



Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2020- 2022



Contact

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

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Copies of this plan are available on:

www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/longford-westmeath-cypsc.243.html

Acknowledgements

Member Organisations of Longford Westmeath CYPSC and its subgroups

LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Project Participants

Core Needs Coaching and Consultancy Services

Exodea Europe Consultancy Limited

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Foreword

As Chairperson of the Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee (LW CYPSC), I am delighted to publish our first Children and Young People's Plan, since the re-establishment of LW CYPSC in May 2016.

Historically, there has been a pre-existing ethos and culture of interagency work across the two counties of Longford and Westmeath, 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 LW CYPSC has become a cornerstone in encouraging and enabling collaborative work to develop even further, between local children's services across the two counties.

The LW CYPSC plan was developed based on a solid foundation of inter-agency collaborative working, enhanced further through ongoing consultations with children and young people in Longford and Westmeath. This work is highly recognised with the LW CYPSC being the first multi-agency committee and the first CYPSC to achieve the Investing in Children Award. We have in fact, recently received the award for the second year in a row, and I look forward to the continued development of the LW CYPSC Youth Forums, which has been a direct result of the extensive consultation process with children and young people in the two counties.

The LW 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 LW CYPSC and Subgroup members for their hard work, commitment and input into the development of the LW CYPSC over the last three years and also into the development of the LW CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan.

The implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan 2020 – 2022 will further strengthen our inter-agency collaborative working over the coming years and will result in securing better outcomes and brighter futures for the children, young people and families of Longford and Westmeath.

Annette Maguire
Tusla Area Manager Longford Westmeath Laois Offaly
Chairperson Longford Westmeath CYPSC

Section 1: Introduction

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

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

Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing

Are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Are safe and protected from harm

Have economic security and opportunity

Are connected, respected and contributing to their world

Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, established the Children and Young People's Services Committees (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 integrated planning and improved service delivery.

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

Children and Young People's Services Committee in Longford Westmeath

Longford and Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee (LW CYPSC) was first established in November 2009. The committee was suspended for a period in the autumn of 2014 and was re-established in May 2016, under the auspices of a new chairperson and following a review of its composition. The Longford Westmeath CYPSC is made up of senior manager representatives from Community, Voluntary and Statutory agencies who deliver services to children, young people and families in Longford and /or Westmeath.

Historically, there was a pre-existing ethos and culture of interagency work across the two counties of Longford and Westmeath, and it was the established positive working relationships, across the Statutory, Voluntary and Community organisations that initially led to the decision to form a two county CYPSC for the area. Relations have continued to strengthen and the LW CYPSC has become a cornerstone, encouraging and enabling collaborative work to develop even further between local children's services across the two counties.

Who we are

Listed below, is the current membership list of the Longford Westmeath CYPSC

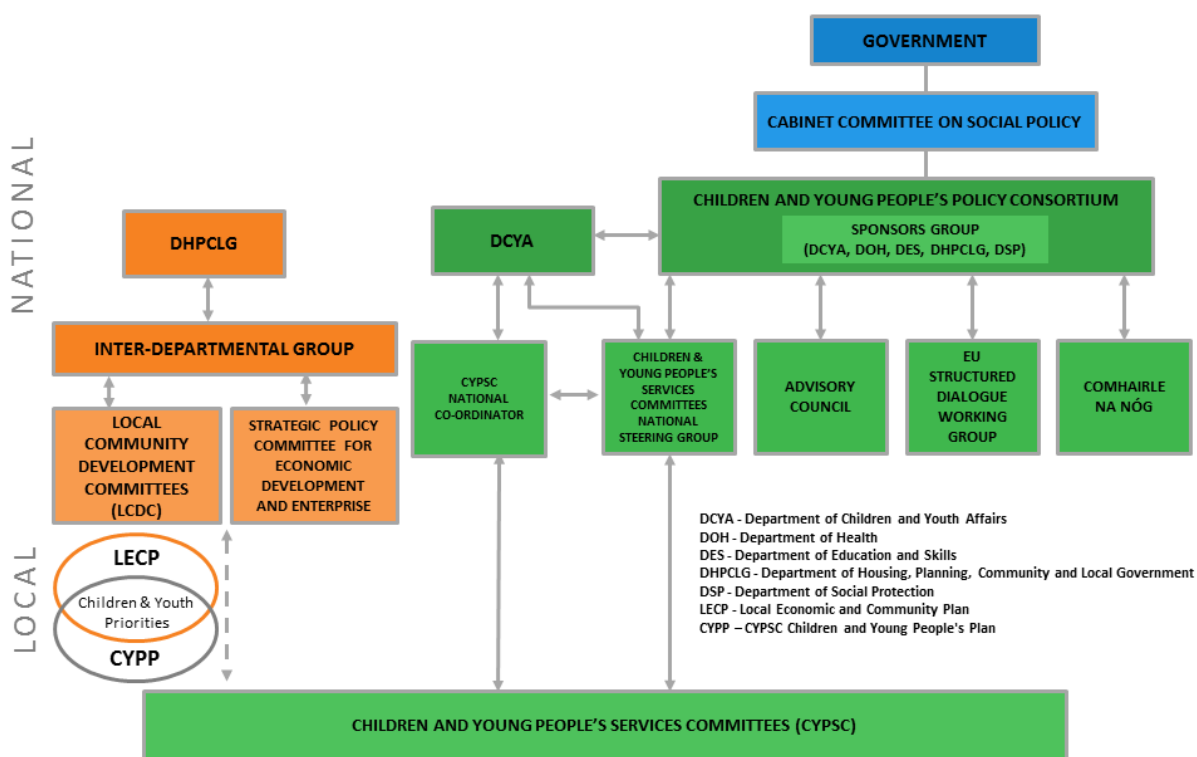
Chair: Tusla the Child and Family Agency*	Annette Maguire
Deputy Chair: Westmeath County Council**	Mark Keaveney
Tusla the Child and Family Agency	Steve Wrenn
Health Service Executive	Conor Owens
Health Service Executive	Mary Healy
Health Service Executive	Anne Naughton
Health Service Executive	Marianne Tierney
Longford Community Resources clg	Valarie McFarlane
Educational Welfare Services	David Dineen
Foróige	Claire Gavigan
Barnardos	Clare Deane
Longford County Childcare Committee	Carriann Belton
Westmeath County Childcare Committee	Muriel Flynn
An Garda Síochána Longford	Emer Farrell
An Garda Síochána Westmeath	Jarlath Folan
Youth Work Ireland, Midlands	Geraldine Lacey
Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board	Maria Fox
Family Resource Centre	Eileen Finan
Westmeath County Council	Annette Barr Jordan
Longford County Council	Laura McPhillips
Longford Women's Link	Louise Lovett
Westmeath Community Development	Frank Murtagh
Irish Primary Principals' Network (Longford)	Brid Glynn
Irish Primary Principals' Network (Westmeath)	Moyna Staunton
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals	Sorcha NicDhonnacha
Athlone Institute of Technology	Mary Mc Hugh

*Area Manager for Midlands (Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly), Tusla the Child and Family Agency **Director of Services, Westmeath County Council

Governance and Accountability

Children and Young People’s Services Committees form an integral part of the structures set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*. CYPSC’s are accountable to the CYPSC National Steering Group and to the DCYA and in turn to the Children and Young People’s Policy Consortium. The National governance and reporting relationships of CYPSC’s are described in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: National governance and reporting relationships of CYPSCs



Achievements to date

Since its reestablishment in May 2016, the Longford Westmeath CYPSC has developed a local subgroup structure, which is overseen by the LW CYPSC. Each subgroup is focused on key areas and has developed specific actions aligned to the five national outcomes for children and young people as outlined in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*. Each subgroup is chaired by a CYPSC member, and has a broad-based membership of practitioners working within the local community, voluntary and statutory sectors. The LW CYPSC Subgroups are listed in Figure 2, page 12.

Since 2016, the LW CYPSC and CYPSC subgroups have completed the following initiatives:

LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Project:

The LW CYPSC appreciate greatly the value in consulting with, and including the voice and opinions of children and young people. One of the main initial priorities for the CYPSC was to create opportunities for children and young people to be involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to policy and the development of services and programmes within the two counties and also to actively participate in the development (and subsequently the implementation) of the three year Children and Young People's Plan.

The Child and Youth Participation Subgroup, developed the LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Project for Longford and Westmeath, based on the "Lundy Model" of participation. Workshops were developed, based on the five national outcomes, with age appropriate questions designed so as to establish what was important to the children and young people of Longford and Westmeath and what they would like to see improved or changed?

Approximately 400 children and young people were consulted during this process, in 2017. There were two different workshop styles developed. The 3-12 year old workshops consisted of visual consultations incorporating art, dialogue and self-expression. The workshops were adapted to suit each setting and the children led the direction of each discussion. The 12-24 years workshops used the agenda style day format as recommended by Investing in Children. These workshops were facilitated by members of Longford and Westmeath Comhairle na Nóg. The participants for the workshops were from a range of settings including community crèches, primary schools, secondary schools, youth services/projects, sports organisations and family resource centres.

Following the workshops and consultations, which the young people were actively involved in right through the process with their respective organisations, the LW CYPSC compiled all of the feedback received from the children and young people into a report which can be read [here](#). The LW CYPSC were the first CYPSC (and first multi-agency committee) to receive the Investing in Children Award for this project. The report was reviewed in detail by both the Participation subgroup and the LW CYPSC itself, and was used as the starting focal point for discussions when developing the LW CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan, it in fact became the "heart" of the plan. It is evident in this report that the consultations with the children and young people formed a huge part of the LW CYPSC plan and actions from the Participation report can be found in Section six of this plan. The LW CYPSC have also agreed, that the report will be updated in 2019 to include a "CYPSC Response", as it was clear, although there were some very valid actions put forward by the young people, there were also some services that are already in existence, and the LW CYPSC feel it is important to communicate this back to the children and young people and also update them on what was included in the plan itself. A YouTube clip of the project and workshops carried out in 2017 can be viewed [here](#).

The LW CYPSC have continued to work closely with children and young people due to the success of the initial consultations and a further event was held in November 2018, which brought together, over 100 children and young people, with members of the LW CYPSC and its subgroups. The event was entitled "Shout Out 4 Youth" and it provided the young people with an opportunity to meet the

members of the CYPSC itself, to meet the National CYPSC Coordinator, and members of the TUSLA PPFs Regional Management Team (amongst other child and family professionals). It was at this event, that the LW CYPSC was re assessed for the Investing in Children Award, and have been successful in achieving this award for the second year running. A summary video clip of the Shout Out 4 Youth event can be viewed [here](#).

Much feedback was gathered from the Shout Out 4 Youth event, *see appendix 7 for feedback*, and it was very clear how much the young people of Longford and Westmeath want to remain actively involved in their CYPSC. This has led to the formation of five CYPSC Youth Forums in Longford and Westmeath in September 2019. Again the young people were actively involved in their establishment, and the forum members all came together on 20th September 2019 to decide what the CYPSC Youth Forums would look like (use of multiple choice voting system to develop their Terms of Reference and also youth facilitators were trained by the CYPSC Subgroup to lead out a workshop, examining what the five national outcomes are and how these drive the work of the CYPSC.) *The editing of the video of the September '19 event was not completed at the time of submission of this plan but will be available in the coming weeks and will be uploaded to the www.cypsc.ie website.* The CYPSC Youth forums (the first of their kind in the country) will work alongside the LW CYPSC to implement the CYPSC action plan, albeit on an age appropriate level. The forums create a direct link between the LW CYPSC and the children and young people of Longford and Westmeath and although the establishment of these groups is very much in infancy stages, we are looking forward to working alongside the LW CYPSC Youth Forums and to their further development in the coming months and years.



See selection of photos above taken from LW CYPSC Consultations / events 2017 – 2019

Interagency Parent and Toddler Group Development Programme:

It became apparent, during the development of the LW CYPSC CYPP that there is a young population in the two counties and a growing need for development of support services for young families. The Early Years Learning Subgroup worked together to (re)develop four parent and toddler groups within the two counties, including the establishment of two Áirc groups (one in each county) which supports children with additional needs and their support circle.

Inter CYPSC Working:

Development of a Midlands Data Hub -

Two cross CYPSC subgroups have been established between Longford Westmeath CYPSC and the neighbouring Laois Offaly CYPSC (see figure 2, page 11), where there have been common objectives, personnel or geographical target. One recent success for the joint Research, Data and Information Sub group, is the development of an interactive mapping tool created through CYPSC seed funding, for the midlands area, whereby all relevant data pertaining to children and young people (that is publically available) is contained in one place. This tool is capable of producing reports, and is usable for service planning. The research committee have brought the project to the stage whereby it is capable of being used, but is in need of refinement.

Pax Good Behaviour Games Programme-

In another collaboration with Laois Offaly CYPSC, in 2017, together with Barnardos and the 4 Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in the Midlands successfully secured funding from the Healthy Ireland Fund, Round 1 which was allocated to the PAX Good Behaviour Games, a programme which was successfully piloted in the Midlands in 2015. The Healthy Ireland Funding supported a further increase in the availability of training in the programme and allowed for building of capacity, structure and elements needed for scaling up delivery of PAX to primary schools in the Midlands. PAX GBG is a classroom based intervention programme, based on social learning principles that foster pro-social behaviours in the participating pupils. Positive outcomes associated with the programme include increased self-regulation, increased academic attainment and improved behaviours. There are also lifelong improvements in mental health and wellbeing in the participating pupils. *These funds allowed for:*

- Three Midlands Teachers were accredited by the PAXIS Institute as PAX GBG trainers.
- Training of 15 in school PAX Mentors who support the trained school teachers to embed PAX strategies in their everyday teaching practice. The mentors will have a significant impact on each schools being able to independently sustain high quality delivery of PAX without the need for high levels of external supports.
- In collaboration with the PAXIS Institute a support structure has been developed for both the trainers and the in school mentors.
- An Irish PAX web site with access to American and Irish developed PAX GBG training and support videos is nearing completion.
- 40 teachers from across the 4 Midlands counties were trained in PAX GBG resulting in 1,000 pupils routinely be exposed to PAX GBG (as a direct result of the HIF round 1 funding).
- A training manual for teacher summer courses has been developed.
- An introduction presentation for new schools considering PAX GBG has been developed.
- A training programme for pre service teachers on placement in PAX schools has been developed.

The Department of Public Health, HSE, Dublin Mid-Leinster led and facilitated an independent qualitative research study to capture the experiences and lessons learned by the Irish teachers who implemented the PAX Good Behaviour Game (PAX GBG) programme and the experiences of their school principals. The evaluation of the programme, in the Irish context, strongly pointed to an overall calmer and more stable classroom environment, resulting in increased pupil emotional regulation and well-being, increased focus and concentration on learning with higher academic achievements across many domains of learning. Similar outcomes reported in the Midlands area.

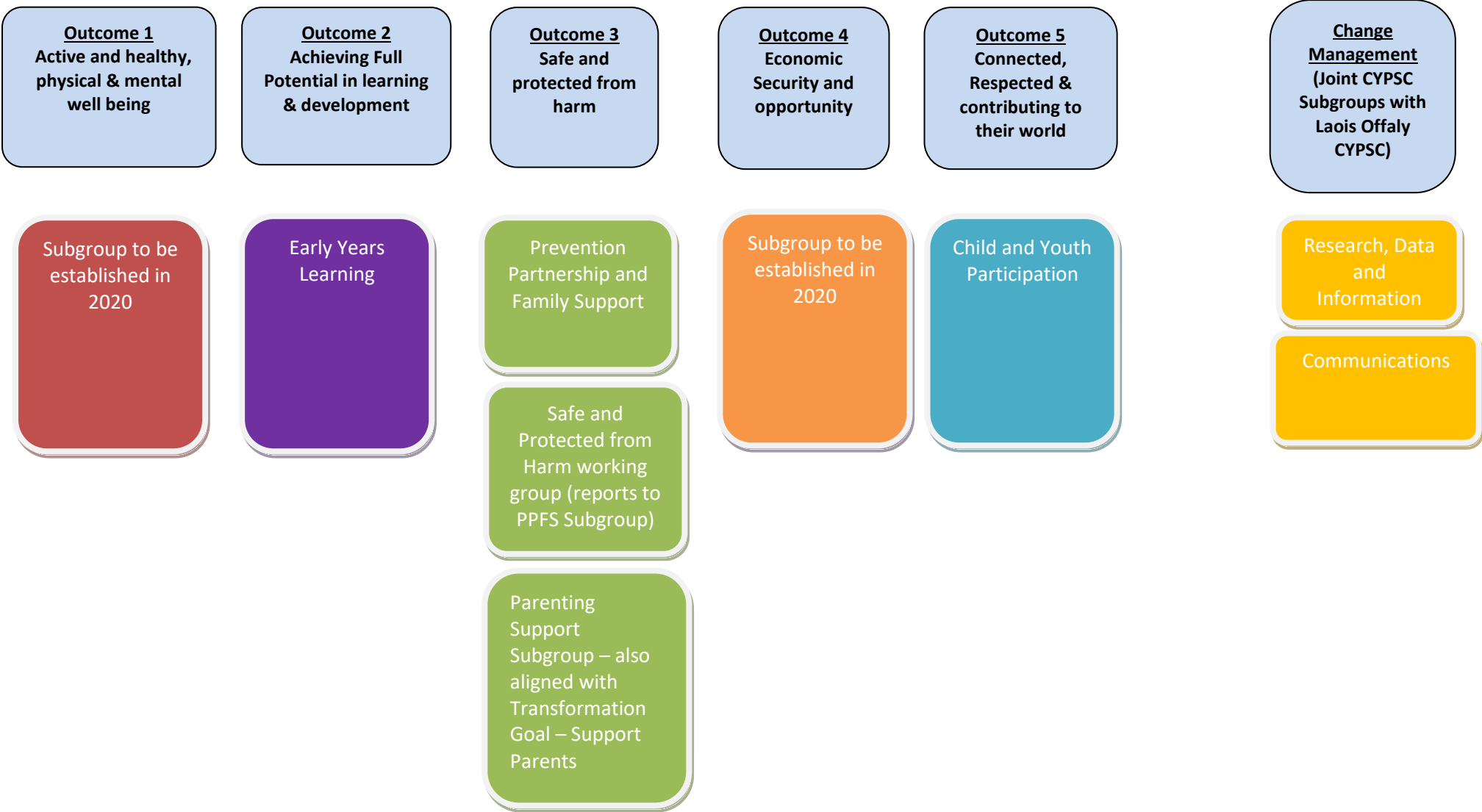
National Child and Youth Participation Event –

In 2019, the LW CYPSC and Roscommon CYPSC embarked on their first inter-cypsc project. As the host town of this event is in Athlone (which is divided between counties Westmeath and Roscommon), both CYPSC suggested to the Tusla Child and Youth Participation Event working group that the local young people be involved in the organisation of the 2020 event. Roscommon CYPSC, having recently received the Investing in Children Award also, like LW CYPSC, and highly value the participation of their young people. We hope this will be the first of many inter cypsc projects between the two CYPSC.

Finally, the establishment of the LW CYPSC subgroups since May 2016, not only provide governance and accountability, but they have also assisted heavily in the development of a detailed action plan contained within, which has prompted and facilitated many worthwhile discussions, and has assisted in the development of even deeper interagency working amongst its services and has brought about positive outcomes, and the allocation of seed money in a collaborative way as mentioned above within the local area.

The overall focus for the LW CYPSC subgroups (*see figure 2 overleaf*) going forward will be on continued enhancement of interagency working, the delivery of actions within the LW CYPSC plan and on highlighting further priority areas for inclusion in future plans.

Figure 2: Longford Westmeath CYPSC Subgroups



How the Children and Young People’s Plan was developed

Following the reformation of the Longford Westmeath CYPSC, and during the formation of the Laois Offaly CYPSC (both CYPSC’s share a Chairperson and are located in the Tusla Midlands regional area), work commenced on the Children and Young People’s Plan 2020 – 2022 with a **mapping exercise undertaken to clarify the nature and extent of service delivery** in the four counties. The TUSLA Area Commissioning Plan was also being completed during this time frame and so as to avoid duplication, consultations and research were carried out to inform both the CYPSC and the local Commissioning Plans. The data collected informed the Socio- demographic profile in section 2 and also the Audit of Services presented in Section 3.

As previously outlined in the achievement section, a comprehensive **consultation process** (LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Project) was undertaken with children and young people aged 3 – 24 years throughout the two counties so as to inform the development of the CYPSC plan and ultimately saw the establishment of LW CYPSC Youth Forums. A full report of the LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation can be found on [the Longford Westmeath CYPSC page](#). *This report is currently being updated (Qtr 4 2019) to include a “LW CYPSC Response” section, so as to provide feedback to the young people to the priority areas they outlined, and provide them with information as to what the CYPSC member organisations are engaging in currently in relation to areas outlined by the young people, including any future plans/ development of services.*

As part of the development of the TUSLA Area Commissioning Plan two stakeholder consultations took place, which were externally facilitated. In addition to this, local consultations with CYPSC member organisations also took place (see Appendix 1) facilitated by the LW CYPSC Coordinator. The consultations incorporated engagement with frontline staff from community, voluntary and statutory service providers. Follow up discussions were facilitated by the CYPSC Chair and Coordinator.

A LW CYPSC Plan Review group were also established, this group reviewed all data and feedback completed and made recommendations to the LW CYPSC on areas where gaps were evident. The membership of the group comprised of members of the CYPSC and CYPSC subgroups and CYPSC representatives from both the Longford and Westmeath Local Community Development Committees. The following organisations/ agencies were represented on the Plan Review group: Tusla, Local Authorities, HSE, Barnardos, LW ETB and County Childcare Committee’s. All subgroups were also represented on the Plan Review group.

Feedback received from the various consultations are reflected in the Local Needs Analysis in Section 4 and also in the Action Plan.

