



**Louth Children and Young People's
Services Committee**

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

Contact

Louth 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 the plan are available to download from:

<http://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/louth.229.html>

www.familysupportlouth.ie

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Foreword

As Chair of Louth Children and Young People's Services Committee, I am pleased to present the Louth Children and Young People's Plan 2019–2021. Louth is a young, dynamic county but also one that has felt the effects of poverty, deprivation and social exclusion.

Louth CYPSC is committed to ensuring effective services are delivered in the most efficient way to improve lives of children, young people and families in County Louth. Louth CYPSC was established in August 2010 and is a partnership of statutory and community and voluntary services. This document sets out key priorities for children, young people and families in County Louth across a broad range of action areas in line with *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014–2020*.

The plan also conveys our shared agenda which allows us to collectively agree on important children and young people's outcomes, focus on necessary cross-sector collaborations, and frame our conversations around best practices, social determinants of health, society and equity.

I wish to thank all those who assisted with this plan, including children and young people who took part in consultations. Our Plan doesn't stop here. It is an ongoing process that strives to engage all sectors in delivering best practice and achieving better outcomes for all children, young people aged 0–24 and their families in Louth. We also remain committed to listening to children and young people and the reality of their lives.

It takes energy, vision and commitment to turn action into demonstrable change and we believe collectively we can make this a reality by working together across sectors.

The overriding objective of the plan is to support the ongoing development of quality services in Co. Louth. The plan will be of value to all: those who plan and provide children's services, and practitioners who have responsibility for the wellbeing and development of children and young people.

I look forward to working alongside you in the implementation of the plan so that children and young people can achieve their aspirations, become healthy and active participants and continue to live in a county that we can be even more proud of.

Gráinne Sullivan

*Area Manager Louth/Meath
Tusla Child and Family Agency*

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Denotation
ABC	Area-Based Childhood programme
ACE	Adverse Childhood Experience
BOBF	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CFSN	Child and Family Support Network
CHO	Community Health Organisation
CNN	Comhairle na nÓg
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Service Committee
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DES	Department of Education and Skills
DKIT	Dundalk Institute of Technology
DSGBV	Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
DSP	Department of Social Protection
DV	Domestic Violence
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ED	Electoral District
EWS	Educational Welfare Services
FET	Further Education and Training
FRC	Family Resource Centre
HSE	Health Service Executive
IPPN	Irish Primary Principals' Network
LCCC	Louth County Childcare Committee
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LLP	Louth Leader Partnership
LMETB	Louth/Meath Education and Training Board

MABS	Money Advice and Budgeting Service
MACE	Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NERDATF	North East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
PPFS	Prevention Partnership and Family Support
PPN	Public Participation Network
SCP	School Completion Programme
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
SUST	Substance Use Service for Teens

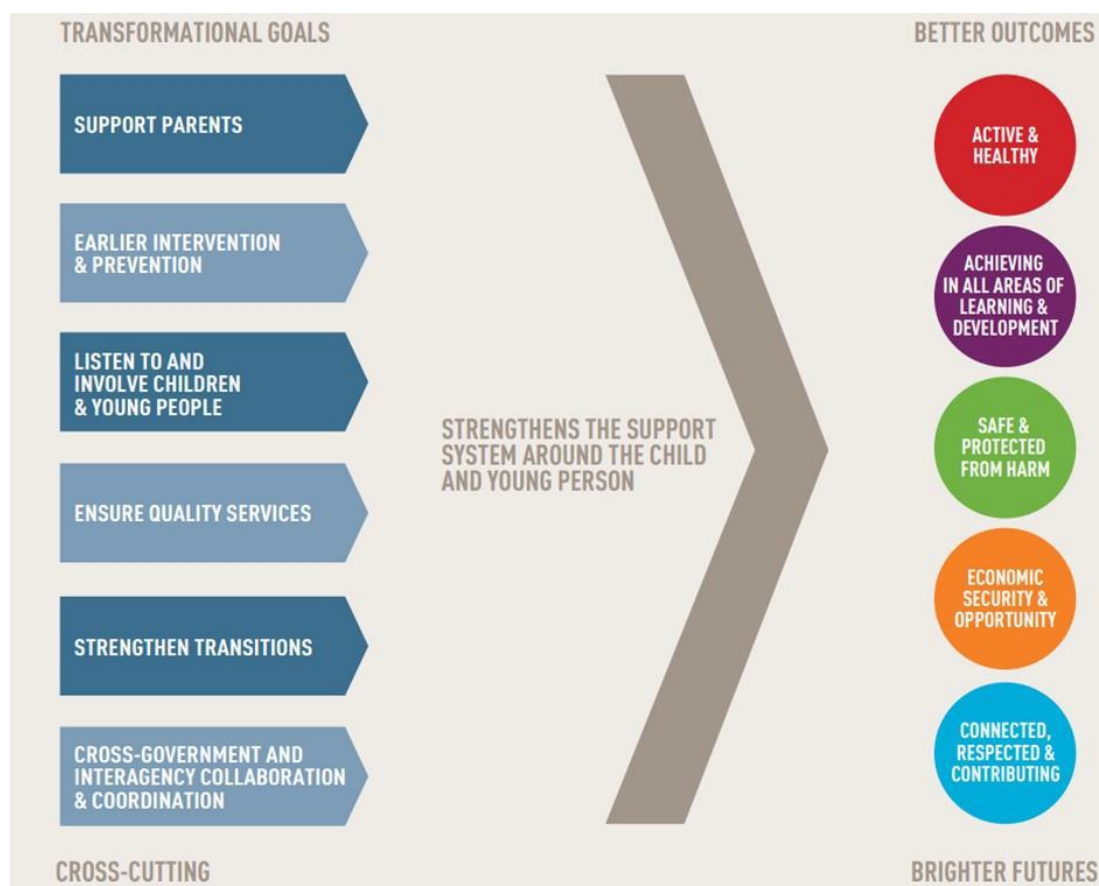
Section 1: Introduction

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

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

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

Figure 1: The Five National Outcomes



The central purpose of Louth Children and Young People's Services Committee is to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in County Louth. Louth CYPSC acts as the structure whereby services can work together in a systematic manner to achieve shared goals and bridge national policy with local provision. The mandate for CYPSCs has developed from government policy over time and is renewed in the context of *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014–2020*.

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 CYPSCs have increased incrementally in number and are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people, aged 0–24 years, in every county in Ireland.

CYPSCs 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 Louth

Louth CYPSC, which was established in August 2010, brings together statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people. It provides a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people and their families receive improved and accessible services.

Louth CYPSC joined Phase 2 of the initiative, along with five other areas, in 2010.

The role of Louth CYPSC is also to enhance interagency co-operation and to realise the national outcomes set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*.

Louth CYPSC has a Co-ordinator who supports the Children and Young People's Services Committee in its work to bring together a diverse group of agencies in local county areas to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people. The key responsibilities of the CYPSC Co-ordinator are to:

- Support the establishment of the CYPSC and its subgroups
- Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the CYPSC
- Co-ordinate the development and implementation of the CYPSC three-year work plan
- Assist the overall committee and sub-groups to implement the three-year plan and monitor progress in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people as set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014–2020*.

The Members of Louth CYPSC and its sub-groups are fully committed to the implementation of the actions outlined in this three-year work plan between 2019 and 2021. Children and young people are defined as those aged 0–24 years. We recognise this work plan as an action document and will endeavour to address issues as they emerge over the course of the next three years in order to ensure positive outcomes for children, young people and families in Louth.

Who we are

The current membership of Louth CYPSC is as follows:

Name	Title
Ms Gráinne Sullivan	Manager, Tusla Children and Family Services Louth/Meath (Chairperson)
Mr Taidgh Kavanagh	Welfare Officer, DKIT
Ms Mary McDonald	Senior Probation Officer, Probation Service
Ms Clodagh O'Mahony	Project Manager, Cox's Demesne Youth & Community Project, Dundalk
Supt Andrew Watters	Garda, Louth Division
Mr Paddy Donnelly	Director of Housing and Community, Louth County Council
Ms Fiona Kindlon	Director of Schools, LMETB
Mr Patrick O'Rourke	Principal, Redeemer Girls School, IPPN
Ms Sinead Murtagh	Principal Social Worker, Tusla Louth Meath
Mr Ciaran Reid	CEO, Louth Leader Partnership
Ms Claire Woods,	Project Co-ordinator, Louth County Childcare Committee
Mr Hugh Doogan	The Genesis Programme
Ms Clíodhna Cunningham	Connect Family Resource Centre, Drogheda
Ms Martina Ralph,	HSE, Networks Manager, South Louth
Sr Agnes Byrne	Voluntary Rep, South Louth
Dr Edel Healy	Head of School of Health and Science, DKIT
Ms Lisa Gavillet	NERDATF
Mr Gabriel Reilly	Dept of Social Protection
Ms Catherine Sweeney	Adult Mental Health Services, HSE
Ms Joanne Murphy	Co-ordinator, Children and Young People's Services Committee

Governance and accountability

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) provides strategic and policy direction toward the development of CYPSCs. As the CYPSCs form an integral part of the new structures provided for in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, they will be accountable to the CYPSC National Steering Group and the DCYA and in turn to the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium. The national governance and reporting relationships of CYPSC are set out in the diagram on the following page (Figure 2).

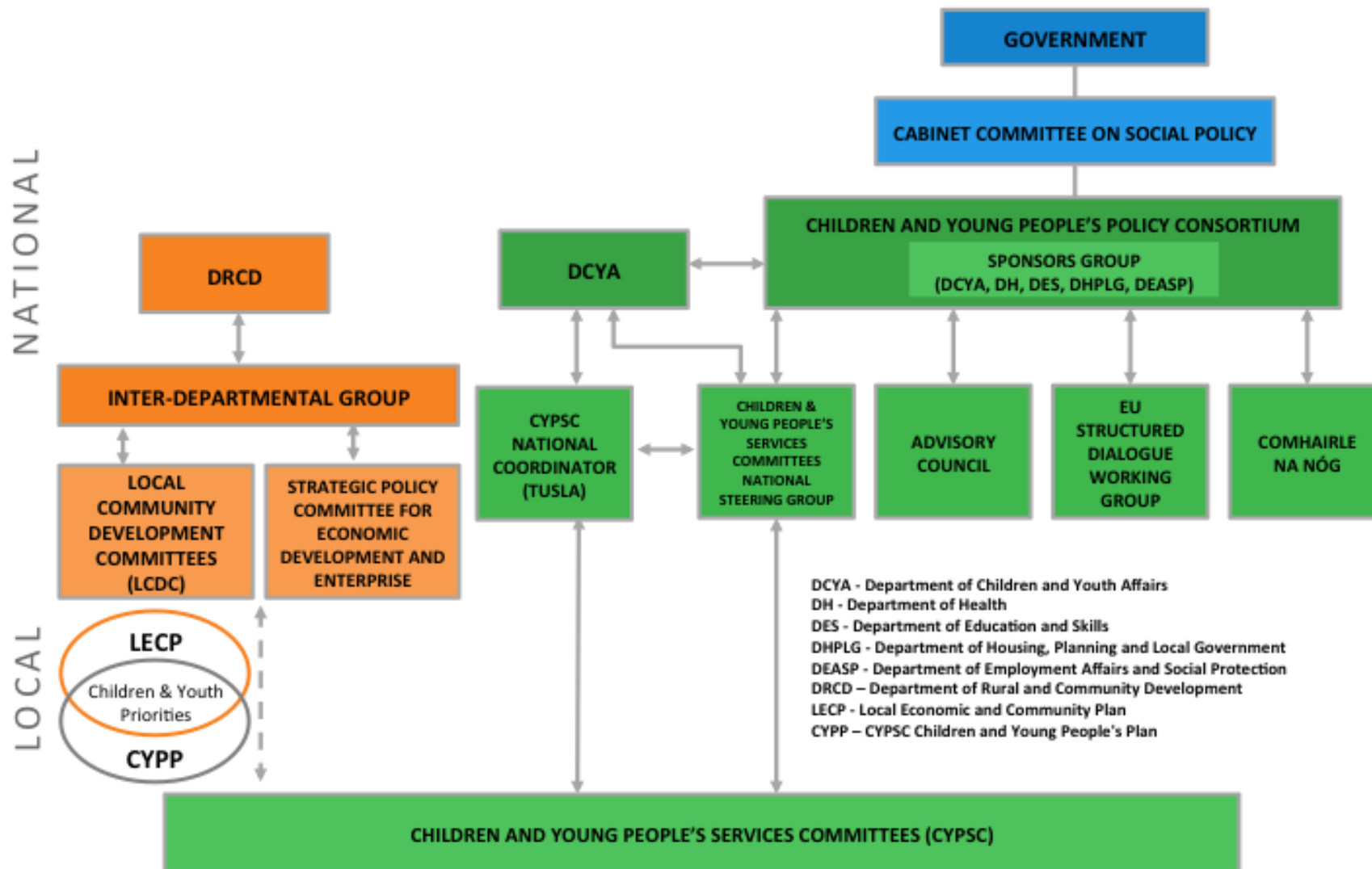


Figure 2: Governance and Reporting Structure for CYPSC

Interagency Co-operation and Collaboration

Louth CYPSC works closely with all statutory, community and voluntary agencies which provide services and supports to children, young people and families in the county to ensure better outcomes. Co-operation, collaboration and partnership working is embedded across all priority area sub-groups. Louth CYPSC also endeavours to work in partnership and participation with children, young people, parents and communities.

