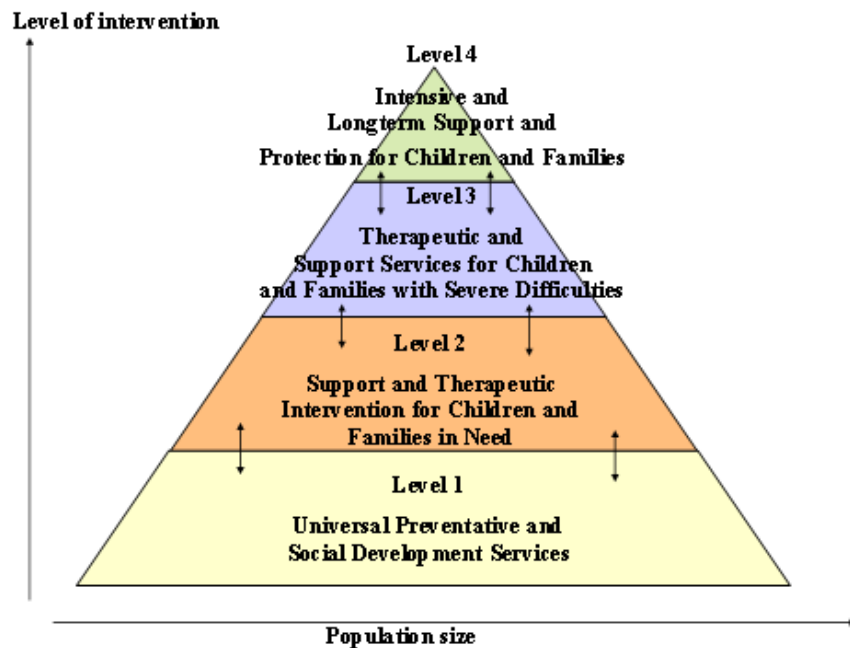
Source: Laois SICAP Plan 2019

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Laois Offaly

For the purposes of this plan, services are categorised as per the Hardiker Model. The Hardiker Model reflects the level of intervention which services are provided from Level 1 being universal preventative and social development services to Level 4 being intensive and long-term support and protection.

The Services are listed in the following categories of health, education, social services, policing and youth justice, social protection, youth, community and local authority services.

It is appreciated that many services are interconnected and children, young people and families avail of services with cross cutting themes and levels of support. Appendix R explains the four levels of intervention.



List of Services

Organisation / Agency	Laois	Offaly	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
EDUCATION				
Early Years Care/Education	85 services, 17 of which are community services.	71 services, 17 of which are community services.	Private Community	Universal, H Level 1
Schools	63 Primary schools 5 DEIS – 2 Mountrath, 2 Mountmellick, 1 Knockmay in Portlaoise.	68 Primary schools 13 DEIS schools (including rural DEIS) – 4 Tullamore, 2 Birr, 2 Clara, and Pollagh, Kilcormac, Shinrone, Cloghan, Daingean.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	10 Post Primary schools including 2 DEIS in Mountmellick and Portlaoise.	11 Post Primary schools including 3 DEIS in Clara, Edenderry and Tullamore.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
National Educational Psychological Service	NEPS psychologists work with both primary and post-primary schools to support learning, behaviour, social and emotional development. Supporting individual students (through consultation and assessment), special projects and research. Providing critical incident support in the aftermath of a tragedy, bereavement or other traumatic event.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 2 & 3
Special Education Schools	2 in Portlaoise.	1 in Tullamore.	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Laois Offaly Education & Training Board	Youthreach (age 15-20) Portlaoise, Portarlinton, Mountmellick.	Youthreach (age 15-20) Banagher, Clara, Edenderry	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	VTOS second chance education for adults – Abbeyleix.	VTOS second chance education for adults – Birr, Tullamore.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	Further Education & Training Centres in Abbeyleix, Mountmellick, Portarlinton and Portlaoise.	Further Education & Training Centres in Birr, Banagher, Clara, Edenderry and Tullamore. https://www.loetb.ie/further-education-and-training-centres	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	Adult Educational Guidance, Community Education, Post Leaving Certificate Courses, Basic Education (Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL). Centre based and outreach locations.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1 & 2

Organisation / Agency	Laois	Offaly	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
Community Training Centres	No corresponding service in Laois.	Tullamore: provide second chance training, educational and employment related services for young people.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
National Learning Network	Provide a range of free courses to people who have had an accident, illness, injury or have a disability and extra support needs. Centres in Portlaoise and Tullamore.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2
Third Level Education	Laois Third Level works as an outreach centre in partnership with a number of universities and educational institutes to provide third level undergraduate and post graduate courses to adult and continuing education students on a part-time basis. Courses take place in Portarlinton, Portlaoise and other towns subject to demand.	No corresponding service in Offaly.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
Laois & Offaly County Childcare Committees	Advice on setting up a childcare business, advice and information for those considering a career in childcare, advice and support on childcare Schemes – ECCE, TEC, CCS & CCSP, support childcare providers to engage with Síolta & Aistear (the National Frameworks for Early Education Program), information to parents on accessing childcare services, and support to parents wishing to set up parent and toddler groups.		Non-Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
Parent & Toddler Groups	12 parent & toddler groups.	14 parent & toddler groups.	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1

HEALTH				
Organisation / Agency	Laois	Offaly	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
HSE Primary Care	Health Centres in Abbeyleix, Ballynan, Borris-in-Ossory, Clonaslee, Durrow, Emo, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Portarlinton, Portlaoise, Rathdowney, Stradbally.	Health Centres in Banagher, Birr, Blueball, Borris-in-Ossory, Clara, Cloghan, Clonbullogue, Cloneygowan, Cloughjordan, Daingean, Edenderry, Ferbane, Kilcormac, Kinnity, Moneygall, Rhode, Shinrone.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
HSE Primary Care Psychology	Portlaoise, Portarlinton.	Tullamore.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1,2,3
HSE Public Health Nursing Service	Child Health & Family Support Services, Physical and Sensory Disability Service, Primary Care & Illness Prevention, the Older Person.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	Provides assessment and treatment for young people and their families who are experiencing mental health difficulties. Provides specialist mental health treatment and care to young people up to 18 years of age through a multidisciplinary team. St Fintan's Hospital Portlaoise.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 2, 3 & 4
HSE Community Mental Health Services	Community Mental Health services in Birr, Portlaoise, Portarlinton, Rathdowney, Mountmellick. St Fintan's Hospital, Portlaoise.	Community Mental Health services in Tullamore. Access to St Loman's Hospital Mullingar.	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2, 3 & 4
HSE Social Inclusion Services	Homeless Liaison Officer. Traveller Health Unit. Designated Public Health Nurse for Travellers. Primary Health Care Projects for Travellers.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
HSE Disability Services	Physical and sensory disability services are delivered directly and in partnership with a wide range of voluntary service providers. Initial contact through local Health Centres.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
HSE Children's Disability Services	Progressing Disabilities Services (PDS). Laois-Spraoui Centre, St. Fintan's Campus, Portlaoise. Offaly-Riverside, Tullamore.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2, 3, 4
HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention	Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention with responsibility for Laois Offaly acting as the first point of contact for those affected by suicide and self-harm.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3

HSE CADS (Community Alcohol and Drug Services)	Providing assessment, treatment and support in the community for those concerned with their own or another person's drug or alcohol use.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 3 & 4
	CADS Treatment Centre, St Fintan's Healthcare Campus Portlaoise. Counselling services also available from this location, with demand-led satellite counselling services in Portarlinton and Rathdowney.	CADS Treatment Centre, Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore. Counselling services also available from this location, with demand-led satellite counselling services in Edenderry and Graiguecullen.		
	Services available include opioid substitution treatment and community-based Shared Care Programme; health advice, promotion and referral to supporting agencies; and alternative therapies.	Services available include opioid substitution treatment and community-based Shared Care Programme; health advice, promotion and referral to supporting agencies; and alternative therapies.		
	Tier 4 Residential Treatment available.	Tier 4 Residential Treatment available.		
Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce & HSE CADS (Community Alcohol & Drug Service)	Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI) DATS (Drug & Alcohol Treatment Support) Project - a community based Drug and Alcohol treatment support, family support, harm reduction, rehabilitation and aftercare service for individuals over 18 years and families for the Midlands area. Staff team include one Service Co-ordinator, four Drug and Alcohol Workers (one for each of the midland counties), one Open Access Worker and one Family Support Specialist.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3
	Extern MYDAS (Midlands Youth Drug & Alcohol Support) Project - Community based Under 18 Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Service for individuals and families for the Midlands area. Staff team include one Service Co-ordinator, four Drug and Alcohol Workers (one for each of the midland counties) and one U18 Counsellor.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3
	Edenderry Drug and Alcohol Network (co-ordinated by MRDATF) is a resource through which local actions can be delivered. Linking with the community and agencies on the ground, operating through a partnership model, appropriate actions are developed to respond to drugs and alcohol issues within the locality. They also actively engage in raising awareness, monitoring local trends and lobbying with relevant agencies with regard to issues and needs identified.		Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, H Level 1, 2 & 3

HSE Therapy Services	Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, The Community Nutrition and Dietetic Service		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
HSE Dental services	Provided by dentists in local HSE dental clinics. Routine treatment available to children in 6 th class, to children with special needs, and orthodontic services if necessary. Includes emergency services, for children under 16 years of age in five locations in Laois and three in Offaly.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2
SOCIAL SERVICES				
TUSLA Midlands	Early Year Services: Information, advice and inspection of early years services e.g. pre-school, day-care.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Service: Meitheal, Parenting24seven.ie website, parenting supports, Family Resource Centres, Creative Community Alternatives and funding for child, youth participation and parental projects.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	Education Welfare Service: service to families and schools where there are issues regarding school attendance, school places and home education. Three Education and Welfare Officers and one Senior EWO for the area.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2, 3 & 4.
	Social Work and Child Care Teams based in Portlaoise and Tullamore provide child protection and welfare, adoption, fostering and aftercare services to children and families.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 3 & 4
	Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services			Targeted, H Level 3 & 4
Probation Service	Assesses and supervises offenders in the community working with them and others to reduce offending. Carries out pre-sanction probation reports and community service reports for the criminal courts to assess suitability for no-custodial sentences and community service. Also provides information and supports including restorative justice to victims of crime.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 3
The Linkage Service	Working with clients referred through the Probation Service: guidance and assessment service focused on overcoming barriers to progression, advice on choosing a career path, advice on disclosing a criminal record, psychometric testing and on-going support.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3
Barnardos	Tusla referral only service in Laois.	Services in Edenderry and Tullamore, working with children and young people 0-18 and their families to build resilience and enhance family wellbeing.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4

Traveller Groups / Movements	Laois Travellers Action Group represents, promotes, supports and empowers Travellers, working to achieve equality, better living conditions, better health for Travellers, and the recognition of Traveller Culture and ethnicity. Primary Health Care programme and community development activities.	Offaly Traveller Movement works for Travellers rights and social justice. Focus on accommodation, health, mental health, primary healthcare programme (in partnership with HSE) Traveller men’s health programme, human rights, youth and education.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
			Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Midlands Simon Community	Regional Support Service for Homelessness Operates across four midland counties, delivering preventative interventions that support individuals, couples and families who are at risk of becoming homeless, through to supporting people who are in emergency accommodation and helping them to move from the instability of homelessness to the security of their own home.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	No corresponding Emergency Accommodation in Laois.	Emergency Accommodation – with 6 beds in Tullamore for men and women over 18 years.		
Money Advice & Budgeting Service	Portlaoise – offering online resources, a telephone helpline and face-to-face meetings with advisors.	Tullamore - offering online resources, a telephone helpline and face-to-face meetings with advisors.	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1, 2 & 3
Family Resource Centres	Information, advice and support to target groups and families; onward referrals to mainstream service providers; delivering education courses and training opportunities; establishment and maintenance of new community groups to meet local needs and the delivery of services at local level (for example, childcare facilities, after-school clubs, men’s groups, etc.); provision of counselling and support to individuals and groups; developing capacity and leadership within communities; practical assistance to individuals and community groups such as access to information technology and office facilities; and to existing community groups such as help with structures, assistance with accessing funding or advice on how to address specific social issues; supporting networking within the community; contributing to Policy work.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3

	Portlaoise FRC Mountmellick FRC	Clara FRC Tullamore FRC		
Domestic Abuse Services	Laois Domestic Abuse Service based in Portlaoise, provide one-to-one support, information, advocacy, referral, court accompaniment, group support programs, counselling services and complementary therapy services. Also partner with MEND (Men Ending Domestic Violence) to support delivery of this programme in Laois/Offaly.	Offaly Domestic Violence Service based in Tullamore, provide an information line, one-to-one support and information regarding medical, legal and housing issues, court accompaniment, advocacy and an outreach service.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3 & 4
Parents First (Laois Offaly) Ltd	Volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to families with young children, in the family home. The support of the volunteer helps to nurture a positive family life experience and is available to any family with at least one child under five years of age. First Time Parents Group supporting early childhood development.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Offaly Centre for Independent Living (OCIL)	OCIL, based in Tullamore, provides a Personal Assistance service to people with sensory and physical disabilities across counties Laois and Offaly. A respite service is also available in Clochan House in Tullamore. Laois Offaly Leader (persons with the disability) Forums take place in Portlaoise and Offaly each month.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Muiriosa Foundation	Provides a range of services and supports to persons with an intellectual disability (and their families) – residential services, respite, day services, education, and multidisciplinary supports – operates across six midland counties including Laois and Offaly.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3
Rape Crisis Centre	Regional Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre Tullamore – counselling service for males and females from 14 years upwards affected by sexual abuse and rape. Outreach counselling available in Portlaoise, Mountmellick and Portarlinton.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Mental Health Support Services	Jigsaw Offaly (Tullamore) provides a free and confidential support service for young people in Co. Offaly aged 12 – 25 to support mental health and wellbeing. One day per week service available in Portlaoise for GP referrals.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2
	SHINE (Tullamore based covering Laois - Offaly Longford Westmeath) supports people with mental ill health and their families and friends in dealing with mental ill health and working towards recovery with a view to enabling the individual to live a meaningful life		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3

	in the community, while striving to achieve their full potential.		
	GROW (Tullamore base covering Laois-Offaly Longford Westmeath) is a Mental Health Organisation which helps people who have suffered, or are suffering, from mental health problems. Members are helped to recover from all forms of mental breakdown, or to prevent such happening.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	Pieta House Help for people in suicidal distress or engaging in self-harm. Midlands Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service providing support, information and practical advice to individuals and families following a suicide death (based in Athlone).	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 2 & 3
	Midlands Living Links Provides an outreach service providing practical support, information and a listening ear to those who have experienced a loss to suicide.	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 2 & 3
	Rainbows Supporting children and teenagers who have suffered loss through death or separation - a peer support group guided by facilitators who have experienced grief in their own lives. Tullamore and Portlaoise.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 1,2,3 & 4

POLICING AND YOUTH JUSTICE

Organisation / Agency	Laois	Offaly	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
An Garda Síochána	12 Garda Stations	13 Garda Stations	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	Promotion of personal, social and emotional development, aim to reduce impulsivity, anti-social behaviour and minimise the likelihood of reoffending.			
	2 Garda Youth Diversion Projects – Portlaoise and Portarlinton	2 Garda Youth Diversion Projects – Birr, Edenderry, Tullamore	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	1 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer Portlaoise	1 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer Tullamore	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1

SOCIAL WELFARE

Department of Employment & Social Protection	Social Welfare Branch offices Portarlinton, Rathdowney, Portlaoise. Single point of contact for all employment and income supports.	2 Intreo Offices – Tullamore and Edenderry. Single point of contact for all employment and income supports. Social Welfare Branch office Birr.	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2
	Supplementary Welfare Allowance processed at outreach locations (health centres) in Emo,	Supplementary Welfare Allowance processed at 10 outreach locations (Health/Primary Care	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2

	Graiguecullen, Mountmellick, Portarlinton, Portlaoise, Rathdowney, Abbeyleix.	Centres in Birr, Clara, Clonbullogue, Edenderry, Fermbane, Kinnity, Moneygall, Rhode and Tullamore.		
YOUTH				
Foróige	Working with young people aged 10-18 through volunteer-led clubs and staff-led youth projects.		Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, H Level 1, 2 & 3
	<p>7 Foróige Clubs – Clonaghadoo, Camross Loft, Portlaoise, Ratheniska, Timahoe, Mountrath, Port Youth Café, Portarlinton.</p> <p>Block Garda Youth Diversion Project, Portlaoise.</p> <p>The Port SUB Garda Youth Diversion Project (covering Portarlinton and Mountmellick).</p> <p>Foróige also responsible for Laois Comhairle na nÓg 2019.</p> <p>The Midlands Integrated Youth Project (Portarlinton base).</p>	<p>15 Foróige Clubs and groups - Fermbane (3), Ballycumber, Rath & Eglisk, Mucklagh, Banagher (2), Clonfert, Brosna Music Special Interest Group, Spot Junior Club, Fermbane Citizenship Special Interest Group, Bracknagh, Cloghan Foróige Club, Cloghan Junior Foróige Club.</p> <p>SUB Garda Youth Diversion Project (West Offaly).</p> <p>CoderDojo Club (Birr).</p> <p>Big Brother Big Sister Mentoring Programme.</p> <p>Midlands Integrated Youth Project (Birr base).</p>		
Youth Work Ireland	Provide social, recreational and informal educational activities for young people.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	<p>Laois:</p> <p>Spy Special Project for Youth (DCEDIY) offering programmes such as Splatter Art Programme, Youth Arts Platform Music Programme, Drop In Fridays, after schools and Luck Out LGBT Group.</p> <p>7 Volunteer Led Youth Clubs in Laois:</p> <p>Vicarstown</p> <p>Emo</p>	<p>Midlands:</p> <p>Special Project for Youth (DCEDIY) in Tullamore.</p> <p>2 Garda Youth Diversion Projects in Edenderry and Tullamore (DOJE).</p> <p>Acorn Midlands Education & Training Service (AMETS) QQI Quality Assured Training Provider (young people and adult learners).</p> <p>11 Volunteer Led Youth Clubs in Offaly - Arden</p>		