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Longford Westmeath

Introduction Longford and Westmeath are situated in the province of Leinster and located in the Midlands of Ireland. This section serves to clarify the structure and profile of the local population and contributes to an analysis designed to identify the needs of children, young people and families in the area, and the extent to which services and resources available in the respective counties are meeting those needs. The primary data sources are the CSO Census of Population 2016, the 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2016, produced by Haase, T and Pratschke, J (2017) and Tusla Midlands Area Commissioning Plan 2018 - 2021.

Statistical Profile of Counties Longford and Westmeath based on Census 2016 data Summary

Indicator	Source	Longford	Westmeath	State
Child and youth population 2016 (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: Census 2016	14,065	30,771	1583004 (33.2% of total pop.)
		Combined total = 44,836 (34.58% of total pop.)		
Child population 2016 (aged 0 – 17yrs)	Central Statistics Office: Census 2016	11,218	23,584	1190502 (aged 0 - 17yrs) (25% of total pop.)
		Combined total = 34,802 (26.85% of total pop.)		
Young adult population 2016 (aged 18 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: Census 2016	2,847	7,187	392502 (8.2% of total pol.) (aged 18 - 24yrs)
		Combined total = 10,034 (7.73% of total pop.)		
Infant mortality 2016 The number of deaths among infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	Central Statistics Office: StatBank VSA 94	2 (Infant Mortality Rate 3.3)	6 (Infant Mortality Rate 4.8)	194 (Infant Mortality Rate 3.0)
Child mortality 2016 The number of deaths among children under 18 years per 1,000 live births	Central Statistics Office: StatBank VSD06	3 (aged 0 – 24yrs)	13 (aged 0 – 24yrs)	333 (aged 0 – 24yrs)
Travellers 2016 Traveller child and youth population (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: StatBank E8001	652	599	18018 (1.14% of total pop. of children and young people)
Non-Irish nationals 2016 Non-Irish nationals (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: StatBank E7003	1,995	3,409	155976 (9.8% of total pop. of children and young people)
Ethnic Background 2016 Ethnic background other than White Irish and Irish Traveller (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: StatBank E8001	2,995	5,254	269137 (17% of total pop. of children and young people)
Family structure 2011 Children under 18 yrs who live in family household units with only one parent or primary care-giver resident	DCYA: State of the Nation's Children 2016	2,010 (19.5% of total pop. Of children aged under 18 years)	3,726 (17% of total pop. Of children aged under 18 years)	202444 (18.3% of total pop. of children aged under 18 years)
Parental education level 2011 Children under 18 whose mother has attained (a) primary/no formal (b) lower secondary, (c) upper secondary or (d) third-level education	DCYA: State of the Nation's Children 2016	Primary / no formal: 705 (1.45%)	Primary / no formal: 1,083 (2.25%)	Primary / no formal: 48048
		Lower secondary: 1294 (0.9%)	Lower secondary: 2,890 (2%)	Lower secondary: 141329
		Upper secondary: 4,069 (0.9%)	Upper secondary: 8,430 (2%)	Upper secondary: 416407
		Third-level: 2,695 (0.73%)	Third-level: 6,675 (1.83%)	Third-level: 364299

LONGFORD WESTMEATH CYPSC AREA OVERVIEW



Longford Westmeath has a total population of 129,643, representing 2.7% of the State population. It has been identified as an area with instances of both relatively high levels of deprivation and complex needs.

In 2016, taking into account factors including family structure, educational attainment and employment, the deprivation score for Co. Longford was -6.01, showing greater levels of deprivation than in 2011 when the score was -5.12. The deprivation score for Co. Westmeath was -2.08, whilst in 2011 the score was -1.84. Each of the two counties is considered to be *marginally below average* in terms of relative affluence and deprivation.

County Longford, with 40,873 persons, has a population less than half that of Westmeath (88,770) with the Longford town urban centre comprising 10,008. The largest urban centre in County Westmeath is Athlone with 21,349 persons.

In addition, there are large rural areas that are sparsely populated. Located in the centre of Ireland, many transport arteries transverse the Midlands area, including the M4, M6, M7 and M8 motorways, and rail lines from Dublin to Sligo, Galway, Limerick and Cork.

Large parts of this area are influenced by greater Dublin, with many people living here and commuting daily to Dublin for work and study. However, there are many parts of the Midlands that are poorly served by public transport, with interconnectivity within the area patchy.

Population (2016)

The population of Longford Westmeath increased by 3.57% between 2011 and 2016, slightly above the state increase of 3.3%. Regional **Population Projections 2016-2031** suggest that the **Midland Region** will see its population overall **increase by 25,000 by 2031**. In the short term (2021), population projections for the state in the 0-24 age group show highest numbers in the 5-9 years and 10-14-year age groups.

As compared to a state population density of 70 persons per sq km, County Longford has a population density of just 39.65 persons per sq km while County Westmeath has 50.9 per sq km, reflecting a rural county profile with urban concentrations. The **most densely populated** EDs in County Longford are **Longford No 1 and No 2 Urban** areas, with over 32% in these areas in the 0-24 age group. Most densely populated in County Westmeath are **Mullingar North Urban** and **Athlone East Urban**, with more than 30% of these also in the 0-24 age group.

The **Longford Westmeath CYPSC area has a greater proportion of its population aged 0-24** than is the case in the state as a whole (33.2%). Set against an overall population in **Longford Westmeath** of 129,643, a total of 44,836 are in **the 0-24 age bracket**, representing **34.58%**. Westmeath has greater proportions aged 15 -24 than Longford, which has higher proportions in the 0-14 age ranges. See **Figure 3** below for population by age group 2016 for Longford, Westmeath and the State.

Figure 3: Population by Age Group 2016 – Longford Westmeath

	Age 0-4	Age 5-9	Age 10-14	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Total 0-24
State	331,515	355,561	319,476	302,816	273,636	1,583,004
Co. Longford (Number)	3,051	3,386	3,071	2,603	1,954	14,065
<i>Co. Longford (%)</i>	<i>21.69</i>	<i>24.07</i>	<i>21.83</i>	<i>18.51</i>	<i>13.89</i>	<i>100.00</i>
Co. Westmeath	6,464	6,948	6,363	5,978	5,018	30,771
<i>Co. Westmeath (%)</i>	<i>21.01</i>	<i>22.58</i>	<i>20.68</i>	<i>19.43</i>	<i>16.31</i>	<i>100.00</i>
Total Longford-Westmeath	9,515	10,334	9,434	8,581	6,972	44,836
Total (%)	21.22	23.05	21.04	19.14	15.55	100.00

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Births

In 2016 Ireland had a total of 13.5 babies born per 1000 residents against the European average of 10 births (Eurostat). CSO reports for Quarter 1 2017 indicate a birth rate of 14.1 per 1000 of the population and an infant mortality rate of 2.4 per 1000 live births. The average age of first time mothers nationally was 31. The average number of teenage pregnancies fell by 64% from 3,087 in 2001 to 1,098 in 2016. This equates to a decrease in the teen birth rate from 20 per 1000 women aged 15-19 in 2001 to 7.8 per 1000 in 2016. In Longford Westmeath, registered births show a decline from 2,043 in 2012 to 1,837 in 2016. The table below (**Figure 4**) highlights statistics across a number of categories in Quarter 3 2017 for Longford and Westmeath as compared to State figures.

Figure 4: Longford Westmeath CYPSC Area Registered Births

Quarter 3 – 2017	State	Longford	Westmeath
Births Registered	15,635	144	282
Births Registered per 10,000 population	33	35	32
Births within Marriage	9733	83	162
Births Outside Marriage	5902	61	120
Average age of Mother – First Births Only (Years)	30.9	28.2	30.7
Average age of Mother – Outside Marriage (Years)	30.1	28	29.6

Source: CSO Statbank / Births Registered / VSQ12

Longford shows slightly **higher rates** of birth, both within and outside of marriage, when population differences are taken into account.

Longford also shows a considerably **younger average age** of first time mothers, and younger age of all mothers outside of marriage, than is the case nationally with more than a 2-year difference evident in both categories, while Westmeath is just marginally younger than the state average.

Young Dependency Ratio

Longford Westmeath has a total population of 29,283 in the 0-14 age range and a total working age population of 91,747 in the 15-64 age range, giving a young dependency ratio of **31.92%** (i.e. number of young people as a percentage of working age population), **the third highest in the country**. By comparison, **Longford has a ratio of 37.2%**, Laois 38.3% while Meath has the highest at 39%. At the other end of the spectrum Cork City has 20.4%, Dublin City 20.9%, and Galway City 23.4%.

Family Structure

In 2016 there were 33,870 families in the LW CYPSC Area, with 2,655 (7.84%) at pre-family stage, 3,399 (10.04%) at pre-school stage, and 4,168 (12.31%) at early school stage. See **Figures 5 and 6** below for further breakdown of figures taken from Central Statistics Office, Census 2016

Figure 5: Families by Family Cycle 2016

	Pre-family	Empty nest	Retired	Pre-school	Early school	Pre-adolescent	Adolescent	Adult	Total
LW CYPSC Area Population	2,655	3,728	3,285	3,399	4,168	3,937	4,485	8,213	33,870
LW CYPSC Area %	7.84	11.01	9.70	10.04	12.31	11.62	13.24	24.25	100.00

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Figure 6: Families by Age of Youngest Child 2016

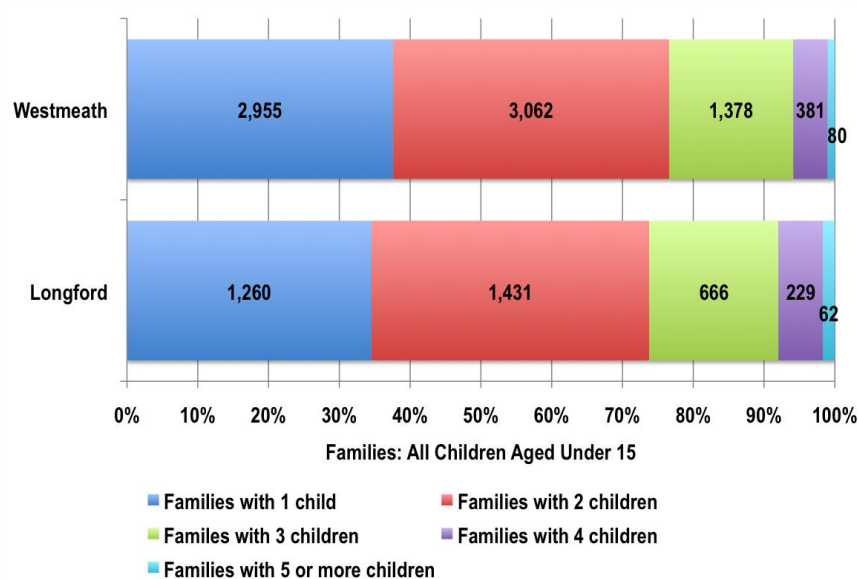
	Families with youngest child aged 0 - 4	Families with youngest child aged 5 - 9	Families with youngest child aged 10 - 14	Families with youngest child aged 15 - 19	Families with youngest child aged 20 and over	Total
LW CYPSC Area Population	7,159	4,586	3,570	3,155	5,732	24,202
LW CYPSC Area %	29.58	18.95	14.75	13.04	23.68	100.00

Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Families with Children Under 15 Years of Age

In 2016, there were 11,505 families in the Longford-Westmeath CYPSC Area. See **Figure 7** below for breakdown of figures. The ED with the highest number of families with all children of less than 15 years of age was Mullingar Rural (1,168).

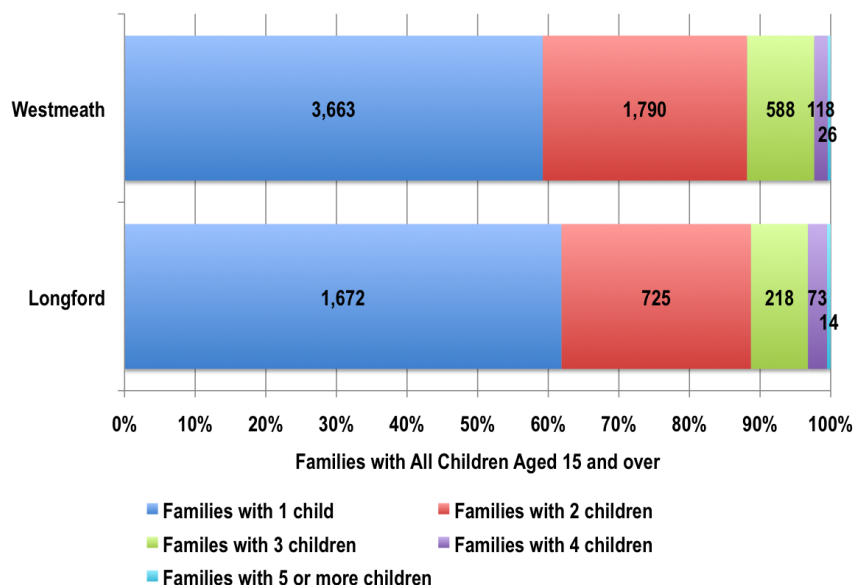
Figure 7:



Families with Children of 15 Years of Age and Over

In 2016 there were 8,887 families with all children of more than 15 years of age in the Longford Westmeath CYPSC Area. See **Figure 8** below for breakdown of figures. 88.3% of these families had either 1 or 2 children.

Figure 8:



Source: CSO Census of Population 2016

Lone Parents

Lone parents are more likely than any other social group to be living in poverty, according to the CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2016. The proportion of Lone Parents in Ireland (as a proportion of all households with dependent children) grew from 10.7% in 1991 to 21.6% nationally in 2011.

In 2016, a total of **2,255 children of less than 15 years of age lived in single parent families in the LW CYPSC Area**. Of these, 92.7% (2,090) were in lone mother families, and 7.3% (165) were in lone father families.

See **Figure 9** overleaf for breakdown of Lone Parent Ratio in Longford Westmeath

Figure 9: Longford Westmeath ED by Lone Parent Ratio >25

ED Name	County	Total Population 2016	Total Population Aged 0-24	Lone Parents Ratio 2006	Lone Parents Ratio 2011	Lone Parents Ratio 2016
Athlone West Urban	Westmeath	3,260	942	43.00	38.11	38.00
Longford No. 1 Urban	Longford	3,592	1,202	48.59	44.80	36.06
Mullingar North Urban	Westmeath	5,610	1,952	40.26	34.84	32.70
Milltown	Westmeath	299	120	15.00	23.08	32.00
Ballinallee	Longford	625	226	24.53	35.80	31.50
Ballinamuck West	Longford	437	132	15.56	21.15	31.00
Athlone East Rural	Westmeath	7,560	2,974	35.44	31.28	29.93
Athlone East Urban	Westmeath	4,382	1,126	38.41	31.23	29.42
Meathas Truim	Longford	2,335	850	26.74	29.15	27.20
Kinturk	Westmeath	1,344	420	23.62	27.61	26.86
Castlelost	Westmeath	1,692	655	20.43	21.99	26.83
Kilbixy	Westmeath	603	208	24.66	28.57	26.50
Longford Rural	Longford	5,704	2,116	34.62	29.06	26.22
Drumliah	Longford	1,475	547	22.12	26.01	26.17
Ballymahon	Longford	2,674	867	25.74	26.26	26.00
Raharney	Westmeath	506	190	18.31	22.95	26.00
Killashee	Longford	437	142	20.69	43.64	25.50
Currygrane	Longford	139	51	11.76	23.08	25.00

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

Ethnicity

The Traveller and Roma communities are known to be particularly vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion, and face barriers in accessing education, training, employment and services. There are 2057 White Irish Travellers in the Longford Westmeath area according to Census 2016 which is 6.6% of the total White Irish Traveller population in Ireland, with a total 30,987 White Irish Travellers in Ireland.

This Census did not include Roma as an ethnic identifier so no local figures are available although it is estimated there are some 5,000 Roma people living in Ireland.

In the 0-24 age groups, 35,132 people who reside in Longford Westmeath are White Irish, 1,251 are White Irish Travellers, 3,836 are of Any Other White Background, while the other ethnicities combined make up 2,985, excluding 1,182 where no ethnicity was stated.

Population spread is largely balanced across the age ranges for all ethnic groups with the exception of the 5-9 age group of those from Any Other White Background which shows 1031 in this age range as against an average of 701 in the other four age categories for this group. **See Figures 10 and 11** overleaf for the combined Longford Westmeath totals per age range and the State Comparatives.

Figure 10: Ethnicity by Age Bands 2016 Longford and Westmeath

Age	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 incl. mixed background	Not stated
0-4	7343	334	794	156	45	38	211	196	364
5-9	7919	302	1031	276	35	37	203	225	268
10-14	7317	216	664	315	29	24	115	151	211
15-19	7147	202	629	179	23	24	109	140	168
20-24	5406	197	718	88	15	88	119	144	170

Source: CSO Statbank / Profile 8 – Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion / E8001

Figure 11: Ethnicity by Age Bands 2016 State

Age	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 incl. mixed background	Not stated
0-4	265856	4317	27093	5181	708	1552	7540	7926	9839
5-9	287020	4318	27804	7822	778	1350	8740	8045	8683
10-14	261616	3678	21304	9975	738	1274	6124	6084	6971
15-19	252300	3074	19367	5358	479	1045	4640	4799	7255
20-24	210694	2631	26283	3105	543	2330	5335	5638	7429

Source: CSO Statbank / Profile 8 – Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion / E8001

Economy

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area, which comprises 9 counties in total, highlight some key points relevant to the Longford Westmeath CYPSC area from the 2016 Census:

Just four **key settlements** (from across the 9 counties) have a **Labour Force at Work rate** less than 80%: These include **Longford** (69.4%), **Mullingar** (79.1%) and Portlaoise (79.6%).

Five **key settlements** have more than a fifth of their labour force **unemployed**: **Longford** (30.6%), Dundalk (20.9%), Portlaoise (20.4%), **Mullingar** (20.9%) and Tullamore (20.1%).

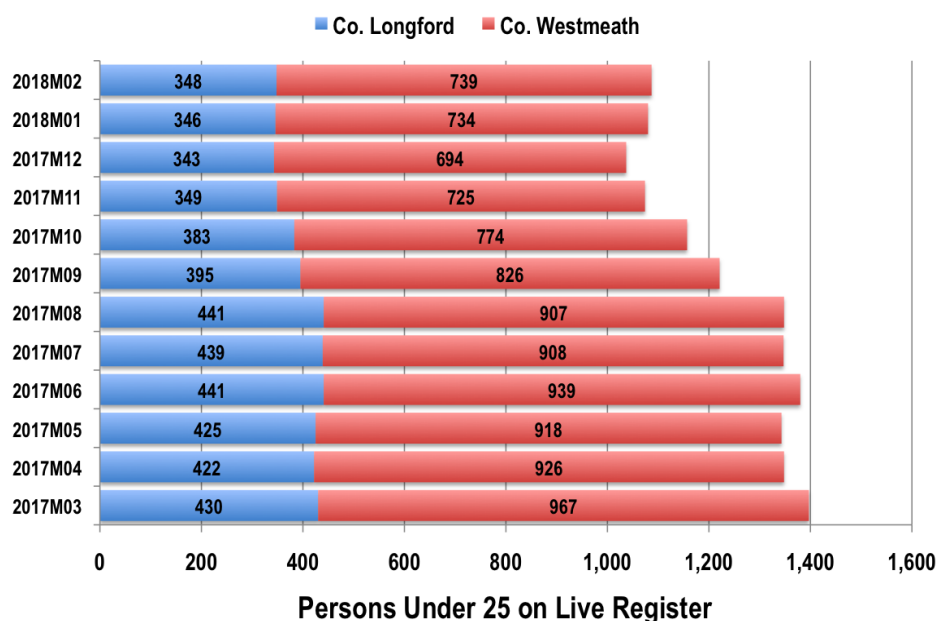
At the **Local Authority level**, the highest total Labour Force **Unemployment Rates** are in **Longford** (19.6%), Louth (16.7%) and Offaly/**Westmeath** (15.9%).

Disposable Income per Person is lower in the Eastern and Midland Strategic Planning Areas, with the **Midland area recording the second lowest level**, with the **lowest in Longford** and Offaly.

LW Live Register Trend Under 25 Years of Age

The percentage of young people in the state aged under 25 on the Live Register fell by 16.86% over the period March 2017 - February 2018. Over the same period, the Longford Westmeath area saw a fall of 22.19%. However, youth unemployment remains a considerable challenge. Data below in **Figure 12** shows that in February 2018 there were 348 young people (under 25) on the Live Register in Longford and 739 in Westmeath.

Figure 12:



Source: StatBank / Live Register / LRM07 / Select from table LRM07

Tusla Referrals for Child Welfare and Protection

Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly together comprise the **Tusla Midland Region**. Since January 2017, monthly referral rates in the region as a whole are consistently near or above 600 cases per month. For 2016, there were 5,435 referrals to social work services, 11% of all referrals to social work nationally for that year. This is an instance of 68 referrals per 1000 (i.e. 68 children out of every 1000 in the Midlands were referred to Tusla). When compared with other parts of the country, it shows that the **Midlands area has the highest instance of referrals per capita** (with Dublin North City next, on 61 referrals per 1000). The average rate nationally is 40 referrals per 1000.

For 2017, there was a **significant increase in the referral rates**, with 7307 referrals recorded for the year, 14% of the national figure. This is an instance of 92 referrals per 1000 children for 2017. Again, for 2017, the Midlands area shows the highest number of actual referrals and the highest instance of referrals per capita. Although the data does show that the number of referrals nationally increased from 2016 to 2017, what it exposes in stark terms is that the increases – both in actual referrals and the instances of - grew at a rate **much higher than the national in the Midlands**. See **Figures 13** and **14** overleaf for referral figures. Between 2016 and 2017 referrals nationally increased by 13%; in the Midlands the increase was 36%.