Louth CYPSC and its partners are committed to strengthening and developing these interagency links and collaborative practices across all aspects of our work. This work plan was developed in partnership with all stakeholders and we will continue to work with them to effectively implement it over the next three years.

For the time period 2019–2021 Louth CYPSC are, in collaboration with agencies, pursuing projects which focus on physical activity, mental health, drugs and alcohol and a community mental health fund, through Healthy Ireland funding.

Locally, Louth CYPSC links with a number of structures, a selection of which are given below:

Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Louth County Council is the lead agency for the Louth Local Community Development Committee. Louth LCDC is an interagency structure required to develop a six-year strategic Local Economic and Community Plan in order to oversee the co-ordination and spending of local community development and social inclusion funding. There are a number of areas of progression that are of mutual interest for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. These include:

- Ensuring that local county-level implementation and monitoring through the CYPSC will be aligned with Local Community Development Committee plans (LECP) and
- Ensuring consistency between the priorities for children and young people set out in the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* policy framework and the priorities and actions set out in the relevant Local Economic and Community Plan.

Louth CYPSC provides quarterly updates to the Louth LCDC committee. The vice-chairperson of Louth CYPSC represents Louth County Council and Louth LCDC on the committee, ensuring good partnership working and information sharing.

Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support

The Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support programme is a national initiative which seeks to improve outcomes for children, young people and families through early intervention and prevention work. The programme has six main areas of work: Meitheal and the Area Based Model; Parenting; Participation; Commissioning; Public Awareness and more recently Hidden Harm.

Louth CYPSC and Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support are strategically linked at county level. The work of the Prevention Partnership and Family Support steering group is aligned with the Louth CYPSC and its other sub- groups.

The Genesis Programme

The Genesis Programme is a consortium of over fifty partner organisations that is delivering the Incredible Years suite of programmes and other evidence-informed interventions to children, families and communities in Co. Louth as part of the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme.

The ABC Programme targets investment in evidence-informed interventions to improve the long-term outcomes for children and families living in disadvantage.

Louth CYPSC, as one of the partner organisations, sits on the Programme Management Committee and also participates in smaller working groups within the project. The Genesis Programme Manager sits on the Louth CYPSC, ensuring that both parties are strategically linked at county level.

MACE (Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences) Project

The MACE project, which is funded by EU Interreg VA programme, aims to transform the lives of vulnerable families who are at risk from multiple adversities in their lives, through early identification, early intervention and the provision of nurturing support within their communities. The project partners are comprised of representatives from the fields of health and social care in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Louth CYPSC sits on an interagency grouping to support the work of the project manager and workers as they embark on their work.

Healthy Ireland Programme

Healthy Ireland, a Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013–2025 is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. Pobal administer this fund on behalf of the Department of Health.

The primary aim of the fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health.

Achievements to date

Louth CYPSC have, to date, engaged in many successful interagency innovations and interventions at both strategic and operational levels that respond to the identified needs within the area and have developed synergies between member organisations for effective interagency working. Examples include:

The national outcome(s) and/or transformational goal(s) the work is aligned to	1. Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported North Dundalk Family Support Hub to host a Positive Mental Health event in the area which 200 residents attended. This led to a whole-community wellbeing agenda that is currently being operated in an area of high deprivation. • Developed and delivered a sibling support group for siblings affected by substance misuse, which was hosted by Dundalk Youth Centre. Key partners were NERDATF, Family Support Network and CYPSC. A number of these courses have now been cascaded out to youth and community organisations in the county. • Louth CYPSC was a member of a working group which drew up a report on the provision of drugs services to under-18s. A report was developed and a meeting with Minister Aodhán Ó Riordáin was held in June 2015. Following on from the report and working group, Louth CYPSC were key players in securing an addiction counsellor for the Louth/Meath area specifically for under-18s and continue to support this service.
The national outcome(s) and/or transformational goal(s) the work is aligned to	2. Are achieving their full potential in all areas of learning and development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A seminar organised for all DEIS school personnel who have responsibility for attendance in schools was hosted in April 2015. A report on absenteeism based on a questionnaire from all DEIS schools was distributed to all schools. A leaflet on promoting school attendance was developed for parents and staff with the strapline: <i>Every day counts – practical steps for parents and children</i>. Schools in the county use the materials on an ongoing basis and the report is the foundation of further work in this current plan.

The national outcome(s) and/or transformational goal(s) the work is aligned to	3. Are safe and protected from harm
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preamble outlining the profile of adolescents at risk in Co. Louth was developed and presented to Louth CYPSC. Interagency protocols were drawn up for working with this cohort and agreed by Louth CYPSC. An interagency case-managed group was piloted and is still being used in settings by Probation and Tusla. • A standardised input on domestic violence at third level was led out by the Probation Service, DKIT and DV providers in Louth. A course entitled ‘Certificate in understanding and responding to Domestic Abuse’ was validated. The course is a level 8 (10ECTS) special purpose award and is the first in the country to be developed. This has influenced practice with practitioners across the region and is widely seen as an excellent training and learning programme. The steering group for this programme recently hosted a Domestic Abuse Conference where 250 people attended in DKIT to share learning from the programme and highlight promising practice. • A pilot court service which was a multi agency initiative with a dedicated room available on Family Law day for women seeking orders in the Family Law Court was established. This dedicated room continues to be a source of confidentiality and a “safe space “ for families attending court.
The national outcome(s) and/or transformational goal(s) the work is aligned to	4. Have economic security and opportunity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louth CYPSC has been involved very closely with The Genesis Programme (ABC initiative) since its inception. The CYPSC Co-ordinator is currently a member of the Programme Management Committee. The Genesis Programme and Louth CYPSC jointly co-hosted a conference called ‘Making Change Happen’ which was attended by 200 people.

The national outcome(s) and/or transformational goal(s) the work is aligned to	5. Are connected, respected and contributing to their world
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A directory of Family Support services for 0–6-year-olds in Co. Louth was compiled. Louth CYPSC Developed a website, www.helpformychild.ie, and distributed fridge magnets and information to the school/early years sector population under six. These materials were delivered to 17,500 primary school children. • Supported the ongoing PPFS programme of work carried out by Tusla, i.e. PPFS Steering Group, Seed Funding, Parent Champion Initiative. Louth CYPSC is also actively involved in the development of a Parent Support Plan for Louth/Meath. • Louth CYPSC Co-ordinator is a member of CNN steering group to ensure that CYPSC structures value a pro-active approach to youth participation. • Developed a position paper on including the voice of young people in the decision-making processes of LCC, CYPSC and its sub-structures.
The national outcome(s) and/or transformational goal(s) the work is aligned to	Research and information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statistical report and interactive mapping model providing an overview of wellbeing indicators and relevant demographic data was produced by AIRO, NUI Maynooth. This was replicated in 2016. • A website was developed to promote the work of Louth CYPSC and was hosted by LMETB. • A consultation process with 20 focus groups of children, young people and families was developed and was used to inform Louth CYPSC's first plan, and this consultation has continued into the next plan. • A seminar called 'Growing up in Louth' was held in Scoil ui Mhuiri, Dunleer, with 97 people attending. A conference report was published and disseminated to all key stakeholders.

How the Children and Young People’s Plan was developed

Louth CYPSC submitted its first three-year plan in 2012 for the period 2012 to 2015. The work was overseen by ten sub-groups across the five outcome areas. Subgroups were chaired by members of the main CYPSC Committee to ensure good feedback. Regular progress updates were provided at CYPSC Committee meetings which took place six times per annum. A review of progress was undertaken after 18 months and was compiled in June 2014. A further review was undertaken at the end of 2015 in advance of making a submission to the Local Economic Community Plan. In 2016 a review was undertaken to put measures in place to address outstanding work and the previous plan was reviewed in conjunction with the planning for the new plan in October 2016. In 2017/2018 we entered a new phase in the national development of CYPSCs which saw more robust reviews and a greater emphasis on future planning.

Year	Report/meetings developed	Process	Outputs
2016–2017	Louth CYPSC Baseline Report (AIRO 2016 and Quality Matters 2017) was published	To document the baseline data in relation to children and young people (0–24) in Co. Louth under agreed themes/indicators	A socio-demographic report of Louth based on latest available data from Census 2016
2017	Two independent facilitated meetings with CYPSC members	Two facilitated development days were held to identify local priorities and establish key objectives for the committee going forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of achievements to date with the previous plan • Agree a process to complete the next stage of the plan • Agree a consultation strategy for young people, parents and wider stakeholders
2017	Development and re-establishment of sub-groups and thematic working groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of sub-groups based on national outcomes • Review of previous work completed and consensus agreed on role and remit of the sub-groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs and gaps developed by each sub-group • Focused priorities developed by each sub-group • Review of strategy documents pertinent to each outcome
2017	Consultations with area-wide strategic initiatives	Meetings with regional Drug and Alcohol task force, The Genesis Programme (ABC initiative), PPFS, Louth County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement in planning process • Shared learning and understanding of roles • Reviewed comments and incorporated into CYPSC plan.

2017	First draft of Children and Young People's plan and open consultation event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84 stakeholders, made up of community, voluntary and statutory services attended the event. • A designated youth section was facilitated by peer mentors from Tusla Aftercare Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of baseline data presented along with draft priorities for each national outcome • Engaged services in consultation about draft plan. • A consultation report written up and incorporated into the plan
2018	Consultations with parents and young people were gathered from across the county	Multiple service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs and gaps identified and incorporated into the plan
2018-2019	Draft CYP Plan 2019–2021 circulated to CYPSC members and feedback gathered	Item on agenda of CYPSC Meeting, 27 November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments made to plan
2019	Committee sign off on plan for screening	Item on agenda of CYPSC on 7 February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement that plan was ready for screening

The benefits of collaborative multi-agency working in Co. Louth

The benefits of collaborative multi-agency working are evident in everyday practice in Co. Louth and within a range of settings. Some of the benefits experienced are:

- It has helped practitioners' understanding of services in the county and knowledge of what services to signpost children and young people to.
- It has helped to build consensus, strengthen partnership voice, break down professional boundaries and geographical limitations.
- CYPSC has helped enhance a scale of coverage and sustainability when pooled budgets, joint applications, joint projects are put into action.
- Louth CYPSC has offered a broader perspective to working practice.

The overall impacts, benefits and challenges of the multi-agency partnership approach which has been adopted in Louth are outlined below.