	Ballinakill Barrowhouse Ballylinan Lithuanian Rathdowney	View FRC; Jordan Juniors, Castlejordan; Clara Youth Club; Edenderry Youth Club; Edenderry Youth Café; Kilclonfert / Kilmurray Youth Club; St. Ciaran's Youth Club, Clonmacnois; St. Marys Youth Centre, Tullamore; P2B Youth Café, Tullamore; CoderDojo, Birr; Daingean Youth Club. Regional Community Employment Scheme with a total of 38 participants spread across the counties. Summer Programmes, International Exchanges, European Voluntary Service, Gaisce Junior Youth Leadership.		
Youth Café's & Centers	YWI Laois Portlaoise. Mountmellick Youth & FRC.	St Mary's Youth and Community Centre – Tullamore. Edenderry Youth Café. Sub Project Birr Youth Café.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, H Level 1 & 2
COMMUNITY				
Local Development Companies	<p>Laois Partnership Company Programmes include the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Rural Development (LEADER) Programme, Volunteer Information Service, Early Childhood Education Programmes based in disadvantaged areas and many targeted initiatives and programmes.</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company Programmes include SICAP social inclusion programme, Rural Development (Leader) Programme, Volunteer Centre, TUS Scheme, Rural Social Scheme, Jobs Clubs, Local Training Initiatives (LTIs), Job Initiative (JI), First Steps Ability Programme, Start your Own Business Programme (CE), Menpower Programme, Resettlement Programme, Social Prescribing Programme, Healthy Ireland, Youth Matters, Mental Health Promotion Initiative and many targeted initiatives and programmes.</p>		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 1 & 2

Citizens Information Services	Laois Portlaoise office with outreach to Midlands Prison and Cuisle Centre, Portlaoise.	Offaly Offices in Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore.	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1
LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES				
County Councils	Economic development, community development, planning, environment, water and emergency Services, provision of physical and social infrastructure, recreation and amenity services.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	Housing - Social housing, housing grants, home purchase, rental accommodation scheme (RAS), homelessness support.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2, 3 & 4
	Business supports / Local Enterprise office: supports for businesses, information, training and mentoring, finance and funding options, business premises and e-working		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	Community – Public Participation Network for community organisations, Comhairle na nÓg youth participation fora on local policy matters of relevance to young people.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
Libraries	Laois Abbeyleix, Ballylinan, Borris in Ossory, Durrow, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Portarlinton, Portlaoise, Rathdowney, Stradbally.	Offaly Tullamore, Kilcormac, Ferbane, Clara, Edenderry, Daingean, Birr, Banagher.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
Sports Partnerships	Laois - Increasing levels of participation in sport, especially amongst older people, girls and women, people with disabilities, unemployed people and those who live in identified disadvantaged communities.	Offaly – Inclusive measures to increase participation in sport in Offaly for all. Deliver a range of initiatives targeting disadvantaged, communities, ethnic minorities, families, older people, people with disabilities, schools, unemployed, employers, women and girls and young people.	Statutory	Universal, H, Level 1 & 2

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Laois Offaly

4.1 Outcome 1 Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Outcome 1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	
<p>How are Children & Young People in Laois Offaly CYPSC area doing?</p>	<p>24 Month vaccination rates for Laois Offaly are slightly better than the national average.</p> <p>Breastfeeding rates in are significantly lower in Offaly (48.2) than the national average (59.9) while Laois rate at time of leaving hospital is 57.7.</p> <p>The rate of teenage mothers for Laois is 2.2. and Offaly is 1.8 when the national average is 1.7</p> <p>As per the Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study 2018 Key Findings (Republic of Ireland) National Physical Activity Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13% of children met the National Physical Activity Guidelines of at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity every day, with boys more likely to meet the guidelines than girls of all ages. <p>In 2016 Ireland had the second highest rate of suicide for males and females across 33 countries aged 15-19 years at 10.21 per 100,000 people. On a national level Offaly has the highest rate of suicide nationally from 2015-2018 (per 100,000 of population) and Laois had the highest rate from 2009-2012 and Offaly again in 2007-2010.</p> <p>Under 24s is the age cohort who present mostly to Portlaoise and Tullamore hospitals with self-harm as per HSE local area data self-harm 2018.</p> <p>Jigsaw referral rates are on the increase year on year from 537 in 2019.</p>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Mental Health: Mental wellbeing is a huge issue and issues are emerging at a younger age that previously would have presented at post primary level. Eating disorders and self-harm is more prevalent with females, although eating disorders in males has increased.</p> <p>Anxiety: This is the number one presenting issue across many of the services that support young people. Need to build greater resilience in young people. Children and young people are in a rapidly changing world which can be fuelling the anxieties presenting across all services. The level of anxiety reported across services engaging with children and young people is concerning.</p> <p>Substance misuse and addiction: Image and performance enhancement drug use is prevalent. General drug use is a big issue. Online gaming is emerging as an addiction and is having a serious effect on activity levels.</p> <p>Wellbeing: YWI Laois have identified youth communities who need support on Wellbeing issues e.g. Portlaoise communities, gap in resources to deliver these youth wellbeing sessions.</p> <p>Therapeutic supports: All FRCs and youth services that provide counselling have waiting lists. The centres have to supplement their limited counselling budgets for parents and young people from whatever means possible. Youth workers are frustrated at waiting lists for assessments and the need to be able to direct</p>

	<p>parents to actual supports and not endless waiting lists. Gap for counselling support for those over 18 and not with a medical card and cannot access CIPC.</p> <p>Trauma: There is a demand for more information and training for the sector to learn more about adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress and the impact of this on children and young people’s lives and how services can build greater resilience in children, young people and their families. Need for trauma training for Direct Provision and Traveller settings.</p> <p>Child & youth infrastructure: In rural areas the activity options outside of GAA are very limited.</p> <div data-bbox="405 465 1390 1016" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Children and Young People’s feedback to identify priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mental Health Services/counselling services is needed, more information on mental health wellbeing and sexual health information including LGBTI+ (outside of school) •More Youth Services/groups/clubs, affordable summer camps •Sports- More sports clubs needed, teen Ggm/sports pitches •Safe parks & safe spaces for young people and those with additional needs •Healthy eating groups for young people •Activities – access to a wider range of activities and activity infrastructure e.g. cycle lanes </div>
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<p>Lack of Mental health supports in Laois in particular.</p>

Active and healthy priorities for Laois Offaly CYPSC

Mental wellbeing, substance misuse and addiction

- Develop Community interagency response to youth mental health issues

Therapeutic supports

- Highlight the need for a full time Jigsaw service for Co. Laois
- Support awareness regarding access, referrals and thresholds to Mental Health Services
- Support the increasing need for counselling support in FRCs

Trauma informed community

- Building resilience to childhood trauma to reduce chronic pain conditions in 18-24 year olds
- Create awareness re. the impact of adverse childhood experiences and childhood trauma
- Support the development of creating a trauma informed community
- Work with parents on the impact of ACEs on children

Child and Youth Infrastructure

- Youth wellness refer to Children & Young People's responses

4.2 Outcome 2 Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Outcome 2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

How are Children & Young People in Laois Offaly CYPSC area doing?

There are six primary schools that are designated Band 1 DEIS which indicates that the level of disadvantage is greatest (2 Mountmellick, 2 Mountrath, 1 Tullamore 1 Portlaoise) and a further seven primary schools that are Band 2 DEIS Schools. (3 Tullamore, 2 Clara, 2 Birr.)

There are five Post Primary DEIS Schools, in Portlaoise, Mountmellick, Clara, Edenderry and Tullamore.

Childcare provision: The Pobal Early Years Sector Report 2016/2017 (October 2017) records that there were 4,920 Early Childhood Care and Education registrations (free pre-school year) in the LO CYPSC area.

Full day-care places in Offaly for 0-3 year olds are to capacity across the 20 FDC services. No large scale capital until 2022.

Availability of childcare places in Laois is not an issue.

Education Progression: There is a higher progression rate to third level in Laois Offaly over the past four years.

Disability supports and Assessment of need: There is huge concern with early years' educators, parents and schools re. obtaining HSE assessment of need and

	<p>service statements in Laois Offaly. Please refer to the Laois Offaly Families for Autism Report 2015 https://www.loffa.ie/files/Autism_Services_in_LaoisOffaly.pdf</p>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Training and parents' supports: There is a wide variety of training available across Early Years, school age, youth sector and community training; however, there is a need for better co-ordinating, scheduling and awareness of all training for practitioners, parents and volunteers. Traveller education support workers was identified by Offaly Traveller Movement as an area of distinct need.</p> <p>After schools and life skills: There is a need for more age appropriate and variety of activities for after schools; there is a definite drop off in children wanting to attend after schools as they progress in primary school. The gap in life skills has been highlighted by young people in their consultation and adults. The commuter county factor is suggested to have an influence on the time parents have to engage in supporting their preteens and teenagers with life skills.</p> <p>Disability supports: There are widespread gaps across many areas of disability support in Laois Offaly based on consultations and are categorised as follows:</p> <p>HSE Services: It is the experience that there is a gap in resources for Early Intervention Team in Offaly. For OT and Speech and language it can take up to three years to get a block of four sessions and then back to the list. There is a lack of psychologists to support ASD clients in this area. The waiting list for CAMHS is having an impact on school engagement. School Age Team in Laois is under resourced.</p> <p>Pre School: Gap for children that don't have a diagnosis and are working through the AIM programme. Gap in the transitions from pre-school to primary for children with a disability.</p> <p>Schools: Difficult for schools to prioritise those for assessments for NEPS psychologist. Under resourced service to children. (Two per School per year.)</p> <p>Parents: Parents are confused re. seeking a private consultation for assessment for their child. Clear guidance is needed for parents who seek private professional support. Respite and self-care for parents of children with special needs/ASD is needed plus dealing with the shock factor of a diagnosis for parents when dealing with a disability. Group dynamic at HSE sessions for parents of children with special needs is too varied therefore it is difficult to get value from group sessions.</p> <p>Young people: Young people are very aware of the need for greater supports for those with additional needs. There is a gap on how to caution a young person with ASD. (Safe and protected from harm.) For young people with disabilities, guidance and support for options post 2nd level needs to start at an earlier stage and not in January of Leaving Cert year with HSE occupational guidance. This just gives the options of HSE services. After 3rd year this causes huge anxiety for families re. what the options are after school. For young people on the spectrum waiting lists for OT, Speech and Language, Play Therapy, Psychology are extremely long.</p>

	<p>Children and Young People’s feedback to identify priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life skills training, study skills and afterschool programmes •Mental Health & Sex Education- Mental Health services in school and sex ed including LGBTI+ sex ed (outside of school) •Inclusive learning- more services for people with additional needs, different learning styles, and better school facilities •Post Leaving Certificate options- access to information on options, costs and stigma around Youthreach, PLCs, apprenticeships (outcome 4) •Youth clubs -More youth services/groups/clubs supports •Homeless & housing- More housing for homeless
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<p>Supports for disabilities is a very significant gap.</p> <p>No childcare for parents who need to attend HSE courses for their child with special needs.</p> <p>Skills for youth workers to respond to children with ASD is needed.</p> <p>There is ongoing concern regarding the changes to the National Childcare Scheme by reducing childcare/after school hours for vulnerable children whose parents aren’t working. There is a gap in the role of parents to teach life skills.</p>

Learning and development priorities for Laois Offaly CYPSC

Training & parents supports

- Identify and collate all the training courses that are available from Services in L & OY for staff, volunteers and parents.
- Engage with Libraries in delivering learning opportunities
- Review the outcomes of the Midlands Parenting research on areas for support through the Midlands Parenting Partnership Working group
- Need for parent and toddler groups, rebranded and renamed

After schools & lifeskills

- Audit of after school services across the two counties
- Support after school programmes development
- Integrate life skills training across all services who engage young people and highlight the value of teaching life skills by parent

Disability supports

- Provide community supports for disabilities
- Identify alternative activities for young people with disabilities to engage in
- Engage HSE disability services re. therapeutic interventions
- Training in autism studies in schools and youth work settings
- Directory of services for parents who need support accessing services
- Link with CCCs, primary schools and National Education and Welfare Board re. transitions to primary school
- Link with Early Intervention Teams re. supports and collaboration

4.3 Outcome 3 Safe and protected from harm

Outcome 3 Safe and protected from harm

How are Children & Young People in Laois Offaly CYPSC area doing?

From 2016-2019, 14-24 year olds represent on average 26.75% of the age profile of clients who received counselling support by the Regional Rape Crisis Centre Tullamore. In 2019, half of the clients who attended the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit based in Mullingar for midlands referrals were aged 14-24 years.

Referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Office in 2019 has seen a significant increase in the number of those referred for the Misuse of Drugs Act and Criminal Justice (Theft & Fraud) Offences Act.

Overall there is a very significant increase in the referral rate to Juvenile Liaison Service from 2017-2019, which has warranted another Juvenile Liaison Post in Portlaoise in 2020.

With regard to Domestic Related Offences 2019, there has been an increase in the number of domestic callout (no court order), which would concur with the increase in demand for the two locally based domestic (DV) in Offaly and Laois to reflect an increase in DV activity.

What did the consultations tell us?

Domestic Violence: Number of referrals to DV services has increased significantly. In Laois the two biggest needs from DV report are the accommodation need and services for children. ODVSS- Helping Hands Programme.; scalability and support for mothers and signposting for further courses in services. There is a gap for staff in dealing with violence against parents from teenage children, Non-Violent Resistance Training (NVR). Demand for DV services has greatly increased and complexity

of cases has increased. Greater awareness and support needed for rebuilding mothers and children after DV.

Healthy relationships: Sex education-significant gap in information and knowledge. Role of sex education in schools is very limited. Risk taking behaviour re. transitions re. sexuality, multiple partners, STI clinics, activity, child pornography, anal sex (safer), 'I thought I had to', high risk countries re. STIs - factor to consider, consent. There is a gap for sex education for young people with special needs. Teen dating abuse is an issue. There is a low uptake by C&V sector and schools in Laois Offaly re. HSE ten-day Sexual Health training course. The boundaries on relationships and social media, influence of technology on relationships is problematic. Child/parent violence is an issue - no barring or safety order can be put in place for a parent against a child.

Justice: Juvenile Liaison Officer Services are in great demand in Laois.

Community wellness: Parental separation has increased. Poor mental health of parents effects the children and the household. Linking in parents with poor mental health to services increases the family wellbeing. There is no critical incident protocol for Laois Offaly.

Sustaining volunteer based services: Availability as more people are employed, cost of training volunteers versus length of volunteer service. Expectation of volunteers has gone way up, burnout a factor, managing behaviour of children is difficult.

Update on the thresholds for duty social work and Meitheal, referrals in and out from services.

Hidden Harm resource and training has proved useful.

New Communities: Direct Provision centres are on the increase in Laois and Offaly with significant needs within families living in confined spaces.

Accommodation and housing: Gap in service for a Women's Refuge/Safe House for the Midlands (Laois Offaly). No emergency accommodation service in Laois. Six emergency beds in Tullamore for over 18s. Need for support for aftercare clients in seeking accommodation. Need for supported transitional accommodation.