Figure 13 Referrals to Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Services, by area, for 2016

Area	Population 0-17 years	Referrals to Child Protection & Welfare Services 2016	Rate of referrals/1,000 pop 0-17 years	% of total referrals 2016
Midlands	80,193	5,435	68	11%
Dublin North City	44,927	2,739	61	6%
National Total	1,190,502	47,399	40	100%

Figure 14 Referrals to Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Services, by area, for 2017

Area	Population 0-17 years	Referrals to Child Protection & Welfare Services 2017	Rate of referrals/1,000 pop 0-17 years	% of total referrals 2017
Midlands	80,193	7,370	92	14%
Dublin North City	44,927	2,650	59	5%
National Total	1,190,502	53,755	45	100%

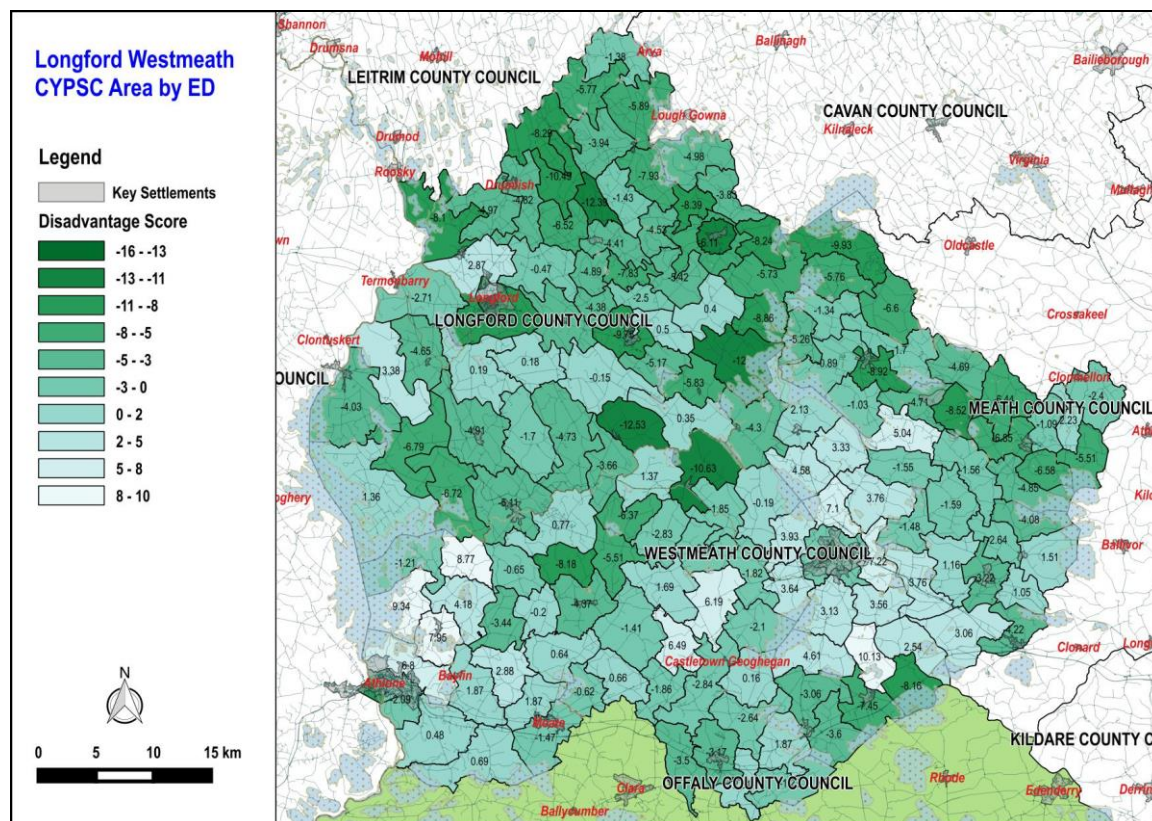
Source: TUSLA Midlands Area Commissioning Plan 2018 – 2021

Further to the statistics highlighted above from the TUSLA Midlands Area Commissioning Plan, the figures for **2018**, taken from **TUSLA Performance data figures**, indicate that the National total of referrals in 2018 to Child Protection & Welfare Services have increased to 56, 830, with 7,203 referrals in the Midlands area (a slight decrease from the 2017 figures highlighted above) and Dublin North City having 2,722 referrals for the same period. According to the National Childcare Information System (NCCIS), 2,836 of the 7,203 referrals (39%) to the Midlands area in 2018 were referrals in Longford and Westmeath (with the remaining referrals in Counties Laois and Offaly).

Affluence and Deprivation

There were considerable local differences in affluence and deprivation across the CYPSC Area. In 2016, the deprivation score for Co. Longford was -6.01 and for Co. Westmeath was -2.08, both showing an increase in deprivation levels since 2011. See **Figure 15** below highlighting areas of greater deprivation in dark green, as evident from the map, these areas are predominantly located in County Longford.

Figure 15 LW Deprivation Score 2016



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

Incidence of Disadvantage

County	Affluence / Deprivation	2011	2016
Longford	Marginally Below Average	-5.01	-6.01
Westmeath	Marginally Below Average	-1.84	-2.08

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

Of the total of **159 EDs in the LW CYPSC Area** in 2016: one (accounting for 179 young people aged 0-24) was classified as affluent (Gaybrook, Co. Westmeath); **eight were classified as disadvantaged** with 4,084 young people aged 0-24 living in these areas out of a total population of 12,117 (i.e. more than 33% of the population of these disadvantaged areas are aged 0-24); the **most disadvantaged ED** in the Longford-Westmeath CYPSC Area in 2016 was **Longford No. 1 Urban** with a population of 1,202 young people aged 0-24, and a Deprivation Score of -15.82.

See **Figures 16, 17 and 18** overleaf highlighting the most disadvantaged areas and age groups affected in Longford Westmeath

Figure 16 LW 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
Longford No. 1 Urban	Longford	3,592	1,202	-16.56	-14.71	-15.82	Disadvantaged
Mullingar North Urban	Westmeath	5,610	1,952	-11.52	-11.99	-12.78	Disadvantaged
Foxhall	Longford	528	164	-15.72	-13.37	-12.53	Disadvantaged
Lislea	Longford	145	42	-6.56	-12.63	-12.39	Disadvantaged
Street	Westmeath	269	80	-3.43	-8.59	-12.00	Disadvantaged
Granard Urban	Longford	1,096	358	-8.45	-8.98	-11.27	Disadvantaged
Kilbixy	Westmeath	603	208	-9.27	-9.65	-10.63	Disadvantaged
Killoe	Longford	274	78	-6.57	-5.21	-10.49	Disadvantaged
Total		12,117	4,084				

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

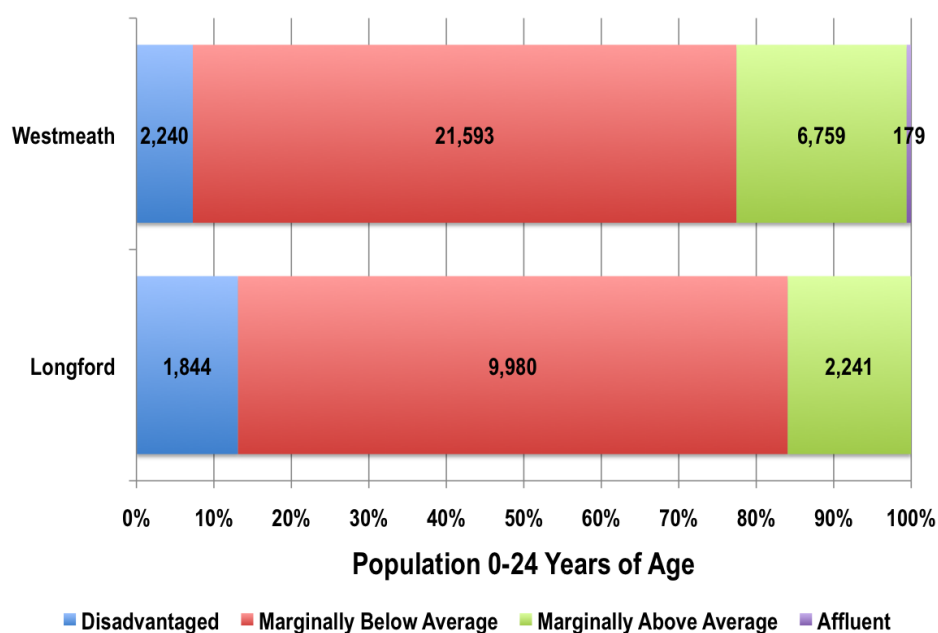
Figure 17 Affluence and Deprivation Age 0-24 LW CYPSC Area

Population Aged 0-24	Disadvantaged	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Above Average	Affluent	Total Aged 0-24
Longford-Westmeath CYPSC Area Population	4084	31,573	9,000	179	44,836
Longford-Westmeath CYPSC Area %	9.11	70.42	20.07	.40	100.00

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

Just under 80% (79.53) of the population of Longford Westmeath aged between 0-24 (35,657) are living in areas categorised as Disadvantaged (9.11) or Marginally Below Average (70.42).

Figure 18 Affluence and Deprivation Age 0-24 Longford & Westmeath



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

Risk of Poverty

The CSO **Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2015 for the State** points to the risk of poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty for the different age groups.

State / Age Groups	At Risk of Poverty %	Deprivation %	Consistent Poverty %
0-17	19.5	31.4	11.5
18-64	17.1	25.1	8.7
65+	10.7	15.4	2.7

The **Population at Risk in the Midland Region in 2016** by demographic Profile points to risk of poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty across the population.

Midland Region	At Risk of Poverty %	Deprivation %	Consistent Poverty %
	19.0	23.7	10.0

Source: CSO StatBank / Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) / SIA20

GMS Medical Card Holders

The table below records the profile of the General Medical Services (GMS) Medical Card holders by gender and age group in the LW CYPSC Area. 19,203 children and young people between the ages of 0-24 in Longford Westmeath have medical cards.

HSE GMS Number of Eligible Persons 2015

CYPSC Area	Under 5 Years			5-11 Years			12-15 Years			16-24 Years		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Longford-Westmeath	1,733	1,787	3,520	3,144	3,307	6,451	1,699	1,816	3,515	2,913	2,804	5,717

Source: HSE PCRS Statistical Analysis of Claims and Payments 2015

Housing

In 2016, 37% of the population of Longford Westmeath lived in accommodation owned with a **mortgage or loan**, representing **30% of all households**.

4,435 households were renting from the local authority, out of a total of 46,777 households in Longford-Westmeath. This represents **9.48% of all households** in the area, and compares with 8.4% nationally.

A total of **308 households** in Longford-Westmeath were living in accommodation that was rented from a **voluntary or co-operative housing** body. This represents 0.66% of all households in the area, and compares with 0.98% nationally.

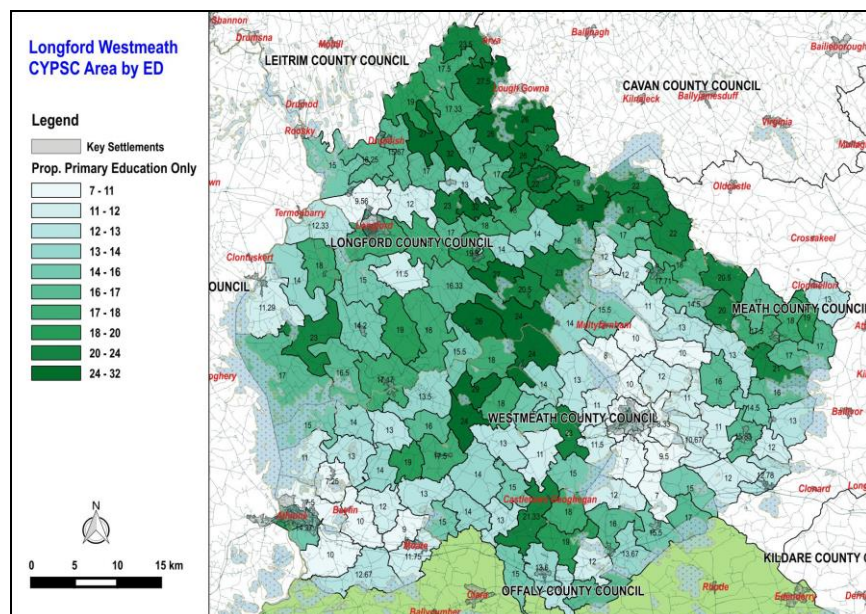
A total of **35,873 persons in total were living in accommodation rented** from a local authority (12,213), private landlord (22,884), or voluntary or co-operative housing body (776).

The CSO reports that in 2016 there were 6,906 homeless people in the State. Of these, 94 or **1.4% (50 homeless males and 44 homeless females)** were recorded in the Midland Region.

Educational Attainment

There has been a continuous improvement in the level of education amongst the adult population over the past 25 years throughout Ireland. In 1991, 36.7% of the adult population had primary education only. In 2016, 11% of the national population had primary education only. Despite the considerable improvement generally, there are some differences with regard to the prevalence of low education between different EDs in the Longford Westmeath CYPSC Areas as depicted in **Figure 19** below

Figure 19 LW Proportion with Primary Education Only 2016

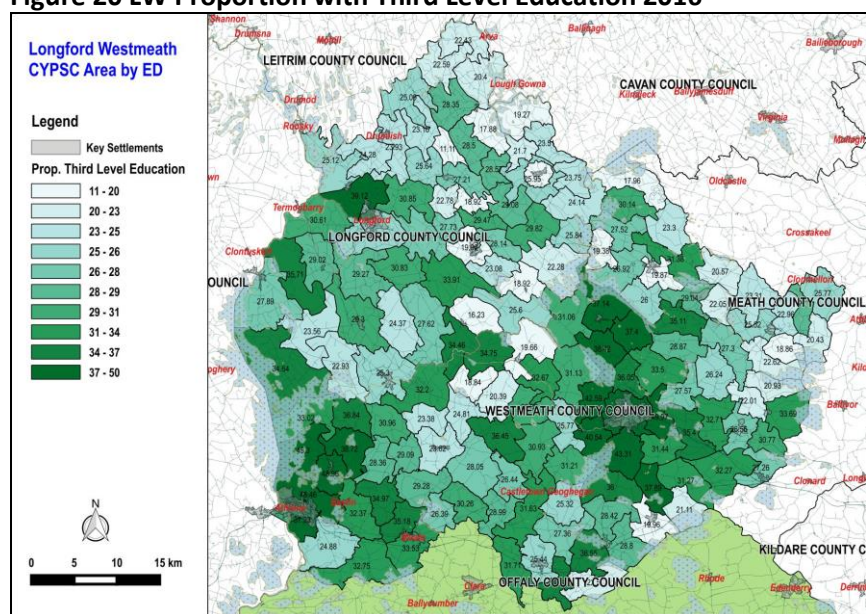


Source: 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index: Haase, T. and Pratschke, J. (2017)

LW Proportion >25 with Primary Education Only

It is notable that all of the areas (ED's) showing the highest proportion of people over 25 with primary education only, are in Longford with the exception of Piercetown in Westmeath.

Figure 20 LW Proportion with Third Level Education 2016



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

When compared to Map showing areas with the highest proportion with primary education only, a similar pattern emerges in terms of lower proportions with third level education as shown in **Figure 20** on page 27.

Childcare

The Pobal Early Years Sector Report 2016/2017 (October 2017) records (See **Figure 21** below) that there were 3,928 Early Childhood Care and Education registrations (Free Pre-school Year) in the LW CYPSC Area, with capacity at just 80% in County Longford, and at 105% in County Westmeath.

Figure 21 Childcare Capacity for Children Aged 3-5 Years

	Capacity (enrolled + vacancies)	3-5 year olds capacity (extrapolated)	3 - 5 year olds population (CSO)	% Capacity of population of 3-5 year olds
Co. Longford	1,768	1,049	1,315	80%
Co. Westmeath	4,133	2,797	2,667	105%

Source: Pobal Early Years Sector Report 2016/2017

DEIS Primary Schools

Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) the Action Plan for Educational Inclusion is the Department of Education and Skills policy instrument to address educational disadvantage. Participating schools receive significant additional supports and resources including additional staffing to assist them in achieving the aims of the initiative. The level of additional supports and resources allocated to schools participating in DEIS varies according to the level of disadvantage in the school community.

Longford has 5 DEIS schools in Band 1 at primary level while Westmeath has 3 with a further 2 in Band 2 (indicating lower levels of disadvantage). At post-primary, Longford also has 4 DEIS schools while Westmeath has 3.

Special Education Schools

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) provides for the education of children with special education needs through a number of support mechanisms depending on the child's assessed disability. Educational provision for children with special needs is made: in special schools; in special classes attached to ordinary schools; in integrated settings in mainstream classes.

In the Longford Westmeath area, there is one special school in Longford (St Christopher's) and four in Westmeath (2 in Mullingar, 1 in Athlone and 1 in Delvin), while the remaining provision relates to special education units attached to mainstream schools.

Leaving Certificate Sits in 2017 amounted to 553 in County Longford and 1,431 in County Westmeath with a majority of females in both counties.

Health

The following key health facts are taken from the HSE Health Profiles 2015.

At the time of developing this plan there was limited data available from the 2016 HSE Health Profile.

Co. Longford

Is the 4th most deprived local authority area nationally, with 88% of its population either below average affluence or disadvantaged;

Has a high percentage of those with no formal or primary education only of 19.3% (national average 15.2%), unemployment of 24.7% (national 19.0%), households that are local authority rented of 13.6% (national average 7.8%);

The Traveller population of 1.9% is above the national rate of 0.7%;

The birth rate to females under 20 years of age of 17.1 is above the national average of 12.3;

Cancer incidence is either average or below average for all cancers and the main causes of cancer except for male prostate cancer, which is above the national average;

Mortality rates for all deaths and the main causes of death are average or below the national average except for respiratory deaths, which was the highest nationally in 2012.

Co. Westmeath

Is average for most of the key indicators below;

Has a higher percentage Traveller population at 1.0% (national 0.7%);

Has a high incidence rate for all invasive cancers except non-malignant skin cancers in females, but one of the lowest incident rates for malignant breast cancer in females. Has an above average rate for male lung cancer;

Death rate for the main causes for all ages only marginally higher than the national rate;

Immunisation uptake at 24 months for the 3rd 6 in 1 of 98%. MMR1 of 98% is higher than the national average (93%) and exceeds the minimum uptake recommendation of 95%.

General Health 2016

The CSO Census of Population 2016 provides an assessment of the general health of the population.

Figure 22 below provides the health assessment of the CYPSC Area population by comparison with that of the State while **Figure 23** overleaf shows a breakdown of People with disabilities in Longford and Westmeath

Figure 22 General Health Longford and Westmeath

	Very good - Total	Good - Total	Fair - Total	Bad - Total	Very bad - Total	Not stated - Total	Total
LW CYPSC Area Population	74,843	37,483	11,288	1,895	395	3,739	129,643
LW CYPSC Area %	57.73	28.91	8.71	1.46	0.30	2.88	100.00
State %	59.38	27.65	8.04	1.32	0.29	3.33	100.00

Figure 23 People with Disabilities 2016 Longford Westmeath

	Longford	Westmeath	LW CYPSC Area
Total persons	40,873	88,770	129,643
Total persons with a disability	5,916	11,887	17,803
Blindness or a serious vision impairment	533	1,028	1,561
Deafness or a serious hearing impairment	954	1,917	2,871
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	2,584	4,821	7,405
An intellectual disability	604	1,378	1,982
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	1,400	2,982	4,382
Psychological or emotional condition	1,119	2,374	3,493
Other disability, including chronic illness	2,683	5,456	8,139
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	1,399	2,615	4,014
Difficulty in going outside home alone	1,806	3,427	5,233
Difficulty in working or attending school/college	1,986	3,972	5,958
Difficulty in participating in other activities	2,124	4,229	6,353
Total disabilities	17,192	34,199	51,391

Source: CSO StatBank / Health, Disability and Carers / E9003 / Select from table E9003

Substance Misuse Longford Westmeath

The NDTRS is a health information system that collects anonymous data about people in drug and alcohol treatment from general practitioners, low threshold services (that provide low-dose methadone or drop-in facilities only), outpatient and inpatient centres. The data in **Figure 24** only reflects numbers of people receiving treatment and so does not include those engaging in substance misuse but not seeking treatment.

Figure 24 Under 18 and 18-24 Drugs and Alcohol Treatment Longford Westmeath 2016

	Drugs				Alcohol				TOTAL
	Male U18	Male 18-24	Female U18	Female 18-24	Male U18	Male 18-24	Female U18	Female 18-24	
Longford	5	7	0	0	0	5	0	0	17
Westmeath	15	32	6	6	0	21	0	0	80
TOTALS LW CYPSC Area	20	39	6	6	0	26	0	0	97

Source: Health Research Board: NDTRS 2018

Of those aged up to 24 who were receiving drug and alcohol treatment in 2016 in the Longford Westmeath CYPSC area, 17 were from Longford, all of whom were male including 5 who were aged under 18. In Westmeath the numbers receiving drug and alcohol related treatment were substantially greater with a total of 80, including 6 females under 18, and 6 females aged 18-24 who were receiving treatment for drugs. No females were receiving alcohol related treatment. Of the male cohort, 47 were receiving treatment related to drugs, 15 of whom were aged under 18, while a further 21 were being treated in relation to alcohol. While the population of Longford is just under

half that of Westmeath, the proportion undergoing treatment in Westmeath is still substantially greater than that of Longford. This may reflect the younger age profile in Longford with the largest populations in the 0-14 age categories while Westmeath has greater numbers aged 15-24. This is something the LW CYPSC should keep in mind for future plans, as the age profile in Longford increases in the 15- 24 category.

SUMMARY KEY DEMOGRAPHICS – LONGFORD WESTMEATH CYPSC AREA

11,504 families with all children under 15, and 8,887 families with all children over 15, live in the Longford Westmeath CYPSC area.