Overall impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is now a recognised forum in the county to act as a focus for highlighting the issues, gaps and successes for children and families, and for developing appropriate responses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increased awareness at all levels – local, regional and national – of the particular needs and challenges in Co. Louth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louth CYPSC has helped to build consensus, strengthen partnership voice, and break down professional boundaries and parochial attitudes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louth CYPSC has promoted mutual support, encouragement and the exchange of ideas between agencies, helping the sharing of expertise, knowledge and resources for training and good practice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several new initiatives have been developed in Louth, enhancing the support available to children and families, e.g. the ABC initiative, PPFS national framework, substance misuse service for under-18s, funding applications to PEACE 4, and IFI projects across the county.

Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to have a balance between the strategic focus of the work of the CYPSC and the action focus of the work: both elements are required to maintain commitment and momentum and to facilitate positive change.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and maintain positive interagency relationships is essential to the work of the committee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is vital that a lead agency is responsible for each action, as far as practicable, and that this work is acknowledged in their work plans.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the plan in the context of significant changes within and across agencies is challenging, i.e. because of change in personnel, restructuring of organisations, review processes, maintaining buy-in from agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with young people should be an ongoing and integrated part of the work of the CYPSC and its member agencies.

Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint planning and implementation is challenging when individual organisations operate to different timelines and processes, e.g. LECP.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of <i>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures</i> in 2014 saw the expansion of the age remit of CYPSCs to young people up to the age of 24, i.e. different agencies coming to the CYPSC table.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the work of CYPSC as a forum for highlighting issues, gaps, needs and successes by workers on the ground is a challenge.

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Louth

Introduction

This brief summary document outlines key demographic information regarding children and families in the county of Louth. This demographic snapshot is a set of reference markers for data at a particular point in time, using Census 2016 data and data close to that time period. In the editing and review stage of this plan it was agreed that the national data and information hub Outcomes4Children (www.outcomes4children.tusla.ie) would also be referenced to give a more up-to-date snapshot of the county. All new data is referenced. **Key challenges in the county are highlighted in Table 1 below.**

County Louth is the smallest of Ireland's 32 counties in area (827 km²) and the 18th largest in terms of population. It is the smallest of 12 counties in Leinster in area, and the sixth largest in terms of population based on census 2016 data, yet it is the most densely populated county in Ireland outside of Dublin.

The largest towns in Louth are Drogheda and Dundalk, the county town. The majority of the population resides in the two towns and they account for 62% of all residents in the county. Drogheda (40,956) is ranked as the most populated town in Ireland and Dundalk (39,004) is the second-most populated town, according to Census 2016.

Despite being on the coast and its small size, Louth shares a border with three other counties: Armagh to the north, Monaghan to the north-west and Meath to the south-west. With Dublin located south of Meath, the southern part of the county feeds into part of the Dublin commuter belt.

Table 1: Key Challenges in County Louth

Area	Summary	
Population	With a population of 128,884, Louth has the 18th highest population of all counties in the State. Census 2016 shows an increase of 4.9% from the previous census compared to an increase of 3.8% at State level. This was an actual increase of 5,987 people. 27.2% of Louth's population is aged less than 18 years (35,046) and the county has the 14th largest population under 18 years of the 31 local authorities in Ireland.	
Population Density	County Louth is the smallest of Ireland's 32 counties in area (827 km ²); Louth is also the most densely populated county in Ireland outside of Dublin, with a population density of 156 people per km ² , more than double the national average.	
Child Population	Age of Child	Number
	0-4	28,392
	5-9	19,643
	10-14	13,954
	15-19	11,550

Gender	Louth has a relatively even split of males (63,633, 50.6%) and females (65,251, 49.4%).
Urban/Rural Population	The population living in town areas accounts for 66.1% (85,224), those living in rural area account for 33.9% (43,660) of the population. This compares with 62.7% in town areas and 37.3% in rural areas at a State level.
Age	There were 45,291 0–24-year-olds living in Louth according to Census 2016. In the last 20 years the number of 0–14-year-olds has increased by 32% and the number of 15–24-year-olds has decreased by 3.5%.
Youth Dependency Ratio¹	At 35.7%, Louth has the ninth highest youth dependency ratio in the State, higher than the national rate (32.3%), indicating a large young population.
Nationality and Ethnicity	Slightly over two-thirds (68%, 9,929) of non-Irish nationals living in Co. Louth were from the other EU27 nations. The largest communities of non-Irish nationals from the EU27 were Polish (14.4%, 2,107), Lithuanian (13.8%, 2,021) and British (13.7%, 2,001). Large young populations are evident within certain ethnic minority groups in Louth. 0–19-year-olds account for 41% of the Irish Traveller population and 52% of the Black/Black Irish population in Louth, compared to 27% in the general population.
Travellers	Louth's Traveller children account for 7.9 per 1,000 children in the county, compared to 12.4 per 1,000 at State level, which is the fourth lowest rate per county in the country. The majority of the Traveller population could be found around Dundalk (596).
Households	In 2016, there were a total of 45,448 private households in Co. Louth. The average number of persons per private household in Louth was 2.8, compared to 2.7 in the State.
Lone Parent Households	Lone parent households accounted for 21% of all private households in County Louth, compared with 18% at State level. There are 42.2% of households with the mother as head of households with a child under 15, compared to 39.7% State average (see outcomes4children.tusla.ie).
Education	In Louth, 19.4% ² have a third-level degree or higher, compared to 23.5% at State level, the 12th lowest of 31 local authorities. Louth contains the 12th highest rate of low educational achievement (no formal/primary only – 12.2%), higher than the State level of 10.3%. 1.7% of females in the county have no formal education, compared to state levels of 1.5% (see outcomes4children.tusla.ie).

¹ The **youth dependency ratio** is the population aged 0–15 divided by the population aged 16–64.

² Of population aged 15 years and over. (Ordinary bachelor degree/professional qualification or both, honours bachelor degree/professional qualification or both, postgraduate diploma or degree, doctorate (Ph.D.))

Primary Schools	There were 75 primary schools in Louth for the 2016/2017 school year with an average class size of 25.5 students, higher than the State average of 24.6 per class. Four schools are DEIS schools.
Post-Primary Schools	There were 18 post-primary schools in Louth for the 2016/2017 school year, five of which are DEIS schools.
Early Childhood Care & Education	78% of the 105 pre-school services under contract to deliver Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Louth meet the basic capitation criteria, compared to 62% in the State. 22% of pre-school services under contract to deliver ECCE meet the higher capitation criteria, compared to 38% in the State.
Youth Unemployment	In September of 2017 there were 1,290 people under 25 years on the live register in Louth, equating to 13.5% in the county. This compares to 11.7% at State level. 59% of under-25-year-olds on the live register were male and 41% were female, similar to State level.
Disability	Census 2016 recorded that 5.4% of 0–14-year-olds in Louth had a disability, compared to 5.9% at State level, and 8.6% of 15–24-year-olds in Louth had a disability, compared to 9.3% at State level.
Children as Carers	In Louth, there was a rate of 4.3 per 1,000 children providing regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability, compared to 5.6 per 1,000 in the State.
General Health	In Louth, in the 0–24 population, 94.3% (42,725) people stated that they were in very good or good health in 2016. This is the same as the general population, at 94.3% (1,492,454).
Births	In 2016, there were 1,812 registered births, providing a birth rate of 15.2 per 1,000 of the population in Co. Louth, compared to 13.7 at State level.
Births to Mothers under 20	In 2016, there were 46 births to mothers under the age of 20 in Co. Louth, accounting for 2.5% of births in the county, compared with 1.7% at State level.
Infant and Neo-Natal Mortality	In 2016, the rate of both infant mortality (1.1 per 1,000 of the population) and neo-natal mortality (1.1 per 1,000 of the population) in Louth was lower than the State rate of 3.3 and 2.4 respectively. 7.3% of babies born in Louth weighed under 2,500 grams, compared to a State average of 5.9% (see outcomes4children.tusla.ie).
Intellectual Disability	Louth recorded 11.4 registrations per 1,000 children having an intellectual disability which was the third highest registration rate per 1,000 children in the State by county.
Physical and Sensory Disability	Louth recorded 4.8 registrations per 1,000 children having a physical and sensory disability which was the 11th lowest registration rate per 1,000 children in the State in 2016 by county.

Sexual Health and Behaviour	According to the CSO Vital Statistics report there were eight births to mothers aged 10–17 in Co. Louth in 2015, which equated 4.4 births per 1,000 births in the county, which is lower than the State rate of 4.6 per 1,000. 26.9% of children aged 15–17 in the State reported being sexually active; in the Border region, of which Louth is part, this was 26.9%, which was the third highest rate of the eight regions.
Referrals to CAMHS	In Louth in 2016 there were 529 referrals of children under the age of 18 to CAMHS, which accounts for 15.1 per 1,000 children under the age of 18 in Louth.
Deprivation	Louth is the 13th most disadvantaged local authority in the country. The Border region is the most disadvantaged of the eight national regions. Specifically, there are a number of Small Areas around the towns of Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee that are classified as being 'very disadvantaged' on the Pobal Deprivation Index 2016.
Housing	In Louth in 2016, 52% (743) of the social housing list with households with children were one-parent households, 47% (661) were two-parent households and the remaining 1% (7) were multi-adult households.
Homelessness	Department of Housing data for Louth indicates a rise in the number of homeless persons in Louth of 78%, from 69 to 123 persons in the 18 months leading up to July 2017, placing Louth as the sixth highest county in Ireland for its number of homeless persons.
Junior and Leaving Certificate Retention	In 2016 Louth had the sixth lowest Junior Certificate completion rate (95.9%) in the State (96.7%), out of 34 administrative counties. Louth had the third lowest Leaving Certificate completion rate (87.1%) in the State (90.2%) out of 34 administrative counties.
Referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme	In 2015, despite a decrease of 6% in the number of children referred from the previous year, the number of referrals to Garda Diversion Programmes increased by 22%, the highest proportional increase in the country by Garda Divisions. Louth's ratio of 2.4 referrals per child is above the State average of 2.0 and the highest average rate of referrals in the country.
Substance Misuse	According to the preliminary results from the Health Research Board for 2016, Louth had approximately 314 treated for substance misuse issues. There were twice as many males as females treated. These figures include some Meath service users and therefore aren't exact for Co. Louth.
Children in Care	258 children in care in Louth at 31 December 2018.
Local Authority Funding	Louth's spending per capita in 2017 was below the State average in five of the six budgetary areas: housing, roads, recreation and amenities, water and environment services.

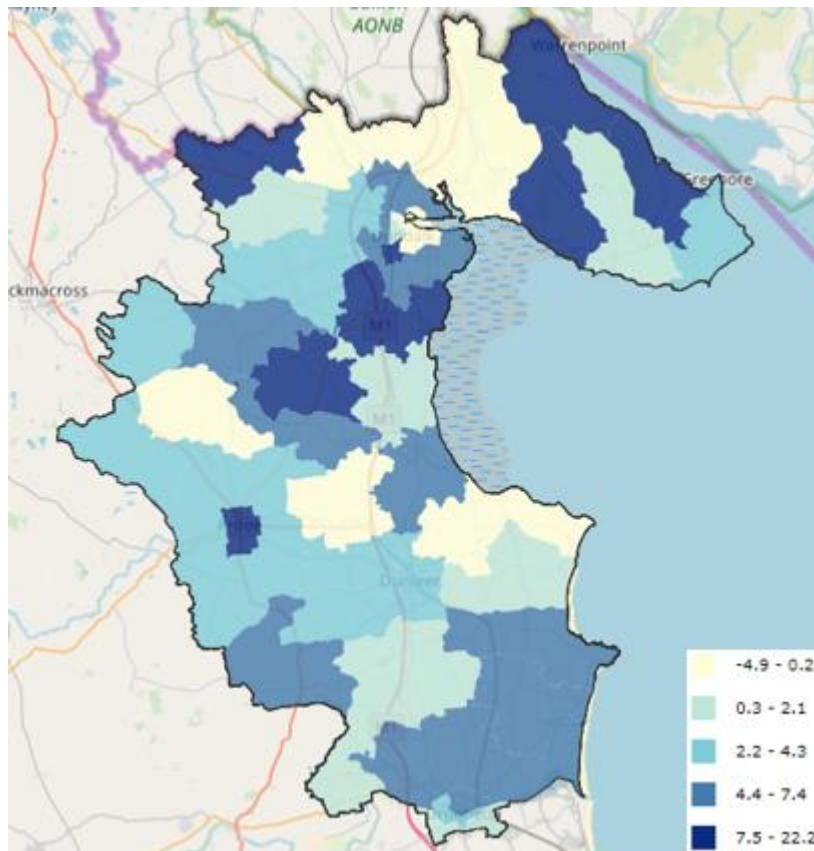
Population demographics overview

With a population of 128,884, Louth has the 18th highest population of all counties in the State. Census 2016 shows an increase of 4.9% from the previous census, compared to an increase of 3.8% at State level. This was an actual increase of 5,987 people. This makes Louth proportionally the ninth fastest growing local authority in the State. Despite the population growing by 4.9%, the proportion of households in the county grew by a lesser 3.5% over the same time. Net migration has decreased by 1 per 1,000; the natural increase is now 8.9³ per 1,000; this natural increase was the 11th highest of all local authorities in the State.