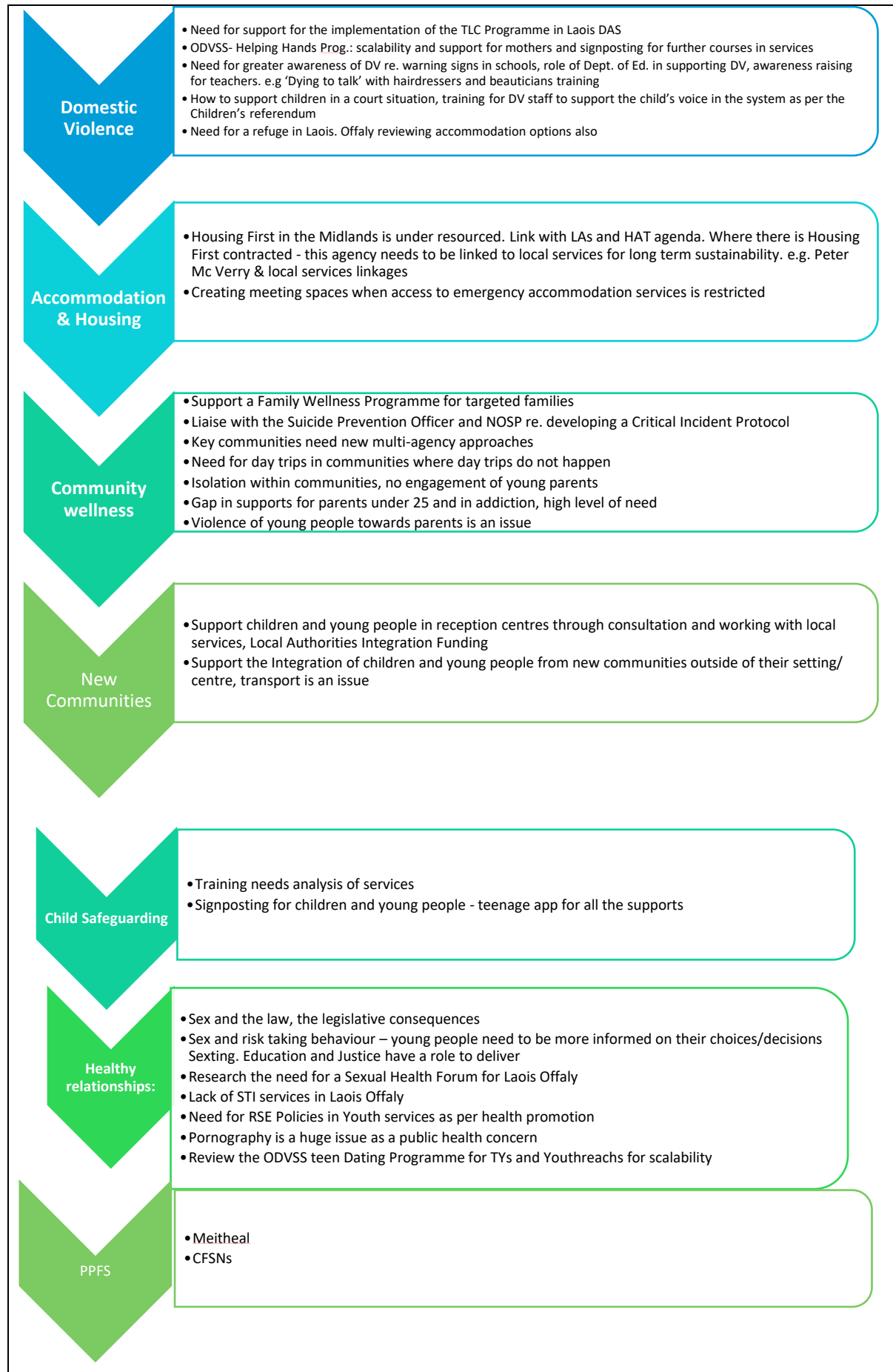
Child safeguarding: Lack of knowledge of legislation and responsibilities; responsibility of volunteers, volunteer policy - steps in recruitment. Child safeguarding in DP and emergency accommodation is a concern, plus the young people's perspective.

Children and Young People's feedback

- Gardai and crime – need to reduce crime re. drugs use and knife crime, need more Gardai and faster Gardai response time. Better relationship with Gardai is needed.
- Info on services to support and protect oneself - there is a wide range of info requests highlighted from bullying, abuse, neglect, online safety, knowledge of the consequences of crime. To have this information in an accessible space with key people to talk to who can help inform and support them. The range of topics re. safety of children and young people from harm are at a higher threshold than the issues raised re. mental health in other areas of the consultation.
- Safe places for young people
- CCTV and community alert
- Infrastructure - better footpaths, roads and lighting esp. in rural areas

Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<p>No. of Domestic Violence services - need increased capacity.</p> <p>Kilminchey remains a gap area re. deprivation.</p> <p>FRCs has identified a need for a Family Wellness Programme.</p> <p>Laois has one of the highest numbers of Direct Provision centres in the country.</p> <p>Reception Centres in Laois, DP Centres, increase in numbers in these type of accommodation settings for families.</p>
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Safe and protected from harm priorities for Laois Offaly



4.4 Outcome 4 Economic security and opportunity

Outcome 4. Economic Security & Opportunity	
<p>How are Children & Young People in Laois Offaly CYPSC area doing?</p>	<p>Not enough job opportunities as reflected in the youth unemployment stats. No. of single people under 25 on social housing waiting lists is significant.</p> <p>Deprivation: 71 % of pop. aged 0-24 are living marginally below average. There are 14 small areas in Laois that are deemed disadvantaged. There is evidence of food poverty at festive times of the year in certain communities, particularly winter when fuel poverty also has an impact on families. In Q2 2019, 25% of early school leavers were unemployed compared to 8% of other persons aged 18-24. Conversely, other persons aged 18-24 were twice as likely to be employed than early school leavers. Young carers are a group that are underrepresented in the community. Young carers are a hard to reach group and are very much hidden in Irish society. A young carer is a child or young person whose life is affected in a significant way by the need to provide care for a family member who has an illness, disability, addiction or other care requirement. Because of their hidden nature young carers may not receive the support that they require. We believe that although the Census 2016 identified 329 under 17 young carers, the NUIG HBSC Ireland 2014: Young Carers study would indicate that this is higher as 11.5% of 10 – 17 year olds reported that they were a Carer in that study nationally. As per the Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan, there is real potential for young people in Laois and Offaly in the areas of Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STREAM) based on initiatives being taken in both counties.</p>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Innovation: There are a number of projects across Laois and Offaly to support those NEETS and targeted young adults through the EETB, DEASP, AMETS Edenderry, Foróige Youth Employability Initiative Pilot and Youthreach. This is a really progressive area for support and innovation. The ETB has delivered the NFTE Youth Entrepreneurship Programme across the Youthreach in Offaly and Laois for the past four years which has helped stimulate entrepreneurship in youth. STREAM Projects: Offaly Local Authority and Library Service have undertaken a number of STREAM initiatives with Local Enterprise offices for young people to stimulate STREAM engagement for children and young people. Portarlinton Maker Space is a unique project supporting children, young people and their families to engage in creativity and design and allow people to shine through their creativity. This is a very positive area for Laois and Offaly that needs to be replicated and supported. A Creative Ireland project through the Library Service in each county is also supporting great creativity and alternative choices to engage young people and children. Young carers: There are more children and young people who are young carers than the official stats. report. Currently there is no young carers support group in Laois and Offaly. The caring role has the potential for significant negative effects on young carers, including educational disadvantage (increased likelihood of absence from school, responsibilities encroaching on time available for homework/study, poor academic results, inability to participate in extra-curricular activities, increased risk of early school-leaving) and social disadvantage, resulting in reduced life</p>

	<p>choices and limited opportunities. Young carers are a diverse group and all these children and young people have different needs and levels of disadvantage and vulnerability. However, the literature and data has overwhelmingly demonstrated that as a direct consequence of their caring role, the majority of young carers are at risk across a number of social and economic areas.</p> <p>When properly supported, care-giving can be a positive life experience for young people. However, when not supported young carers can run into barriers that may last a lifetime. These barriers include education, health, social, emotional and financial.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to explore the life of a young carer and the life of a young teenager who lacks life skills as reflected in the children and young people’s consultation 2019.</p> <p>Transitions:</p> <p>Young people with intellectual disabilities: There is a need to link with relevant stakeholders to address the transition options for independent living and education supports and ‘Personal budgets’ for those who can self-manage the supports they require and identify what supports they need to buy in for themselves.</p> <p>Aftercare: Young people in aftercare face difficulties in finding suitable accommodation given the demand for and lack of availability of suitable one-person accommodation. There is a need for supported accommodation for a cohort of aftercare clients. In the CAS housing prioritisation, aftercare is a priority with disability and a number of other needs; therefore, it is difficult to secure CAS properties on the scale of needs. Prior to this housing crisis, aftercare clients were financially independent to source their own accommodation, however, this is no longer possible for some and as a niche and sometimes very vulnerable group, they warrant a new approach to support. As per Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018-2021, aftercare clients are not a Housing First immediate target group.</p> <div data-bbox="416 1223 1382 1682" style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>Children and Young People’s feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Education options - more opportunities for further ed. training and apprenticeship courses. Youth focused material and accessible material and service • More Job and work experience opportunities • Life skills training • More Youth Services/groups/ clubs </div>
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<p>These are very vulnerable groups and although there are some excellent supports and initiatives to support these target groups there are much greater resources and supports required to afford sustainable independent living.</p>

Economic security and opportunities priorities for Laois Offaly CYPSC

Innovation

- Review the ETB/ Foróige Youth Employability Initiative delivered in Laois in 2019 for scalability
- Support the two new ETB funded projects when they are set up
- Review Youth Entrepreneurship activity to date in services to explore new possibilities for engaging YP
- Link with the Regional Skills Forum for possible opportunities
- STREAM and library innovations

Young Carers

- Need to set up a young carers support group
- Young Carers (Lifeskills) and Film Offaly potential project

Transitions

- Look at other CHO areas re. 'Progressing Disability Services' Network teams that focus on youth
- Highlight independent living for young people with disabilities transitioning with local Housing bodies policy strategies and implementation
- Support for parents who have children in care, high needs, joined up services response, what is available to them
- Supporting better outcomes and progressions for aftercare young people
- Joint protocol with LAs and Aftercare re. social housing options

4.5 Outcome 5 Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Outcome 5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world

How are Children & Young People in Laois Offaly CYPSC area doing?

While there is no local specific data, some schools in Laois Offaly did participate in the My World Survey.

1st years had the highest self-esteem levels.

76% have a special adult in their lives when they are in need, 61% reported that their special adult is always available.

The more time spent on social media has a direct correlation with anxiety and depression in young people.

Children and young people in Laois Offaly have been very successful to win national competitions and awards via their schools and community/youth settings, and therefore are making very significant contributions to their world.

Certain minority communities do seek better inclusion in the community. However, this is a very subjective area and needs further engagement and consultation.

Re. LGBTI+ community, there is data regarding the rate of suicide in the LGBTI+ community (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-LGBTI+-suicide/one-in-four-pre-teen-suicides-may-be-LGBTI+-youth-idUSKCN1QA2JQ>). The rate of suicide in Offaly and Laois has been significant over the past 15 years.

What did the consultations tell us?

Rural Youth Clubs are limited in Laois. 7 Foróige and 7 YWI clubs.

Offaly has 15 Foróige and there are 11 YWI Midlands clubs.

Adults are concerned with how young people communicate with each other.

There is a need to create a safe place for young people to communicate with each other.

The perception of the Instagram and YouTube has a huge impact on young people's view of the world and what they can do.

Laois Offaly CYPSC Children and Young People’s Consultation was held in 2019 which highlighted priority areas in Appendix D.

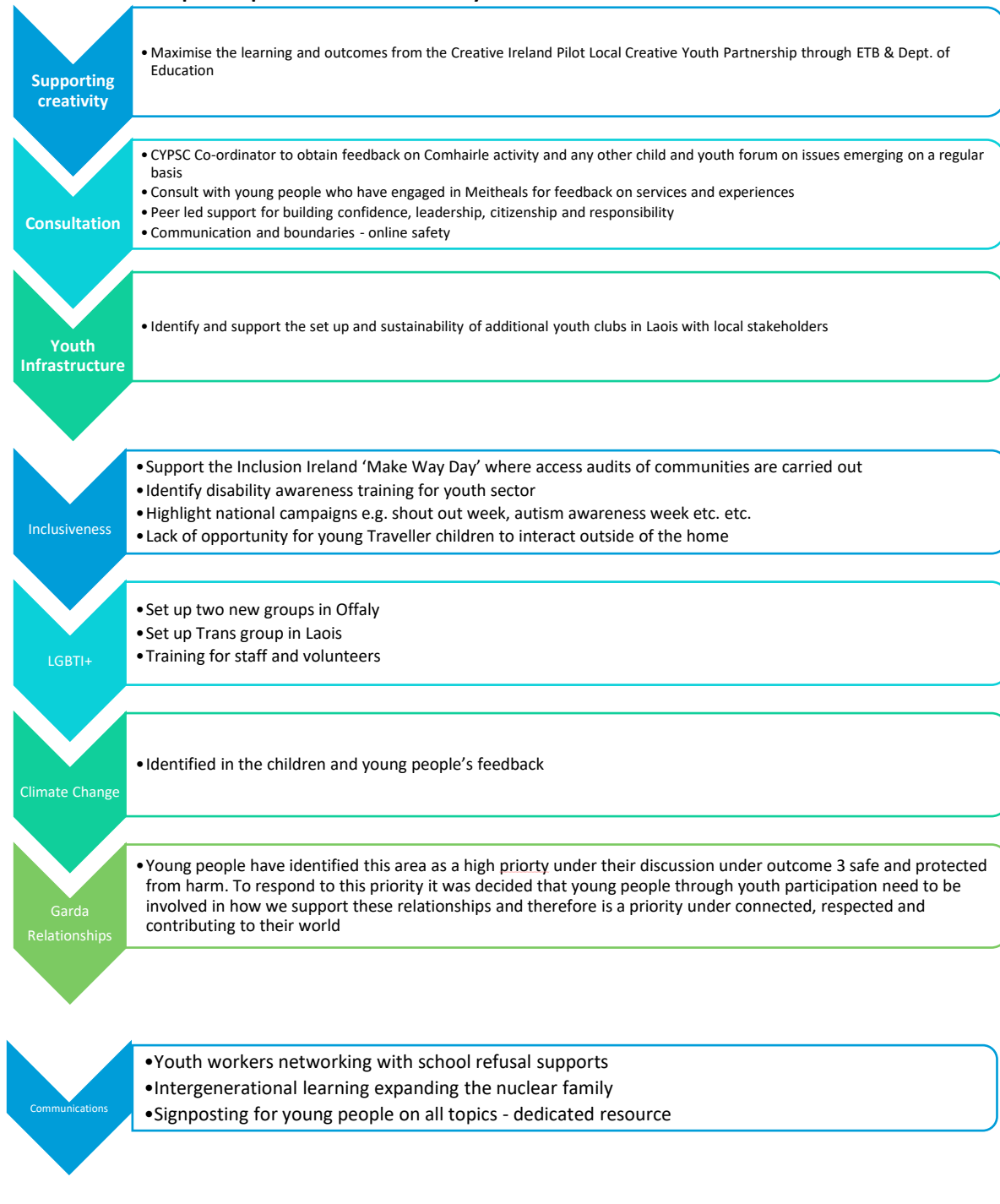
Children and Young People’s feedback

- Rural youth clubs are limited in Laois. 7 Foróige and 7 YWI
- Offaly has 15 Foróige and 11 YWI Midlands clubs
- Adults are concerned with how young people communicate with each other. There is a need to create a safe place for young people to communicate with each other
- The perception of the Instagram and YouTube has a huge impact on young people’s view of the world and what they can do
- Environment - opportunity to engage in social and environmental situations, green environment, less litter, improve Tidy Towns
- Opinions and input - Information on youth rights, responsibilities, services and supports and more opportunities to give opinions
- Education System - Having the opportunity to express yourself in the education system
- Better broadband
- Access to youth services and better transportation

Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?

Transport is a major issue for youth in Laois within the county.