High proportion of young people aged 0-14 as compared to those of working age, (15-64) with County Longford having the third highest young dependency ratio in the country.

Just under 10% of the population aged 0-24 are living in areas considered Disadvantaged (5 ED's in Longford and 3 in Westmeath) and just over 70% in areas considered Marginally Below Average.

Higher numbers of all households are renting from the local authority than is the case nationally, with the highest concentrations appearing in County Longford.

A total of 2,255 children under 15 years live in single parent families, with high concentrations in a number of ED's.

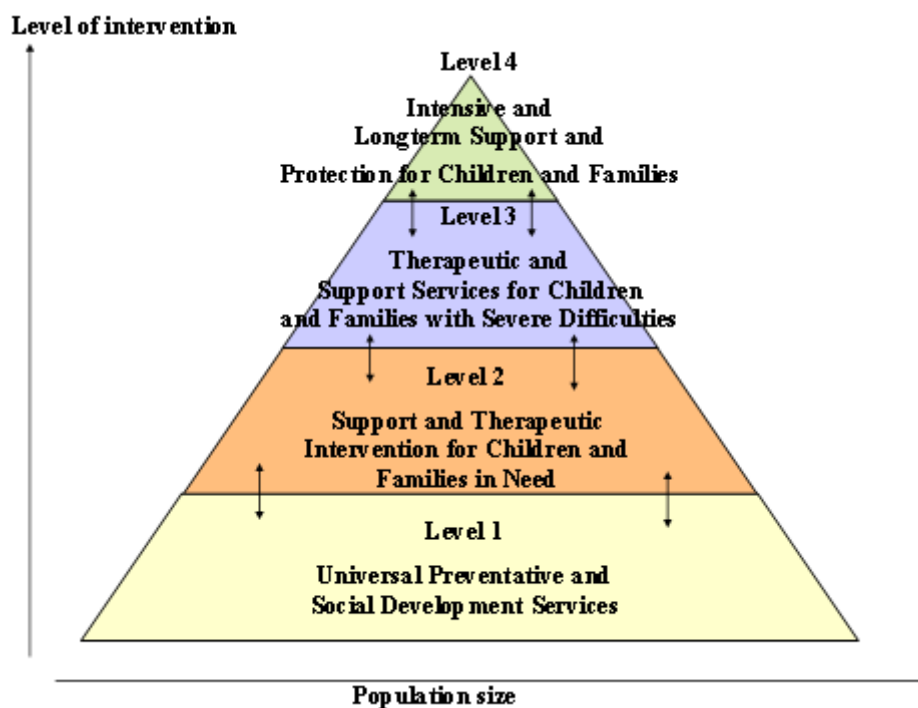
1.58% of the population of the two counties are White Irish Travellers with over 60% in the 0-24 age group.

With a population of 129,643 in Longford Westmeath, 51,391 persons have some form of disability, with both counties showing similar proportions relative to population.

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Longford Westmeath

This section provides an overview of the services and supports available to children, young people and families in Counties Longford and Westmeath. The services are categorised by their focus on different levels of need as defined in the Hardiker Model.

Hardiker Model



Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
EDUCATION				
Early Years (EY)/School Aged Childcare (SAC)	37 EY/ SAC, 15 of which are community services.	87 EY/ SAC, 23 of which are community services.	Private Community	Universal, H Level 1
Schools	38 Primary schools 5 DEIS - 4 Longford, 1 Granard	78 Primary schools 5 DEIS – 4 Athlone, 1 Mullingar	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	9 Post Primary schools 4 DEIS – Longford, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesboro	15 Post Primary schools 3 DEIS – Castlepollard, Killucan and Mullingar	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 1 and Targeted Level 2 & 3
Special Education Schools	1 Longford	1 Athlone, 2 Mullingar, 1 Delvin	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
Longford Westmeath Education & Training Board	Youthreach (age 15-20) Ballymahon & Longford	Youthreach (age 15-20) Delvin & Kilbeggan	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme- second chance education for adults – Longford	Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme - second chance education for adults – Athlone and Mullingar		Universal, H Level 1
	Adult Educational Guidance, Community Education, Post Leaving Certificate Courses, Basic Education (Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL), Back to Education Initiative. Centre based and outreach locations.			Universal, H Level 1 & Targeted H Level 2
	Midlands Art Education Programmes - offers a range of Arts Education Programmes throughout the Midlands, designed to enhance and enable access for people experiencing various forms of disadvantage.			
Community Training Centres	No corresponding service in Longford	Athlone and Mullingar: second chance training, educational and employment services for young people.	Statutory	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 Longford, Athlone and Mullingar.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2
Third Level Education	No corresponding facility in Longford	Athlone Institute of Technology: third level institute	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
Longford and Westmeath 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 Programmes), information to parents on accessing childcare services, and support to parents wishing to set up Parent & Toddler Groups.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
Parent & Toddler Groups	6 parent & toddler groups with 4 in set-up.	21 parent & toddler groups	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1
HEALTH				
HSE Primary Care	Health Centres in Longford, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Ballinalee, Ballyminion, Colehill, Killashee, Newtowncashel, Aughnaccliffe and Lanesboro.	Health Centres in Athlone, Ballymore, Castlepollard, Castletowngeoghegan, Delvin, Horseleap, Ballynacarrigy, Killucan, Kinnegad, Moate and Mullingar.	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
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)	A service that provides assessment and treatment for young people and their families who are experiencing mental health difficulties. This service provides specialist mental health treatment and care to young people up to 18 years of age through a multidisciplinary team. Access through Midlands Regional Hospital, Mullingar.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1 and Targeted Levels 2, 3 & 4
HSE Community Mental Health Services	Community Mental Health Centre in Longford	Community Mental Health Centre Athlone& Mullingar, Day Centre in Athlone&St Lomans Hospital M'gar	Statutory	Targeted, H Levels 2, 3 & 4

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
HSE Social Inclusion Services	Homeless Liaison Officer, Traveller Health Unit, Designated Public Health Nurse for Travellers, Primary Health Care Projects for Travellers across Longford and Westmeath		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
HSE Disability Services	Day Centre in Longford.	Day Centres in Mullingar and Athlone. Residential Centres in Mullingar and Castlepollard.	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention	Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention with responsibility for Longford Westmeath, 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
	Consultant psychiatrist specializing in substance misuse based in St Joseph's Hospital, Longford. Counselling services available from this location, with demand-led satellite counselling services in Ballymahon and Granard. Services available include Opioid substitution treatment & community-based Shared Care Programme; health advice, promotion & referral to supporting agencies; and alternative therapies. Transport provided where necessary. Tier 4 Residential Treatment available.	Consultant psychiatrist specializing in substance misuse. CADS Treatment Centre, St Mary's Campus, Mullingar & Primary Care Centre Clonbrusk, Athlone. Counselling services available at these locations, with demand-led satellite counselling services in Kinnegad and Moate. Services available include Opioid substitution treatment & community-based Shared Care Programme; health advice, promotion & referral to supporting agencies; and alternative therapies. 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 & Alcohol treatment support, family support, harm reduction, rehabilitation and aftercare service for individuals over 18 years and families with a full dedicated team working in the Midlands area (Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly). Staff team include one Service Co-ordinator, four Drug & Alcohol Workers (one for each of the midland counties), one Open Access Worker & one Family Support Specialist.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3
	Extern MYDAS (Midlands Youth Drug & Alcohol Support) Project - Community based Under 18 Drug & Alcohol Prevention & Treatment Service for individuals and families, based in Tullamore, Co Offaly and servicing the Midlands area. Staff team include one Service Co-ordinator, four Drug & Alcohol Workers (one for each of the midland counties) and one U18 Counsellor.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3
	County Longford Drug & Alcohol Forum (funded by the MRDATF), Athlone Drug Awareness Group (funded by the MRDATF & HSE), Westmeath County Stakeholder Action Group (both co-ordinated by MRDATF) are resources 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		Voluntary	Universal H Level 1 & Targeted H Levels 2 & 3

Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce & HSE CADS (Community Alcohol & Drug Service) contd.	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.			
Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
HSE Therapy Services	Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, 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. 4 locations in Westmeath & 2 in Longford.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2
SOCIAL SERVICES				
TUSLA	Early Year Services: Information, advice & inspection of early years' services e.g. pre-school.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	Prevention, Partnership & Family Support Service: PPFS provides early intervention family support at community level through a collective, interagency approach known as Meitheals.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	Tusla Education Support Service (TESS): service to families and schools where there are issues regarding school attendance, school places & home education. 1.5 Education Welfare Officers in Longford; 2.5 Education Welfare Officers in Westmeath.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2, 3 & 4.
	Social Work and Child Care Teams based in Longford, Mullingar & Athlone providing child protection and welfare (CPW), adoption, fostering & aftercare services to children and families. The Duty Social Work Team assesses CPW referrals, refer to SW Teams & provide advice on CPW concerns. A Child Protection Conference service is available to assess & plan for children who may be at risk of significant harm. A Family Welfare Conference service is available to support families to make decisions in the best interest of the child. Tusla Aftercare service provides supports to young people leaving care.		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 3 & 4
	Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services		Statutory	Targeted, H Level 3 & 4
Midlands Area Parenting Partnership	Multi-level universal evidence based parenting programmes for parents of children 2 – 15 years of age, covering levels 1, 2 and 3 Hardiker Model. Triple P is designed to benefit an entire community as well as individual families. It reduces (a) prevalence of children's/teenagers mental health problems (b) parental stress/anxiety/depression and (c) risk factors associated with child maltreatment		Statutory and CYPSC member organisations	Universal H Level 1 & Targeted Levels 2 & 3
Barnardos	No corresponding service in Longford	Services in Athlone and Mullingar, working with children & young people 0-18 & their families to build resilience & enhance family wellbeing.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Levels 3 & 4

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
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
Traveller Projects	Longford Community Resources Clg's Traveller Primary Health Care Project (PHCP) A health promotion project funded by the HSE. A peer led initiative employing Traveller Community Health Workers and delivering health education and support.	Westmeath Community Development Traveller Project Training, cultural awareness, information and referral in relation to housing, education, health and welfare. Traveller Primary Healthcare Project.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Levels 2 & 3
Midlands Simon Community	Regional Support Service for Homelessness – operates across 4 midland counties, delivering preventative interventions that support individuals, couples and families at risk of homelessness, supporting people in emergency accommodation, assisting move from instability of homelessness to the security of their own home.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
No corresponding Emergency Accommodation in Longford	Emergency Accommodation – with 6 beds in Athlone for men and women over 18 years. Housing with support- Athlone - provides 7 single people with self-contained accommodation in individual 1-bed apartments.			
Temporary Emergency Accommodation Midlands (T.E.A.M.)	T.E.A.M. – provides safe and secure housing for homeless women and children from counties Laois, Longford, Offaly & Westmeath in the hostel, Teach Fáilte , located in Mullingar. It consists of eleven units for residential use which meet the needs of both individual women and mothers with children.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Money Advice & Budgeting Service	Longford – offering online resources, a telephone helpline and face-to-face meetings with advisors.	Athlone & Mullingar - offering online resources, a telephone helpline and face-to-face meetings with advisors.	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1, & Targeted H Levels 2 & 3

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
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 organisational 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 Levels 2 & 3
	Lus na Greine FRC, Granard and Bridgeways FRC, Ballymahon	Athlone FRC and Cara Phort FRC, Ballynacarrigy		
Mental Health Support Services	SHINE (Tullamore base covering Longford Westmeath Laois Offaly) 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 in the community, while striving to achieve his or her full potential.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	GROW (Tullamore base covering Longford Westmeath Laois Offaly) 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
	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. Granard and Athlone Family Resource Centres		Voluntary	Universal H Level 1 & Targeted, H Levels 2,3 & 4
	Pieta House - Athlone base – help for people in suicidal distress or engaging in self-harm. Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service providing support, information and practical advice to individuals and families following a suicide death.		Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1 & Targeted Levels 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

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
Women's Projects	Longford Women's Link Longford: <i>supporting individual women</i> (services include domestic violence support, counselling, and support for migrant women, childcare facilities); <i>Building community capacity</i> (education and training, supporting women's collective action); <i>Lobbying and advocacy</i> at local and national levels on gender equality issues.	Women's Community Projects Mullingar: education and training; childcare facility 2 – 12 years; homecare services employment opportunities to women in domestic/ industrial cleaning, catering and ironing; counselling service, particularly to victims of domestic violence.	Voluntary	Universal H Level 1 & Targeted, Levels 2 & 3
Domestic Violence Services	Longford Women's Link - Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services: Longford - helpline, advocacy, counselling, accompaniment, support and advice	Westmeath Support Service Against Domestic Violence - Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services: Mullingar – helpline, advocacy, accompaniment, support & advice. Esker House Refuge, Athlone.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3 & 4.
Longford Westmeath Community Mothers Project	Community mothers are volunteers who use their experiences as mothers as well as local knowledge to support and encourage new parents. All visits take place in the parent's home and the service is free. The Baby Group provides an opportunity for parents of babies 0-15 months to meet.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
	Longford	Mullingar		
GALRO	Longford – services for vulnerable children and adults, specialising in intellectual disability, autism and challenging behaviours; residential services, respite, home support and specialised models of care.	Mullingar - services for vulnerable children and adults, specialising in intellectual disability, autism and challenging behaviours; residential services, respite, home support and specialised models of care.	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 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 – across six midland counties including Longford & Westmeath. Respite Centre based in Mullingar.		Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 3
Rape Crisis Centre	Athlone office with outreach to Longford– a counselling and support service for people affected by abuse or sexual violence	Athlone office with outreach to Mullingar – a counseling and support service for people affected by abuse or sexual violence	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Good2Talk	No corresponding service in Longford	Low Cost Counselling Service in Mullingar	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Longford Counselling Service	Low cost Counselling Service in Longford town	No corresponding service in Westmeath	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
POLICING AND YOUTH JUSTICE				
Garda Síochana	8 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.		Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
	1 Garda Youth Diversion Project - Longford	2 Garda Youth Diversion Projects – Athlone, Mullingar		
	1 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer	2 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers – Athlone, Killucan	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
SOCIAL WELFARE				
Department of Employment & Social Protection	Intreo Office – Longford. Single point of contact for all employment & income supports.	3 Intreo Offices – Athlone, Mullingar, Castlepollard. Single point of contact for all employment & income supports.	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2
	Supplementary Welfare Allowance processed at 5 outreach locations (Health Centres) in Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard and Lanesboro.	Supplementary Welfare Allowance processed at 10 outreach locations (Health / Primary Care Centres) in Athlone, Ballymore, Castlepollard, Castletowngeoghegan, Delvin, Horseleap, Kilbeggan, Lissywollen, Kinnegad, Moate and Mullingar.	Statutory	Targeted, H Level 2

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
YOUTH				
Foróige	<p>Working with young people aged 10-18 through volunteer-led Clubs and staff-led Youth Projects, involving young people consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society.</p> <p>Creative Community Alternatives – Midlands Integrated Youth and Family Project is a new service provided by Foróige, in partnership with Tusla. The service offers structured support to identified at-risk young people and families within Tusla Midlands area covering the counties Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly</p>		Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, H Levels 1, 2 & 3
<p>9 Foroige volunteer led Clubs in Granard, Longford town, Ballymahon, Autism Foroige Club (Longford town), Ballinamuck, Edgeworthstown, Dromard, Drumlish and Longford Coder Dojo</p> <p>The Attic House Teen Project is a volunteer youth facility, affiliated to Foróige. The project provides a drop in service, facilitates youth groups, and runs youth programmes i.e. Leadership, Citizenship and Health programmes. Longford Comhairle na Nóg is facilitated through the Attic House Teen Project.</p> <p>The SAFE (Supporting Adolescents and Family Engagement) Project works with young people who have been identified through Social Work, Gardaí, youth workers, schools and Youth Reach centres so as it addresses identified gaps in the provision of supports to a cohort of vulnerable young people and their families.</p> <p>LEAP (Longford Enabling Action Project) Garda Youth Diversion Project is a community based developmental project which targets young people who have been or are at risk of getting involved in crime and or antisocial behaviour.</p>	<p>8 Foroige clubs in Castledaly, Drumraney, Moate, Streamstown, Moyvoughly, District Foroige Club, Fiesta Foroige Juniors, Castlepollard</p> <p>1 District Council</p> <p>Gateway Youth Cafe & Project, Athlone</p> <p>The Spectrum LGBTI+ youth service Westmeath.</p> <p>Big Brother Big Sister Programme Westmeath/Offaly</p>			

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
Gateway Project		Engages young people aged 10-18 years in a range of specialised, educational, and recreational activities. The project is a partnership between Athlone Community Taskforce and Foróige	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1
Longford Community Resources Clg's County Longford Youth Service	Longford Youth Service has a specific focus on disadvantaged and marginalised young people from different background and ethnic origin into local activity.	No corresponding service in Westmeath	Voluntary	Targeted, H Level 2 & 3
Youth Work Ireland – Midlands	<p>Youth Group Delivery.</p> <p>Youth Employability Projects</p> <p>Traveller Men's Projects</p> <p>LGBTI+ Supports</p> <p>Summer Programmes.</p> <p>Support and Information.</p> <p>One-To-One Mentoring</p> <p>Social Education Programmes</p> <p>Alternative Education Project</p> <p>Peer mentoring programme</p> <p>Programme Development</p> <p>Volunteer Training</p>	<p>Youth Information Service (DCYA);</p> <p>2 Special Projects for Youth (DCYA) Athlone Youth and Community Project and</p> <p>Mullingar Youth Project;</p> <p>2 Garda Youth Diversion Projects ALF in Athlone, and EYE in Mullingar (DOJE);</p> <p>9 Volunteer Led Youth Clubs in Westmeath, namely:</p> <p>Ballymore Y.C.</p> <p>Coder Dojo Mullingar</p> <p>Coder Dungeon Clonmellon</p> <p>Emerald Lakes Youth Group</p> <p>Rochfortbridge,</p> <p>Kinnegad Y.C.</p> <p>Link Club Mullingar, (Special Needs)</p> <p>Mullingar Voluntary Youth Academy</p> <p>Mullingar Charity Variety Group</p> <p>YOYO Youth Café</p> <p>19 Participants in Westmeath as part of Regional Community Employment Scheme (Westmeath)</p> <p>Co-ordinate Comhairle na nOg, Westmeath; Summer Programmes, International Exchanges, European Voluntary Service and Gaisce Junior Youth Leadership.</p>	Voluntary	Universal, H Level 1, Targeted, H Level 2 & 3

Organisation / Agency	Longford	Westmeath	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal, Targeted or both
COMMUNITY				
Local Development Companies	Delivering multiple state-funded programmes and initiatives designed to address a wide range of issues including community development, enterprise, tourism, employment, poverty and disadvantage. Programmes include SICAP social inclusion programme, Rural Development (Leader) Programme, Volunteer Centre, TUS Scheme, Rural Social Scheme, Jobs Clubs and many targeted initiatives and programmes.		Voluntary	Universal & Targeted, H Level 1 & 2
	Longford Community Resources	Westmeath Community Development		
Citizens Information Services	Longford office with outreach to Aughnaclyffe, Ballymahon, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard and Lanesboro.	Offices in Athlone and Mullingar.	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, County Arts Office 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	Longford, Lanesborough, Ballymahon, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard.	Athlone, Ballynacarrigy, Castlepollard, Killucan, Moate, Mullingar, Kilbeggan	Statutory	Universal, H Level 1
Sports Partnerships	Longford - 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.	Westmeath - Promotion and development of sports in Westmeath with a range of programmes suiting different interests, age groups, fitness and ability levels including the Sports Inclusion Initiative.	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, H Levels 1 & 2
Local Community Development Committee's	Coordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding. Bringing a more joint up approach of the running of local and community development programmes and interventions e.g. SICAP, Leader. Focusing on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between service delivery and policy development. Pursuing opportunities for additional funding for the area whether exchequer, EU, private or other sources.		Statutory	Universal & Targeted H Levels 1, 2 & 3
Arts				
Helium Arts	Based in Mullingar, County Westmeath, Helium Arts brings positivity to children's lives throughout Ireland, through award-winning, participatory arts programmes.		Voluntary	Targeted H Levels 2 & 3

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Longford Westmeath

This local needs analysis is informed by data gathered through a series of consultation events (*Child and Youth Participation Project, Stakeholder Consultations as part of the development of the Midlands Area Commissioning Plan 2018 – 2021, and CYPSC consultations and planning sessions*) and provides insights into needs, gaps and priorities for Longford and Westmeath.

Stakeholder consultations carried out in the Midlands Region (Laois Offaly Longford Westmeath) in the development of the Midlands Area Commissioning Plan 2018-2022, provide key insights from practitioners into needs and future priorities. While encompassing the 4 counties, feedback is relevant to provision as a whole for all counties. Consultations with Children and Young People and the CYPSC Consultations and Planning sessions encompasses Longford Westmeath only

The needs analysis also draws out key evidence and indicators taken from the socio-demographic profile and audit of existing services.

The section draws on the information gathered for this plan and highlights how the LW CYPSC were informed when developing and prioritising CYPSC actions outlined in section six. The information gathered is analysed against the five National Outcomes for Children and Young People as outlined in 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures', highlighting key priority areas to inform future policy and action planning.

Before examining the priority areas identified as part of the development of this plan, this section will examine key areas that were identified through consultations as "Working Well" in Longford and Westmeath, some key points identified in the Tusla Midlands Area Commissioning Plan in relation to Services and also key socio demographic issues identified during the development of this Children and Young People's Plan 2020 - 2022.

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

The Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Programme provides coordination and direction for family support initiatives in the area, with Child and Family Support Networks in Athlone, Mullingar and Longford. The PPFS model of inter-agency working, and the collaborations, networks and informal links that are constantly being developed, particularly with regard to social work services and other services on the ground, are a significant asset.