The spatial distribution of the population within Louth is as follows: two-thirds of the total population live in the three largest towns, Drogheda (32%), Dundalk (30%) and Ardee (4%).

Louth has experienced a major and consistent expansion of its population in recent years. This expansion is the result of both a high birth rate and high levels of inward migration into the county. Between 1991 and 2016, the population in the county increased by 42%, the ninth highest of all counties. In the five years since Census 2011, population growth occurred in 36 of the 43 Louth electoral districts. The three electoral districts with the highest growth accounted for over a third of the population growth in the county: Dundalk Rural (19%), Fair Gate (10%) and St Peter's (10%).

Map 1: Percentage Population Change 2011–2016 by Electoral District



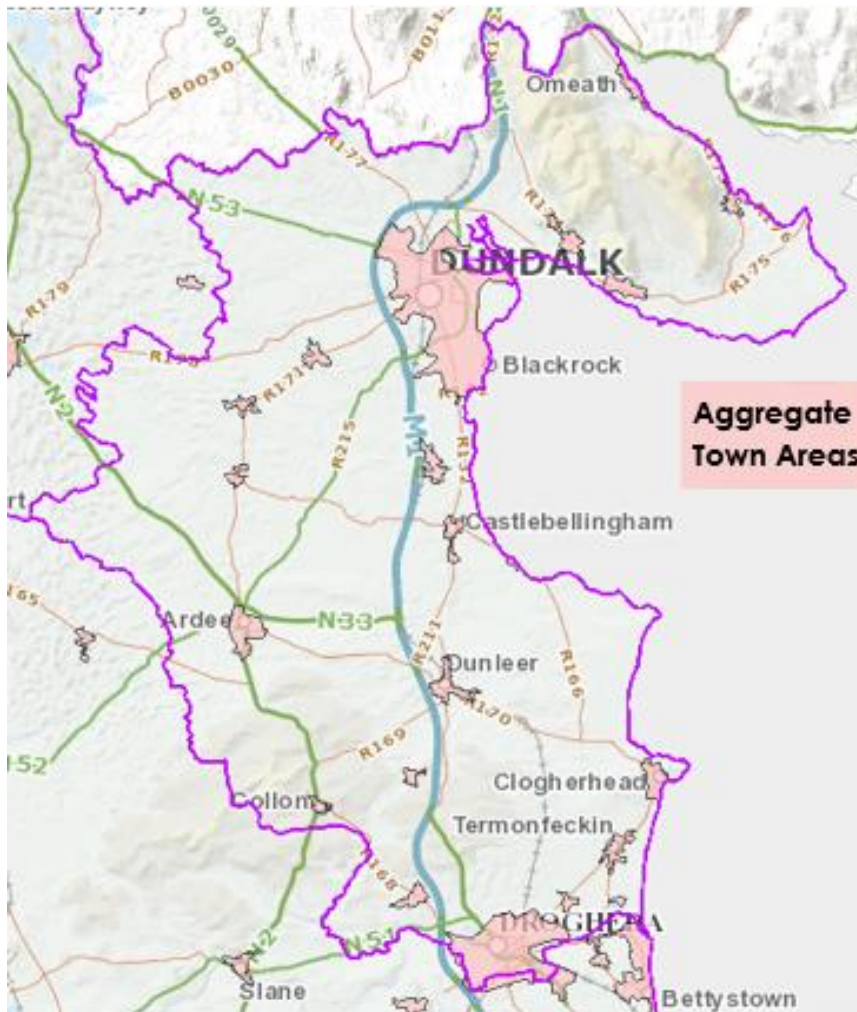
³ <http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpr/censusofpopulation2016-preliminaryresults/copc/>

27.2% of Louth's population is aged under 18 years (35,046). The county has the 14th largest population under 18 years of the 31 local authorities in Ireland. Given the size of Louth's existing population in the 0–4 (7.4%) and 5–12 (12.6%) age ranges, it is clear that the county's population is still increasing and that there is likely to be an increased demand for children's and young people's services over the next decade. This is further supported by the fact that for its size, Louth contains relatively high levels of households within the pre-school (14th highest) and primary school (14th highest) family life cycle stages.

Urban/rural population

The population living in town areas accounts for 66.1% (85,224), those living in rural areas account for 33.9% (43,660) of the population; this compares with 62.7% in town areas and 37.3% in rural areas at a State level. The average age of urban residents was 1.3 years lower than that of rural dwellers. The average age of people living in aggregate town areas was 36, and 37.3 in aggregate rural areas.

Map 2: Aggregate Town Areas, Louth 2016



As can be seen from Table 2 below, the average age of children in all urban family unit types is older in Louth compared to the State average. The average age of children in rural areas in Louth is generally similar to that in State rural areas.

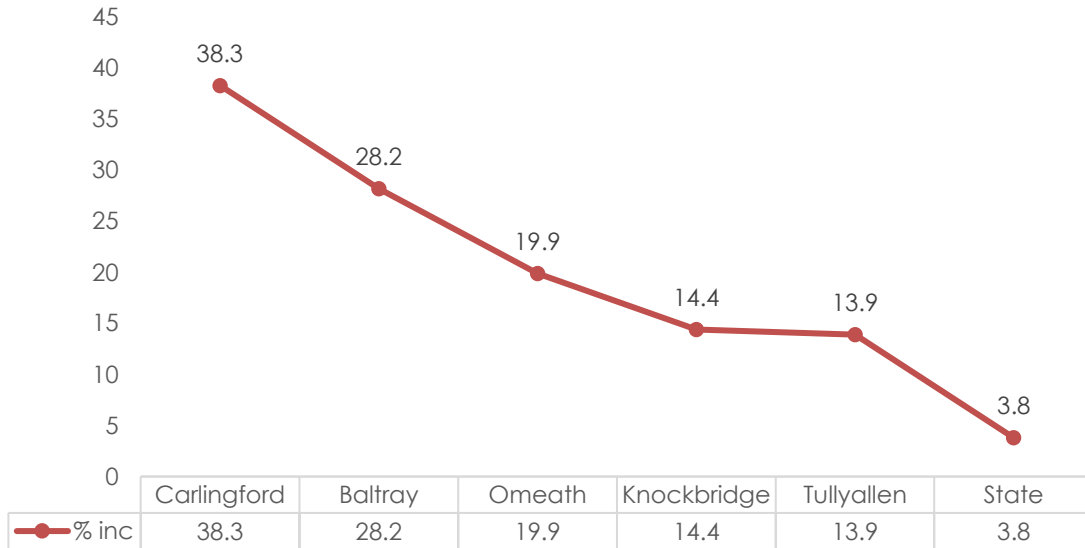
Table 2: Average Age of Child by Family Unit Type in Louth and the State (2016)

Family unit	Louth urban	State urban	Louth rural	State rural
Married couple with children	13.4	11.9	13.9	14.1
Cohabiting couple with children	8.3	8	8.5	8.1
One parent mother with children	15.8	15.2	19.7	20.8
One parent father with children	23.3	21	25.2	24.4

Fastest growing towns

Figure 3 illustrates the five towns in Louth that have had the largest proportional increase in their population since the census in 2011. Carlingford saw the largest proportional increase of all towns in Louth, with a 38.3% increase or 400 new residents, followed by Baltray (28.2%, 29), Omeath (19.9%, 100), Knockbridge (14.4%, 84) and Tullyallen (13.9%, 189). 14 of the 21 towns listed as being located in Louth by the CSO 2016 grew at rates in excess of the State average of 3.8%.

Figure 3: Fastest Growing Towns in Louth 2011–2016 (Percentage Increase)



Age

As can be seen from Table 3 below, in County Louth there is a pre-school population of 9,473, which makes up 7.4% of the population of the county. For the 0–19 age groups, Louth contains proportionally more young people than both Leinster and the State itself, although there is a slightly smaller proportion of 20–24-year olds, which may be accounted for by students going to third level having to move out of Louth, despite DKIT having a student population of 5,124 in 2016.

Table 3: Young People by Age Group (% of Total Population)

Age	Louth	Leinster	State
0–4	9,473 (7.4%)	187,106 (7.1%)	331,515 (7%)
5–9	10,493 (8.1%)	197,669 (7.5%)	355,561 (7.5%)
10–14	9,699 (7.5%)	174,752 (6.6%)	319,476 (6.7%)
15–19	8,548 (6.6%)	164,149 (6.2%)	302,816 (6.4%)
20–24	7,078 (5.5%)	158,240 (6.0%)	273,636 (5.7%)
Total 0–24	45,291 (35.1%)	88,1916 (33.4%)	1,583,004 (33.3%)

Age change over time and the youth dependency ratio

As can be seen from Table 3, 45,291 of the people in County Louth at the time of the 2016 Census were aged 24 years or younger: this equates to 35.1% of the county's population. The population in Louth increased in all age brackets between 1996 and 2016, with the exception of the 15–19 and 20–24-year-old brackets, which decreased by 4.2% and 2.6% respectively. Closer analysis reveals that there was a drop in the proportion of 20–34-year-olds between 2006 and 2016 of 12.4%, which may be a result of the effects of the economic downturn. This is in keeping with the CSO 2016 finding that the 20–34-year-old age bracket is the most mobile cohort of the population.⁴

The youth dependency ratio is a measure of the number of dependent young people (0–14) to the total working population (15–64). A high ratio means that those of working age face a greater burden in supporting the young population. With a rate of 35.7%, Louth has the ninth highest youth dependency ratio in the State of all local authorities and is higher than the State average (32.3%), indicating a large youthful population.

Challenge: Youth Dependency Ratio

At 35.7%, Louth has the ninth highest youth dependency rate in the State, higher than the national rate (32.3%).

⁴ <http://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/pressreleases/2017pressreleases/pressstatementcensus2016resultsprofile2-populationdistributionandmovements/>

Table 4: County Louth Population Change by Age Cohort 1996–2016

Age	1996	2002	2006	2011	2016	Total change	% change 1996–2016
0–4	6,498	8,373	8,830	10,411	9,473	2,975	45.8%
5–9	7,450	7,087	8,341	9,507	10,493	3,043	40.8%
10–14	8,476	7,615	7,397	8,744	9,699	1,223	14.4%
15–19	8,922	8,093	7,755	7,581	8,548	-374	-4.2%
20–24	7,270	8,316	8,337	7,862	7,078	-192	-2.6%
Under 18	28,139	27,949	29,233	33,292	35,046	6,907	24.50%
0–24	38,616	39,484	40,660	44,105	45,291	6,675	17.30%
25–44	25,744	30,892	35,570	38,282	37,104	11,360	44.1%
45–64	17,853	20,916	23,432	27,033	30,412	12,559	70.3%
65+	9,953	10,529	11,605	13,477	16,077	6,124	61.5%

Age by main urban settlements

Census 2016 shows the population of the primary school age group (5–12) at 548,693, an increase of 8.8 %. The secondary school population (13–18) increased by 7.7% since 2011 compared to a 3.8 % increase in the population of the State.