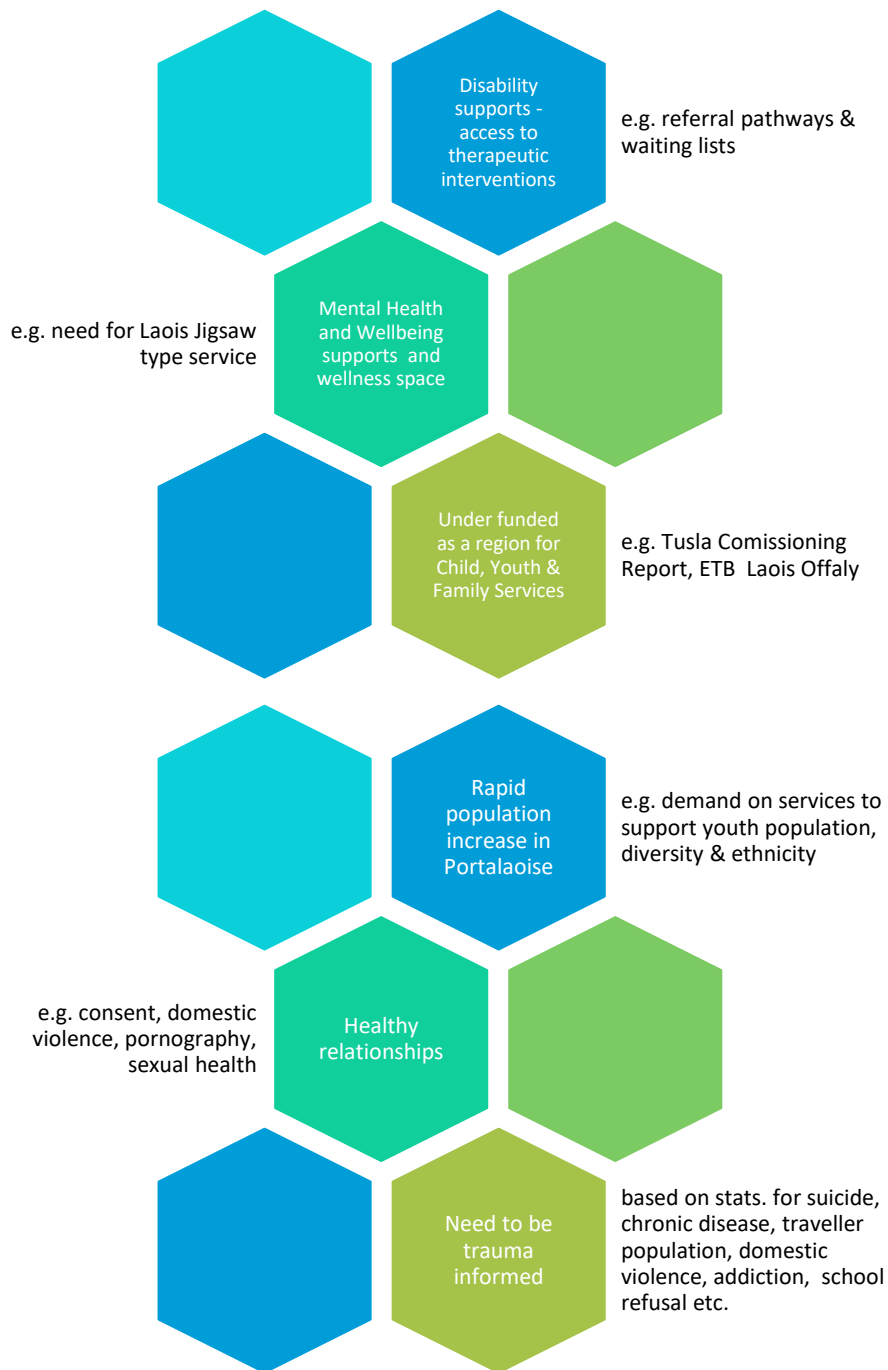
Connected and respected priorities for Laois Offaly CYPSC



Change Management / Transformation goals

- Membership and attendance of the CYPSC
- Get chiefs of agencies to meet once a year re. CYPSC and children and youth priorities in their organisations. e.g. Chief Superintendent, two Chief Executives of LAs, HSE Director
- Link with HSE services to re-establish the Disability Forum
- Annual diary of events re. Children and Young People Services events across agencies, MRDAT, DVs, etc.
- Team building in Laois across Children, Youth and Family Services
- Need for an inter-agency conference/ annual workshop for all stakeholders as per the MRDAT and CADS event prior
- Use the CYPSC plan to align all other plans that organisations have re. BOBF Outcomes focus
- Funding streams - mapping of funding across C&Y sector

4.6 Emerging Issues for Laois Offaly CYPSC




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


Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	1.1 Mental wellbeing, substance misuse & addiction 1.2 Therapeutic supports 1.2 Trauma informed community 1.4 Child & youth infrastructure
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	2.1 Training and parents’ supports 2.2 After schools & life skills 2.3 Disability supports
3. Safe and protected from harm	3.1 Domestic Violence 3.2 Accommodation & housing 3.3 Community wellness 3.4 New Communities 3.5 Child safeguarding 3.6 Healthy relationships 3.7 PPFS
4. Economic security and opportunity	4.1 Innovation 4.2 Young Carers 4.3 Transitions
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	5.1 Creativity 5.2 Consultation & participation 5.3 LGBTI+ support groups 5.4 Youth Infrastructure –physical & social 5.5 Inclusiveness 5.6 Climate change / Environment 5.7 Gardai relationships 5.8 Communications

Change Management	Local Priority Areas*
Change management - CYPSC may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level e.g. development of interagency protocols, development of information sharing protocols, interagency training	6.1 Committee 6.2 Research, saleability & funding 6.3 Communications & social media 6.4 Rural Transport 6.5 Inter agency conference & Laois team building across services 6.6 Risk register - Critical incident protocol




Section 6: Actions per Subgroup

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
1.1 Mental wellbeing & substance misuse & addiction	Community early intervention interagency response to youth mental health for better youth mental health.	Identify a youth wellness space for Laois. Provide community based wellbeing supports e.g. art therapist for young people.	1 designated youth wellness space. 1 Youth mental health support initiative in place.	Recruit a researcher to undertake a feasibility study for a youth wellness centre concept space. Recruit an Art Therapist.	Q 3 2022	CYPSC Subgroup. Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Fund participants.	A Vision for Change 2006- Mental Health services. Connected For Life – Ireland's National Strategy to reduce Suicide 2015-2020. Laois & Offaly Libraries Healthy Ireland programme of activities.	Transformational goals 6.2, 6.5 
	Reduce anxiety presentations to mental health services by supporting family wellness.	No. of training events delivered.	1 training event. 1 supporting anxiety in children and teenagers' poster created. 200 anxiety resource books for trainees.	Supporting anxiety in children and teenagers training day. Anxiety resource book for trainees. Anxiety poster created with key training learning points.	Q 4 2021	CAMHS, Suicide Prevention, Health Promotion Triple P, Jigsaw, Primary Care Psychology, Libraries.	Refer to Fearless Programme Health Promotion 2020 Training Programme.	Outcome 2
	Highlight the addictive signs of online gaming & screen time.	Reaction by the public for the need to support families on this issue. Set up a study group to measure screen	1 public awareness event of the signs of online addiction & steps to take. Reduce screen time with a study group	Public awareness event on the impact of screen time and online gaming. Engage a researcher	Q 1 2022 2023	Youth Community project with subgroup partners. Refer to Children's Research Network	Link with School Refusal team - School refusal pack to Identify if there is impact on school refusal when addicted.	Outcome 2


Section 6: Actions per Subgroup

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		time at start and finish and 1 month follow up.	and share the learning.	for a Digital downtime project. Get a measure for screen time in a community - Identify a study group to research screen time habits and online activity.		Organisation & the PEI- research Initiative open data resource /CES.	Pause for Play Today – Tips and tricks to help families reduce screen time: The START website	
	Bring greater awareness, education and supports to a community where substance misuse is an issue.	Identify 1 Community for a multi-agency collective response to substance misuse.	Support 1 community through the Co. Laois Action Plan.	Set up a targeted response to Substance misuse with youth. Support the priorities identified in the Community Action Plan on Drugs and Alcohol for Co. Laois 2020-2023 for a specific community.	Q 3 2022	CYPSC Subgroup supporting Co. Laois Action Plan. Refer to previous training with MRDAT and Youth Work Ireland Laois & published booklet. Hidden Harm and Putting the Pieces together CADS/ MYDAS training for those at risk of Substance misuse. (Research CADS & AIT videos).	Community Action Plan on Drugs and Alcohol for Co. Laois 2020-2023-Laois Drug & Alcohol Community Action group. Reducing Harm, supporting recovery: A health led response to drug & alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025.	Outcome 3
	Wellness workshops for vulnerable groups to support wellbeing.	No. of groups who engage in wellness workshops.	Deliver wellness workshops to 4 identified groups:	Build on the outcomes of the YWI Laois HI Positive	Q 4 2022	YWI Laois	The Obesity Policy and Action Plan 2016-2025.	 Laois LCDC action

Section 6: Actions per Subgroup

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				Laois Programme 2020/2021				Outcome 3
	Infant and children's mental health awareness initiative.	No. of masterclasses. No of focus group sessions.	1 Infant Mental Health Masterclass. 4 Perinatal MH focus group sessions.	Deliver an Infant Mental Health Masterclass to practitioners and community support services. Engage HSE Perinatal Mental Health team.	Q 2 2021	PHN's, Portlaoise Hospital, HSE, CAMHS, FRC's and Tusla Family Support.	Tusla Midlands Commissioning Plan. National Programme for Perinatal Mental Health. Framework for the National Healthy Childhood Programme 2018.	 Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF). Outcome 2
	Supporting families with children around preventing deliberate self-harm (DSH).	Identify suitable training programme and delivery style. Level of interest in self harm training.	Deliver 1 training programme via community network. 15 families supported.	Research and engage appropriate training initiative to support families and children who self-harm.	Q2 2021	CAMHS with Subgroup Link with libraries, Laois Connects.	Connected for Life	 CMHF Outcome 3
	Develop creative arts engagement in the community by using creative arts and activities to help families understand their mental health 16+ families.	No. of new creative arts programmes delivered. No. of families who engage in creative therapies.	4 new creative family wellness initiatives. Better family outcomes for 20 families.	Creative therapies family support initiatives in Family Resource Centres & DV Services.	Q 2 2021	FRCs & ODVSS and LDAS through HI CMHF.	Living well with a chronic condition: framework for Self-management support.	 CMHF Outcome 2
1.2 Therapeutic supports	Scale up the Jigsaw Laois service.	A full time youth mental health service for Laois.	Full 5 day service for Laois	Advocate for an extended Jigsaw Laois Service.	Ongoing.	CYPSC Subgroup and LCDC Laois.	A Vision for Change 2006.	Transformational goals 6.2, 6.5

Section 6: Actions per Subgroup

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	Identify thresholds for Mental Health services and referral pathways to services.	Information & video resource.	1 video series produced for social media.	Create videos from Services re. how to access, refer and the threshold to Mental Health Services.	Q 3 2022	CYPSC Subgroup.	A Vision for Change 2006.	Outcome 3
	Increase counselling & child art Psychotherapy supports in the community.	Level of funding that can be targeted. Extra resources identified for Community services.	Source increased budgets to Community services for therapies.	Support therapies in FRCs & youth services where demand is increasing.	Ongoing	CYPSC Subgroup.	Connected for Life.	Outcome 3 
1.3 Trauma informed community network group	Increase awareness of the impact of trauma across services and the community in Laois Offaly and how to respond in services and support children & young people.	No. of network meetings No. of trauma informed events held Attendance no's. Trauma training for identified groups.	8 Network meetings. 2 events. 200 no of attendees. Parents info. Leaflet. 2 identified groups; Travellers (LTAG) & Direct Provision families.	Building resilience to childhood trauma to a. improve outcomes for C & YP. b. support trauma informed organisations. c. Support the development of a trauma informed community. e. Work with Parents on the impact of trauma on the children. f. Targeted training for specific groups	Q 3 2021- Q 4 2022	Gardai, CYPSC partners, CADS & MRDAT, link with the FRC's from Phase 1 of ACE awareness.	Youthreach & ACE's study. MACE Study Irish Youth Justice Conference Report 2018. Living well with a chronic condition: framework for self-management support.	Outcome 3

Section 6: Actions per Subgroup

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
1.4 Child & youth infrastructure	Greater Capital investment in youth infrastructure.	More outdoor activity spaces & infrastructure provided.	4 new and improved outdoor spaces, 2 per County. Funding identified for youth infrastructure in local plans.	Engage LAs re Youth consultation report re. Outdoor activity spaces & infrastructure. Refer to a youth consultative committee with both LAs.	Ongoing	Subgroup & youth reps to refer to Laois & Offaly Local Authorities for capital investment. LEADER Programme. Town & Village Renewal Programmes. Creative Schools Programmes.	Children & YP Consultation Feedback report. National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland 2016. National Sports Policy 2018-2027 Town & Village Toolkit Project Ireland 2040 Strategy for the future development of National and regional Greenways 2018.	Outcome 5
	Support Active Schools Initiative.	Higher levels of activity in lowest cohorts of participants in Sport and activities.	Work with 6 schools.	Work with Sports Partnerships to promote the outcomes of Active Schools research.	Q 3 2022	Sports partnerships, schools, Healthy Ireland	The Children's Sports Participation and Physical Activity Study 2018. Healthy Ireland.	Outcome 5

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.1 Training and parents supports	Create a Training resource to highlight the range of training & events in Laois Offaly for workers & volunteers & identify gaps for continuous professional development.	No. of courses identified. No. of courses delivered. No of Child & youth sector workers & volunteers who sign up to the training mailing list. No. of times the calendar is used online in a year.	1 researcher to collate the structure and data for the calendar. 1 Annual calendar issued yearly Promote training & events online.	Engage a researcher to collate all the training available across the sector. Annual calendar of training & events re. Children and Young People Services events across agencies. Review the range of courses offered.	Sept 2021 Sept 2022	County Childcare Committees, Youth Work Ireland, Foróige, Barnardos, Tusla, FRCs, Laois Education Centre, Triple P, Jigsaw, Primary Care Psychology, MRDAT, libraries - Write to Read Network.	BOBF 2014-2020. First 5 Early Years Strategy. TUSLA Parenting Support Strategy 2014. Childcare Committees Ireland Strategic Plan 2019-2021.	Outcome 4
	Create a training resource to highlight the range of training in Laois Offaly for parents & guardians & identify gaps.	No. of courses identified. No. of courses delivered. Review the range of courses offered.	Issue a calendar of training & events yearly. Promote training & events online.	Collate all the training available for parents across the sector. Annual calendar of events for parents.	Sept 2021 Sept 2022	Subgroup with Midlands Parenting research through the Midlands Parenting Partnership Working group.	Tusla Parenting 24 7 Strategy. Right to Read Campaign-Supporting Literacy in the Local Authority. Framework for the National Healthy Childhood Programme 2018.	Outcome 4
	Identify training supports in education & community based	Outcomes of the review will determine further	Based on those already trained, carry out a review of	PAX good behaviour games expanded/ reviewed/ evaluated as previously funded	Dec 2021	Secondary Schools who were trained and Community based services who	PAX Good Behaviour Games Report.	Outcome 4


Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	settings for scalability.	investment in the PAX games.	its implementation & scalability.	under CYPSC Healthy Ireland round 1.		were interested in the training.		
2.2 Afterschool's & life skills	Enhancing afterschool's programmes for older primary school children.	Increased attendance at after schools. No of services who adapt their afterschool's programme of activities.	1 Adventure skills training for staff. Funded equipment for targeted after schools.	Engage a researcher to carry out an Audit of after school services are across the 2 counties & identify areas of need. Introduce adventure skills for after schools for Junior and Senior group.	May 2022	Offaly CCC & Laois CCC, Community Childcare Providers and Private Providers.	Report of Consultations with Children on After-School Care Nov 2019.	Outcome 5
	Highlight the value of teaching life skills to parents for better youth outcomes.	Social media campaign response rates. No. of life skills training delivered by services.	1000 Parents & Guardians engaged online. 2 life skills trainings delivered Youth, childcare and community workers, intergenerational groups.	Life skills v's social media skills online challenge to parents. Integrate life skills training across all services who engage young people e.g. promote Life Skills week.	Dec 2021	CYPSC Subgroup members.	Barnardos Life Skills UK Programme.	Outcome 5
2.3 Disability supports	Highlight the gap in services in Laois Offaly re. therapeutic interventions for	Produce a report card.	1 report to be produced.	Engage a Researcher and produce a Report Card that highlights the gaps in services in Laois	Jan 2022	CYPSC Subgroup members.	LOFFA Report The current state of HSE Autism Services in Laois Offaly May 2015	T.G. 6.2 & 6.5




Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	children and young people.			Offaly for therapeutic supports.			HSE Regional Strategy Autism Bill 2017.	
	Supports and collaborations with HSE therapeutic services.	Current waiting lists for HSE Services - therapeutic interventions. Re-establish the HSE disability forum.	Clarity and improved communications and access. Disability Forum for Laois Offaly.	Seek clarification on going from early intervention list to School Age Team list- how one transfers & how to navigate the system.	2022	CYPSC Subgroup members with HSE services.	Vision for Change 2006.	T.G. 6.2 & 6.5
	Develop a 'community of practice' re. disability supports and trainings.	No. of community engagement sessions.	Linking parents of children with a new diagnosis to community supports and services. Linking practitioners for peer learning support- online social media platform for resource sharing.	1. Services Networking workshops & awareness days for parents and practitioners. 2. Training for targeted groups via library network e.g. SNA support with Library Play Therapist 3. Peer support from ASD teachers to others.	Ongoing	Library Services in Laois & Offaly with CYPSC partners. Linking with ASD Science workshops in the libraries and the Midlands Science ASD programme. Laois Education Centre.	Healthy Ireland Framework. The national Strategy to improve literacy and numeracy amongst children and young people 2011-2020.	Outcome 4 



Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				4. Prohibitive costs to access activities for parents.				
	Support Inclusive communities by greater understanding in the community of diversity.	No. of School. As I Am Schools Pack As I Am Schools Speaker training and LOFFA.	6 Secondary Schools 200 As I am Schools Packs (Pandemic pending re. access to Schools).	Peer awareness on diversity. Promote Alternatives at Yard time in schools	2021	LOFFA, As I Am, local partners, Schools.	National Intercultural Health Strategy 2018 – 2023	Outcome 5 
	Support Intellectual disability after secondary education system.	No of attendees No of events.	1 event 150 attendees.	to organise a “post schools’ options” fair for Laois Offaly for those with intellectual disability to avail of more options after secondary school. Engage Young people with ID, family members, carers, practitioners.	June 2021	Inclusion Ireland Offaly and subgroup.	Review of supports available to people with disabilities transitioning from education or training into employment July 2018. Essential Principles: Irish Legal Capacity Legislation.	Outcome 4 
	Signposting to local services and supports.	Directory to be developed and printed. Copies of directory to be promoted upload online PDF copy.	1 Directory published 500 copies distributed Twice yearly online pdf copy updated	Directory of disability support services for parents and practitioners in Laois Offaly .	June 2021	Inclusion Ireland Offaly, Offaly & Laois County Childcare Committee, LOFFA Parents of children with a disability/	National Disability Strategy 2010-2020.	T.G. 6.3 


Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
			and available thereafter.			diagnosis. Practitioners, Family support workers.		
	Increasing awareness and knowledge of ASD.	Arrange a Conference. Target attendees of Practitioners and parents.	1 Conference. 250 attendees.	ASD Conference.	June 2021	LOFFA, Offaly & Laois County Childcare Committee, Library Services, CYPSC Subgroup members.		Outcome 5 
	Increasing access to activities for children and teenagers with ID.	Number of new or add on initiatives to existing services who support children and teenagers with ID.	6. no of services to engage children and teenagers with ID across sport activity, indoor games and skills and creative maker space workshops and camps.	Online Zoom activity sports camp. 1:1 Sports programme for key target group. Maker space workshops (3 youth cafés activities).	June 2021	Laois & Offaly Sports Partnership, Edenderry, Tullamore and Portlaoise Youth Café's, Portarlinton Youth Maker Space.		Outcome 5 
	Support child, parent and school on pre-schoolers transition to primary school.	No. of pre-schools who undertake the training. No. of Schools that liaise with preschools via CCC support.	3 Identified areas where there is a high turnover of pre-schoolers from a Childcare service to a specific primary school.	Research /explore CCC to provide training on the NCCA 'Mo Scéal' & 'All about me' to preschool services.	2021	County Childcare Committee with Primary Schools, NEWB.	NCCA First 5 Early Years Strategy BOBF Early Childhood Ireland Strategic Plan 2015-2020	Outcome 5


Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
3.1 Domestic Violence	Support DV services implement and scale children's DV programmes.	Referrals for the programmes No of times the programme can be delivered.	No. of children and mothers to participate in the programme.	1. TLC Programme. 2. Helping Hands Programme.	2021	LDAS ODVSS Family support services, An Garda Síochána.	National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2018-2021).	Outcome 1
	Increase community awareness of DV warning signs.	Response to campaign across the community Increase in level of contact to DV services.	1 Campaign. 50 new contacts to services.	awareness raising for all community services e.g. 'Dying to talk' with hairdressers and beauticians training.	Q 2 2022	DV Services, Schools, Dept. of Ed., Teachers, Retail sector, Sport Sector	National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2018-2021).	Outcome 1 
	Support the need for a refuge/ safe house in Laois Offaly .	No. of units created for DV clients who require accommodation.	1 new refuge centre for Laois Safe houses in Offaly.	Link with the LDAS working group and ODVSS feasibility study.	2021	Subgroup linking with LCDCs.	Regional report & Offaly feasibility study.	Outcome 4
	Empowering survivors of DV.	Reference guide for survivors of local opportunities for wellbeing.	Highlight the local services available in a user friendly format.	Support for mothers and signposting for further courses in services.	2022	LDAS ODVSS Family support services, libraries, An Garda Síochána, ETB Community Ed.	National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2018-2021).	Outcome 1 & 5
3.2 Accommodation & housing	Housing First support.	No. of families identified for PPFS support. No. of families who engage with PPFS /	6 families identified for PPFS support. 4 families who engage with PPFS /	Link with Housing First Programme in Laois & Offaly LAs to support & link with the programme.	<u>2021-2023</u>	PPFS Family Support and LA Housing joint initiative.	Housing First Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness.	Outcome 4


Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		family Meitheal support.	family Meitheal support.					
	Emergency accommodation support.	No of families in emergency accommodation.	Support 2 families in emergency accommodation.	Identify spaces to meet and support children & families in emergency accommodation.	2022	Local Authorities, FRCs, Parents First, Youth Centres, Primary Care Services.	Housing First National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2015-2017.	Outcome 4
	New tenants Housing Programme.	Research feasibility and level of interest	Deliver training to support new tenants sustain a tenancy	Explore Laois Partnership re. Module for 'Moving In'	2023	LAs, Local Partnership Companies, FRCs.	Housing First & Rebuilding Ireland.	Outcome 4
3.3 Community wellness	Improve family wellbeing and activity levels.	No of FRC Communities in Laois Offaly No of families supported.	4 FRC Communities in Laois Offaly 20 No. of families supported.	Flourishing Families wellness programme.	2021	Clara, with Tullamore, Mountmellick and Portlaoise FRC.	LECP Pan Laois & Offaly Healthy Ireland Plan Laois & Offaly Child poverty – Review & support the Sustainable Development Goals through the Lens of a Child Report for local implementation: A Joint Report by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Geary Institute for Public Policy, UCD.	


Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	Support families where there is child to parent violence in the home.	No. of trainings delivered.	3 trainings for Managers & Practitioners to support parents and foster parents Establish an NVR Network.	Non Violence Resistance training programme.	2021-2023	Subgroup.		Outcome 1
	Adverse childhood experiences awareness raising	No. who has viewed Resilience No. who has attended trainings No. who has attended conference No. of posters circulated	Series of Trauma informed training initiatives- through Healthy Ireland actions with a total reach of 500 across the events. 50 posters circulated	Trauma awareness raising events and training	Q 2 2021	Tullamore with Clara FRC's CYPSC members Tusla An Gardaí Síochána.		Outcome 1 
	To have a documented, co-ordinated community response to a critical incident.	Level of engagement in Protocol document No. of services to adapt a document.	1 Community Protocol document.	Critical Incident Community response Protocol Document	2023	HSE Suicide Prevention Officer and NOSP.	Connected for Life.	Outcome 4 & 5
	Sustaining volunteer based services.	Support volunteers.	Secure volunteer supports.	Highlight the dependency on volunteers in services in Laois Offaly.	Q 3 2022	CYPSC Subgroup, Regional Rape Crisis, DV Services, Parents First	Volunteer Ireland Strategic Plan 2018-2022 LECP Plans Laois & Offaly.	T.G. 6.2
	Key communities - new multi-agency approaches.			1. Day trips in communities where day trips do not happen.	2022	FRCs, Parents First, PPFs, MRDAT.	Laois Integration Strategy Offaly Integration Strategy.	Outcome 5

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				<p>2. Ways to engage young parents & target isolation within communities.</p> <p>3. Supports for parents under 25 and in addiction, high level of need, gap area.</p>				
3.4 New Communities	Integration of children and young people from new communities.	No. of families supported through activities in the community.	Support 50 children and young people in reception centres through consultation and working with local services.	Support Children in IPAS via the Local Authorities Integration Funding.	2022	Laois Partnership.	Laois Integration Strategy Offaly Integration Strategy.	Outcome 5 
	Capacity building of new communities in IPAS.	Based on the ODVSS DP and Ethnic minorities experience.	Hold 3 meetings with Centre Managers for IPAS.	Explore the feasibility of an IPAS Champions Programme.	2022	Refer to ODVSS & Tullamore FRC, Laois Partnership.	Laois Integration Strategy. Offaly Integration Strategy.	Outcome 4 & 5
3.5 Child safeguarding	Update Child Safeguarding awareness.	2 hr. SOS in the Community session.	Assist 6 services with Child Safeguarding Statement, procedures, gaps and updates.	Training needs analysis re. safeguarding training.	2022	Child Safeguarding Officer & Subgroup Refer to Mayo CYPSC & others.	Children's First	Outcome 5

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
3.6 Healthy relationships	Set up a healthy relationship working group to respond to issues outlined as priorities.	Healthy relationships programme for Schools/ Youth setting delivered by local services.	1 Healthy relationships programme 6 Schools supported 1 Working group set up.	4 modules created by 4 front line speakers in specific areas related to healthy relationships.	2021-2023	Healthy relationships working group partners.	Laois Healthy Ireland Plan. National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020.	Outcome 1
3.7 PPFS	Meitheal.	Increase the resources and no's. engaging in Meitheal.	Community services, youth and sport.	Promote and highlight the Meitheal intervention.	2021-2023	Meitheal Co-ordinator + subgroup.	Tusla Commissioning Strategy 2019-2023	Outcome 3
	Directory of Services.	Service Directory/ Information resource.	1 Directory.	Promote events online etc., signposting.	2021	Meitheal Co-ordinator + subgroup.	Tusla Commissioning Strategy 2019-2023.	T.G. 6.3

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
4.1 Innovation	Highlight best practice in early school leaver & Justice projects engagement.	No. of services represented and engaged. No. of webinars held.	7 Services. 5 Webinars.	Network the NEETS & targeted youth projects via Innovation Webinars. Explore Connecting business with skilled ex-offenders.	2021	GYDP's, Youthreach sector, DSP, AMETS, ETB.	SICAP Laois SICAP Offaly Action Plan for Jobs Europe 2020 Strategy. New Futures Network.	Outcome 5
4.2 Young Carers	To support young carers at risk of NEET.	No. of groups set up. No. of workshops held. No. of outings.	1 group established. 5 workshops held. 4 outings.	Set up a Young Carers group in Offaly Transitions workshops for when they leave home.	2021	Family Carers Ireland, Youth Work Ireland Midlands.	Offaly LECP NUIG Report on Young Carers.	Outcome 5
	Highlight different insights on teenager life skills for greater peer awareness.	No. of digital media project. s	1 digital media project.	Research a collaborative youth project between young carers and a youth group.	2023	Family Carers Ireland, Youth Work Ireland Midlands, Library Services.	Offaly LECP NUIG Report on Young Carers.	Outcome 5
4.3 Transitions-	To develop the Progressing Disability Services' Network teams for Laois Offaly.	Engagement with HSE Disability Services Management.	Establishment of Progressing Disability Services Network team for LAOIS OFFALY .	Engage with HSE re. Progressing Disability Services' Network teams.	2023	Inclusion Ireland, local disability groups, linked with outcome 2 Subgroup.	Making Equality & Rights Real: A toolkit for setting up Equality & Rights Committees in Disability Services- Inclusion Ireland HSE Disability Forums/	Outcome 2

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
							Strengthening Families.	
	Better family outcomes where there are children in care.	Supports & signposting for parents.	5 families supported by multi-agency response.	Identify community support for parents who have children in care, high needs, joined up services response, what is available to them & what they value as supports. Research access to trainings for specialised parenting, explore creative arts opportunities for Parents.	2022	Tusla CIC., Parents First, ETB, MRDAT, CADS, Partnership Companies.	Outcomes for Permanence and Stability for Children in Long-term Care-Tusla 2017.	Outcome 3 & 5
4.3. Transitions	Supporting better outcomes and progressions for young people in care approaching 18 years of age.	Aftercare young people identified in Policy in Housing Strategies in LAs.	3 new initiatives linked with aftercare. National Protocol document	Community supports for those transitioning from care to independent living. Support the National protocol with LAs re Aftercare Social	2023	Tusla Aftercare and Local Authorities with CYPSC subgroup.	Rebuilding Ireland, Housing First.	Outcome 5

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
			supported by both LAs.	housing options & CAS prioritisation.				


Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
5.1 Creativity	Maximise the learning and outcomes from the Creative Ireland Pilot Local Creative Youth Partnership for scalability.	No. of pilots that are sustained.	3 Pilot projects supported.	Link with ETB Creative Ireland Co-Ordinator on CI report 2019. Link with Local Authority Creative Ireland Co-ordinators & libraries re. Crinniu na nÓg Co-ordinators.	2022	CYPSC Sub group with ETB, Local Authorities, Creative Ireland, libraries.	2019 Creative Ireland Pilot Report. Creative Ireland Plan Arts Strategy Childrens Strategy Offaly Arts Plan Laois Arts Plan Creative Ireland Strategys 2018-2022.	Outcome 4
	Youth participation best practice.	Celebrating C& YP successes and achievements in Laois Offaly .	Link with the Garda Youth Awards. Share 6 Good News stories/ accolades per Year via CYPSC social media.	Highlight achievements of youth participation projects across the CYPSC area.	2021	CYPSC Subgroup with Local Authorities.	National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020.	Outcome 4
5.2 Consultation	Youth Participation & CYPSC Action Plan 2 way feedback system.	No. of youth participation sessions held with C& YP. Activity undertaken to be considered under the Investing in Children Award	3 feedback sessions Yearly promotion of Tusla Child & Youth participation training X. no of subgroup meetings.	Feedback sessions from Youth advocacy groups per year to inform the CYPSC Action Plans. Organisations to attend training by Tusla on Child & Youth Participation Toolkit. Minority group participation.	2021	Comhairle Exec. X 2, Youthreach Laois Offaly , Jigsaw YAP, Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Edenderry Youth in Action, Early Years/ County Childcare, 18-24 year olds, U.12's (Junior Youth Club) , Laois Youth group, Foróige District Council, YWI Midlands Network, YWI Laois Network,	National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020.	Outcome 4

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				Subgroup meetings		Scouts, Girl Guides, ETB Youth Work Committee.		
5.3 LGBTI+ support groups	LGBTI Support groups.	No of new groups set up Set up of steering group. Source funding for full time worker.	2 new groups in Offaly. 1 Trans group in Laois Steering group. 1 FTE equivalent.	Set up a Trans Group & LGBTI+ group in Offaly. Provide LGBTI+ training to staff & volunteers. Set up LGBTI+ Steering group. Identify sustainable funding for full time LGBTI+ worker for Laois & Offaly.	2021-2023	Subgroups with Youth Work Ireland Laois & Midlands. ETB, CYPSC partners.	LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020.	Outcome 4 
5.4 Youth Infrastructure	Increase number of accessible spaces for young people in rural Laois & Offaly.	No. of areas identified for support. No. of areas supported with accessible spaces.	4 areas identified 3 new accessible spaces identified.	Identify and support the set up and sustainability of additional youth clubs in Laois with local stakeholders.	Q 2 2022	ETB, Foróige, YWI Laois & Midlands, library service, music generation.	National Youth Strategy 2015-2020. Children & YP Consultation Feedback report.	Outcome 4
5.5 Inclusiveness	To increase a greater sense of Identity & belonging	Identify no. of National Days to be supported.	No. 6 National days per year to be promoted across	Highlight National campaigns e.g. shout out week,	Q 4 2022	CYPSC Subgroup.	National Traveller and Roma Strategy 2017-2021	Outcome 4

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	in communities and reduce social anxiety.	No. of services to take on a campaign.	CYPSC partners in 1 calendar of National events. 6 Services to engage with a campaign on what it means to them.	autism awareness week, 'Make Way Day', Teach Me as Me, Anti-Racism, YSI, Traveller Pride Week e.g. Lack of opportunity for young Traveller children to interact outside of the home.			National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021.	
5.6 Climate change / Environment	Climate Action Projects.	No. of initiatives identified for support.	1 Climate change project supported.	Link with LAs Climate Change Strategies Identify Climate Change project Identify funding channels from the 2020 National funding programme.	Q 3 2022	Comhairle na nÓg's, LA's, Youth Clubs, Youth Services, NGOs	County Development Plans Laois & Offaly Climate Action Plan LECP Laois & Offaly Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021.	Outcome 4
5.7 Gardai relationships	Gardai & YP engagement & relationship.	Identify Joint Policing Committee meetings. Information sharing & signposting.	Attend 4 JPC meetings. Identify who's who in police force.	YP to present to JPC Committee virtual or in person	2022	Youth Services, Gardai, Tusla.	Garda Youth Diversion Projects (Refer to Limerick & Clare CYPSCs)	Outcome 4

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		No. of programmes delivered to improve relationships. Identify lead stakeholder and budget required.	2 programmes delivered e.g. Absent Fathers prog. Hold 2 meetings to identify demand or not.	Gardai and Youth collaborative response. Research demand for a Restorative Practice. Conference & Programme.			Refer to Michael Farrell & Birr Sub Project.	
5.8 Communications	Intergenerational wellbeing.	Identify Stakeholders and budget required.	Hold 3 meetings to research the feasibility.	Research feasibility of Pre Schoolers & Older Persons Research project.	2023	HSE Primary Care, Pre Schools, CCC's, Nursing Homes.	Healthy Ireland.	Outcome 4
	Highlight the role of youth work services in supporting education.	No. of meetings.	2 meetings.	HSCL Officers to engage with Youth Services, Meitheal, EWOs etc. re supporting the issue of school attendance and early school leaving.	2021	Youth workers.		Outcome 4
	Signposting for children and young people-	App restored and updated.	1 app live.	Review the Laois Comhairle Teenage app for all the supports.	2022	Subgroup.		Outcome 1 & 3

Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
6.1 Committee	<p>Full engagement of relevant agencies at senior level.</p> <p>Commitment of senior personnel across member agencies to Children and Young People's Services Committee.</p>	<p>Full CYPSC membership at appropriate level.</p> <p>Co-ordinator in place.</p>	Membership attendance at CYPSC meetings is 90%.	<p>Attend meetings.</p> <p>Identify and release resources for CYPSC work/ projects.</p> <p>Membership and attendance of the CYPSC.</p> <p>Yearly briefing with Chiefs of agencies re. Child & Youth agenda in Statutory bodies.</p>	2023	All member agencies represented on CYPSC.	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People.	Outcome 4
6.2 Research, scalability & funding	How we advocate for Services and supports in Laois Offaly .	Service gaps- funding & resources.	Increase funding by 10% annually via CYPSC membership.	<p>Capturing the demand from a multi-agency approach e.g. Jigsaw Laois, Barnardos Laois.</p> <p>*Funding streams-mapping of funding across C & Y sector.</p> <p>*Scale up what's working well.</p> <p>* Open data- Data collation with CYPSC</p>	2023	Member agencies represented on CYPSC.	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People.	Outcome 1, 2 3, 4,5

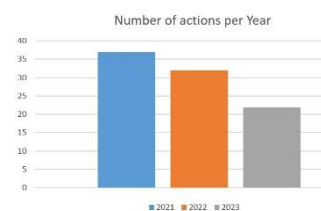
Action Plan for Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				partners & linking with PEI-RI. *Advocating for resources - e.g. NAP research via Rape Crisis Centres.				
6.3 Communications & social media	Better communications by promoting CYPSC activities on social media- Facebook, Twitter.	No. of Social media platforms.	2 Social media platforms.	Weekly updates on social media and sharing of good practice.	Ongoing	All Committee and subgroups.	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People.	Outcome 3 & 4
6.4 Rural Transport	Improve Rural Transport routes for education & leisure opportunities.	Additional affordable access to 2 new services.	Birr. (1 Laois town).	E.g. refer to Birr & Youth Justice Project access to ed. Courses.	2023	Committee members and Laois TRI.	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People.	Outcome 5
6.5 Inter agency conference & Laois team building across services	Integrating services & approaches.	Use the CYPSC plan to align all other plans that organisations have re. BOBF Outcomes focus.	Need for an Inter-Agency conference/ annual workshop for all stakeholders as per the MRDAT and CADS event prior.	Interagency workshop (as per MRDAT & CADS) 10 min presentations Focus sessions on networking topics.	2023	Team building in Laois across Children, Youth and Family Services.	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People.	Outcome 1-5

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

The following measures are in place to ensure the effectiveness and delivery of this plan. Please refer to appendix O which gives a timeline for each action for delivery and are summarised as follows:



When monitoring this plan, it is important to keep in mind the value of monitoring and evaluation by:

1. Collecting and interpreting information about implementation and results and reporting findings.
2. Considering external factors in informing analysis, planning and implementation.
3. Targets and indicators can provide signs of progress and may derive from benchmarks.