Tusla Midlands is commencing the roll out of the '*Creative Community Alternatives*' programme in the area. This programme will provide alternatives to social work and care led services, by resourcing a suite of intensive wrap around services in a number of identified cases, providing families and children with supports that will impact positively on their lives.

Community / volunteer led services such as the Family Resource Centres, the Community Mothers programme, Rainbows programme, Parent and Toddler Groups, and Barnardos service are working well to address needs.

Supports provided through the school completion and education and welfare services, public health nursing, Money Advice and Budgeting Services (MABS) and Citizens Information Services, are also key supports for families.

In terms of child protection, organisations such as Foroige, Extern, Youthwork Ireland and the move towards creative / flexible approaches, are also contributing positively to solutions. The trust developing between services, and the sharing of resources and responsibilities, are breaking down barriers and enabling greater integration and joint-working. *This has been further assisted by the LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Project where the local youth services have developed close working links in recent years.*

The *Triple-P Parenting Programme* was introduced in the Midlands in 2006 (initially in Longford and Westmeath). It is a universal parenting intervention programme, delivered by trained tutors on secondment from TUSLA and the HSE. The interventions vary from planned parenting programmes that are held across a variety of locations in the Midlands and are open to all parents, to more specialised work.

These initiatives were highlighted during the Consultation Process for the development of the LW CYPSC Plan and TUSLA Midlands Commissioning Report as having contributed to meeting the priority needs of children and young people in this area. In most cases, they have emerged with community based support where needs have been identified. Future service provision should build on and complement the work being done by these initiatives.

The following information was gathered as part of the TUSLA Midlands Commissioning Report from Stakeholder consultations.

SERVICES OVERVIEW

Services are largely based in the most concentrated urban centres. Service users are frequently within a short distance of services up to 25 kms, however there are nonetheless significant numbers travelling distances of up to 80kms with just a small number of services delivering on an outreach basis.

Waiting times are generally short (Community and voluntary services) in the majority with immediate access for many in Longford. However, a smaller proportion could offer immediate access in Westmeath with some waiting periods of up to 6-12 months. This may however be linked to the nature of service provision in each county and the nature of respondents to the survey.

Most services had substantial numbers of self-referrals and referrals from other organisations and the vast majority also referred clients onto other appropriate supports.

The majority of referrals both into and out of services in Longford were from and to Universal services. Westmeath universal services provided a substantial proportion of referrals also, but referrals onwards as part of follow-on supports tended to be more specialist services.

In terms of referral challenges and key challenges, funding and resources dominated as primary concerns.

KEY SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES IDENTIFIED – LONGFORD / WESTMEATH CYPSC AREA

Population Increase

During the period 2011-2016, the population of the Midlands area increased at a rate marginally higher than the national average, with Longford/Westmeath increasing by 3.57%. The national average was 3.3%. Across the 5 large towns in this area, the rate of population increase in some exceeded that of the area as a whole. Some of the smaller towns in Longford experienced rapid population growth during this period, with the population of Athlone (5.9%) and Mullingar (4.1%) Ballymahon (20.1%) and Edgeworthstown (18.8%) amongst the towns growing at the fastest rate nationally. With the population increasing across the area as a whole, but particularly so in some of the urban settings, future service provision should take account of this.

Youth Population Variations

Co. Longford has a large primary school aged population relative to the rest of its youth population. There is also a relatively large young teen population, relative to the older teen age group. Service provision that is targeting the adolescent population can expect increased demand in the near future. Westmeath has a uniform distribution of age ranges showing a more stable youth population profile.

Significant Ethnic Community Populations

There are significant numbers of ethnic communities living in the Midlands area. Three of the top ten towns with the highest proportion of non-Irish nationals are located in Co. Longford; Edgeworthstown (2nd, with 32.3% of the population consisting of non-Irish nationals), Ballymahon (3rd, with 32.1% of the population consisting of non-Irish nationals) and Longford (7th, with 27.4% of the population consisting of non-Irish nationals). These large instances of newcomer Irish - many of whom do not have traditional generational family supports living near them, living in relatively small urban settings without developed community based services, provides a challenge for service provision in the near future. There is also a considerable Traveller population in the area. Proportionate to its size, Longford has the highest Traveller population of the 4 counties which comprise the Tusla Midland Region (Laois Offaly Longford Westmeath).

High Rate of Referrals to Tusla

In 2016, the Tusla Midlands Region (comprising Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath) had the highest instance of referrals in the state at 68 per 1000 (i.e. 68 children out of every 1000 in the Midlands were referred to Tusla) against a national average of 40 per 1000. Dublin North City had 61 referrals per 1000. The Midlands Region in 2017, showed a significant increase in the referral rates, an instance of 92 referrals per 1000, accounting for 14% of the national figure. Between 2016 and 2017 referrals nationally increased by 13%; in the Midlands the increase was 36%. Resourcing alternative pathways to foster care and intensifying supports to families with children in this age range in putting in place preventative, family and community based services to reduce numbers of 0-5 year olds coming into care requires attention in future decisions

The following is a synopsis of the **MAIN PRIORITY AREAS**, identified during the review of information collated in the development of this plan for Longford and Westmeath by the LW CYPSC, and categorised under the five national outcomes for children and young people.

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, physical and mental well-being

Key points gathered during Consultation process	Relevant Key evidence/ indicators taken from SD Profile/ Audit of Services	Priority Area(s) Identified – LW CYPSC Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of shared learning amongst CYPSC member organisations in relation to the HIF Round 2 Family Wellness Initiative rolled out by local Family Resource Centres, especially in relation to the early years sector (examples of young children presenting to preschool having missed breakfast or without an adequate packed lunch) • Education in schools regarding diet, nutrition and mental health services • Learning how to cook healthy food • Activities for babies and toddlers • Need to develop an outcome 1 subgroup in the LW CYPSC and development of further links with relevant HSE personnel, increasing membership on the CYPSC and CYPSC subgroups • Expansion of LGBTi services for vulnerable young people • Young People highlighted bullying, discrimination and homophobia and the feeling of being intimidated by some teenagers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2016 there were 33,870 families in the LW CYPSC Area with 2,655 (7.84%) at pre- family stage, 3,399 (10.04%) at pre-school stage, and 4,168 (12.31%) at early school age. • In 2016, there were 11,505 families in the LW CYPSC area with children under 15 years and 8,887 families with all children over 15 years of age. • In 2016, a total of 2,255 children of less than 15 years lived in single parent families in the LW CYPSC area • Co Longford is the 4th most deprived local authority area nationally, with 88% of its population either below average affluence or disadvantaged; it also has the third highest young dependency ratio in the country • High numbers of all households are renting from the local authority that is the case nationally, with the highest concentrations in County Longford • A total of 2,255 children under 15 years live in single parent families in Longford Westmeath • 1.58% of the population of the two counties are White Irish Travellers, with over 60% in the 0-24 age group • There are significant numbers of ethnic communities living in the area. Three of the top ten towns with the highest proportion of non-Irish nationals are located in Co Longford. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing structure of families and the arrival of new communities impact the need to provide supports to enhance family wellbeing and to bring communities closer together. The Longford Westmeath CYPSC area has significant challenges in terms of the proportion of young people, especially in the primary and young teen age group; the substantial numbers of people parenting alone and new ethnic communities without traditional family supports and networks; high numbers of Traveller families, and significant numbers of people with disabilities add to this challenge. The rural nature of the area with concentration of populations and services in urban centres and substantial distances for access to those outside these centres, combined with limited transport networks, create further challenges. The very high rate of referrals to social work services is a substantial cause for concern, and, in addition to research to identify the root causes of this, a key priority is the development of a strong community-based, collaborative, early intervention and preventative model. The LW CYPSC therefore identified the need to develop a Family Wellness Initiative based in local Family Resource Centres in 2019 and support the further development of this Initiative (pending HIF Rd 3 funding) following its success with the vision of increasing the number of services working alongside the FRC's including early years' services, HSE, Community Mothers and the inclusion of additional services as the need arises • LW CYPSC have worked closely with the HSE in 2018/2019 so as to recruit new HSE members both at CYPSC and subgroup level. The development of a dedicated Outcome one subgroup is a priority for the CYPSC • LW CYPSC (through support of HIF Funding) to support the enhancing of LGBTI social development programmes and opportunities.

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development

Key points gathered during Consultation process	Relevant Key evidence/ indicators taken from SD Profile/ Audit of Services	Priority Area(s) Identified – LW CYPSC Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of play from new-born up to six years, need for a back to basics approach and the nurturing and encouragement of play e.g. to promote bonding, positive relationships, listening skills, and development of motor skills, language development and sensory processing • Support from the CYPSC for Community Childcare services where the need may arise • Uptake in government childcare schemes and barriers • Huge need identified in relation to the (re) establishment of parent and toddler groups, including a focus on disability • Shared learning should occur from the Speech and Language programme in Westmeath preschools through the Westmeath County Childcare Committee, the need to expand the programme to Longford highlighted and to further the programme in Westmeath. Huge benefits noted from those involved (Childcare providers, County Childcare Committees, HSE Speech and Language Therapy) • Training for teachers to help and understand young people with mild disabilities • Supports and information in relation to disability in young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2016 there were 33,870 families in the LW CYPSC Area with 2,655 (7.84%) at pre- family stage and 3,399 (10.04%) at pre-school stage • The Pobal Early Years Sector Report 2016/2017 (October 2017) records that there were 3,928 Early Childhood Care and Education registrations (Free Pre-school Year) in the LW CYPSC Area, with capacity at just 80% in County Longford, and at 105% in County Westmeath. • TUSLA Midlands Area Commissioning Report 2018 – 2021, highlights that between 2016 and 2017 referrals nationally increased by 13%; in the Midlands however the increase was 36%(Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly). • Longford shows a considerably younger average age of first time mothers, and younger age of all mothers outside of marriage, than is the case nationally with more than a 2-year difference evident in both categories, while Westmeath is just marginally younger than the state average. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a Play Awareness Campaign, focusing on the early year's age group 0- 6 years • The LW CYPSC were informed by the Early Years Learning Subgroup when interpreting the figures from Pobal, that what appears to be an under demand on early childhood care and education in County Longford, is not the case, and that places are not being filled to capacity due to a variety of reasons for example, lack of transport in rural areas. A research programme to be carried out to identify areas and barriers where there is lower uptake of the government childcare programme schemes and an interagency support plan to address the recommendations to be put in place. • LW CYPSC to support if/when necessary community based childcare services that are applying for DCYA funding to develop their services to meet TUSLA requirements • LW CYPSC to support the maintenance and updating of a local Guide to Services for Young People with Disabilities overseen by the Early Years Learning Subgroup chaired by the County Childcare Committees • LW CYPSC to support the printing, dissemination and awareness raising with regards the Transitional Passport for young people with disabilities developed by the County Childcare Committees. Interagency support to be provided so as to ensure a copy is disseminated to all young people on the disability database. • A recommendation from the TUSLA Midlands Area Commissioning Report 2018 – 2021 (Appendix 7) to resource intensifying supports to families with children in the 0-5 years age range in putting in place preventative, family and community based services alongside the feedback from stakeholder events regarding the need for Parent and Toddler groups in the two counties and with a considerably younger average age of mothers, particularly in Longford, led to the decision by LW CYPSC for an interagency approach to (re) establish Parent and Toddler groups in Longford and Westmeath. • Expansion of Speech and Language Therapy (HSE SLT) linkage with Preschools in Westmeath and Longford with the assistance of the Early Years Learning Subgroup. This is another example of interagency work to support families with children in the 0-5-year age range highlighted in the TUSLA Commissioning report.

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Key points gathered during Consultation process	Relevant Key evidence/ indicators taken from SD Profile/ Audit of Services	Priority Area(s) Identified – LW CYPSC Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LW CYPSC members need to continue to encourage the initiation of Meitheal where appropriate (where Meitheal Lead Practitioners have been trained) and also attendance at the Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) meetings which provide support for lead practitioners. • The need for LW CYPSC under the PPFS subgroup to look at common/ core messages on various themes such as internet safety, healthy eating, positive mental health, safeguarding etc. • Focus on preventative work, where young people are not meeting social work thresholds but who are at a later date, meeting such thresholds or becoming involved in at risk behaviours. A need to examine the current systems such as the Central Allocations Panel (CAP), the membership of same and also looking at strengthening referrals to local services. The CFSN networks and CAP to be examined to see how the preventative model can be promoted and developed further. • The area of homelessness to be explored. • Need to consult with parents in a model similar to the Child and Youth Participation project which is very successful in capturing the perspective of children and young people. Need to explore how best to consult with parents, e.g. meeting with them in their local settings, local organisations, parent and toddler groups etc • The need to collate and coordinate and recommend evidence based parenting skills programmes across Longford and Westmeath. • Specific parenting supports where child has ASD diagnosis, Specific Parenting supports for parents of children with additional needs • All professionals working with parents and children to be trained/ awareness raised regarding the issue of domestic violence • Young People requested a stronger Garda presence and availability, and safer communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2016 there were 33,870 families in the LW CYPSC Area with 2,655 (7.84%) at pre-family stage, 3,399 (10.04%) at pre-school stage, and 4,168 (12.31%) at early school age. • In 2016, there were 11,505 families in the LW CYPSC area with children under 15 years and 8,887 families with all children over 15 years of age. • As highlighted previously, TUSLA Midlands Area Commissioning Report 2018 – 2021, highlights that between 2016 and 2017 referrals nationally increased by 13%; in the Midlands however the increase was 36%(Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly) • The CSO reports that in 2016 there were 6,906 homeless people in the State. Of these, 94 or 1.4% (50 homeless males and 44 homeless females) were recorded in the Midland Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high referral rate in the Midlands area, coupled with the need for intensive preventative community supports which was also highlighted in the Commissioning Report indicates the importance of continued development of interagency working in the Preventative Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services in the area. • A consistent theme of stakeholder consultations was the need to embed further the Meitheal process; there was a lot of evidence to suggest that when this approach was used it was successful, but further work is needed to continue with the roll out and promotion of this practice • The need to provide greater collaborative working, both between community organisations and statutory agencies. Closer collaboration, particularly between the HSE services, Tusla and community and voluntary organisations could provide greater synergies and deliver better outcomes for children and families. • In terms of identifying types of services that would work best in this area, there was strong preference indicated to support practice and evidence based programmes. • The area of homelessness has only recently been presented as an issue in the midlands during the consultation process and development of this plan. However, following discussions both at subgroup and CYPSC level, it became apparent that homelessness is a real issue in Longford Westmeath, and what is not captured in the CSO report 2016, is the extent of hidden homelessness which according to LW CYPSC member organisations is a huge issue in the area. The LW CYPSC need to explore this area more closely to establish the true picture of homelessness in Longford and Westmeath • A risk of harm working group to be established (under the PPFS Subgroup) to research, identify and address areas of harm for children and young people • Clear links to be established between they LW CYPSC, Child and Family Support Networks and the local Central Allocations Panel (0 – 3 Hardiker Level referrals from Social Work to PPFS services) • LW CYPSC to strengthen and develop further links with Domestic, Sexual, Gender Based Violence services and to work with the Gardaí to assist in the implementation of the new Domestic Violence Policy • Parenting Support Subgroup to actively involve parents/ grandparents/ guardians in any future evaluation of services aimed at supporting them and also to co-ordinate a list of all evidence informed/evidence based parenting skills programmes in the area (Including Triple P Parenting Programme mentioned in previous section)

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Key points gathered during Consultation process	Relevant Key evidence/ indicators taken from SD Profile/ Audit of Services	Priority Area(s) Identified – LW CYPSC Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A considerable gap was highlighted in regard to membership on the CYPSC and its sub-groups from the education and welfare sector across the spectrum i.e. primary, secondary, alternative education providers, local third level institutions, welfare, training and employment services and associated support services. Engagement of these groups is considered vital to the development of actions to address needs under this outcome. • More practical skills in schools that are transferable to careers • Support and incentives for further education after school • Improving life skills, budgeting, management of finances, education around borrowing money and repaying • Raising of minimum wage • Emphasis on local businesses, people shopping locally, development of vacant shopping centre in Longford town • Cookery classes (how to cook and live on a budget) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area, which comprises 9 counties in total, highlight some key points relevant to the Longford Westmeath CYPSC area from the 2016 Census: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Just four key settlements (from across the 9 counties) have a Labour Force at Work rate less than 80%: These include Longford (69.4%), Mullingar (79.1%) and Portlaoise (79.6%). ➤ Five key settlements have more than a fifth of their labour force unemployed: Longford (30.6%), Dundalk (20.9%), Portlaoise (20.4%), Mullingar (20.9%) and Tullamore (20.1%). ➤ 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%). ➤ Disposable Income per Person is lower in the Eastern and Midland Strategic Planning Areas, with the Midland area recording the second lowest level, with the lowest in Longford and Offaly. • Statistics from the Live Register (February 2018) shows that there were 348 young people (under 25) in Longford and 739 young people (under 25) in Westmeath on the live register • As indicated in the SD Profile section, there are high proportions of people over 25 with primary education only in Longford, as well as one ED in Westmeath. A similar pattern is evident in terms of third level education • There are 9 DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) Schools in Longford (5 Primary and 4 Post Primary) and 8 DEIS Schools in Westmeath (5 Primary and 3 Post Primary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the development of the plan and review of information gathered it became very apparent that key agencies were missing from the CYPSC and that a dedicated subgroup for Education/ Outcome 4 is required. In recent months, and as a result of this, increased membership from these sectors has already been achieved, namely from the education sectors (Primary, Secondary and Third Level) and the CYPSC will continue to work on this area and on the development of the dedicated subgroup during the lifespan of this plan. • Taking into consideration the feedback both from stakeholders and through consultations with young people, an action has been developed by LW CYPSC focused on improving life skills with focus on advice, guidance and education to young people and families in areas such as budgeting, and management of finances

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Key points gathered during Consultation process	Relevant Key evidence/ indicators taken from SD Profile/ Audit of Services	Priority Area(s) Identified – LW CYPSC Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full feedback of Child and Youth Consultations can be read in the LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Report here • During the consultations with the children and young people in County Longford, it was highlighted on a number of occasions that there was no skate park in Longford (there is a skate park in Mullingar and Athlone) and the young people requested one in Longford also • Young People would like to see more facilities in their counties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longford and Westmeath CYPSC area has a greater proportion of its population aged 0-24years 34.58% than is the case in the state as a whole 33.2% • Westmeath has greater proportions aged 15-24years than Longford, which has higher proportions in the 0-14 age ranges currently. • County Longford is the 4th most deprived local authority area nationally, with 88% of its population either below average affluence or disadvantaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When reviewing the feedback gathered from Children and young people, it was very evident that the quality of feedback and engagement was of a very high standard. It did however emerge, through CYPSC discussions, that some priority areas identified by the young people are currently being addressed by local LW CYPSC organisations. A decision therefore was made by the LW CYPSC to update the LW CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Report to include a “LW CYPSC Response”, indicating what services are currently available in relation to their priorities identified and what has been included in this plan. The update will also include feedback gathered during Youth consultations which took place in Quarter 4 2018 and Quarter 3 2019. This will then be communicated back to the Children and Young People who were involved in the Consultation Process as well as those who have since begun engaging with LW CYPSC. In order to keep this document alive and a working document, the LW CYPSC and the Participation Subgroup alongside the LW CYPSC Youth Forums are to continue to address / implement where possible direct positive outcomes as a result of youth consultations (past and future). The LW CYPSC to support and encourage local services to actively engage and consult with children and young people • The development of a Youth Friendly LW CYPSC Action Plan to be developed by the LW CYPSC Youth Forums in consultation with the Participation Subgroup and overseen by LW CYPSC • To explore the need/ feasibility of the development of a skate park in Longford town, with the CYPSC, Participation Subgroup and Longford County Council working in partnership

CONCLUSIONS

The Longford Westmeath CYPSC area has significant challenges in terms of the proportion of young people, especially in the primary and young teen age group; the substantial numbers of people parenting alone and new ethnic communities without traditional family supports and networks; high numbers of Travellers, and significant numbers of people with disabilities. The rural nature of the area with concentration of populations and services in urban centres and substantial distances for access to those outside these centres, combined with limited transport networks, create further challenges. The very high rate of referrals to social work services is a substantial cause for concern, and, in addition to research to identify the root causes of this, a key priority is the development of a strong community-based, collaborative, early intervention and preventative model.

The LW CYPSC have worked hard over the past three years to promote this model, and strive to further develop and enhance collaborative working amongst its member organisations through the implementation of this plan and development and implementation of future plans.

In order to facilitate this, access to, and outreach of, existing and new services feature strongly in recommendations to respond to the variety of needs. Referrals are taking place into and out of services demonstrating a growing integration of services and collaborative working. Networking through PPFS Networks and Meitheal processes has served to increase awareness, which needs to be further built upon and strengthened through the development of information tools and resources for use by services, practitioners, parents, and young people. Key challenges faced by services relate to funding and resources to allow for a focus on delivery of key front-line services.

Extensive consultations with children, young people, services, and agency practitioners working directly with families, children and young people in the area, have led to the clear identification of priorities and approaches to be adopted in the delivery of responses. These include: Improving the Range and Availability of Interventions; Understanding Each Other, building up Preventative Services to Reduce Crisis Intervention; and Embedding Services in the Community. These are further supported by clear policy priorities re-enforcing and supporting the achievement of these outcomes.

The information contained in this report and the underlying principles and cross-cutting approaches outlined above, underpin all actions identified for the Longford Westmeath CYPSC Plan 2019-2021, as summarised in Section 5 and outlined in detail in Section 6.