In County Louth, the number of primary school aged children was 16,274, an increase of 9%, or 1,339 children, and the secondary school population increased by 16.7% (1,578), which is more than double the State growth rate of this age group. This indicates a population that is currently young and continuing to grow.

Table 5: Age Categories 0 to 24 in Main Urban Settlements 2016

Town	All ages	0–4 years	5–12 years	13–18 years	19–24 years	0–24 years
Drogheda	40,956	3,212	5,331	3,307	2,527	14,377
Dundalk	39,004	2,897	4,593	3,267	3,102	13,859
Ardee	4,928	406	576	336	304	1,622
Clogherhead	2,145	194	339	225	119	877
Rest of Louth	41,851	2,764	5,435	3,902	2,455	14,556

Nationality and ethnicity

Overview

The population of County Louth has increased significantly in recent years and has become more ethnically and culturally diverse. Table 6 illustrates that the ethnic make-up of County Louth was similar to the make-up at State level in 2016. Louth contains twice the proportion of Black or Black Irish residents than the State average and a small proportion more of other white nationalities than the State average.

Table 6: Ethnicity of Census Responders 2016

	Louth	State	Population change in Louth since 2011 census
White Irish	83%	82.2%	-2.7%
White Irish Traveller	0.6%	0.7%	0.1%
Other White	7.8%	9.5%	0.8%
Black or Black Irish	2.8%	1.4%	0.0%
Asian or Asian Irish	1.9%	2.1%	0.3%
Other	1.4%	1.5%	0.5%
Not stated	2.5%	2.6%	1.0%
Total	100%	100%	

Closer analysis reveals that a large proportion of the population within Irish Travellers and Black/Black Irish groups were in the 0–19-year-old age group. People aged 0–19 years accounted for 41% of the population among Irish Travellers, and 52% among the Black/Black Irish ethnic minority groups, indicating particularly young populations within these groups; the average proportion of 0–19-year-olds across groups was 30%. Similarly, there is a larger overall proportion of older people in Louth compared to both the Irish Traveller and Black ethnic communities.

Table 7: Comparison of Broad Age-Groups among Irish Traveller and Black/Black Irish Ethnic Minority Populations within County Louth (2016)

Age group	Irish Traveller	Black ethnic minority	Overall population of County Louth
0–19	41%	52%	30%
20–24	10%	5%	5%
25–34	15%	9%	13%
35–44	13%	17%	16%
45–54	9%	15%	13%
55–64	6%	2%	10%
65+	5%	0%	12%

Travellers

The number of people tallied as Irish Travellers in Census 2016 was 30,987, an increase of 4.8% since Census 2011. This is a higher increase than the general population's increase of 3.7% over the same period. The Traveller population is disproportionately young in comparison to the general population; 50% of Travellers in 2016 were aged 0–19 years compared to 28% in the general population.

According to the Census, in 2016 there were 772 Travellers living in Louth, or 0.6% of the population. The largest group were in the 0–4 age group (92), accounting for 12% of all Travellers in Louth, followed by 5–9-year-olds, with 11% (86) of the total Traveller population.

According to the *State of the Nation's Children* report (2016),⁵ Louth's Traveller children account for 7.9 per 1,000 children in the county, compared to 12.4 per 1,000 at State level, which is the fourth lowest rate per county in the country. The majority of the Traveller population could be found around Dundalk (69%, 536) and Drogheda (20%, 153), with almost nine in ten residents from the Traveller community in Louth based there.

Table 8: Irish Travellers by Selected Urban Areas in Louth

	Persons (number)	Travellers per 1,000 total population
Dundalk	536	13.8
Drogheda	153	3.7
Rest of Louth	83	1.7

Other ethnicities and nationalities

In 2016, 89% (113,077) of the population in Louth were Irish citizens. Between 2011 and 2016, there was growth in the number of non-Irish nationals, which saw the number rise from 13,996 to 14,634, an increase of 4.6%, compared to 5.7% in the State. Slightly over two-thirds (68%, 9929) of non-Irish nationals living in County Louth were from the other EU27 nations. The largest communities of non-Irish nationals from the EU27 were Polish (14.4%, 2,107), Lithuanian (13.8%, 2021) and British (13.7%, 2001). Nationalities from outside the EU27 made up the rest of the Louth population with the Asian population representing 8.7% (1,277) of the non-Irish national population and Africans accounting for 6.7% (975).

According to the *State of the Nation's Children* report (2016), in 2011 there were 93,005 children of non-Irish nationals living in Ireland, which represents a rate of 82.5 per 1,000 of the total child population in Ireland.⁶ In Louth there were 2,697 children of non-Irish nationality, representing a rate of 82.1 per 1,000 children in the county.

⁵ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/48d829-state-of-the-nations-children/>

⁶ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/48d829-state-of-the-nations-children/>. Figures are not yet available from the 2016 census

Households

In 2016, there were a total of 45,448 private households in County Louth, with a total of 127,751 people in private households. Consequently, the average number of persons per private household in Louth was 2.8, similar to the State average of 2.7. The average number of people per household has remained the same in the decade since the 2006 census at 2.8; there has been a corresponding rise of 17% of people in private households and number of private households in this period.

Table 9: Private Household Size in 2016

Area	Number of private households	Number of people in private households	Average number of people per household
Louth	45,448	127,751	2.8
Monaghan	21,689	61,328	2.8
Meath	64,234	194,400	3
State	1,702,289	4,676,648	2.7

Family units

In 2016, the highest percentage of all private households in County Louth were households comprising a married couple and children (46%). Lone-parent households accounted for 21% of all private households in County Louth, compared with 18% at State level. Lone mothers account for 87% of lone-parent households in Louth, similar to 86% at State level. It is also worth noting that County Louth has a higher rate of lone-parent families to all family units (1:5) compared with the State (1:5.6), meaning there are proportionally more lone-parent families in Louth than at State level.

The lone-parent rate varies across electoral divisions in Louth. Generally, there is a higher percentage of one-parent families around the two large towns of Drogheda and Dundalk – Dundalk Urban No. 2 (28%), Dundalk Rural (27%) and West Gate (26%) – and a lower percentage in rural divisions: Creggan Upper (9%), Dysart (9%) and Darver (10%).

Table 10: Family Unit Type in Private Households 2016

Family unit type	Louth		State	
	No. of private households	% of private households	No. of private households	% of private households
All family units	33,698	100%	1,218,370	100%
Married couple without children	7,089	21%	278,934	23%
Cohabiting couple without children	1,733	5%	76,715	6%
Married couple with children	15,599	46%	568,317	47%
Cohabiting couple with children	2,491	7%	75,587	6%
One-parent mother with children	5,922	18%	189,112	16%
One-parent father with children	864	3%	29,705	2%

Department of Social Protection figures for 2015⁷ shows that 1,618 people were in receipt of a One-Parent Family Support payment in County Louth (fourth highest of 26 counties by number of recipients). The report also shows that 561 (10th highest) were in receipt of Maternity Benefit, while there were 18,662 recipients (11th highest) of Child Benefit for 35,785 children (11th highest). There were 2,285 recipients (10th highest) of Family Income Support and 5,566 of Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (7th highest).

Challenge: Lone-Parent Families

Lone-parent households accounted for 21% of all private households in Co. Louth, compared with 18% at State level.

There are 2,505 households in Louth with mother as head of the household and all children aged under 15.

(Source: outcomes4children.tusla.ie)

⁷ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Annual-SWS-Statistical-Information-Report-2015.aspx>

Education

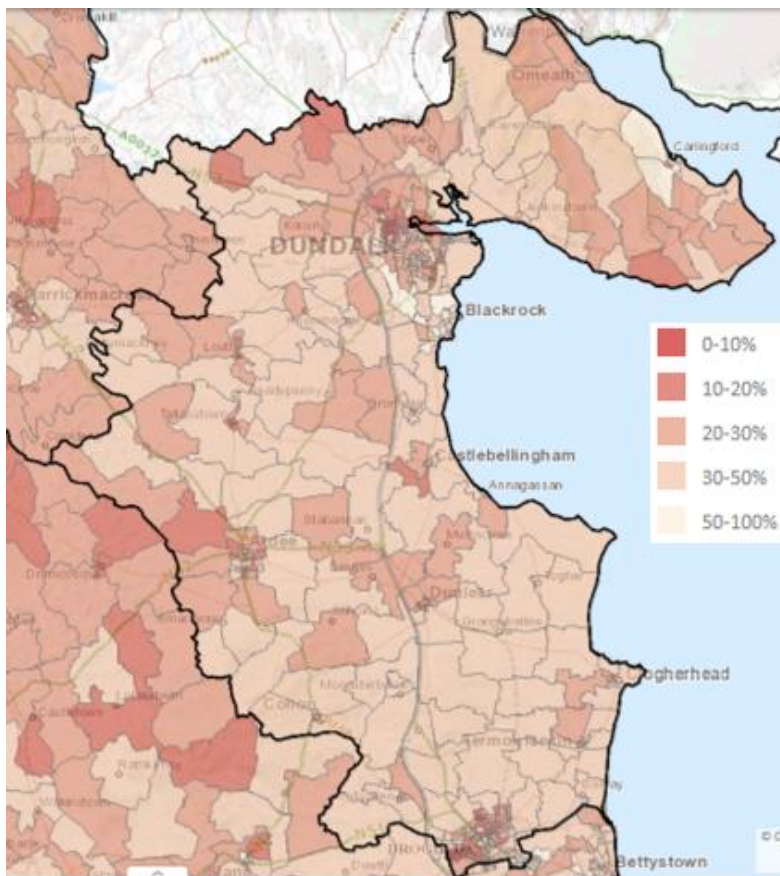
In 2016, 19.4%⁸ in Louth had a third-level degree or higher, the 12th lowest of 31 local authorities and below the State average of 23.5%. The county has the 12th highest rate of low educational achievement (no formal/primary only) at 12.2%, higher than the State level of 10.3% and the joint 17th lowest rate of medium education achievement (lower secondary + upper secondary completed) at 29.3%, similar to 27.3% at State level.

Educational attainment by geography

There are small spatial variations in the third-level education attainment across Louth. Map 3 illustrates that there are generally lower levels of third-level attainment in the north of Louth and pockets of lower third-level attainment in some of the Small Areas around urban areas (i.e. Drogheda, Ardee, Dundalk), when compared with the rest of the county.

The electoral divisions with the lowest third-level attainment are Dundalk Urban No.1 (12.1%) and Westgate (12.8%) in Drogheda. There are small areas around the main urban areas that contain lower levels of third-level attainment with a small area in St Mary's ED near Drogheda containing 3% of residents with a third-level qualification and a small area in Dundalk Rural ED containing 3.1% of residents with a third-level qualification.

Map 3: Third-Level Educational Attainment across Louth 2016 (Percentage)



⁸ Of population aged 15 years and over. (Ordinary bachelor degree/professional qualification or both, Honours bachelor degree/professional qualification or both, Postgraduate diploma or degree, Doctorate (Ph.D.))

Educational attainment of mother

A mother's education level can be a significant predictor for her children's academic achievements.⁹ In the State, 4.8% of children lived in families where the mother had either no formal education or primary education only, compared to 6.1% of children in County Louth, the second highest of the 26 counties. This percentage ranged from 3.3% in County Cork to 9% in County Donegal.

Table 11: Number of Children, by Louth and State and Educational Attainment of Mother (2011)

	Primary (including no formal education)	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Third level (degree or higher)	Not stated/ not available	Total
Louth	1,736 (6.1%)	5,110 (17.9%)	11,747 (41.2%)	9,253 (32.5%)	653 (2.3%)	28,499
State	48,040 (4.8%)	141,329 (14.2%)	416,407 (41.9%)	364,299 (36.7%)	23,590 (2.4%)	993,665

Primary schools¹⁰

There are 75 primary schools in Louth, according to figures from the Department of Education and Skills for the 2016/2017 school year. In total, there are 71 mainstream primary schools in Louth educating 16,997 students and four special schools educating 342 students. Four (5.6%) of these mainstream schools are classified as DEIS¹¹ schools. Primary schools in Louth are primarily of a Catholic ethos (68), with the remainder categorised as multi-denominational (4), Church of Ireland (2) and one as Presbyterian.