As per the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework Version 1.0, June 2017, the following monitoring and review processes are carried out based on the templates provided in the framework document.

Monitoring & review process	Detail
Annual Programme of Work	Each year of the plan, CYPSC will produce an annual programme of work under each subgroup which will outline what actions are to be undertaken.
Mid –Year progress update	Review annual programme of work to highlight any changes, unforeseen delays or recommended changes from the CYPSC.
CYPSC Planning and reporting framework	Annual report on progress of actions and projects delivered within a given reporting period will be completed each year to reflect work undertaken and actions complete.
Annual Child and Young people’s consultation	This will be undertaken in advance of each calendar year whereby the young people prioritise actions and this is then reflected to the CYPSC Committee for the annual programme of work. The consultation also allows for reporting on the previous year’s outcomes to the young people.
Subgroup meetings & CYPSC Committee meeting	Action plans are a standard agenda item at both sets of meetings to ensure focus and realistic expectations of the plan. Subcommittee chairs will update the CYPSC Committee of activity of each subgroup.

The benefits of monitoring will allow for:

1. Greater accountability across subgroups.
2. Identify and deliver 'early wins'.
3. Learn about activities and results.
4. Promote reflection.
5. Identify strengths and weaknesses.
6. Ultimately inform future actions and improve practices.

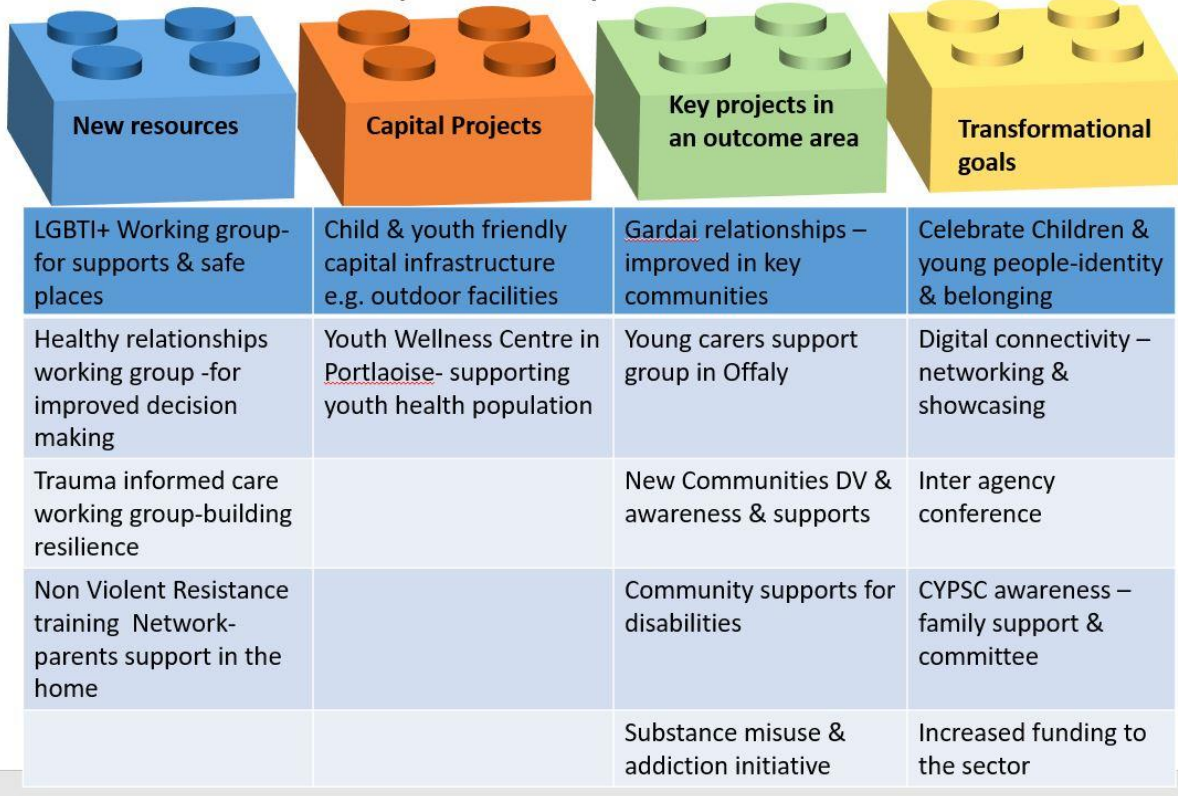
A key reporting tool is the Annual Progress Report. This report is utilised locally as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. The report will inform local CYPSC decisions to enact developments or changes within its three-year strategic plan i.e. the Children and Young Peoples' Plan. The report enables each CYPSC to be responsive to emerging local needs as well as national policy imperatives.

The CYPSC Annual Progress Report will encompass:

- An overview of how children and young people in the county/CYPSC area are doing under the five national outcomes for children and young people. Highlighting any significant changes, improvements and areas requiring further attention or exploration by the CYPSC.
- Detail of progress on those actions set out in the Annual Programme of Work to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Detail of CYPSC inter-agency activity including membership, engagement, distribution of leadership across CYPSC members and alignment of/linkages to CYPSC member agencies operational plans.
- Detail of how the CYPSC is involving children and young people in its structures and decision-making.
- CYPSC progress on national policy objectives and commitments as relevant.
- Challenges, achievements, the value add of the CYPSC model of interagency working and lessons learned from implementation.
- Record of leveraged funding into the county/CYPSC area and record of pooled resources by CYPSC member agencies.

Source: https://www.cypsc.ie/_fileupload/Documents/Resources/About%20Us/CYPSC-PR-Framework-JUNE-2017.pdf

Laois Offaly CYPSC Plan –key outcome deliverables



The deliverables in this plan can be summarised in the diagram above, where there are four blocks /pillars to highlight what this plan intends to achieve.

This plan is an opportunity to put some new infrastructure in place across the two counties:

Pillar 1 The 4 ‘new resources’ areas, to build up and share the knowledge base across wider staff and volunteers with those experienced in these areas. These are four new areas that have never come together before in Laois Offaly, these will be new initiatives to build on beyond the lifetime of this plan and have a wide reach from professionals working in these areas to parents, families and volunteers.

Pillar 2 The ‘capital projects’ – these will be advocating and having closer links with LAs re. outdoor play infrastructure etc. when funding comes up for capital projects, to help prompt or direct the projects from a YP/child perspective. The other one in this pillar is the concept of a holistic Youth Wellness Space for Portlaoise.

Pillar 3 ‘Key projects in an outcome areas’ – it is expected that these would be the standout projects from the three years; these may be the ones that have greater impact and they reflect the greatest need to respond to issues by the CYPSC from the consultations.

Pillar 4 ‘Transformational goals’ – highlighting the case for more funding is the prominent issue here along with celebrating the children and young people across the two counties.

Section 8: Appendices

List of appendices

- A Membership of Laois Offaly CYPSC Subgroups
- B Terms of reference Laois Offaly CYPSC
- C Youth Consultation Format
- D Summary of Children and Young People's Consultation
- E Laois LECP Plan
- F Offaly LECP Plan
- G Link to Midlands TUSLA Commissioning Plan
- H Link to Laois Offaly Socio Economic Profile Exodia
- I Local ED maps of Laois and Offaly
- J, K, L Offaly Integration strategy maps
- M My World Survey 2 who participated
- N DCEDIY Funding to ETB's 2019
- O Action plan timetable
- P Feedback session with Laois PHNs
- Q Feedback session with Family Support Workers

Appendix A: Membership of Laois Offaly CYPSC Subgroups

Active & Healthy Membership

Laois Offaly ETB Schools	Linda Tynan
CADS/ MYDAS	Fran Byrne & Sinead O'Shea
CAMHS/YAMHS	Breda Phelan & Carol Delaney
HSE Psychology	Dr. Elaine Coss
YWI Laois	Clive Davis
Foróige	Diane Burke
Gardai	Justine Reilly
HSE Health Promotion	Siobhan Hourigan
ETB Youth	Joe Thompson
Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention	Josephine Rigney

Learning & development Membership

Inclusion Ireland Offaly	Petria Malone
LOFFA	Catherine Edmonds & Jane Mc Manus
Sports Partnerships (SIDO)	Catriona Slattery & Jean Brady
Primary Schools rep	Bridget Clear
HSE	Marianne Tierney
Offaly County Childcare Committee	Aine Brummel
Library Staff in Laois & Offaly	Suzanne Carroll & Martina Needham
Laois Partnership	Karen Bambrick
HSE – SLT	Katie Walshe

PPFS Membership

TUSLA	Steve Wrenn, Audrey O'Reilly & Lorna O'Reilly
Laois Domestic Abuse Service	Marna Carroll
ODVSS	Anne Clarke
Four FRCs	Margaret Murphy, Michael Farrell, Liz Fleming, Joan Bolger
Jigsaw	Kate Brennan
Gardai JLO	Robert Fahy
Parents First	Dolores Wrafter
Laois Partnership & OLDC	Mary Keane
Laois Traveller Action Group	Jules Fitzpatrick
Barnardos	Deirdre Cahir
Respond Integration Worker	Bolaji Adeyanju
Offaly LDC	Sarah Behan
Regional Rape Crisis	Catherine Dooley

Economic security & opportunity Membership (to be established with the following representation)

Young Carers rep
Dept. Social Protection rep
Acorn Midlands Education and Training Service (AMETS)
Education & Welfare Rep TUSLA
Partnership Companies staff
Foróige worker in Portlaoise Employment project
ETB Further Education rep
GYDPs Laois & Offaly
Youthreach rep
Aftercare rep & Children in care rep
Parents First rep
CADS/MYDAS rep

Participation Subgroup membership

Jigsaw Youth Worker	Alison Harte
Youth Work Ireland Midlands	Ger Lacey
Youth Work Ireland Laois	Clive Davis
Foróige	Nadia Farrell
Sub Project Birr	Eimear Kelly
Acorn Project Edenderry	Anna O'Neill
Comhairle Laois	Niamh Kavanagh
Comhairle Offaly	Ashling Lambe
Girl Guides	Martina Hctor

Transformational Goals (to be established)

Third level rep., Tusla rep, Local authority reps., HSE rep.

Appendix B: Laois/Offaly CYPSC – Terms of Reference

The purpose of Laois Offaly Children and Young People’s Service Committee (CYPSC) is to provide strategic direction and leadership, to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration in order to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people in Laois Offaly.

Committee Principles:

1. Facilitate, coordinate and maximise collaboration and communication between services in the Laois Offaly area.
2. Support the joint implementation of policies and initiatives, which require joint agency co-operation.
3. Work towards the implementation of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020* in Laois Offaly .
4. Work collaboratively to deliver the expectations of *Children First, National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011*.
5. Develop and then implement a three-year Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) for Laois Offaly.
6. Evaluate and monitor the impact of the committees work and to utilise any learning to constantly improve service outcomes for children.
7. Voice of the young person should be central to committee decisions.
8. Report/link with the LCDC, as per guidelines.

Meeting Principles:

1. Meetings shall be chaired by the Tusla Area Manager.
2. A meeting quorum shall consist of eight members and 1/3 of the organisations listed above.
3. The committee shall meet at least six times per year.
4. Members shall be mandated and empowered to act on behalf of their nominating organisation.
5. If a member is unable to attend three consecutive meetings, the relevant member or their nominating organisation will be asked to nominate a replacement member to sit on the CYPSC.
6. Members may be nominated to be members of, or to chair subgroups of the CYPSC.
7. Members who are nominated as chairpersons of the subgroups are expected to provide leadership and direction to the subgroup.
8. It is expected that each member of the CYPSC will be prepared for the meetings, having read the relevant documentation in advance.
9. The CYPSC shall endeavour to make decision by consensus. In the absence of this, decisions should be made by vote. In the event of a tied vote, the chairperson may exercise a casting vote.

Membership

Organisation	Name/Title
Tusla Child and Family Agency	(chairperson)
Laois County Council	(vice chairperson)
Offaly County Council	(vice chairperson)
An Garda Síochána	
Laois/Offaly ETB	
Laois County Childcare Committee	
Offaly County Childcare Committee	
Laois Comhairle na nÓg	
Offaly Comhairle na nÓg	
Barnardos	
Foróige	
Youth Work Ireland Laois	
Youth Work Ireland Midlands	
Primary Schools (IPPN)	
Post-primary Schools (NAPD)	
National Educational Psychological Services	
Probation Services	
Health Service Executive	
Department of Social Protection	
Educational Welfare Services, Tusla	
Offaly Local Development Company	
Laois Partnership	

Approved: _____

Review by: _____

Signed:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Appendix C: Youth Consultation Format

Participation

Project/Group Name
Offaly County Childcare Committee

Age/Range 2-3 years

Numbers 9 **Location** Tuamamore

What makes your County a good place for young people to live in?
Outdoor Play Spaces → Park - Boora Parklands -
Indoor Play Spaces → Jumping Jacks

What does not makes your County a good place to live in?
Not enough swings in the park and no ice-cream shop in the park.

What services/facilities would you put in your County to make it a better place for young people to live in?
More ice-cream shops and swings -
An ice-cream shop in the park.

Active & healthy, physical & mental wellbeing → more Swimming Pools - indoor & outdoor.
more swings in the park
more parks with space for running & jumping.

Achieving full potential in all areas of learning & development → more spaces to paint
more opportunities for children to be creative in the community.

Safe & protected from harm → more gardaí
(A lot of children referenced road safety - not wearing seat-belts if Mom or Dad are in a hurry).


Economic security & opportunity → more education for parents.
-My Mammy would love to go to school.

Connected, respected & contributing to their world → * Education of caring for the environment.
* more community involvement in caring for environment. (My Daddy puts rubbish in the blue bin).


Other comments




OFFALY




TUJSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teachlábhairt
Child and Family Agency



CYPSC
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES
Laois Offaly



Youth Work Ireland
LAOIS



Youth Work Ireland
Midlands

Appendix D Summary of Children and Young People's Consultation 2019

Outcome 1.

**Active & healthy,
physical & mental
wellbeing**

1. Mental Health Services/Counselling Services is needed, more information on mental health wellbeing and sexual health information including LGBTI+ (outside of school).
2. More Youth Services/Groups/Clubs, affordable Summer camps.
3. Sports - More Sports Clubs needed, Teen Gym/sports pitches.
4. Safe Parks & Safe Spaces for young people and those with additional needs.
5. Activities – access to a wider range of activities and activity infrastructure e.g. cycle lanes.

Outcome 2.

**Achieving
full potential
in all areas of
learning &
development**

1. Life skills training, study skills and afterschool programmes.
2. Mental Health & Sex Education - Mental Health services in school and Sex Ed. including LGBTI+ Sex Ed. (outside of school).
3. Inclusive learning - more services for people with additional needs, different learning styles, and better school facilities.
4. Post Leaving Certificate options- access to information on options, costs and stigma around Youthreach, PLCs, Apprenticeships.
5. Youth clubs - More Youth Services/Groups/Clubs supports.
6. Homeless & housing - More housing for homeless.

Outcome 3.

**Safe & protected
from harm**

1. Gardaí and Crime – need to reduce crime regarding drug use and knife crime, need more Gardaí and faster Gardaí response time. Better relationships with Gardaí are needed.
2. Info on services to support & protect oneself - there is a wide range of info requests highlighted from bullying, abuse, neglect, online safety, knowledge of the consequences of crime. To have this information in an accessible space with key people to talk to who can help inform and support them.
3. Safe places for young people.
4. CCTV & Community Alert.
5. Infrastructure - better footpaths, roads and lighting especially in rural areas.

"We don't know the guards...
like I never see them except
when there
is something wrong"
Young person aged 15

Outcome 4.