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People's Plan for Longford Westmeath

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	Establishment of Inter-Agency Sub-Group Early Years Health & Wellbeing Youth Facilities Family Wellness Initiative LGBTI community
Achieving full potential in learning and development	Early Years Play / Communication Skills Young People with Disabilities Community Childcare Provision & Scheme Uptake Parent & Toddler Development Plan Educators Involvement In CYPSC To Address Youth Needs
Safe and protected from harm	Family Support Services Homelessness Risk of Harm Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence Children and Young People at Risk Parental Participation Parenting Supports & Skills Programmes
Economic security and opportunity	Education, Employment and Welfare agencies engaged and delivering responses to needs presented Life-skills, Budgeting and Financial Management
Connected, respected and contributing to their world	Children and Young People Participation Development of CYPSC Youth Forums
Change Management	Local Priority Areas
Change management	Inter-CYPSC Working; Communications Strategy for Young People, Parents and Professionals; Research, Data and Information Sharing

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

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Active and Healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	To establish a LW CYPSC Outcome one Subgroup	The establishment of a multidisciplinary Outcome one Subgroup for Longford Westmeath CYPSC	Relevant local CYPSC member organisations to sit on the committee	Identify the key agencies from which membership will be sought Review and coordinate existing practice, policies and local/ national plans Oversee the outcome one actions within the LW CYPSC CYPP Review and recommend Healthy Ireland funding applications	Quarter 1 2020 Quarter 3 2020 Ongoing	LW CYPSC Outcome One Subgroup	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 Healthy Ireland: A framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 - 2025 HSE National Service Plan National Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2017 – 2025 Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2017 – 2019 Healthy Longford Plan 2018 – 2022 Longford Healthy County Plan 2018-2022 Longford Sports Partnership Plan	Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention Support Parents
Youth Facilities	Increase the provision of youth facilities in Longford and explore the need/ feasibility of the development of a skate park in Longford town	Research completed to establish need/ feasibility of development of skate park Development of a skate park in Longford town	Research report completed 1 skate park	Child and Youth Participation Subgroup, alongside the CYPSC Youth Forums, to Engage with Longford County Council to explore the need for and feasibility of a skate park in Longford	Quarter 4 2021 Currently unknown and based on outcome of research completed	Child and Youth Participation Subgroup Longford County Council	Westmeath Local Development Strategy (LEADER) Westmeath Recreation Strategy 2019 Westmeath Sports Partnership Plan Connecting for Life: Midlands Louth Meath Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018 – 2020 LWETB Youth Work Plan 2018 – 2022 National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Family Wellness	To develop a Family Wellness Initiative, which will assist and educate families in improving, lifestyle choices and healthy living	Number of families engaged in Initiative	Total of 30 families (10 families from Granard, Ballymahon and Ballinacarrigy areas) Approximate total of 120 children and 40 adults	Development of Family Wellness Initiative Recruitment Campaign of families Delivery of Family Wellness Programme	April 2020	Lus Na Greine Family Resource Centre, Cara Phort Family Resource Centre, Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Athlone Family Resource Centre County Childcare Committees, Early Years providers, HSE health promotion, Community Mothers, Public Health Nursing and other professionals where the need arises.	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020 Healthy Ireland: A framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 - 2025 Connecting for Life: Midlands Louth Meath Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018 - 2020 Longford LECP: High Level Goal 3: Improve prosperity, health/ wellbeing and quality of life of the community Obesity Policy and Action Plan: A Healthy Weight for Ireland 2016 – 2025	Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention Support Parents
			Total of 48 Families (12 families from Granard, Ballinacarrigy, Ballymahon and Athlone areas) Approximate total of 198 children and 60 adults	The Family Wellness Initiative involves a comprehensive and well developed family wellness programme centred on nutrition. Nutrition is not only about healthy eating habits but it is central to every aspect of human life. Mental wellbeing is nourished by mindfulness and stress relief and these too will form a key part of the initiative. Practical workshops on meal and lunchbox planning using an interagency model that supports parents and encourages changing practices on healthy eating. (with focus on preschool children and early intervention regarding introducing healthy eating habits), exercise, diet and fitness activities will also be delivered.	February 2021			
			Total of 48 Families (12 families from Granard, Ballinacarrigy, Ballymahon and Athlone areas) Approximate total of 198 children and 60 adults <i>Families will be local and with whom cypsc member organisations work, including one parent families, and families most marginalised in the community</i>					

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Empower the LGBTI youth community	Enhance LGBTI youth communities social, physical and emotional well-being.	Number of Young People engaged with LGBTI service	Engagement of 40 young people	Engage 40 young people in personal and social development programmes & opportunities. Develop LGBTI specific Youth Cafes (2) Facilitate Sexual Health & Decision Making programme (2) LGBTI youth forum (1) Develop county-wide outreach service Develop parental guidance resource (1) Engage young people in intensive individual work (5)	Quarter 4 2020	Foróige Gateway Project Youth Services Youth Work Ireland Midlands	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020 Healthy Ireland: A framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 - 2025 Connecting for Life Midlands Louth Meath Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018-2020. National Sexual Health Strategy (Recommendations 3.5; 3.6; 3.17; 4.2) LW ETB Youth Work Plan 2018 - 2022	<p>Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development</p> <p>Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm</p> <p>Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their community</p> <p>Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination</p> <p>Listen to and Involve Children and Young People</p>

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Promoting Play in County Longford and Westmeath	To promote the awareness and importance of play to parents through various media sources	Measure engagement with parents/ cares on cypsc member organisation platforms promoting play by number of hits/ likes	Engagement with minimum of 50 parents/ caregivers	<p>Development of a Play Awareness Campaign: *Which is linked to positive early education and development of children</p> <p>*Highlights the importance of recreational facilities which are accessible to all children including those with additional needs</p> <p>*Which provides information for parents on benefits of play, Outdoor Play and Play resource materials</p>	Ongoing for duration of plan	<p>Early Years Learning Subgroup</p> <p>Links to Westmeath /Longford County Development Plans</p>	<p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020</p> <p>National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020</p> <p>Ready, Steady Play</p> <p>Tusla Parenting Strategy</p> <p>Westmeath Local Development Strategy (LEADER)</p> <p>Longford Local Development Strategy (LEADER}</p> <p>Westmeath Recreation Strategy 2019</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Active & Healthy, physical and mental wellbeing</p> <p>Transformational Goals:</p> <p>Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination</p> <p>Earlier Intervention & Prevention</p> <p>Support Parents</p>

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Maintenance and updating of the Guide to Services for Young People with Disabilities	To signpost supports that are available in Longford and Westmeath for young people with disabilities	No of copies of directory printed and disseminated No. of hits on website	2,000 copies 1,000 hits	Maintain and update the Guide to Services for Young People with Disabilities Provide interagency support and information to ensure the most accurate information is available. Dissemination of the directory as a support tool for young people and their families.	Maintenance and update annually – ongoing for duration of plan	Early Years Learning Subgroup	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020 Westmeath County Childcare Committee & Longford County Childcare Committee Local Implementation Plans	Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention Support Parents
Transitional Passport for young people with disabilities	To support the transition for young people with disabilities between the various support services/agencies	No of contacts/requests for the passport and number of passports printed	500 passports printed and disseminated 500 passports printed and disseminated 500 passports printed and disseminated	Provide interagency support and information to ensure the most accurate information is available to disseminate a copy to all young people on the disability database. Printing and dissemination of the Passport as a support tool for young people and their families.	Quarter 4 2020 Quarter 4 2021	Early Years Learning Subgroup	National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 Longford LECP 2016 – 2022 C2.1.14	Strengthen Transitions
Support the identification of Community Childcare Services that require additional targeted investment to meet the specific needs of their area in Longford and Westmeath	LWCYPSC will support community based childcare services that are applying for DCYA funding to develop their services to meet TUSLA requirements	Support provided where needed to marginalised Community Childcare Services	Support provided where necessary	Support in writing community services identified by LCCC& WCCC who are applying for funding. Highlight nationally supports that these community based services require to be sustainable.	Ongoing	Early Years Learning Subgroup		

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Promote the identification of areas & barriers where there is lower uptake of the government childcare programme schemes	To research and identify barriers to the uptake of these schemes	Increase in uptake of government childcare programme schemes	To fill all places on schemes in the two counties	Research programme to identify areas and barriers. An interagency support plan to address the recommendations of this research	Final quarter 2021	Early years Learning subgroup	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020 Westmeath County Childcare Committee & Longford County Childcare Committee Local Implementation Plans	Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention Strengthen Transitions
Interagency Parent and Toddler Development Programme	To support the (re)establishment of Parent and Toddler Groups throughout Longford and Westmeath	Number of New Parent and Toddler Services	2020 – 4 2021 – 2 2022 - 2	To establish Parent and Toddler Groups in Longford and Westmeath through an interagency approach to a needs led audit. To support parents of young children through the provision of information and advice in a supportive and friendly environment To promote parent and toddler network throughout Longford and Westmeath to parents and local agencies	Ongoing	Early Years Learning Subgroup	National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 Ambitions for Transitions – A guide to Support every Child's progression from early years services to primary school Longford LECP 2016 – 2022 C1.3.14	
Enhancing children's communication skills development within the preschool settings	To support preschool staff in using strategies and ideas to promote children's communication/interaction skills within the targeted preschool setting	No. of Services that participate in pilot project – SLT Coaching in Longford No. of workshops completed	2020 – 6 preschools 2021 – 6 preschools 2020 – 2 workshops in Longford, 3 in Westmeath 2021 – 2 workshops in Longford, 3 in Westmeath	Expand Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Linkages to preschools in Westmeath in conjunction with Westmeath Childcare Committee Pilot (already in existence) & develop linkages with Longford Childcare committee. SLT Service to deliver training workshops to preschool staff in Westmeath and Longford and SLT Coaching in Longford	Ongoing	Early Years Learning Subgroup with HSE – Speech & Language services L/W as lead Partners: Local Libraries	Westmeath LECP 2016 – 2021 2.1.1	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Prevention, Partnership and Family Support	To provide family support services across the two counties	Number of referrals to the local Central Allocations Panel and other Tusla funded services in the area	That every child and family referred to PPFS and Tusla funded services receives a quality service appropriate to their need	That services deliver a quality service appropriate to the needs of the child and/or family	Ongoing	Tusla Family Support Services and funded Partners	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020	Outcome 2: Achieving in all areas of learning and development Outcome 5: Connected, Respected & Contributing
	To improve coordination and collaboration among family support service providers	Number of service providers contributing to the PPFS Sub Group Number of Child and Family Networks supported and maintained	That a minimum of ten relevant services provide meaningful contribution to the PPFS Subgroup That the three Child and Family Networks in Longford and Westmeath are supported and maintained	Support the ongoing development and work of the PPFS subgroup Support the local Child and Family Networks	Ongoing Ongoing	Tusla Family Support Services, funded partners and Child and Family Support Networks (Athlone, Mullingar and Longford)	Tusla National Service Delivery Model Tusla PPFS suite of documents Barnardos Strategic Plan (currently under review) National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children	Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention
	To implement the Meitheal National Practice Model	Number of practitioners who implement Meitheal and an increase in Number of Meitheals requested	To increase the number of Meitheals across the two counties by 50%	LW CYPSC to advocate the benefits of Meitheal as a preventative tool and encourage all frontline partner agencies to participate as Lead Practitioners	Ongoing	Longford Westmeath CYPSC, PPFS Subgroup and Senior CFSN Coordinators	National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 Westmeath Recreation Strategy 2019 Westmeath Traveller Project Westmeath Social Inclusion Community Activation Programmes (SICAP) Annual Plan	Support Parents Listen to and Involve Children and Young People Ensure Quality Services

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Risk of Harm	To identify and address areas of harm for children and young people Develop supportive mechanisms to highlight potential risks and protective factors regarding young people.	The development of community accessible resources in relation to three identified areas of risk	Resources for three areas of risk of harm completed	Establish a Safe and Protected from Harm working group which will report to the PPFS Subgroup Research available local responses to issues that pose a risk of harm to children and young people Explore any possible barriers to engagement with parents and young people Agree plan to deliver appropriate guidance and information to young people, parents and community	Quarter 2 2020 (for first identified risk area) Quarter 4 2020 (for second identified risk area) Quarter 3 2021 (for third identified risk area)	PPFS Sub Group partners and parenting support sub group	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020 Connecting for Life: Midlands Louth Meath Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018 – 2020 National Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2017 – 2025	Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention Support Parents
Homelessness	To open a discussion with relevant stakeholders to establish a clearer picture of homelessness and hidden homelessness in Counties Longford and Westmeath and its impact on children and young people in the area	Engagement and development of local area response with relevant services	Response developed by relevant local services for families, children and young people experiencing homelessness or at threat of losing their home	CYPSC PPFS Subgroup to examine the extent of official homelessness and `hidden homelessness` for children in the area. Develop and strengthen links among those working with children and families that are homeless to facilitate an appropriate response to support families in homelessness to access community supports Agree actions to minimise where possible the negative impact of homelessness and hidden homelessness on children by providing access to `normal` supports available to children and young people	Quarter 1 2020 Quarter 4 2021	PPFS Subgroup	Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2017 – 2019 Longford LECP 2016 – 2022 C3.3.5 Westmeath LECP 2016 – 2021 3.4.2 Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018- 2021	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Domestic, Sexual, Gender Based Violence	<p>To strengthen and develop further links with DSGBV services within Longford and Westmeath</p> <p>To implement the new Domestic Violence Policy and promote services available to victims in Longford and Westmeath Garda Districts</p>	<p>Number of services engaging with LW CYPSC</p>	To develop links with relevant services and double the number of DSGBV services currently on relevant CYPSC subgroups	<p>LW CYPSC Coordinator to sit on the DSGBV Midlands Advisory Board and assist with the development of the Midlands & Roscommon Needs Analysis Project Plan Further DSGBV services to be represented on LW CYPSC subgroups</p> <p>LW CYPSC to be informed by the recommendations from Midlands & Roscommon Needs Analysis Project Plan and assist where appropriate in the implementation of the plan's recommendations</p> <p>A working group established of Gardaí and Longford Women's Link personnel, who will develop call cards and other relevant information for distribution to DSGBV incident call outs made by Gardaí in Longford and Westmeath Districts</p>	<p>Qtr 1 2020</p> <p>When plan completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	PPFS Subgroup	<p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020</p> <p>National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020</p> <p>Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender- based Violence 2016 – 2021</p> <p>Westmeath Traveller Project</p> <p>Longford LECP 2016 – 2022 c3.2.10</p>	<p>Transformational Goals:</p> <p>Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination</p> <p>Earlier Intervention & Prevention</p> <p>Support Parents</p>
Children and Young People at Risk	<p>Review and expand membership of the CFSN Networks where necessary</p> <p>To strengthen the links between LW CYPSC and the CFSN Networks and provide support where necessary</p>	<p>Clearer understanding of local referral process amongst service providers</p> <p>Strengthen referral pathways at local level</p>	Child and Family Support Networks	PPFS Subgroup to develop a local multi agency response early intervention plan in consultation and the Child and Family Support Networks	Quarter 3 2021	PPFS Subgroup	<p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020</p> <p>National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020</p> <p>LW ETB Youth Work Plan 2018 -2022</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Achieving in All Areas of Learning and Development</p> <p>Transformational Goals:</p> <p>Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination</p> <p>Earlier Intervention & Prevention</p> <p>Ensure Quality Services Support Parents</p>

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Parental Participation	To actively involve parents/grandparents/guardians in the planning of and evaluation of services which are aimed at supporting them	To successfully initiate engagement with parents (representative of need in local community)	Parents/ grandparents/ guardians of children and young people prenatal – 24years of age in Longford and Westmeath 2020 = 40 2021 = 60 2022 = 100	To meet with parents in their local environment through local organisations To collate, evaluate and respond to gaps identified by parents in relation to parenting supports and parenting programmes in the area and ability to access the supports and programmes	Ongoing with annual reviews	Parenting Support Subgroup of LW CYPSC in partnership with the LW CYPSC member organisations	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020	Outcome 2: Achieving in All Areas of Learning and Development Transformational Goals: Support Parents
Coordination of evidence informed and evidence based parenting skills programmes prenatal to 24years of age in Longford and Westmeath	To establish availability, frequency and uptake of parenting programmes already in existence in the area	Collate a list of parenting programmes available in Longford Westmeath and develop a communication strategy	List of programmes collated and demonstrated increased awareness of availability of programmes amongst parents and stakeholders	Gather & communicate up to date information on parenting programmes available, their frequency & uptake To encourage & promote the provision of evidence based quality parenting skills programmes & evidence informed practice To make recommendations on evidence based/ informed programmes & best practice models	Initial database of programmes to be completed by Quarter 1 2020 Ongoing Ongoing	Parenting Support Subgroup of LW CYPSC	TUSLA Parental Participation Plan (to be launched) Midland Area Parenting Partnership Annual Reports Tusla Parenting Support Strategy Tusla Parenting 24Seven Local Family Resource Centre's Work plans 2019 – 2021 Longford and Westmeath Social Inclusion Community Activation Programmes (SICAP) Annual Plans	Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention Ensure Quality Services

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Education & Employment	Broaden representation from the Education & Employment sectors on LW CYPSC and establish an outcome four subgroup	Increased membership from Education & Employment sectors and establishment of Outcome 4 Subgroup	Relevant Local CYPSC member organisations to sit on committee e.g. - Primary schools, Secondary schools, alternative education providers, local third level institutions and associated support services, employment and welfare	Review and expand membership of LW CYPSC Establish dedicated Education/ Outcome 4 subgroup Review and identify actions in response to needs and issues presented	Quarter 1 2021 Ongoing	LW CYPSC And Westmeath Community Development	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020 Action Plan for Education 2016 – 2019	Outcome 2: Achieving in All Areas of Learning and Development Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention
Economic Security	Improve life skills	Increased knowledge amongst target groups	Increased knowledge amongst Children, young people and families engaging with LW CYPSC partner agencies	Provide advice, guidance and education to young people and families in relation to budgeting and management of finances Provision of Youth Employability Initiatives incorporating accredited training programmes	Ongoing	LW CYPSC, and subgroups in partnership with Youth Work Ireland Midlands, MABS and Westmeath Community Development	Longford and Westmeath Social Inclusion Community Activation Programmes (SICAP) Annual Plans	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Active Participation and Communication	Children and young people are actively involved in the planning of services which are aimed at supporting them	Children and young people contribute to the planning and development of the LW CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan's and the implementation of the plans through the formation of LW CYPSC Youth Forums across the two counties	Establishment of 5 LW CYPSC Youth Forums across Longford and Westmeath with approximately 10 young people on each forum The LW CYPSC will work alongside the forums to implement the LW CYPSC Plan	Continued development of the LW CYPSC Child & Youth Participation Project to include Implementation of any direct positive outcomes from youth consultations – including development of CYPSC Youth Forums	Ongoing	Child and youth Participation Subgroup	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020 National Strategy for the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision – Making 2015 – 2020 National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 - 2021 National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 - 2021 Inter- Cultural Strategic Plan Longford County Council 2018 – 2022 Longford LECP 2016 – 2022 C2.1.12 Westmeath LECP 2016 – 2021 3.1.9	Transformational Goals: Listen to and Involve Children and Young People Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Earlier Intervention & Prevention Ensure Quality Services
				Support and encourage local services to actively engage and consult with children and young people	Quarter 3 2019 Ongoing			
				Complete a "CYPSC response" section in the Participation Report, amending the current report and follow up on actions as identified by the children and young people	Quarter 2 2020			
				Develop a Youth friendly LW CYPSC Action Plan summary	Quarter 3 2020			

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Inter – CYPSC Working	Working collaboratively with neighbouring CYPSC's where programmes and services are delivered across more than one CYPSC area	Projects that involve more than one CYPSC being achieved	Partnering with neighbouring CYPSC's that have similar objectives Partnering with neighbouring CYPSC's in a project/ programme due to common personnel or geographical target	Development of common projects for example: *The Longford Westmeath/ Laois Offaly CYPSC's mapping tool *The Longford Westmeath Laois Offaly CYPSC's communications tool National Child and Youth Participation Event 2020 – Collaborative work between LW CYPSC and Roscommon CYPSC	Ongoing Quarter 2 2020	Longford Westmeath CYPSC and neighbouring CYPSC's	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020 Partnering CYPSC's CYPP's	Transformational Goals: Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination Ensure Quality Services Earlier Intervention & Prevention Support Parents
Communications	To raise awareness of current service provision in the area and to provide ease of access for parents and professionals on up to date services, programmes and events in the Longford Westmeath/ Laois Offaly CYPSC areas.	Measure use of platforms by number of hits, and the locality from which they are coming from	Engagement with minimum of 1,000 Parents, young people and professionals working with families and young people	Establish a Social Media Profile for LW CYPSC Develop a web based/ smartphone application containing information for young people and family services across the four Midland counties. Maintenance and updating of web based/ smartphone application Marketing Campaign to alert of the application's existence and promote use amongst target group.	 Quarter 4 2022	LW LO CYPSC's	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020 National Strategy for the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision – Making 2015 – 2020 Tusla National Service Delivery Model HSE E-health programme Tusla Parenting Support Strategy including Parenting 24Seven Longford County Council Intercultural Strategic Plan 2018-2022. Westmeath LECP 2016- 2021 3.1.8	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath 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)
Research, Data and Information Sharing	Develop an interactive web based mapping tool to enhance planning and service delivery by CYPSC and CYPSC partners	Partner organisations using the tool	Lead agencies within the CYPSC including Tusla, Local Authorities, HSE, Gardaí, ETB's to utilise the tool to inform future local service planning	<p>Develop web based mapping tool containing data relevant to children and family service planning</p> <p>Hosting, managing and updating of this tool</p> <p>This tool has been developed in 2018 and is capable of producing reports, and is usable for service planning. The joint LW/ LO CYPSC subgroup have brought the project to the stage whereby it is capable of being used, but is in need of refinement. A host agency to be identified.</p>	To be determined by the LW and LO CYPSC's in 2020	LW & LO CYPSC's To be determined by LW and LO CYPSC's in 2020	<p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020</p> <p>National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020</p>	<p>Transformational Goals:</p> <p>Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination</p> <p>Ensure Quality Services</p> <p>Earlier Intervention & Prevention</p> <p>Support Parents</p>

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

The Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) covers the three-year period from 2020 to 2022. The LW CYPSC Subgroups (which are aligned with the Five National Outcomes and the priority action areas) will develop an Annual Programme of Work each year, based on the actions contained within this plan. The subgroup plans will be submitted to the LW CYPSC for approval, and the CYPSC Coordinator will collate the plans into one Annual Programme of Work for the year ahead. Any actions not directly linked to an existing subgroup will be assigned to a group, or where needed a subgroup established so as to monitor and carry out the action. All of the actions contained within this plan have been developed in consultation with the existing LW CYPSC Subgroups and approved by the LW CYPSC.