It is possible to categorise 2016/2017 data from the Department of Education and Skills for mainstream primary school students in Louth into three different class sizes:

Table 12: Number of Pupils in Each Class Size Range

	< 20 per Class	20 to 30 per Class	>30 per Class	Total
Louth	6.2% (1,040)	71.7% (12,105)	22.1% (3,732)	100% (16,877)
State	10.7% (58,306)	67.6% (368,732)	21.7% (118,326)	100% (545,364)

The average number of students per class in Louth was 25.5, higher than the State average of 24.6 per class.

⁹ <http://ns.umich.edu/new/releases/22501-mothers-education-significant-to-children-s-academic-success>

¹⁰ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Data-on-Individual-Schools/>

¹¹ Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools: DEIS schools form part of the Department of Education and Skills social inclusion strategy Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) to help children and young people who are at risk of or who are experiencing educational disadvantage.

Secondary schools¹²

As of the 2016/2017 school year, there were a total of 18 post-primary schools in Louth. Of these, five were categorised as DEIS schools, which equates to 28% of all schools. This is the eighth highest rate of all counties in the country and is slightly above the median¹³ number of DEIS schools per county at State level (4.5).

Travellers in education

Educational attainment among Travellers lags significantly behind that of the general population. Among Traveller females, just 13% were educated to upper secondary level or above, compared with 69% of the general population. 57% of male Travellers were educated to primary level at most, compared with just 14% of the general population. The 167 Travellers with a third-level qualification was almost double the 2011 figure of 89; however, this accounts for only 1% of the Traveller population compared to 24% in the general population in 2016.

Early childhood care and education

At a State level in 2016 there were 4,178 services serving 74,125 children under contract to deliver Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). 62% of them met the basic capitation criteria. This percentage ranged from 84% in County Leitrim to 26% in County Carlow. 38% met the higher capitation criteria. This percentage ranged from 16% in County Leitrim to 74% in County Carlow.

Louth contained 105 pre-school services under contract to deliver Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), serving 2,014 children. 78% (82) of these services met basic capitation criteria, the second highest in the country, and 22% (23) of these services met the higher capitation criteria, the second lowest in the country.

Table 13: Percentage of Pre-school Services Under Contract to Deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (Ecce) Programme that Meet Basic and Higher Capitation Criteria, (June 2016)¹⁴

	Total children Number	Total ECCE services Number	Meeting basic capitation criteria		Meeting higher capitation criteria	
			Number	%	Number	%
Louth	2,014	105	82	78%	23	22%
State	74,125	4,178	2,603	62%	1,575	38%

¹² <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Data-on-Individual-Schools/>

¹³ Median used, as Dublin with 58 DEIS schools skews the mean value to 7.1 DEIS schools per county.

¹⁴ ECCE database – <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/eyrq/default.asp?mypage=4&mpge=3&CountryID=17&>

Youth unemployment

While not a measure of unemployment, the Live Register figures¹⁵ from the three social welfare offices (Ardee, Drogheda, Dundalk) do give an indication of unemployment in the county. In September of 2017 there were 9,591 people on the Live Register in Louth; there was a decrease of 44% in people on the live register over the period September 2012 to September 2017.

In September of 2017 there were 1,290 people under 25 years on the Live Register in Louth, equating to 13.5% of total Live Register recipients in the county; this compares to 11.7% at State level. 59% (757) of under25-year-olds on the Live Register were male and 41% (533) were female. These figures are similar to the State-level figures for males (58%) and females (42%) on the Live Register under 25 in the same time period.

Almost half of the under-25s on the Live Register attended the Dundalk social welfare office (597, 46%); 546 (42%) attended the Drogheda social welfare office, with lower numbers attending the Ardee social welfare office (147, 11%).

In May 2018 there were 1,205 people under the age of 25 on the Live Register in Co. Louth. This accounted for 13.5% of all people on the Live Register in Louth, according to the CSO. This figure is higher than both the national level (11%) and the figure for neighbouring Meath (11.6%).

¹⁵ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?Maintable=LRM07&PLanguage=0>

Disability

Disability in Louth

The Census 2016 results show that, nationally, a total of 643,131 in the State had a disability, which accounted for 13.5% of the population. Males accounted for 48.4% of all disabilities and females accounted for 51.6%. Since 2011 there has been an increase in the number of people classified as having a disability of 47,796 or 8%.

In Louth, the older the age bracket, the larger the proportion of people with disabilities found within it: 33.8% of people with disabilities in Louth were 65 or older, while 19.9% were 25–44 years and 8.9% were 14 years or younger. Similarly, as can be seen in Table 14, the older the age group, the more likely you are find a greater proportion of the cohort to have a disability.

In Louth 5.4% of 0–14-year-olds have a disability, compared to 5.9% at State level, and 8.6% of 15–24-year-olds have a disability, compared to 9.3% at State level.

Table 14: Disabilities in Louth by Age Groups, 2016

Age	0–14	15–24	25–44	45–64	65+
Population (number)	29,665	15,626	37,104	30,412	16,077
Population with a disability (number)	1,599	1,345	3,561	5,332	6,044
Population with a disability as % of relevant age group	5.4%	8.6%	9.6%	17.5%	37.6%

Children as carers

According to the 2016 *State of the Nation's Children* report 5.6 per 1,000 children provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability. There were 6,449 children providing this form of care, which accounted for 0.6% of all children in the State. In Louth, the rate was lower at 4.3 per 1,000, or 143 individuals.

Health

General health question from the Census

Respondents¹⁶ to Census 2016 are asked to self-assess their own general level of health by selecting one of five categories ranging from very good to very bad. Census respondents' answers clearly showed the decline in quality of health with age. Among 0–24-year-olds in Louth and in the State approximately 80% responded that they were in very good health. This proportion dropped to a little over 50% for 25–64-year-olds and further dropped to approximately 22% for 65 years or more in both Louth and the State.

Table 15: Age of Census Respondents that Replied their Health was 'Very Good'

Age	State	Louth
0–24	80.3%	79.9%
25–64	55.3%	52.3%
65+	23.7%	21.7%

In Louth, in the 0–24 population, 94.3% (42,725) of people stated that they were in very good or good health; this is the same proportion, 94.3% (1,492,454), as in the general population. Only 0.2% stated that they were in bad or very bad health, compared to 0.3% at the State level.

Table 16: Census Self-Reported Level of Health Indicator 2016, 0–24-Year-Olds

Area	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad	Very bad	Not stated
Louth	79.9%	14.4%	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%	3.8%
State	80.3%	14.0%	1.7%	0.2%	0.1%	3.8%

Births

According to CSO Vital Statistics report¹⁷ for 2016 there were 1,812 registered births, providing a birth rate of 15.2¹⁸ for County Louth, the second highest level of all local authorities, compared to 13.7 at State level. The average age of mothers was 31.8 years for all births and 29.4 years for first births compared to 32.7 years and 30.9 years respectively at a State level.

Births outside of marriage/civil partnership in Louth accounted for 45.3% of births, the sixth highest of all local authorities compared with 37.6% at a State level. In Louth, 46 (2.5%) babies were born to women under 20, 594 (32.8%) to women aged 20–29, 1,066 (58.8%) to women aged 30–39 and 106 (5.8%) to women aged 40+.

¹⁶ Parents respond to the question on behalf of their children up to the age of 14 where necessary.

¹⁷ <http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vs/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2016/>

¹⁸ Births per year per 1,000 population. Annual rates based on estimated usual residence 2016 population.

Births to mothers under 20 years of age

Births to mothers under the age of 20 in Louth in 2016 are 47% higher as a percentage of all births compared to State level. In 2016 there were 46 births to mothers under 20, which means that Louth had the sixth highest number of births to this age cohort out of the 26 counties. Since 2011, births to mothers under the age of 20 in Louth have decreased by 0.8% as a percentage of all births, compared to a decline of 0.6% at State level.

Table 17: Births to Mothers under 20 Years of Age, 2016

	Births to mothers under 20	Total births	% of total births
Louth	46	1,812	2.5%
State	1098	63897	1.7%

Challenge: Births to mothers under 20

There were 46 births to mothers under the age of 20 in Co. Louth in 2016, accounting for 2.5% of births in the county, compared with 1.7% at State level. This was the sixth highest number in the 26 counties.

Infant and neonatal mortality

There were 208 infant deaths registered in the State in 2016, giving an infant mortality rate of 3.3 per 1,000 live births, while there were 155 neonatal deaths registered in 2016, providing a neonatal death rate of 2.4. The rate of infant mortality and neonatal mortality in Louth are 1.1 and 1.1 per 1,000 of the population, lower than that of the State.

Table 18: Infant and Neonatal Mortality by Area of Residence of Deceased

	Infant mortality per 1,000 live births		Neonatal mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Louth	2	1.1	2	1.1
Monaghan	1	1.3	1	1.3
Meath	8	2.9	6	2.1
Leinster	123	3.3	94	2.6
State	208	3.3	155	2.4

Birth weight

Nationally, the percentage of low-weight babies increased slightly from 5.4% in 2011 to 5.9% in 2015,¹⁹ of all babies born in the low-birth-weight category 3.²⁰ At county level, the percentage ranged from 4.4% in Roscommon to 7.3% in Louth, marking Louth as the highest proportion of babies born with a low birth weight out of 27 counties.²¹

Breastfeeding

Table 19 illustrates that mothers who engaged in breastfeeding of some description in Louth were proportionally 9.5% lower than the State average. This places Louth sixth lowest out of the 26 counties for take-up of some form of breastfeeding.

Table 19: Percentage of Infants who are Breastfed by Mother's County of Residence²²

	Exclusive breastfed	Combined (breast & artificial)	Artificially fed	Total breastfed (exclusive & combined)
State	47.7%	10.3%	42.1%	58%
Louth	35.3%	12.2%	52.6%	47.5%

Intellectual disability

According to the *State of the Nation's Children* report (2016), two-thirds (67%) of children registered as having an intellectual disability are boys, and 9,066 children in the State had registered as having an intellectual disability.²³ Registrations by county ranged from 4.5 per 1,000 children in Offaly to 12 per 1,000 children in Limerick, and averaged 7.9 registrations per 1,000 across the State. Louth recorded 11.4 registrations per 1,000, which was the third highest registration rate per 1,000 children in the State.

Table 20: Number of Children Registered as Having an Intellectual Disability

	Number	Percentage of total registrations
Louth	380	4.4%
State	9,066	100%

Physical and sensory disability

According to the *State of the Nation's Children* report (2016), 6,230 children in the State had registered as having a physical or sensory disability,²⁴ 62% of whom were boys. The Annual National Physical and Sensory Disability 2016²⁵ report from the HRB report stated that approximately a third (31.9%) of registrations have multiple disabilities. Registration by county

19 <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/stateofthenationschildren/20170302SOTNCRReport2016.pdf>

20 Weighing less than 2,500 grams.

21 Dublin city and county are split into two different areas.

22 http://www.hpo.ie/latest_hipe_nprs_reports/NPRS_2015/Perinatal_Statistics_Report_2015.pdf

23 <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/stateofthenationschildren/20170302SOTNCRReport2016.pdf>

24 <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/stateofthenationschildren/20170302SOTNCRReport2016.pdf>

25 http://www.hrb.ie/uploads/tx_hrbpublications/NPSDD_Annual_Report_2016.pdf

ranged from 1.9 per 1,000 children in County Clare to 12 per 1,000 children in Tipperary, and averaged 5.4 registrations per 1,000 across the State. Louth recorded 4.8 registrations per 1,000, which was the 11th lowest registration rate per 1,000 children per county in the State.