Economic security & opportunity

"There needs to be more groups and services, especially in certain areas, there is nothing for young people to do after school or during summer"
Young person aged 13

"We need more work experience, it's hard to get a job without experience"
Young person aged 18

1. Further Education options - more opportunities for further education, training and apprenticeship courses. Youth focused material and accessible material and service.
2. More job & work experience opportunities.
3. Life skills training.
4. More Youth Services/groups/clubs.
5. Student Grants - information about supports.

Outcome 5.

Connected, respected & contributing to their world

1. Environment - Opportunity to engage in social and environmental situations, green environment, less litter, improve Tidy Towns.
2. Opinions & input - Information on youth rights, responsibilities, services and supports and more opportunities to give opinions.
3. Education System - having the opportunity to express yourself in the education system.
4. Better Broadband.
5. Access to youth services and better transportation.

Participation



Project/Group Name

Offaly County Childcare Committee

Age/Range

4 - 7 years

Numbers

8

Location

Tullamore

What makes your County a good place for young people to live in?

Cycling bikes, Playing outside with friends, Going to Park, Bowling & Virtual Reality Centre.

What does not makes your County a good place to live in?

No trampolines in the park and no space to use the skate park because teenagers are always there.

What services/facilities would you put in your County to make it a better place for young people to live in?

An indoor trampoline centre, Trampolines in the park, More Zip Lines in the park, More Swings & more sand-pits.

Active & healthy, physical & mental wellbeing



Playing on swings & zip-line & slides.
 * Having a place to cycle "like the road in Ardara" (meaning the cycle-way).
 * Having swimming pools that are not closed.

Achieving full potential in all areas of learning & development



More open spaces with interactive resources. Suggestions include, trampolines, climbing walls, zip-lines, basket-ball hoops and goal posts in green areas.

Safe & protected from harm



* "Adults to supervise us but not to babysit us because we are not babies".

Economic security & opportunity



* Affordable after-school services
 {my mummy has no money for me to come to play with}
 {my friends after-school every day.}

Connected, respected & contributing to their world



* More community events. Children mentioned
 1) Boora Fun Day &
 2) Lego club in the library

Other comments

Adventurous, outdoor play opportunities were emphasised throughout this consultation.



Appendix D: Summary of Children and Young People’s Consultation

OVERALL ISSUES FROM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTED ACROSS THE 5 OUTCOME AREAS

1. Mental health, LGBTI+, Sexual Health information and supports and information to protect oneself from various harm factors.
2. The need for more Youth Services, Clubs, Groups, child and youth activities and affordable camps.
3. Safe & inclusive spaces for youth; safe parks, accessibility and inclusive spaces for those with additional needs.
4. Life skills.
5. Post Leaving Certificate options, job and work opportunities, input to the education system, stigma regarding certain options.

BIGGEST SINGLE ISSUE TOPIC IN AN OUTCOME AREA - SAFE & PROTECTED FROM HARM

Gardaí and Crime

Need to reduce crime regarding drug use and knife crime.
Need more Gardaí and faster Gardaí response time.
Better relationships with the Gardaí are needed.



Appendix E: Laois LECP Plan & Healthy Ireland Plan, Offaly LECP Plan & Healthy Ireland Plan

[Offaly LECP Plan](#)

Community Goal 2 Local and Community Development

Objective 5: Improve the wellbeing and quality of life for children, youth, families and older people.

Community Goal 3 Empowering Communities

Objective 6: Promote and support cultural diversification within communities

Community Goal 1 Education, Training and Skill

Objective 4: Improve access and address barriers to education and training (including financial, transport, and social supports).

[Offaly Healthy Ireland Plan](#)

[Laois LECP Plan](#)

[Laois Healthy Ireland Plan](#)

Appendix F: Link to Midlands TUSLA Commissioning Plan

Tusla Midlands Commissioning report

7. Likely Future Level of Resourcing

Existing Funding

As previously stated, community based services in the Midlands area are funded via Section 56 grants, with the details of the expenditure for 2018 identified in the earlier chapter. The figure for 2018, €1.823 million, has remained similar for the past number of years.

When compared to budgets for other areas, it is important to acknowledge that Tusla areas are not homogenous, either in terms of geography, needs or population. But in identifying whether additional budget is required, it is useful to compare areas (similar to Section 4.1 above).

Firstly, looking at the Section 56 budget as a percentage of the overall budget for the area, in the Midlands area 8% of the total budget spent was on grant aid to Section 56 organisations. This is one of the lowest percentage spends nationally (with only Cavan/Monaghan, at 7%, spending less). At the other end of the spectrum, Sligo/Leitrim spend 26% of their budget funding the community and voluntary sector. The average spend nationally on Section 56 organisations is 15% of total budget.

A major difference between Tusla areas nationally is the population of children (0-17 year olds) in each area. Considering the Section 56 spend in each area per child shows large discrepancies in budgets to fund community organisations. In the Midlands, this equates to €22.74 per child spent on Section 56 organisations for 2018. Only Cavan Monaghan (€21.47) and Louth/Meath (€21.42) are lower. Conversely, €156.53 is spent per child in Dublin City North.

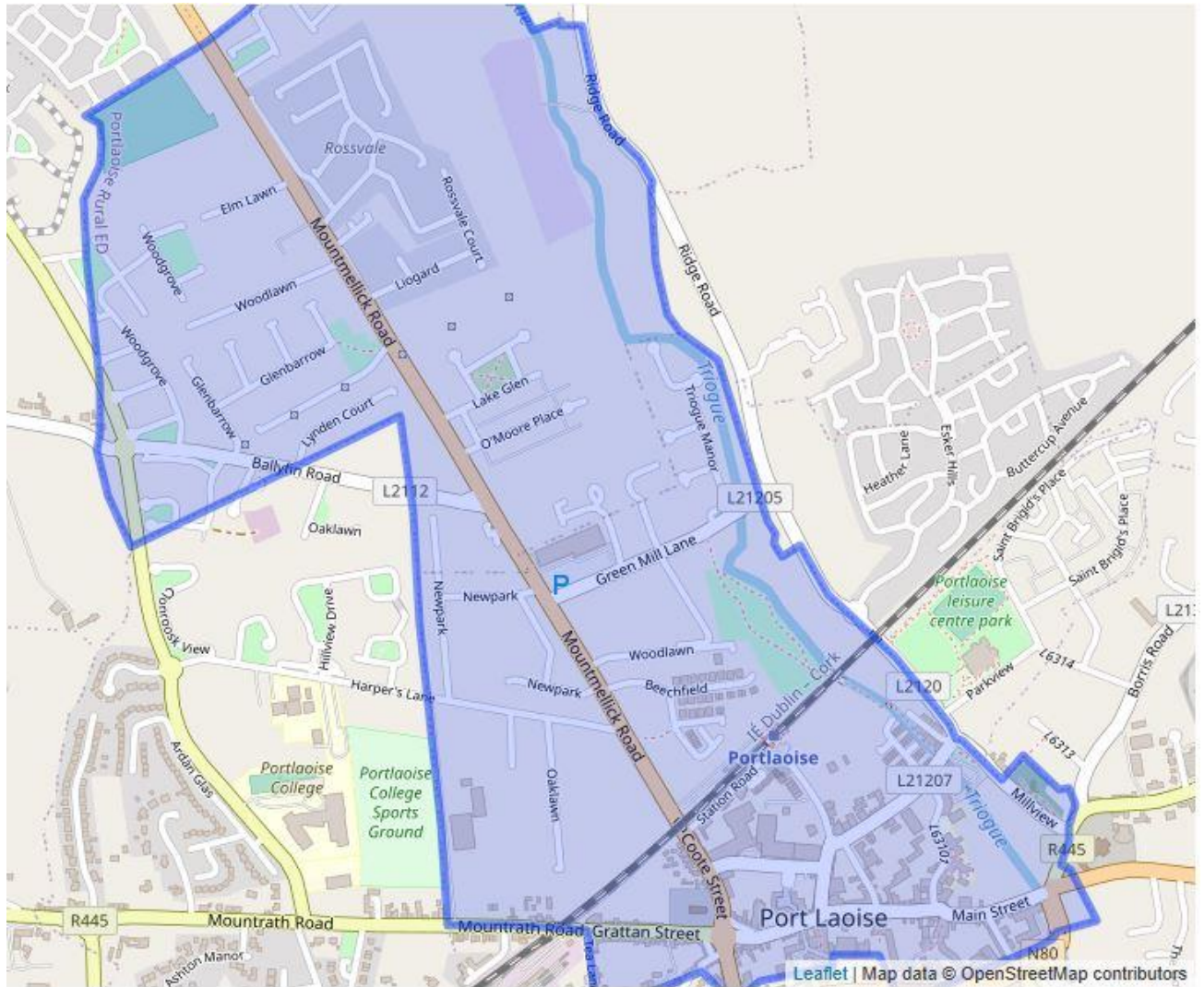
The levels of funding for Section 56 organisations in the Midlands, when compared to other parts of the country, illustrate the need, as identified in the national actions part of this plan (4. Commissioning Priorities), to increase this budget.

[Appendix G: Link to Laois Offaly Socio Economic Profile Exodia](#)



Appendix H: Map of Portlaoise Maryborough East area

Portlaoise Maryborough East



Appendix I: Local ED maps of Laois and Offaly

Laois Electoral Divisions

Borris-in-Ossory -
Mountmellick LEA - 6

Graigucullen-
Portarlington LEA - 6



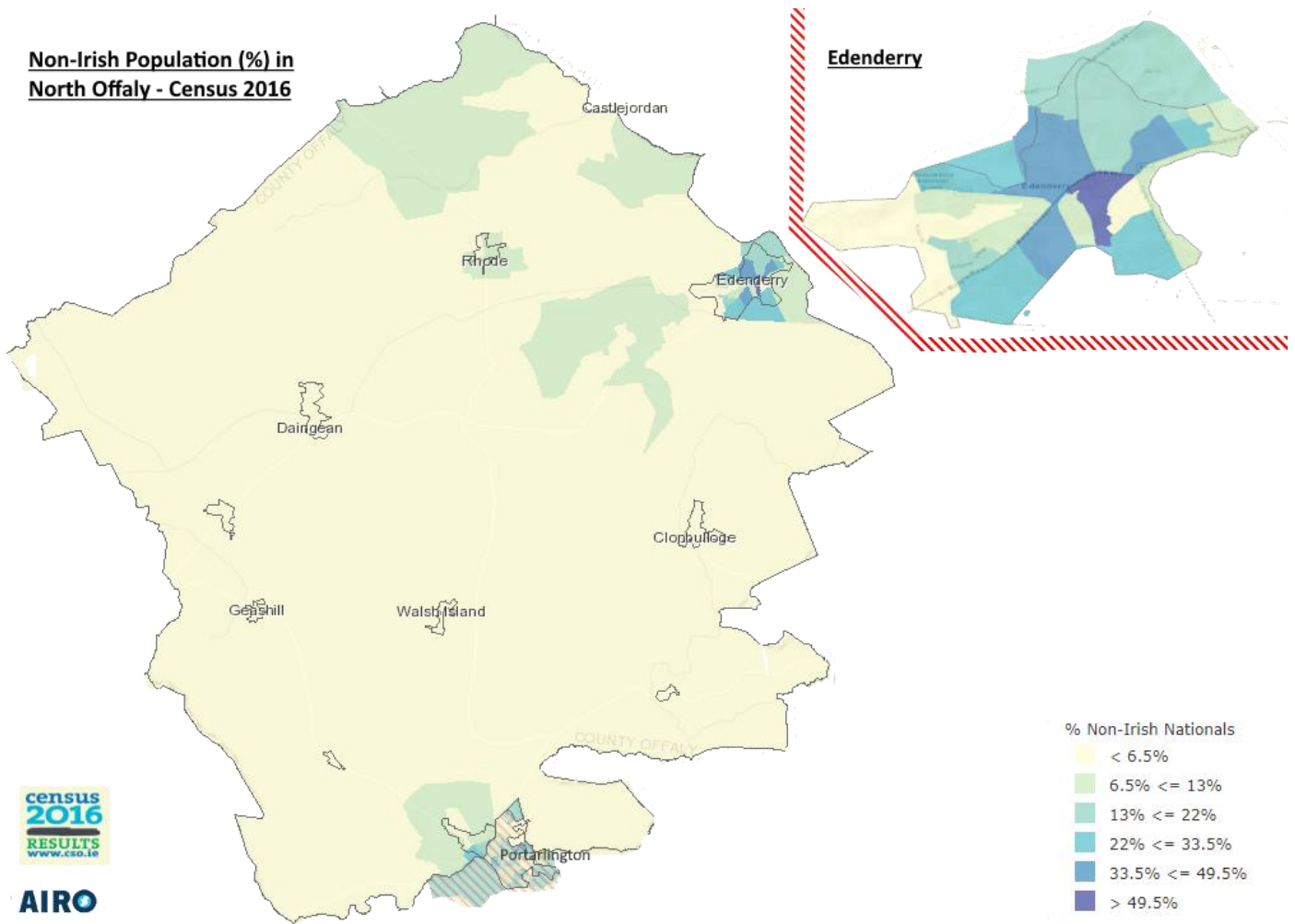
Offaly Electoral Divisions

Tullamore LEA - 7



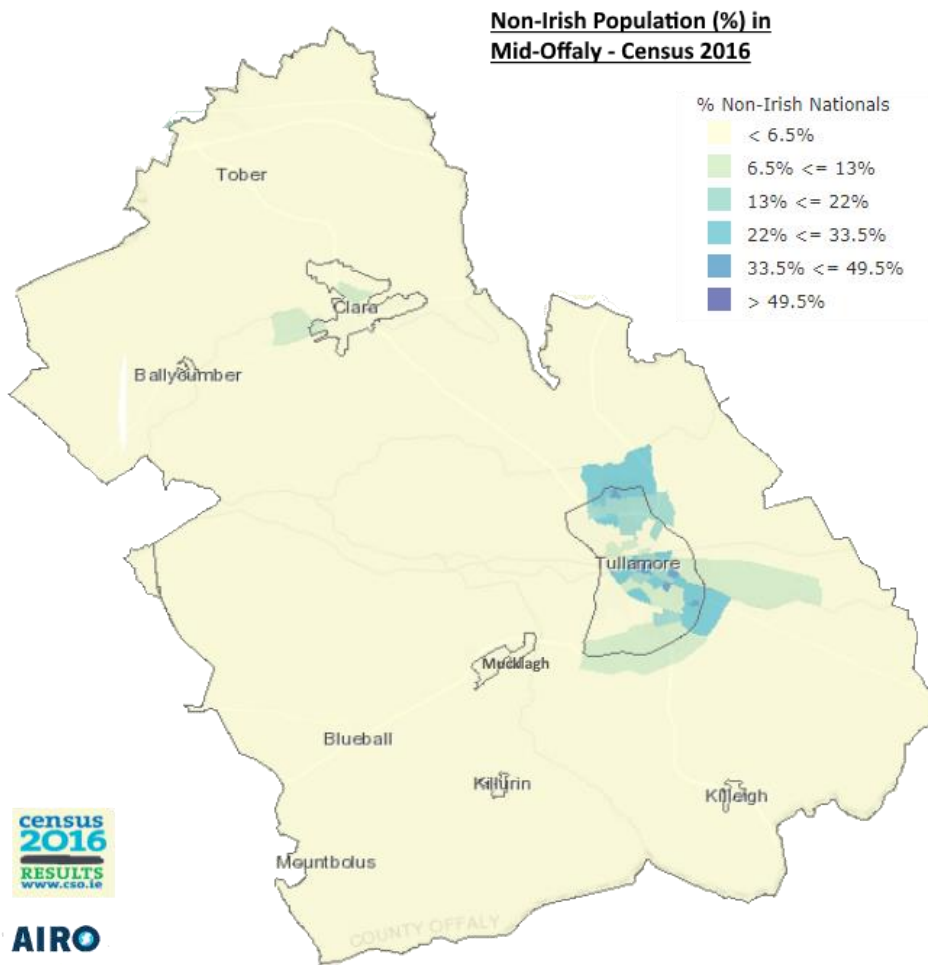
Appendix J: Offaly Integration Strategy maps - North Offaly non-Irish population