Each subgroup chairperson provides regular updates at each LW CYPSC meeting. A calendar of both CYPSC and CYPSC Subgroup meetings are scheduled each November, to ensure optimum attendance and so as to progress the work of the CYPSC throughout the year. An annual review will take place each year prior to the development of the annual programme of work, so as to ensure the previous year's targets have been met and so as to plan for the year ahead. Data relating to indicators will be collected by the subgroups where appropriate throughout the year, and will be reflected in an annual progress report. A mid-year review will also take place, so as to ensure the LW CYPSC are on track to meeting their annual targets.

As highlighted in the LW CYPSC action plan, the CYPSC hope to strengthen further its consultation with Children and Young People, through the introduction of CYPSC youth forums. This will ensure that children and young people are also part of the review process as highlighted above. These groups will report through the Child and Youth Participation CYPSC Subgroup.

The LW CYPSC, is also eager to encourage the participation of parents and this will be a priority action for the CYPSC in year one of this plan.

The Longford Westmeath CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan has been mapped against both the Longford and Westmeath Local Economic and Community Plan's (LECP's). The LW CYPSC will work in partnership with the Westmeath and the Longford Local Community Development Committee's (LCDC's) so as to avoid duplication of actions and to provide input into the review and development of the LECP's for Longford and Westmeath.

Finally, Longford Westmeath CYPSC will produce progress reports bi-annually which will assist in local review of the action plan contained within this plan and also to inform at a National Level, the National CYPSC Coordinator and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, progress reports will be submitted as set out in the National Planning and Reporting Framework.

Section 8: Appendices

Appendix 1



LW CYPSC Consultations with CYPSC Member organisations for the development of Children and Young People's Plan 2019 - 2021

A number of consultations took place, facilitated by the Longford Westmeath CYPSC Coordinator, with various members of local child and youth organisations across Longford and Westmeath.

Ten consultations took place in total, from September to November 2018, namely on the following dates 12th, 21st and 25th September, 9th, 10th and 11th October and 5th, 13th, 23rd and 27th November.

The aim of the consultations was to explore the key areas of need and gaps in service provision, for children and youth services across the two counties, under the five BOBF outcomes so as to inform the development of an action plan for the LW CYPSC's Children and Young People's three-year strategic plan 2019- 2021

The following services and organisations took part in this consultation process (with various members from the organisations attending the different consultation dates):

Tusla, County Council (Longford & Westmeath), Foroige, Youth Work Ireland Midlands, Health Service Executive, Barnardos, County Childcare Committee (Longford & Westmeath), Longford Community Resources Limited, Educational Welfare Services, An Garda Síochana (Longford & Westmeath), Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board, Family Resource Centres (Longford and Westmeath), Longford Women's Link, Westmeath Community Development, Childcare providers.

The following are the key themes that emerged from the consultations:

Outcome 1: Active & Healthy, Physical and mental wellbeing:

Shared Learning from the Family Resource Centre wellness programme – Healthy Ireland Project 2018, especially in relation to the early years, where some young children are presenting to preschool having missed breakfast or without a packed lunch. The need to develop an outcome 1 subgroup in the LW CYPSC and for further links to be made with relevant HSE personnel, increasing membership of the HSE both on the CYPSC and CYPSC subgroups

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

The importance of play, in the most basic form, from new-born up to six years was strongly highlighted. The need for a back to basics approach and the nurturing and encouragement of play for children to promote bonding, positive relationships, listening skills, visual tracking and development, motor skills, head control for baby, language development and sensory processing, but to name a few.

Area of disability in young people, supports and information available

Support from the CYPSC for Community Childcare services

Uptake in government childcare schemes and barriers

Transitions from preschool to primary school

Huge need identified in relation to the (re)establishment of parent and toddler groups, including a focus on disability

Shared learning from the Speech and Language programme in Westmeath preschools through the Westmeath County Childcare Committee, the need to expand the programme to Longford and further within Westmeath. Huge benefits noted from those involved

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Low number of Meitheals identified in Longford and Westmeath in the first half of 2018. LW CYPSC members to continue where Meitheal Lead Practitioners have been trained, to encourage the initiation of Meitheal where appropriate and also to attend the Child and Family Support Network meetings which also provide peer support for lead practitioners.

Huge discussions regarding the whole area of safe and protected from harm. The need for LW CYPSC under the PPFS subgroup to look at common / core messages on various themes such as internet safety, healthy eating, positive mental health, safeguarding etc.

Discussions took place regarding preventative work, where young people are not meeting social work thresholds but who are at a later date, meeting such thresholds or becoming involved in at risk behaviours. A need to examine the current systems such as the Central Allocations Panel, the membership of same and also looking at strengthening referral pathways to local services as the midlands currently have such a high social work referral rate. The CFSN networks and CAP to be examined to see how we can promote and develop further the preventative model.

The area of homelessness to be explored, this has not presented as an issue in the midlands until very recent, however following discussions at the consultations, it became apparent that homelessness is a real issue in Longford Westmeath, and hidden homelessness is also an issue. The LW CYPSC need to explore this area more closely to establish the true picture of homelessness in Longford and Westmeath

The success of the Child and Youth Participation project was commended; however, it was strongly highlighted that there is a need to consult with parents also. To explore how best to consult with parents, such as meeting with them in their local setting e.g. local organisations, parent and toddler groups etc.

The need to collate and coordinate and recommend evidence based parenting skills programmes across Longford and Westmeath

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Discussion regarding how best to achieve outcome four. Examined the area of improving life skills, looking at the area of budgeting, management of finances etc.

A huge gap was highlighted with regards the need for increased membership on the CYPSC and cypsc subgroups from the education sector, namely primary, secondary schools, alternative education providers, local third level institutions and associated support services.

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and contributing to their world

The work and achievements of the Child and Youth Participation project was acknowledged, including the success in receiving the Investing in Children Award. The LW CYPSC to continue to encourage the participation of young people in the LW CYPSC and explore new ways to further engage with children and young people in Longford and Westmeath

The need to collate a CYPSC response in the Child and Youth Participation Project report was highlighted and also for the participation subgroup to follow up on actions as identified by the children and young people.



Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee Terms of Reference

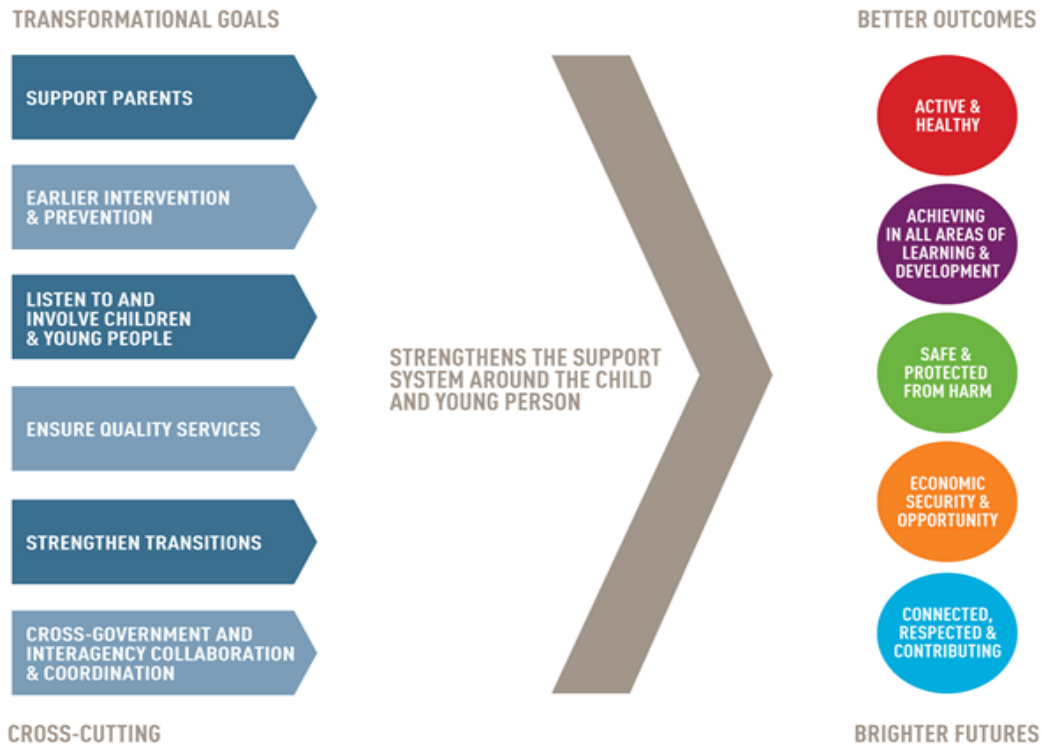
The following Terms of Reference were drawn up in consultation with the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020 and the Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services Committees

Purpose

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are the key structure identified by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) to plan and co-ordinate services for Children and Young People, aged 0 – 24 years, in every county in Ireland. They provide a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people and their families receive improved and accessible services. Their role is to enhance interagency co-operation and to realise the national outcomes set out in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020. The ultimate goal is to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Ireland.

The purpose of the Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee (LW CYPSC) will be to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration in order to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in Longford and Westmeath

The Five National Outcome areas for children and young people in relation to the six transformational goals set out in the 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures' national policy framework document are:



The Five Principles underpinning 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures' also underpin the work of CYPSCs. These are:

Children's rights: The rights of children as outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are recognised and child-centred-approaches are adopted.

Family-orientated: The family is recognised as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of children and young people.

Equality: The diversity of children and young people's experiences, abilities, identities and cultures is acknowledged, and reducing inequalities is promoted as a means of improving outcomes and achieving greater social inclusion.

Evidence-informed and outcomes-focused: To be effective, policies and services must be supported by evidence and focused on the achievement of agreed outcomes.

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

Term

These Terms of Reference are effective from October 2018 until their review in October 2019.

Functions of the Longford Westmeath CYPSC

The LW CYPSC is an interagency committee whose overall purpose and function is to secure better developmental outcomes for children and young people by:

Coordinating the implementation of national and regional policies and strategies that relate to children, young people and families

Support national initiatives that involve children and young people in decision making on the development and delivery of children and young people's services

Bringing together and establishing mechanisms for communication between, statutory, community and voluntary organisations involved in providing services to children and young people

Developing and overseeing the implementation of an inter-agency Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) designed to improve outcomes for children and young people by completing the following:

Conducting needs analyses relevant to the specified national outcomes for children and young people and other relevant local issues

Mapping the services currently available in the area

Identifying gaps and priorities in relation to population groups and services in the area

Put in place monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the CYPP

Planning and coordinating services for children and young people in the Longford Westmeath area in order to improve outcomes for children

Eliminating fragmentation and duplication of services by ensuring more effective collaboration between children, young people and family services within Longford and Westmeath

Influencing the allocation of resources across the two counties with a view to enabling the effective use of resources at local level

Strengthening the decision-making capacity at local level

To support mainstreaming of evidence based practice and also where appropriate evidence based programmes including practice emerging from the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme, and other innovative programmes

The Longford Westmeath CYPSC have four overall goals:

To bring partners together within a single framework for the delivery of services to children, young people and their families within Longford and Westmeath.

To provide strategic leadership to ensure the development of and delivery of improved outcomes for children, young people and their families.

To agree and implement a Children and Young People's Plan.

To act cohesively to implement strategic decisions of the committee.

Leadership

Leadership on the CYPSC initiative, at a national level, has been provided by the DCYA. The DCYA designated TUSLA – Child and Family Agency to lead this initiative. This decision was driven by the fact that TUSLA – Child and Family Agency is responsible for child welfare and protection and family support services, and has trained professionals to support the delivery of these services.

Chair of the CYPSC

The LW CYPSC will be chaired by the local Area Manager of Tusla – Child and Family Agency

The key responsibilities of the Chair include:

Provide leadership and direction for the CYPSC

Ensure the effectiveness of the committee in all aspects of its role, including delivery of its CYPP

Ensure active participation and contributions from all members across all sectors

Ensure appropriate interaction between the committee and external stakeholders

Deputy Chair

The Local Authority representative is the deputy chair of the LW CYPSC.

The responsibilities of the vice chair are:

Support the CYPSC Chairperson in the performance of her duties

In the case of unavailability of the chairperson at any committee meeting, to take the role of Chairperson for that meeting

Ensure an appropriate balance between the voice of the Chairperson's organisation and that of other member organisations

The CYPSC Coordinator

The LW CYPSC Coordinator will support the CYPSC in its work to bring together a diverse group of agencies in Longford and Westmeath to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people.

The key responsibilities of the CYPSC Coordinator include:

Support the development of the CYPSC and its sub-groups

Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the committee

Foster and develop relationships with key personnel including CYPSC members and other stakeholders within associated agencies/service providers involved in the provision of child and family services

Co-ordinate the development and implementation of the CYPSC's 3 year CYPP

Assist the overall committee and sub-groups to implement the 3-year work plan and monitor progress in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people as set out in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures

Ensure the collection, provision and reporting of relevant data and information

Respond to ad hoc information requests and manage external correspondence as necessary

Membership

The Longford Westmeath CYPSC is made up of representatives from Community, Voluntary and Statutory agencies that provide support, and /or service delivery to children in Counties Longford and Westmeath. In order that the CYPSC can address issues relating to the five national outcomes for children, senior managers with the authority to exercise decision making powers from all the major statutory and voluntary providers of services to children and families should be represented on the CYPSC.

Membership of the Longford Westmeath CYPSC includes representatives from the following:

Tusla - Child and Family Agency

HSE

County Council (reps from both counties)

An Garda Síochána (reps from both counties)

National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) (reps from both counties)

Irish Primary Principal's Network (IPPN) (reps from both counties)

Educational Welfare Services - Tusla

Education and Training Board (ETB)

Athlone Institute of Technology

County Childcare Committee (reps from both counties)

Barnardos

Westmeath Community Development

Longford Community Resources Ltd

Youth Work Ireland, Midlands

Foroige

Family Resource Centres

Midland Area Parenting Partnership

Working in partnership

The committee will identify and promote existing models of best practice and develop new models where necessary.

Each member organisation will work in collaboration with other members of the committee to improve policy development and delivery of services for children and young people.

Each member organisation will seek to identify duplication and work collaboratively to remove blockages to the delivery of child centred policies and services both within their own organisation and in cooperation with other organisations.

CYPSC Meetings and subgroups

The Longford Westmeath CYPSC will meet every 6 weeks. The committee will not meet during the months of July, August and December. An agreed minimum quorum of one third +1 must be present for the CYPSC meeting to take place.

Committee decisions are based on the five principles underpinning the work of CYPSC's and are made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). If this is not possible, the CYPSC Chairperson makes the final decision.

Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided to the committee by the CYPSC Coordinator

The CYPSC will develop a CYPP and establish subgroups around specific outcomes/issues. Each of the subgroups will be chaired by a member of the CYPSC (who is accountable to the CYPSC for the subgroup). The subgroups can include organisations and individuals who have a particular expertise in the subgroup topic, but who are not members of the CYPSC. The subgroups will meet a minimum of every 6 weeks, and prior to each main CYPSC meeting.

Reporting

Children and Young People's Plan:

The LW CYPSC is required to produce a 3 year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), which provides for national policy and local needs and priorities. The CYPP will also take into account the requirements of Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) to ensure that there are complementarities between the Longford and Westmeath LECP'S and the LW CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan.

CYPSC Annual Programme of Work:

The LW CYPSC will produce an Annual Programme of Work, which will be a succinct statement containing the committee's objectives for the year. It will be informed by local priorities as expressed within the CYPP and the priorities set out by the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium, and should have regard to other related policies and strategies where relevant.

Progress Report:

The LW CYPSC will submit regular Progress Reports to the National Coordinator for CYPSC. The report will illustrate the status and progress of developments within the Longford Westmeath area.

Amendment, Modification or Variation

The Terms of Reference may be amended, modified or varied in writing after consultation and agreement by the Longford Westmeath CYPSC.

Confirmation of Agreement

We, the undersigned, agree on behalf of the organisations we represent to the Terms of Reference of the Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee:

Name

Organisation

Róisín Finnan H/W Family Resource Centres

Mary Healy ADPHN PCP Killybegs

~~Emma Jones~~ Twiler

Emer Farrell An Garda Síochána, Longford.

Paulie Dege Barnardos

Laura Owens MAPP

Bernie's Joan Jordan Westmeath Co Co.

Wendy Cox, LWETB

Muriel Flynn, Westmeath County Childcare

Aimee O'Leary CHAIR CYPSC (TUSLA)

Clare Sawyer Foróige

Geraldine Lacey Youth Work Ireland Midlands

Budget Msnell EWS (Tusla)

Clare Deane Barnardos

Ann O'Riordan Longford Party Canal

Name

Organisation

Valerie McFarlane Longford Community Resources

Angela Heavener Longford Women's Link

Patricia Hennessy An Garda Siochana - Mullingar

Carmen Balta Longford CCC

~~Patricia Hennessy~~ Garda

**Steering group – Early Years Learning
Longford/Westmeath Children Young People Services Committee**

Background Information

Early Years Learning (EYL) Sub Group focus is cross-cutting over the 5 national outcome areas. However, the national outcome that the early years learning subgroup are trying to achieve and work towards is outcome number two (as per the Better Outcome, Brighter Futures National Policy Framework document) that children and young people are achieving their full potential in all areas of learning and development.

The need to invest in very young children to maximise their future wellbeing is well documented. In addition, research outlines the importance of early years in playing a key role in children's brain development, emotional, social and physical development which in turn has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become.

Early Years Learning sub group will focus on the principles, practices and outcomes that support and enhance young children's learning from birth to six years of age, as well as their transition to school.

Agenda

The main agenda is to support the design, delivery and integration of services available to young children, from birth to six, and their families in Longford and Westmeath. To identify issues and challenges within the sector (e.g. resources, funding, societal value) and support the CYPSC to identify opportunities and find creative solutions. The subgroup will have representatives from each sector in the community across the early years, education, early intervention, family support, HSE and Tusla services in the Longford/Westmeath area.

Agenda – priority tasks

Early family supports: The importance of the home learning environment in early years/ basics of play/supporting parents

Parenting Education and its role in early years learning

Look at the importance of parent and toddler groups and the need for establishing new groups across the two counties.

Supporting children with disabilities. Looking at the area of supporting and educating the parent and Early Year Sector staff, in particular where the child has additional needs.

Importance of antenatal care (GP/Hospital visits) and information packs.

To promote the shared learning of the Early Years Learning Subgroup

Chair to report on the progress into Children and Young People's Services Committee meetings

Governance/Reporting Structure

The EYL Steering Committee is a subgroup of Longford/Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee and will act as an advisory group only. All decision making powers reside with the CYPSC.

As highlighted some priority areas may overlap with other subgroups e.g. parenting education subgroup, and where this occurs, the subgroups will feed back to each other via the main CYPSC as all subgroups are working towards a common theme of better outcomes for all children and young people.

EYL Subgroup Chair (Role and Responsibilities)

The EYL Steering Committee will be chaired by the County Childcare Committee as a lead agency in the area. The EYL Chair will convene regular meetings and report progress at CYPSC meetings and if the EYL Chair is not available to attend the CYPSC meeting he/she will submit a report in writing in advance.

The Subgroup Chair is also responsible for ensuring that:

the Terms of Reference are drafted and submitted to the CYPSC for approval.

the external membership of the subgroup is appropriately selected and that the names are provided to the CYPSC for approval.

the meetings of the subgroups and any actions/activities agreed are recorded appropriately.

EYL Steering Committee Members (Role and Responsibilities)

Membership of the EYL Steering Committee will be in line with the Terms of Reference for all CYPSC Subgroups.

More than two members of the EYL will be members of Longford/Westmeath CYPSC. Any change to the membership is subject to the approval of the CYPSC. Subgroups membership will not generally exceed 14 in number.

Subgroup members may be invited / nominated to participate in line with the *Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services Committees (2015)* and with the approval of Longford/Westmeath CYPSC. The Subgroup must take a 2 county approach to the selection of external members. EYL Steering Committee members are drawn from the wide range of statutory, voluntary and community agencies providing services to children, young people and families in Longford/Westmeath.

The role and responsibilities of EYL Steering Committee members include the following:

To attend meetings and to actively participate in the work of the committee

To undertake any work assigned and to report on this work at meetings

To raise awareness of the CYPSC initiative in their own agencies

To consider the work of their agency in line with the priorities identified by the Longford/Westmeath CYPSC and the EYL Steering Committee

EYL Meetings

The EYL Steering Committee will meet in advance of L/W CYPSC meetings

Quorum is 3 agencies represented and 4 members. This quorum can be reviewed based upon increase in sub group membership.

Meetings will be rotated between Longford/Mullingar

Agenda will be circulated 3 working days in advance of EYL Sub Group meeting

Minutes will be drafted and circulated for amendment to all members present at meeting

Functions of the EYL Steering Committee

The functions of the EYL Steering Committee as set out in the guidance documentation are as follows:

To undertake, implement, oversee the actions included in the Children and Young People's Plan for Longford/Westmeath by this subgroup and any future CYPPs for Longford/Westmeath

To undertake an annual review/evaluation of the actions/processes overseen by this subgroup

To identify gaps in services and consider a means of addressing such gaps using an interagency approach

To raise policy issues that arise through the Sub group

To support the creation of a collaborative network of community, voluntary and statutory providers so as to improve access to support services to children and their families. To inform the commissioning process in order to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective, equitable, proportionate and sustainable way.