Table 21: Number of Children Registered as Having a Physical and/or Sensory Disability

	Number	% of total registrations in the State
Louth	159	2.6%
State	6,230	100%

Sexual health and behaviour: teen births²⁶

Between 2011 (391 births) and 2015 (301 births) the number of babies born to girls aged 17 and under decreased by 23%. According to the *State of the Nation's Children 2016* report there were eight births to mothers aged 10–17 in County Louth in 2015, which equated to 4.4 births per 1,000 births in the county, which is similar to the State rate of 4.6 per 1,000. This is the 12th lowest rate in the 26 counties.

It is worth noting that 26.9% of children aged 15–17 in the State reported being sexually active. In the Border region, of which Louth is part, this figure was also 26.9%, which was the third highest rate of the eight regions.

Challenge: Sexual health and behaviour

26.9% of children aged 15–17 in the State reported being sexually active, while in the Border region, of which Louth is part, the rate was also 26.9%, which was the third highest rate of the eight regions.

Public health nurse visit

Nationally in 2015, 97.5% of new-born babies were visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours²⁷ of discharge from hospital for the first time. This ranged from 88.1% in Meath to 100% in 11 of the HSE Region and Local Health Office (LHO) areas; 99.5% of new-borns in Louth were visited within 72 hours of discharge by a public health nurse.

Mental health

The *State of the Nation's Children* report (2016) states that among children 'depressive disorders' were the most common reason for admission to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units. 80.9% of admissions to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units were children aged 15–17 years. Girls accounted for 60% (303) and boys for 40% (200) of total admissions of 0–17-year-olds (503). In Louth in 2016 there were 529

²⁶ <http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vs/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2016/>

²⁷ In 2015, the HSE collected data on the percentage of new-born babies who were visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time. This replaced data collection on visits within 48 hours of discharge from hospital. The previous year's figure was 85.7% for a visit within 48 hours.

referrals of children under the age of 18 to CAMHS, which accounts for 15.1 per 1,000 children under the age of 18 in Louth.

Suicide and self-harm

In 2015, there were 14 suicides in the State by children between the ages of 10 and 17. The number of suicides by children aged 10–17 was higher among boys (12) than girls (2). The Health Profile 2015 for Louth²⁸ shows that the suicide rate in Louth between 2007 and 2013 was 12.5 per 100,000, higher than the national rate of 11.3.

The Health Profile for Louth provided information in relation to self-harm. In 2012, 163 males self-harmed in Louth, giving a rate of 279.7 per 100,000, compared to a national rate of 195.1. In the same year, 132 females self-harmed, giving a rate of 224.8 per 100,000 in Louth compared to the national rate of 228.0. It should be noted that actual self-harm statistics are considered to be much higher as the statistics represent hospital presentations only. It should also be noted that suicide rates are nearly seven times higher in Traveller men compared with the general male population and suicide accounts for 11% of all Traveller deaths.

According to the National Self-Harm Registry's Annual Report 2016²⁹ incidents of self-harm in County Louth increased 29% in males and 37% in females since the previous year. At Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda there were 202 male and 232 female hospital-treated episodes of self-harm. Males aged 25–34 were the most common age to present at Our Lady's hospital and accounted for 26% of all presentations. Females aged 15–19 were the most likely to present at Our Lady's and accounted for 29% of all presentations. 22 of the men who presented had previously presented having self-harmed compared to 21 women.

According to the NSRF,³⁰ in 2016 in CHO 8,³¹ within which Louth is located, drug overdose was the most common method of self-harm, involved in almost three-quarters of presentations (n=989). Alcohol was involved in 38% of presentations. Self-cutting was the only other common method, involved in a little more than one in five presentations.

Table 22: Method of Self-Harm in CHO 8, 2016

Method of self-harm	No. & % of people presenting having self-harmed
Drug overdose	989 (74%)
Alcohol	502 (38%)
Poisoning	23 (2%)
Attempted hanging	77 (6%)
Attempted drowning	29 (2%)
Self-cutting	297 (22%)

28 <http://www.lenus.ie/hse/bitstream/10147/584038/5/Louth.pdf>

29 <https://www.nsrif.ie/wp-content/uploads/reports/NSRF%20National%20Self-Harm%20Registry%20Ireland%202016.pdf>

30 2016 CHO 8 self-harm data requested from NSRF.

31 CHO 8: HSE Community Health Office 8 consists of Louth, Meath, Laois/Offaly & Longford/Westmeath.

Drugs and alcohol

According to the HRB National Drugs Library,³² in 2015 413 people in County Louth sought treatment for drug and alcohol issues (see Table 23). Proportionally people seeking treatment in Louth were within a range of $\pm 3\%$ compared to the national average for all substances, with the exception of benzodiazepines, which were almost double the national average.

Table 23: Percentage of People Seeking Treatment for Drug and Alcohol Issues³³

	Louth	Ireland
Alcohol	41% (171)	44%
Benzodiazepines	9% (39)	5%
Cannabis	13% (53)	16%
Cocaine	6% (26)	6%
Opiates	25% (104)	27%
Total	413	

Prevalence of substance use

Prevalence of substance use figures in 2015 from the National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol³⁴ were provided for lifetime use, use in the past 12 months, and use in the past month. Table 24 illustrates that prevalence of substance use was higher across all substances over people's lifetime than the national average. Prevalence of use over the past 12 months and the past month was higher in Louth for all substances with the exception of ecstasy compared to the national average. Prevalence of heroin use was proportionally more than double the figure in Louth as compared to the national average across all three timeframes.

³² <http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/tables/>

³³ Figures do not add to 100% as fields with fewer than five individuals are not provided by the HRB due to privacy concerns. Consequently, there are no figures for Louth for the treatment of amphetamines or ecstasy issues included in the table.

³⁴ <https://nacda.ie/images/stories/docs/publicationa/nacda-bulleti-2-prevalence-drugusegambling-rdatfhsct.pdf>

Table 24: Louth & Ireland Prevalence of Substance Use During Lifetime, the Past 12 Months and the Past Month in 2015, aged 15–64 years

	Louth lifetime	Ireland lifetime	Louth, past 12 months	Ireland, past 12 months	Louth, past month	Ireland, past month
Alcohol	86.5%	85.3%	80.5%	79.9%	67%	65%
Tobacco	50.9%	50.8%	34.3%	31.3%	31.3%	27.4%
Cannabis	29.5%	27.9%	8.8%	7.7%	5.7%	4.4%
Ecstasy	11.9%	9.2%	1.3%	2.1%	0.6%	1%
Cocaine³⁵	11.1%	7.8%	2.7%	1.5%	0.9%	0.5%
Heroin	1.9%	0.9%	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	0%
Methadone	1.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Any illegal drug	33.6%	30.7%	10.3%	8.9%	6%	4.7%

Figures from the HSE in 2015³⁶ illustrate that CHO 8,³⁷ in which Louth is located, had 672 persons on methadone maintenance programmes. This accounted for 6.8% of all persons in Ireland who were on a methadone maintenance programme.

35 Including crack

36 <http://www.tommybroughan.com/almost-10000-people-accessing-methadone-treatment-nationwide/>

37 CHO 8 = Laois/Offaly, Longford/Westmeath, Louth/Meath

Deprivation

Measurement of affluence and disadvantage in Ireland is based on the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, which has recently been updated for 2016 Census data. The index is based on three dimensions of affluence/disadvantage:

- i) demographic profile
- ii) social class composition
- iii) labour market.

The index provides two different statistical outputs, the Absolute Index score³⁸ and the Relative Index score.³⁹

Relative and Absolute Deprivation

Using Relative Deprivation data derived from the 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index, Louth is the 13th most disadvantaged local authority in the country, but the second most affluent local authority in the Border region, of which it is part. The Border region, however, is the most disadvantaged of the eight national regions.

The Absolute Deprivation score for 2016 shows the extent to which the county has recovered from the economic recession. The absolute score rose from -9.9 in 2011 to -7.2 in 2016, representing an increase of 2.7 points. This is the same as the national increase of 2.7.

Deprivation at Electoral Division and Small Area level

Looking at County Louth from an Electoral Division level, it is not characterised by extremes as there are no EDs classified as affluent, very affluent, extremely affluent, very disadvantaged, or extremely disadvantaged. There are only two electoral divisions (4.7%) around Dundalk that are categorised as disadvantaged (Dundalk Urban 1 & 2), with Dundalk Urban 1 being the most disadvantaged electoral division in the county. 25 of the EDs – or 58.1% – are classified as marginally below average, while 16 (37.2%) are classified as marginally above average.

Examining the data at Electoral Division level hides some of the pockets of deprivation which exist in the county; it is therefore worthwhile looking at the Small Area statistics. The Dundalk area contains the largest number of small areas classified as very disadvantaged, with 12 (58%), followed by Drogheda with eight (38%) and Ardee with one (5%).

Table 25: Location of Small Areas of Disadvantage

Electoral Division	Number of Small Areas categorised as 'very disadvantaged'	Nearest large town
Dundalk Rural	10	Dundalk
Castletown	2	Dundalk
West Gate	5	Drogheda
St Mary's	2	Drogheda
Fair Gate	1	Drogheda
Ardee Urban	1	Ardee

³⁸ Used to make a comparison over time.

³⁹ Used to refer to an area at a particular point in time.

Unlike at the Electoral Division level, Louth does contain some small areas that are very disadvantaged or affluent. Louth does not have any small areas that are extremely disadvantaged, very affluent or extremely affluent. This can be observed in Map 4 below.

Map 4: Deprivation in Louth by Small Area

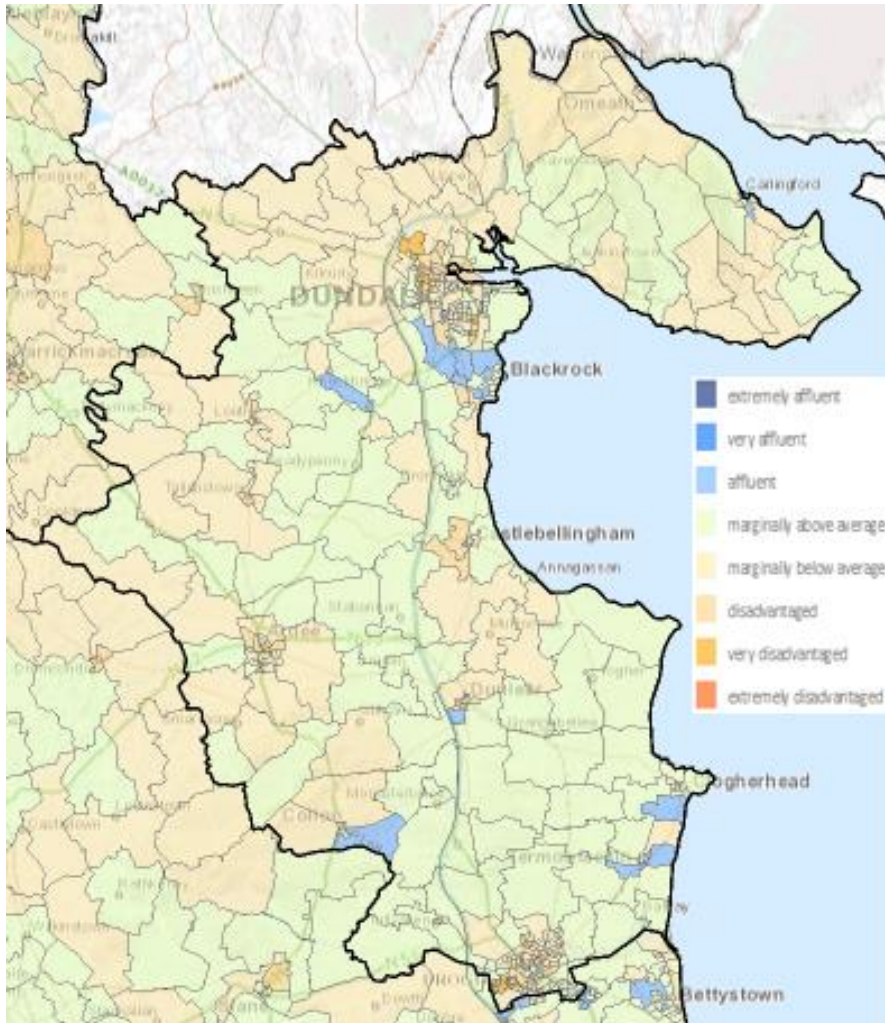


Table 26 illustrates the deprivation scores of the 10 most disadvantaged small areas. Sixty percent of the most disadvantaged can be found in the Dundalk Rural electoral district. Three can be found near Drogheda in the West Gate and St Mary's electoral division, while one can be found in the Ardee Urban electoral division. All these small areas are classified as being very disadvantaged.