Non-Irish Population (%) in North Offaly - Census 2016



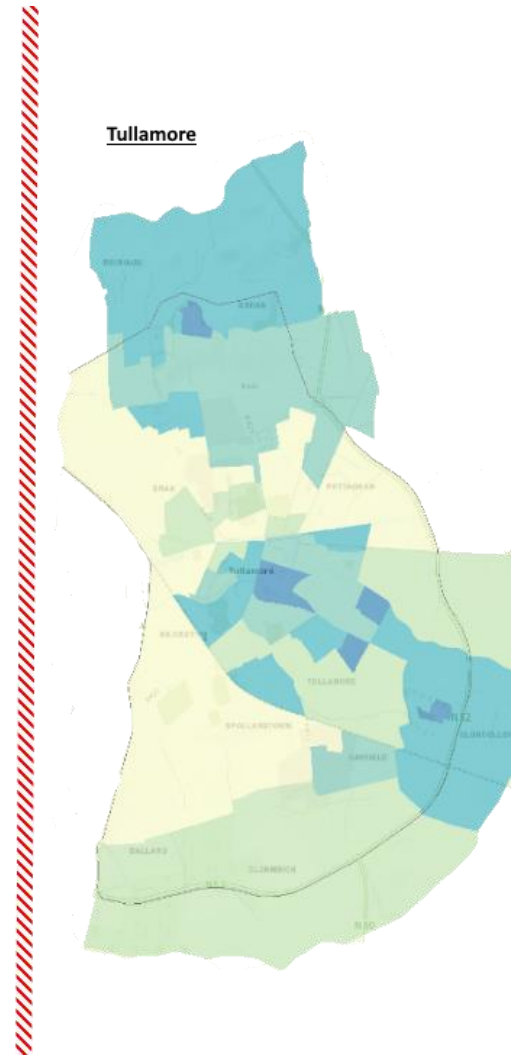
AIRO

Appendix K: Mid-Offaly non-Irish population

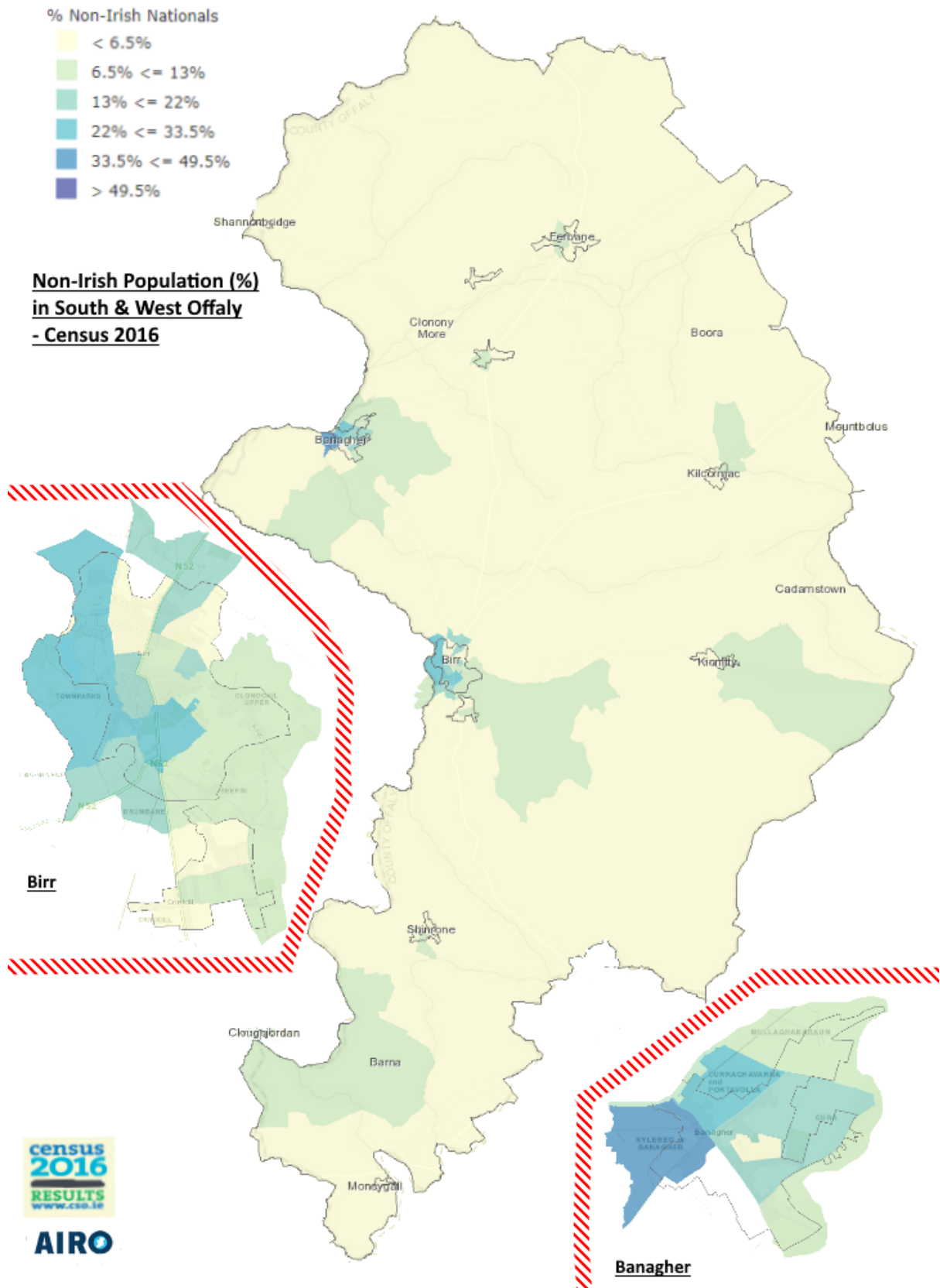


census
2016
RESULTS
www.cso.ie

AIRO



Appendix L: South and West Offaly non-Irish population



Appendix M: My World Survey 2 who participated

Who participated in MWS-2?

A total of 83 second-level schools randomly selected from the Department of Education and Skills database participated in My World Survey 2 Second Level (MWS-2-SL).

- **10,459 adolescents completed MWS-2-SL**
- **Age range 12-19 years (M=14.86, SD=1.67)**
- **56% identified as female**
- **All school years were represented in the study**

Participants in My World Survey 2 Post-Second Level (MWS-2-PSL) consisted of the following samples: (1) young adults in third level education and (2) young adults who were employed.

- **8,290 young adults completed MWS-2-PSL**
- **Age range: 18 to 25 years (M=20.23, SD=1.83)**
- **69% were females**

Participants in My World Survey 2 Seldom Heard sample (MWS-2-SH) consisted of the following groups:

- **Young people in Youthreach (N=314)**
- **Young people in Colleges of Further Education (CFE)/community training (N=292)**
- **Young people with physical disabilities (N=52)**

Appendix N: DCEDIY Funding to ETB's 2019

ETB Funding Envelope Approved for 2020	Targeted Youth Funding Scheme / YIC / Jan - Jun 2020	UBU Your Place Your Space (July - Dec) Application Process in Q1/Q2 2020	Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2020	Youth Work Function / Technical Assistance 2020	Total Funding 2020
Cavan and Monaghan	€315,021	€315,021	€56,850	€132,123	€819,015
CDYSB	€7,229,359	€7,229,359	€341,000	€906,749	€15,706,467
Cork	€1,597,293	€1,597,293	€227,475	€310,141	€3,732,202
DDLETB	€3,854,747	€3,854,747	€334,150	€573,097	€8,616,741
Donegal	€251,609	€251,609	€66,900	€104,917	€675,035
Galway and Roscommon	€1,005,583	€1,005,583	€136,230	€232,949	€2,380,345
Kerry	€271,818	€271,818	€56,300	€117,139	€717,075
Kildare and Wicklow	€872,888	€872,888	€158,550	€190,029	€2,094,355
Kilkenny and Carlow	€468,372	€468,372	€65,100	€218,821	€1,220,665
Laois and Offaly	€113,976	€113,976	€69,150	€104,920	€402,022
Limerick and Clare	€1,463,712	€1,463,712	€134,150	€298,182	€3,359,756
Longford and Westmeath	€317,430	€317,430	€55,300	€115,820	€805,980
Louth and Meath	€305,099	€305,099	€139,650	€169,834	€919,682
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim	€287,594	€287,594	€90,575	€182,041	€847,804
Tipperary	€439,381	€439,381	€65,330	€161,171	€1,105,263
Waterford and Wexford	€1,279,392	€1,279,392	€110,450	€282,960	€2,952,194
Total	€20,073,274	€20,073,274	€2,107,160	€4,100,893	€46,354,601

DCEDIY Youth Funding to ETBs - Laois Offaly allocation is 0.87 % of the total

Longford Westmeath allocation is 1.74% of the total

Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/0e7b0f-minister-zappone-announces-61m-in-youth-funding-for-2020/>

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/46744/db04a6b53f1f4041bdde688782365906.pdf#page=1>

Appendix O: Action Plan Timetable

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
1.1 Mental wellbeing & substance misuse & addiction	Community interagency response to youth mental health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Reduce anxiety presentations to mental health services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Addiction - Online gaming & screen time		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Substance misuse targeted response to youth Early intervention & education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
	Wellness workshops for vulnerable groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Infant and children's mental health initiative		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Supporting families with children around preventing deliberate self-harm (DSH)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Creative arts engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
1.2 Therapeutic supports	Jigsaw Laois		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Identify thresholds for MH services and referral pathways		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Increase counselling supports in the community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
1.3 Trauma informed community network group	Increase awareness of the impact of trauma across services and the community in Laois Offaly and how to respond in services and support C & YP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Child & youth infrastructure	Capital investment in youth infrastructure		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Active schools			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Healthy Ireland at public awareness wellbeing event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
2.1 Training and parents supports	Training resources Highlight the range of training & events in Laois Offaly for workers & volunteers & gaps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Training resources Highlight the range of training in Laois Offaly for parents & guardians & gaps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Identify training supports in education & community based settings for scalability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
2.2 After schools & life skills	Enhancing after schools programmes for older primary school children		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Highlight the value of teaching life skills to parents		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.3 Disability supports	Highlight the gap in services in LAOIS OFFALY re. therapeutic interventions for children and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Supports and collaborations with HSE therapeutic services		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Develop a ' community of practice ' re. disability supports and trainings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusive communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Support Intellectual disability after secondary education system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Signposting to local services and supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Increasing awareness and knowledge of ASD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Increasing access to activities for children and teenagers with ID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Support child, parent and school on pre-schoolers transition to primary school		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
3.1 Domestic Violence	Support DV services implement and scale children's DV programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Increase community awareness of DV warning signs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Support the need for a refuge/safe house in Laois Offaly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
	Empowering survivors of DV		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3.2 Accommodation & housing	Housing First support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Emergency accommodation support		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	New tenants Housing Programme			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Community wellness	Improve family wellbeing and activity levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Support families where there is child to parent violence in the home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Adverse childhood experiences awareness raising	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	To have a documented, co-ordinated community response to a critical incident			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sustaining volunteer based services		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Key communities -new multi-agency approaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3.4 New Communities	Integration of children and young people from new communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Capacity building of new communities in DP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3.5 Child safeguarding	Update Child Safeguarding awareness		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3.6 Healthy relationships	Reduce teen dating abuse Increase STI testing awareness Increase signposting & awareness of local services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.7 PPFS	Child Family Support Network's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Meitheal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Directory of Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
4.1 Innovation	Highlight best practice in early school leaver & Justice projects engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
4.2 Young Carers	To support young carers at risk of NEET	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Highlight different insights on teenager life skills for greater peer awareness			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Transitions-	To develop the Progressing Disability Services' Network teams for LAOIS OFFALY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Better family outcomes where there are children in care		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Supporting better outcomes and progressions for young people in care approaching 18 years of age.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 4 or Outcome 5 action	Highlight the role of youth work services in supporting education		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
5.1 Creativity	Maximise the learning and outcomes from the Creative Ireland Pilot Local Creative Youth Partnership for scalability		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Youth participation best practice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5.2 Consultation	Youth Participation & CYPSC Action Plan 2 way feedback system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5.3 LGBTI+ support groups	LGBTI support groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5.4 Youth Infrastructure	Increase number of accessible spaces for young people in rural Laois & Offaly		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.5 Inclusiveness	To increase a greater sense of Identity & belonging in communities and reduce social anxiety		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
5.6 Climate change / Environment	Climate Action Projects		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.7 Gardai relationships	Gardai & YP engagement & relationship		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.8 Connections	Intergenerational wellbeing			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Highlight the role of youth work services in supporting education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Signposting for children and young people-			

Action	Detail	2021	2022	2023
6.1 Committee	Full engagement of relevant agencies at senior level Commitment of senior personnel across member agencies to Children and Young People's Services Committee			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.2 Research, scalability & funding	How we advocate for Services and supports in Laois Offaly			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3 Communications & social media	Communications Social media - Facebook, Twitter			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.4 Rural Transport	Improve Rural Transport routes for education & leisure opportunities			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.5 Inter agency conference & Laois team building across services	Integrating services & approaches			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Appendix P PHN Consultation

Public Health Nurses Laois Offaly CYPSC briefing and feedback session 2020.

The main issues identified by this group of 18 professionals working in the Laois area are as follows:

1. Disability supports & waiting lists
2. Role of parenting
3. Anxiety and wellbeing
4. Isolation of families and mothers
5. Housing

Disability

- Autism waiting list and early intervention service
- Waiting list for services
- Long waiting lists for services and poor access/knowledge of services
- Long waiting lists for services, speech and language, physio, psychology
- Lack of services for young people with disabilities as no respite for their carers
- Lack of support for parents with autism/ADHD e.g. information/waiting lists/access to services
- Lack of resources for children with mild disabilities
- Lack of services for children with disabilities
- Children with a suspected disability or referred to EIT; process of assessment of need and outline of same (information) lacking for parents
- Disability information
- Where parents start to access services and entitlements
- If a child is under 12, no services available e.g. Rainbows

Parenting

- Parenting mandate re. education and training
- Parenting capacity
- Help for parents to deal with parenting problems
- How to empower parents to parent their child/children, to attend appointments
- Children's Mental health, mother's mental health – some children unable to play with toys
- Screens and attachment – reduced interaction between mothers, fathers and babies
- Limited family supports, mothers lonely and depressed

Parenting & Mental health

- Infant and maternal mental health services
- Suicide prevention
- Mental health services - lacking for anxiety
- Anxiety, behavioural issues
- Child mental health and anxiety

Social isolation

- Anti-social behaviour in teenagers due to lack of facilities, boredom
- Rural areas, lack of groups/supports for new mothers/mothers new to area
- Laois for 2021 conference (always Tullamore)
- Family event day with proper PR
- Support groups for mothers to build self-resilience

Housing

- Services inadequate for people who are at risk of homelessness
- Adequate housing

Appendix Q

Family Support Workers Midlands TUSLA Laois Offaly CYPSC briefing and feedback session 2020.

The main issues identified by this group of 9 professionals working in the Midlands area are as follows:

1. Drugs and alcohol misuse
2. Mental health
3. Parenting and hygiene
4. Resources and group work
5. Housing
6. Education and school attendance – additional needs
7. Waiting lists for services

It is important to note that when identified issues how many of these issues are interlinked and related to certain circumstances and the overlap of adult and child issues.

Issues in the community for adults-

- Mental health, misuse of alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, housing
- School attendance to get children to school regularly, mental health issues, alcohol and drugs misuse
- Education/social connection-issues around drugs/alcohol and no direction in their lives
- Lack of resources again to do group work, alcohol and drug issue, abuse of social media e.g. phones and internet.
- Lack of money, parenting issues, nothing to look forward to, alcohol and drug abuse, leaving school early
- Housing/community
- Addiction alcohol, drugs, financial issues, mental health issues, relationship issues, parenting issues, hygiene issues
- Chronic issues regarding disposal of waste
- Mental health problems, addiction problems

Issues in the community for children-

- Poor hygiene, no stimulation and general neglect of children
- Bullying issues, anxieties, autism, school attendance
- Poor school attendance, hygiene issues, lack of social outings for child, poor control, out of control parenting
- Depression i.e. lack drive, motivation in relation to their own lives
- Higher instance of autism, poor school attendance
- Chaotic homes, one parent homes, lack of money for activities outside school
- School refusal, anxiety, what are the options left going forward for these children?
- Lack of resources e.g. waiting lists for psychology services, CAMHS etc.
- Money to run groups
- Welfare - basic needs not being met, emotional need not been met

What do you think would help

- Referring into further education and learning; DSP & ETB built into the system
- Stepping Stones in Triple P
- Domestic waste: HAP tenants, LA tenants and AHB tenants when housing is being allocated, lack of responsibility currently on the tenant despite the tenancy agreement
- Infant mental health
- Autism resources
- Understanding the basics of good hygiene
- Managing anxiety - parent and child 'attachment piece'
- Clearer guidance rather than referring from service to service in disability etc.

Appendix R

Hardiker Model

The Model outlines four levels of intervention as follows:

Level 1: Refers to those mainstream services that are available to all children, health care, education, leisure and a range of other services provided in communities. It also offers the potential for targeting resources through community development initiatives such as parent and toddler groups, community houses, women's group which may be available to the whole community but particularly targeted at disadvantaged communities.

Level 2: Represents services to children who have some additional needs. Services are characterised by referral, and full parental consent and negotiation. Examples would be Behaviour Support, Parenting Support, additional educational services and support for children who are deemed vulnerable through assessment of what their need is, and via targeted specific services provided by education, health, social services, law enforcement and the voluntary sector.

Level 3: Represents support to families or individual children and young people where there are chronic or serious problems. Support is often provided through a complex mix of services which usually need to work together well in order to provide the best support. State intervention can have a high profile at this level. Examples would be children on the Child Protection Register or who have been before the Courts.

Level 4: Represents support for families and individual children or young people where the family has broken down temporarily or permanently where the child or young person may be looked after by social services. It can also include young people in youth custody or prison or as an in-patient due to disability or mental health problems.

*Centre for Effective Services (2010). An introductory guide to key terms and interagency initiatives in use in the Children's Services Committees in Ireland. CES Reference Paper 1st Edition, June, 2010. http://www.DCEDIY.gov.ie/documents/Key_Terms_Document.pdf



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Laois Offaly