To ensure effective representation and succession planning for committee members

Steering group – Prevention, Partnership and Family Support

Longford Westmeath Children & Young People's Services Committee

Background Information

An Area –based Approach to Prevention, Partnership and Family Support has been achieved through the development of Local Area Pathways as part of the Child and Family Agency National Service Delivery Framework. To this end a National Practice Model (Meitheal) has been developed whereby a network of community, voluntary and statutory services will collaborate to provide improved access to support for children and families where there are unmet needs.

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) support the delivery of aspects of the national service delivery framework.

Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Steering Committee is established as a sub group of the CYPSC to support Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs) that deliver an integrated service across the continuum of need to children and families in need of support.

The Child and Family Agency is responsible for chairing this sub group and ensuring communication with the CYPSC Coordinator as per other CYPSC Sub Groups

Agenda

The main agenda is to support the Child and Family Support Network and service delivery in PPFS including the Meitheal Practice Model across Child and Family Support Networks in Longford Westmeath.

The subgroup will have representatives from each sector in the community across the early years, education, justice, youth services, family support services, Midlands Rape Crisis Centre, HSE and Tusla services in Longford Westmeath area. A minimum of four meetings will take place each year (one each quarter), and more as required, including Conference Calls.

Agenda – priority tasks

Support the continued development of each Child and Family Support Network across Longford and Westmeath
Information for services on the Child and Family Support Networks and the role of the Coordinator
Meitheal Practice model – Support appropriate services participation in the Meitheal training and preparation
Briefings on Prevention, Partnership and Family Support programme and plan attending Children First training/refresher.

Support the Coordinator to review the capacity of services to participate as lead practitioners and the resources available and needed across and within services for implementation of the Meitheal practice model

To engage with and support the rollout of the Signs of Safety practice model across Longford and Westmeath.

Chair to report on the progress of Meitheal training and Meitheal practice bi monthly into Children and Young People's Services Committee meetings

Governance/Reporting Structure

The PPFS Steering Committee is a subgroup of Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee and will act as an advisory group only. All decision making powers reside with the CYPSC.

PPFS Subgroup Chair (Role and Responsibilities)

The PPFS Steering Committee will be Chaired by Tusla as the lead agency in the area. The PPFS Chair will convene regular meetings and report progress at CYPSC meetings and if the PPFS Chair is not available to attend the CYPSC meeting he/she will submit a report in writing in advance.

The Subgroup Chair is also responsible for ensuring that:

the Terms of Reference are drafted and submitted to the CYPSC for approval.

the external membership of the subgroup is appropriately selected and that the names are provided to the CYPSC for approval.

the meetings of the subgroups and any actions/activities agreed are recorded appropriately.

PPFS Steering Committee Members (Role and Responsibilities)

Membership of the PPFS Steering Committee will be in line with the Terms of Reference for all CYPSC Subgroups. More than two members of the PPFS will be members of Longford Westmeath CYPSC. Any change to the membership is subject to the approval of the CYPSC.

Subgroup members may be invited / nominated to participate in line with the *Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services Committees (2015)* and with the approval of Longford Westmeath CYPSC. The Subgroup must take a 2 county approach to the selection of external members. PPFS Steering Committee members are drawn from the wide range of statutory, voluntary and community agencies providing services to children, young people and families in Longford Westmeath.

The role and responsibilities of PPFS Steering Committee members include the following:

To attend meetings and to actively participate in the work of the committee

To undertake any work assigned and to report on this work at meetings

To raise awareness of the CYPSC initiative in their own agencies

To consider the work of their agency in line with the priorities identified by the Longford Westmeath CYPSC and the PPFS Steering Committee

PPFS Meetings

The PPFS Steering Committee will meet in advance of LW CYPSC meetings

Quorum is one third of agencies plus 1 involved in the subgroup for decision making purposes.

Meetings will be rotated between Athlone/Longford/Mullingar

Agenda will be circulated 3 working days in advance of PPFS Sub Group meeting

Minutes will be drafted and circulated for amendment to all members present at meeting

Functions of the PPFS Steering Committee

The functions of the PPFS Steering Committee as set out in the guidance documentation are as follows:

To undertake, implement, oversee the actions included in the Children and Young People's Plan for Longford Westmeath by this subgroup and any future CYPPs for Longford Westmeath

To support and review the development of the Child and Family Support Networks [CFSNs]

To secure support and assistance to ensure functions of the Meitheal are implemented through the CFSNs

To undertake an annual review/evaluation of the actions/processes overseen by this subgroup

To identify gaps in services and consider a means of addressing such gaps using an interagency approach

To raise policy issues that arise through the Sub group

Purpose and Functions of the Child and Family Support Networks [CFSNs]

To support the creation of a collaborative network of community, voluntary and statutory providers so as to improve access to support services to children and their families.

To inform the commissioning process in order to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective, equitable, proportionate and sustainable way.

To support the implementation of Meitheal - National standardised practise model

To provide a clear framework for action coordinated by a lead practitioner and led by family requirements through the Meitheal Model.

Steering group – Parenting Support **Longford/Westmeath Children Young People Services Committee**

Background Information

The Parent Support Sub Group focus is cross-cutting over the 5 national outcome areas. Specifically, it aims to progress 2 of the transformational goals as per the Better Outcome, Brighter Futures National Policy Framework document:

Supporting Parents &
Earlier intervention and prevention.

The work of the Parent Support sub group is informed by the relevant national policy documents, local needs and priorities for families, communities and services in Longford Westmeath and will adopt both a Progressive Universal and an outcomes focus.

Agenda

The main agenda is to improve the quality of life for children and families through the delivery of valued and effective parenting support programmes and practices in Longford and Westmeath.

The subgroup will request representatives from key statutory, community and voluntary groups so as to facilitate a coordinated approach, reduce possible duplication, identify service blocks, address service gaps and destigmatise help seeking behaviour for parents.

Agenda – priority tasks

Produce and agree a logic model

Identify and quantify existing service provision

Develop a work plan for submission to the CYPSC steering group

Chair to report on the progress into Children and Young People's Services Committee meetings

Governance/Reporting Structure

The Parent Support sub group is a subgroup of Longford/Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee and will act as an advisory group only. All decision making powers reside with the CYPSC.

Inevitably some priority areas will overlap with other subgroups.

Parenting Support Subgroup Chair (Role and Responsibilities)

The Parent Support sub group will be chaired by the Midlands Area Parenting Partnership Director. This term of chairs for all of the subgroups will be reviewed after a period agreed by the CYPSC steering group. The Chair will convene regular meetings and report progress at CYPSC meetings and if the Chair is not available to attend the CYPSC meeting he/she will submit a report in writing in advance.

The Subgroup Chair is also responsible for ensuring that:

the Terms of Reference are drafted and submitted to the CYPSC for approval.

the external membership of the subgroup is appropriately selected and that the names are provided to the CYPSC for approval.

the meetings of the subgroups and any actions/activities agreed are recorded appropriately.

Parenting Support sub group Members (Role and Responsibilities)

Membership of the Parent Support sub group will be in line with the Terms of Reference for all CYPSC Subgroups. Any change to the membership is subject to the approval of the CYPSC. Subgroups membership will not generally exceed 14 in number.

Subgroup members may be invited / nominated to participate in line with the *Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services Committees (2015)* and with the approval of Longford/Westmeath CYPSC. The Subgroup must take a 2 county approach to the selection of external members.

The role and responsibilities of sub group members include the following:

To attend meetings and to actively participate in the work of the committee

To undertake any work assigned and to report on this work at meetings

To raise awareness of the CYPSC initiative in their own agencies

To consider the work of their agency in line with the priorities identified by the Longford/Westmeath CYPSC and the Parent Education sub group

Parent Support Subgroup Meetings

The sub group will meet in advance of L/W CYPSC meetings

Quorum is 3 agencies represented and 4 members. This quorum can be reviewed based upon increase in sub group membership.

Meetings will be rotated between Athlone/Longford/Mullingar

Agenda will be circulated 3 working days in advance of Sub Group meetings

Minutes will be drafted and circulated for amendment to all members present at meeting

Functions of the Parent Support sub group

The functions of the Parent Support sub group as set out in the guidance documentation are as follows:

To undertake, implement, oversee the actions included in the Children and Young People's Plan for Longford/Westmeath by this subgroup and any future CYPPs for Longford/Westmeath

To undertake an annual review/evaluation of the actions/processes overseen by this subgroup

To identify gaps in services and consider a means of addressing such gaps using an interagency approach

To raise policy issues that arise through the Sub group

To support the creation of a collaborative network of community, voluntary and statutory providers so as to improve access to support services to children and their families.

To inform the commissioning process in order to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective, equitable, proportionate and sustainable way.

Work Plan:

Following the Logic Model a work plan will be developed. Areas to be covered will include but are not limited to: establishing availability in Longford Westmeath in relation to parenting skills programmes/practices for parents of children/teenagers aged range prenatal – 24 years

Identification of gaps, blocks and priorities in service provision

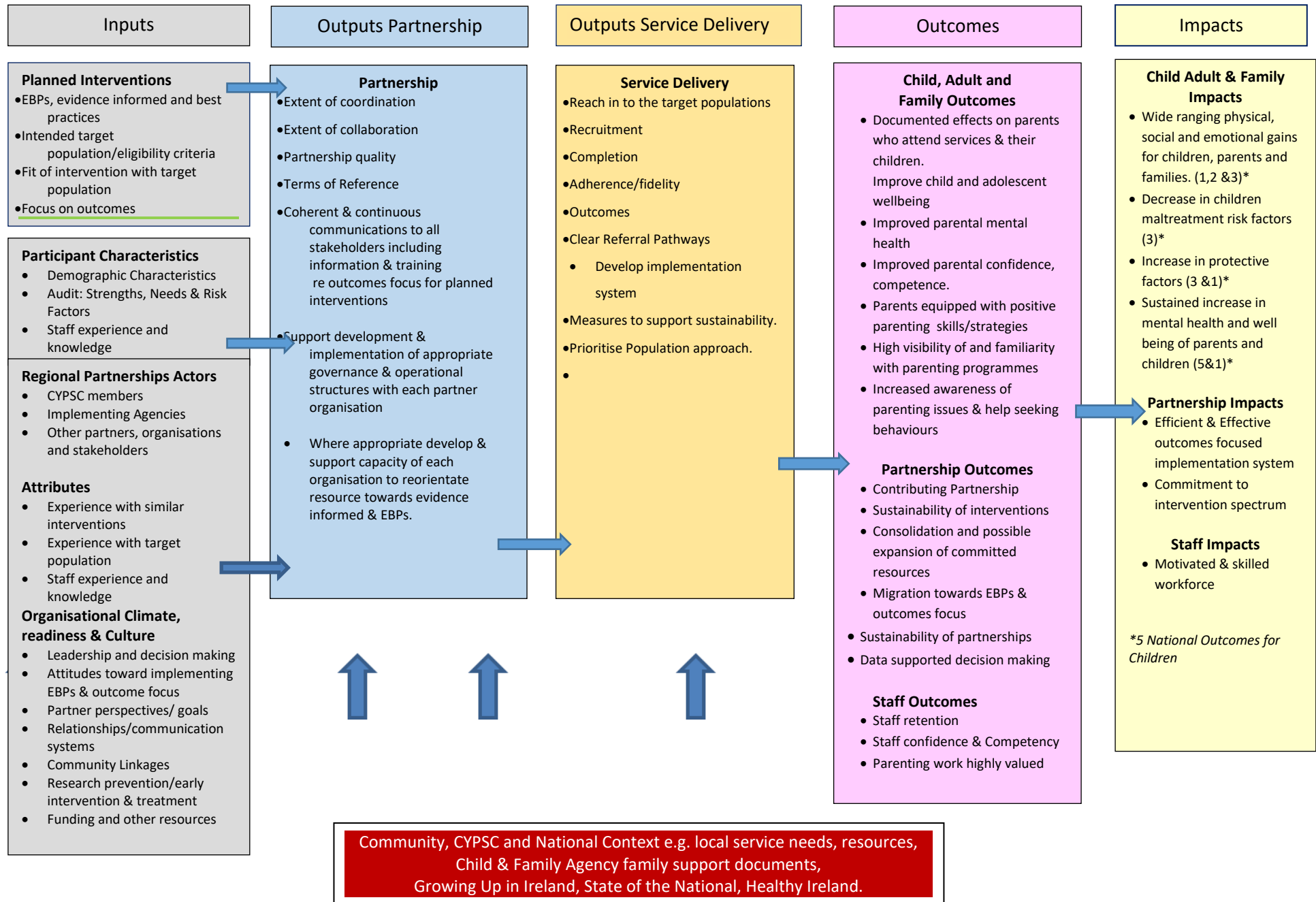
improving the co-ordination and provision of evidence based parenting skills programmes 0-24yrs where possible provision of information for all stakeholders on the availability of evidence based parenting skills programmes and evidence informed practices in Longford Westmeath

To encourage and promote the provision of evidence based quality parenting skills programmes and evidence informed practice

underpinning subgroup activities with an outcomes focus where practical

take into account future strategy documents/policies/working groups e.g. Obesity strategy, Area based Approach to Childhood Poverty, Nurture group.

PARENT SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION LOGIC MODEL





Steering group – Child and Youth Participation

Longford Westmeath Children & Young People's Services Committee

Background

The Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee (LW CYPSC) first established a Child and Youth Participation Subgroup in May 2016. The focus of the Child and Youth Participation Sub Group ('hereafter known as the CYP sub group') is cross-cutting over the five national outcome areas. However, the national outcome that truly underpins the work of the CYP subgroup is outcome number five (as per the Better Outcome, Brighter Futures National Policy Framework document) that children and young people are connected, respected and contributing to their world. The CYP sub group is informed by the Guidance *for Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) on participation by children and young people in decision making* document and is underpinned by and looks to expand on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by advocating for a more inclusive view of children's rights from the perspective of children and young people themselves. The National Governance (as referred to in the guidance document above) with regards to Participation of Children and Young people in the work of CYPSC is highlighted in the *Blueprint for the development of Children and Young People's Services Committees* document 2015 (currently under review). It states that "Both the CYPSC National Steering Group and local CYPSCs will work to ensure meaningful participation by children and young people to inform the work of CYPSCs" (Section 3.1.3, page 18).

Role and Purpose

The main aim of the CYP subgroup is to create opportunities for children and young people to be involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to policy and to the development of services and programmes within the two counties of Longford and Westmeath.

The subgroup will have representatives from each sector in the community across the early years, youth, education, family support services and any other relevant statutory/voluntary services in the Longford/Westmeath area.

Agenda –The following are the priority tasks of the CYP Subgroup:

To complete relevant actions as outlined in the LW CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan, including the establishment of LW CYPSC Youth Forums (see LW CYPSC Youth Forum TOR *when developed*) and undertake an annual review/ evaluation of all actions overseen by this subgroup

To foster a culture of engagement with children and young people within agencies and services in Longford/Westmeath

To ensure that the voice of children and young people (0-24) are represented and included in the Longford Westmeath CYP

To ensure that the voice of children and young people (0-24) are represented and included in the ongoing work of the Longford Westmeath CYPSC

To identify gaps in services and consider a means of addressing such gaps using an interagency approach

To raise policy issues that arise through the subgroup

To promote the active participation of children and young people within the overall context of the development and implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) as set out in the Lundy Model (see figure 1 below)

Figure 1: Lundy's Model of Participation



This model provides a way of conceptualising Article 12 of the UNCRC which is intended to focus decision-makers on the distinct, albeit interrelated, elements of the provision. The four elements have a rational chronological order:

- **SPACE:** Children must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to form and express their view
- **VOICE:** Children must be facilitated to express their view
- **AUDIENCE:** The view must be listened to.
- **INFLUENCE:** The view must be acted upon, as appropriate.

Governance/Reporting Structure

The CYP sub group is a subgroup of Longford/Westmeath Children and Young People’s Services Committee and will act as an advisory and implementation group. All decision making powers reside with the CYPSC.

Where priority areas overlap with other subgroups, the subgroups will feed back to each other via the main CYPSC as all subgroups are working towards a common theme of better outcomes for all children and young people.

CYP Subgroup Chair (Role and Responsibilities)

The CYP sub group will be chaired by the Family Resource Centre Representative from the LW CYPSC. The Chair will convene regular meetings and report progress at CYPSC meetings and if the Chair is not available to attend the CYPSC meeting he/she will submit a report in writing in advance.

The Subgroup Chair is also responsible for ensuring that:

the Terms of Reference are drafted and submitted to the CYPSC for approval.

the external membership of the subgroup is appropriately selected and that the names are provided to the CYPSC for approval,

the meetings of the subgroups and any actions/activities agreed are recorded appropriately.

CYP Subgroup Members (Role and Responsibilities)

Membership of the Participation sub group will be in line with the Terms of Reference for all CYPSC Subgroups.

More than two members of the Participation sub group will be members of Longford/Westmeath CYPSC. Any change to the membership is subject to the approval of the CYPSC. Subgroups membership will not generally exceed 14 in number.

Subgroup members may be invited / nominated to participate in line with the *Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People’s Services Committees (2015)* and with the approval of Longford/Westmeath CYPSC. The Subgroup must take a 2 county approach to the selection of external members. Participation sub group members are drawn from the wide range of statutory, voluntary and community agencies providing services to children, young people and families in Longford/Westmeath.

The role and responsibilities of Participation sub group members include the following:

To attend meetings and to actively participate in the work of the committee

To undertake any work assigned and to report on this work at meetings

To raise awareness of the CYPSC initiative in their own agencies

To consider the work of their agency in line with the priorities identified by the Longford/Westmeath CYPSC and the CYP sub group

To support and encourage local services to actively engage and consult with children and young people

Meetings

The CYP sub group will meet in advance of L/W CYPSC meetings

Quorum is one third of agencies plus 1 involved in the subgroup for decision making purposes.

Meetings will be rotated across the two counties – with teleconference option

Agenda will be circulated 3 working days in advance of CYP Sub Group meeting

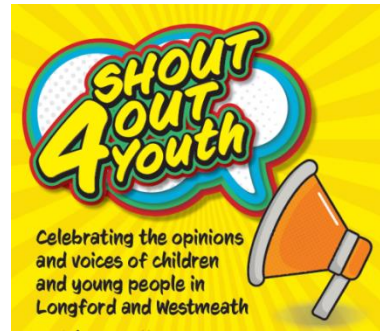
Minutes will be drafted and circulated for amendment to all members present at meeting

Amendment, Modification or Variation

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the LW CYPSC.

Term

This Terms of Reference is effective from **22nd May 2019** until their review in **May 2020**



Shout Out 4 Youth – LW CYPSC Child & Youth Participation Event 16th November 2018

Workshop Consultation Feedback: Children & Young People with CYPSC Members

Education

- No homework
- Make the school day shorter
- Half day on Friday for all schools
- More P.E
- For there to be no detention and for teachers not to be allowed to shout at children.
- Less homework
- Language classes for second class up
- For our voice to be heard
- More acceptance and education on diversity
- Public speaking
- Study abroad on school exchange
- Focus on arts
- Getting experience for employment
- Change the times of school days
- To have a say if we don't want to do a language in secondary school
- Learn about different services
- Student council in school
- To have workshops on life skills like work and college
- To have different subjects in school
- More TY trips
- For Keenagh and other schools to come to our school for a big event.
- Longer school breaks
- More teamwork

Leisure

- Somewhere safe for young people to meet up in Granard
- Afterschool Activities in Granard: gymnastics, choir
- Parks in all towns to sit and meet up and have picnics
- Cinema in Granard
- Places to meet that are affordable
- Bowling in Granard
- A Granard disco (14-18 years)
- Granard bakery
- Bigger coffee shop in Granard
- Skate park in all towns
- A trampoline hall in Granard
- A restaurant in Granard
- Music lessons
- Granard Christmas market
- Toy shop
- Game shop
- Waterpark
- Shopping centre
- Haunted house
- Chargeable phone booths
- Pet shop, game shop, toy shop, shopping centre
- A playground in Granard
- Bingo halls
- A bigger playground
- A slime workshop
- A cinema in Ballymahon
- A place to gather and meet people from different places
- An indoor play area
- Face painting
- A petting zoo
- More child friendly facilities in Ballymahon
- Theatre workshops
- Cooking classes
- Funny mirror
- Longer weekends
- Disco in Ballymahon
- Swimming pool in Granard
- A gym in Granard
- Dance classes in Granard- Ballet, jazz, hip-hop, classic
- Basketball court in Ballymahon
- Swimming pool in Ballymahon
- A boxing club

Sport (*access to a local swimming pool in both Ballymahon and Granard was very much a repetitive request from the children)

Transport

- Bus from Granard to Mullingar at weekends
- Free use of buses and trains for students
- More bicycle lanes
- Transport to Longford
- More affordable transport

Health and safety

- Garda station
- 24 hour clinic in Granard for emergencies
- Emergency facilities in Ballymahon
- To have safety in our towns
- Break down barriers with the youth and authority figures like Guards & T.D'Ss.
- Mental health services – CAMS only open 9-5
- More awareness of what's happening in the community

Youth Centre Facilities

- A youth café
- Youth club for primary and secondary school
- Visits to Centre Parcs
- More trips to the zoo etc. to be organised
- Better internet
- A bigger youth space
- CYPSC youth committee in all areas
- For CYPSC to have more influence in schools
- For CYPSC to link in with comhairle's more often
- CYPSC can do consultations at our AGM's to stop duplications and save funds
- Bigger space for Foróige in Longford
- Youth space in castle pollard
- A CYPSC group in Ballymahon