Table 26: 10 Small Areas Showing the Highest Levels of Disadvantage in Louth

Small area number	Electoral division	Deprivation score	% (n) of population aged 0-24	Classification
147043012	St Mary's	-27.22	37% (126) ⁴⁰	Very disadvantaged
147019042	Dundalk Rural	-27.02	30% (60)	Very disadvantaged
147019041	Dundalk Rural	-26.27	31% (70)	Very disadvantaged
147019069	Dundalk Rural	-25.21	44% (124)	Very disadvantaged
147034021	West Gate	-24.58	24% (59)	Very disadvantaged
147019003	Dundalk Rural	-24.29	37% (105)	Very disadvantaged
147019002	Dundalk Rural	-24.26	41% (123)	Very disadvantaged
147019047	Dundalk Rural	-24.17	46% (106)	Very disadvantaged
147043006	St Mary's	-24.03	53% (187)	Very disadvantaged
147002017	Ardee Urban	-23.46	5% (9)	Very disadvantaged

Challenge: Deprivation

Louth is the 13th most disadvantaged local authority in the country. There are a number of Small Areas around the towns of Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee that are classified as being 'very disadvantaged' on the Pobal Deprivation Index, 2016.

People at risk of poverty

The SILC survey (Survey on Income and Living Conditions) is the official data source on household and individual income and provides indicators on national poverty, including the 'at risk of poverty' rate, the rate of consistent poverty and rates of enforced deprivation.

In Ireland, the population 'at risk of poverty' rate⁴¹ in 2015 was 16.9%, which had fallen from 17.3% in 2012 but is still higher than 14.1% in 2009, and equates to one in six of the population. Children between the ages of 0 and 17 were the most at-risk group in Ireland, with an at-risk-of-poverty rate of 19.5%. They were also the age group most likely to experience consistent poverty, with a rate of 11.5% for this age group.

⁴⁰ 126 refers to the number of 0-24-year-olds living in small area number 147043012, or 37% of the total population of the small area. The total population of the small area is 339 residents.

⁴¹ The relative or at-risk-of-poverty threshold represents an income of less than 60% of the national median (middle) annual income. In 2015 the national median (middle) income was €20,000, making the at-risk-of-poverty threshold €12,000 (€229.97 per week) – <http://www.eapn.ie/eapn/training/consistent-poverty-rates>

Applying the national rates to County Louth suggests that 6,834 children are ‘at risk of poverty’ in the county and 4,030 children experience consistent poverty. It is important to note that children not living in households are not included in these figures. Other children at a high risk of poverty include children living in temporary accommodation such as bed and breakfasts, children seeking asylum and children leaving institutional care.

In 2015, the families living in a household consisting of a single adult with children under 18 were the most likely to be at risk of poverty, at 36.2%. This is significantly higher than households with two adults and 1–3 children aged under 18 (14.5%) and other households with children (21.9%). The consistent poverty rate for households of a single adult with children under 18 was also substantially higher, at 26.2%, compared to 7.7% of households with two adults and 1–3 children under 18 years and 13.4% in households of other families with children.

Housing

According to the Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2016⁴² from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, in 2016 there were 46,294 households with children identified as being in need of social housing in the State. In Louth, the total figure was 1,411 households, which accounted for 3.05% of all cases in the State. This ranked Louth as the county with the 14th highest number of households with children in need of social housing in the country out of 31 local authorities.

In Louth, 52% of households with children (743) identified as being in need of social housing were one-parent households, 47% (661) were two-parent households and the remaining 1% (7) multi-adult households.

Table 27: Households with Children Identified as Being in Need of Social Housing, by Household Structure in Louth and the State (2016)

	Single with child/children	Couple with child/children	Multi-adult households with children	All households with child/children	% Total in the State
Louth	743	661	7	1,411	3.05%
State	27,851	18,112	331	46,294	100%

Homelessness

Data from the Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government’s Pathway Accommodation & Support System (PASS) from July 2017 indicates that there were 5,187 homeless persons in Ireland, this is an increase of 32% from 18 months previously in February 2016 (3,930). The number of homeless persons in Louth for the same period rose by 78% from 69 to 123 persons which accounted for 2.4% of all homeless persons in the State. This placed Louth as the 6th highest county in the State for numbers of homeless persons.

In the North-East region, of which Louth is part, there are 127 registered homeless people, 123 of these are registered in Louth. The number of families reporting as homeless rose by 82%

⁴² <http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/rebuilding-ireland/needs-assessment/summary-social-housing-assessments-2016>

between February 2016 and July 2017. There was specifically a larger increase in the proportion of single parent families (150%) and dependents (220%) reporting as homeless in the timeframe.

Table 28: Homeless Families in the North-East Region June 2017

	Region	Total families	Total adults	(of which) single-parent families	Total dependents
Feb. 2016	North-East	11	18	4	15
Jul. 2017	North-East	20	30	10	48
% change		82%	67%	150%	220%

Challenge: Homelessness

Department of Housing data for Louth indicates a rise in the number of homeless persons in Louth of 78% from 69 to 123 persons in the 18 months leading up to July 2017, placing Louth as the sixth highest county in Ireland for its number of homeless persons.

School attendance

The Tusla report *School Attendance Data from Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2014/2015*⁴³ illustrates school attendance in the county. In the 2014/2015 academic year in Louth primary schools, the mean percentage of days lost was 5.9 (Leinster 5.9 and State 5.5). This was the joint second-highest figure for days lost due to absence out of 26 counties. The post-primary schools' mean percentage of school days lost through absence was 6.7 for Louth, 8.0 for Leinster and 8.0 for the State. This is the joint lowest figure for days lost through absence in the 26 counties.

Junior and Leaving Certificate

It is possible to look at the retention rates in secondary schools for Junior and Leaving Certificate. The 2016 report published by the Department of Education and Skills provides data for the 2009 entry cohorts and the figures for County Louth are illustrated in Table 29. Of all students in Louth who started secondary school in 2009, 95.9% of students completed the Junior Cert cycle. This proportion is similar to the proportion of students that finished the Junior Cert in the whole State, and ranks County Louth the sixth lowest Junior Cert completion rate out of 34 administrative counties. 87.1% of all students in Louth who started secondary school in 2009 completed the Leaving Certificate, which is a lower rate than the State average.

⁴³ http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_Annual_Attendance_Report_2014-2015.pdf

This ranks County Louth as the third lowest rate out of 34 administrative counties for Leaving Cert completion.

Table 29: Retention Rates to the Junior and Leaving Certificate in Louth Schools, 2009 Cohort⁴⁴

	Junior Cert Retention Rate	Leaving Cert Retention Rate
Louth	95.9%	87.1%
State	96.7%	90.2%

Means of commuting to work, school or college

Generally, the methods of commuting to work, school or college of the residents of Louth are similar to those of Ireland, according to the CSO, particularly in the utilisation of private motor vehicles. As illustrated in the table below, more Louth residents commute on foot than in the general population. Conversely, fewer residents in Louth commute by bike, use the train, DART or Luas and fewer people in Louth work from home compared to the national average.

Table 30: Means of Travel to Work, School or College

Commute Type	Louth	Ireland
On foot	15.6%	13.9%
Bicycle	1.8%	2.7%
Bus, minibus or coach	10.6%	10.2%
Train, DART or Luas	1.3%	2.7%
Motorcycle or scooter	0.2%	0.3%
Motor car: Driver	38.5%	39.3%
Motor car: Passenger	20.9%	18.6%
Van	4.3%	4.2%
Other, incl. lorry	0.4%	0.4%
Work mainly at or from home	2.0%	3.1%
Not stated	4.4%	4.5%

The proportion of people commuting is relatively similar across the county, see Appendix 1. The smaller mid-Louth towns such as Ardee and Dunleer contain more residents who commute on foot compared to the Louth average, while they contain fewer residents who use bikes or the train, DART or Luas.

⁴⁴ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Statistical-Reports/Retention-Rates-of-Pupils-in-Second-Level-Schools-2009-Cohort.pdf>

Referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme

In 2015, the number of children referred to the Garda Diversion Programme nationally was 9,807 children aged 10–17, a 2% decrease since 2014. The number of incidents referred did not correspond to the number of children referred, as some children were referred more than once. The total number of referrals received amounted to 19,495, a ratio of two referrals per child. 75% of referrals were for boys and 25% for girls, while 74% of referrals were between the age of 15 and 17 years old and 26% were under 15 years of age.

In Louth the number of children referred to Garda Youth Diversion projects was 249, a 6% decrease on the previous year, and the total number of referrals was 597, an increase of 22% in the number of referrals from the previous year, the highest increase in all Garda divisions for the year. Louth's ratio of 2.4 referrals per child is above the State average of 2.0. This is the highest⁴⁵ average ratio of referrals of children referred in the country.

Table 31: Number of Young People and Referrals to the Garda Diversion Project 2015,⁴⁶ by Region and Division (2015), and rate (per 1,000) in State/County (2016)

	Total number of children referred		Total number of referrals		
	No.	2015 referral rate per 1,000 children aged 10–17 ⁴⁷	No.	2015 referral rate per 1,000 children aged 10–17	Average ratio of referrals to number of children referred
Louth	249	16.5	597	39.6	2.4
State	9,807	19.5	19,495	38.7	2.0

⁴⁵ Clare and Galway's average ratio was also 1.7.

⁴⁶ <http://www.iyjs.ie/en/IYJS/English%20version%20New.pdf/Files/English%20version%20New.pdf>

⁴⁷ Rates calculated using census data 2016.

Child protection

Child protection notification

The Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) became live on 29 September 2015. The details for this overview are taken from the CPNS register as of 31 December 2016. The number of children on the CPNS was 106, which represents 12.11 per 10,000 population in Louth/Meath. The age range of children on the CPNS register can be observed in Table 32 below:

Table 32: Age of Children on the CPNS Register (Number & Percentage)

	0-6 months	7-12 months	12-18 months	>18 months	Total
Number & %	47 (44%)	40 (38%)	6 (6%)	13 (12%)	106 (100%)

The primary report types for children on the CPNS in Louth/Meath were: neglect (58%), emotional abuse (31%), sexual abuse (7%) and physical abuse (4%).

Children in care

The number of children in care in Louth/Meath at the end of December 2018 was 242.

Table 33: Number of Children Entering Care in Louth (31/12/2018)

	Louth
No of children in care on 31/12/2018	258
Admissions to care in 2018	66
Admitted to care in 2018 and still in care	48
Admitted to care in 2018 and discharged in 2018	18
Admitted to care in 2018 and turn 18 during 2018	0
Total number discharged in 2018	54
Of those discharged in 2018 how many returned home	30
Turned 18 (now in supported lodgings)	24 (2 in supported lodgings)
Nationality of those who came into care in 2018	
Irish	51
Irish Traveller	1
Latvian	1
Polish	1
Sudanese	1
Unknown	11
Total	66

Prevention, partnership and family support (PPFS)

Meitheal

Meitheal is a national practice model that enables the needs and strengths of children and their families to be properly identified and understood. This way of working will ensure that the proper supports and services are made available to children and families when they are required. Meitheal is one part of a family support system of services for children and families that is all about child and family wellbeing and improving outcomes. Listed below are the statistics for Meitheal referrals for Louth and Meath in 2018.

Figure 4: Meitheals opened per CFSN, Jan–Oct 2018 (Total 57)

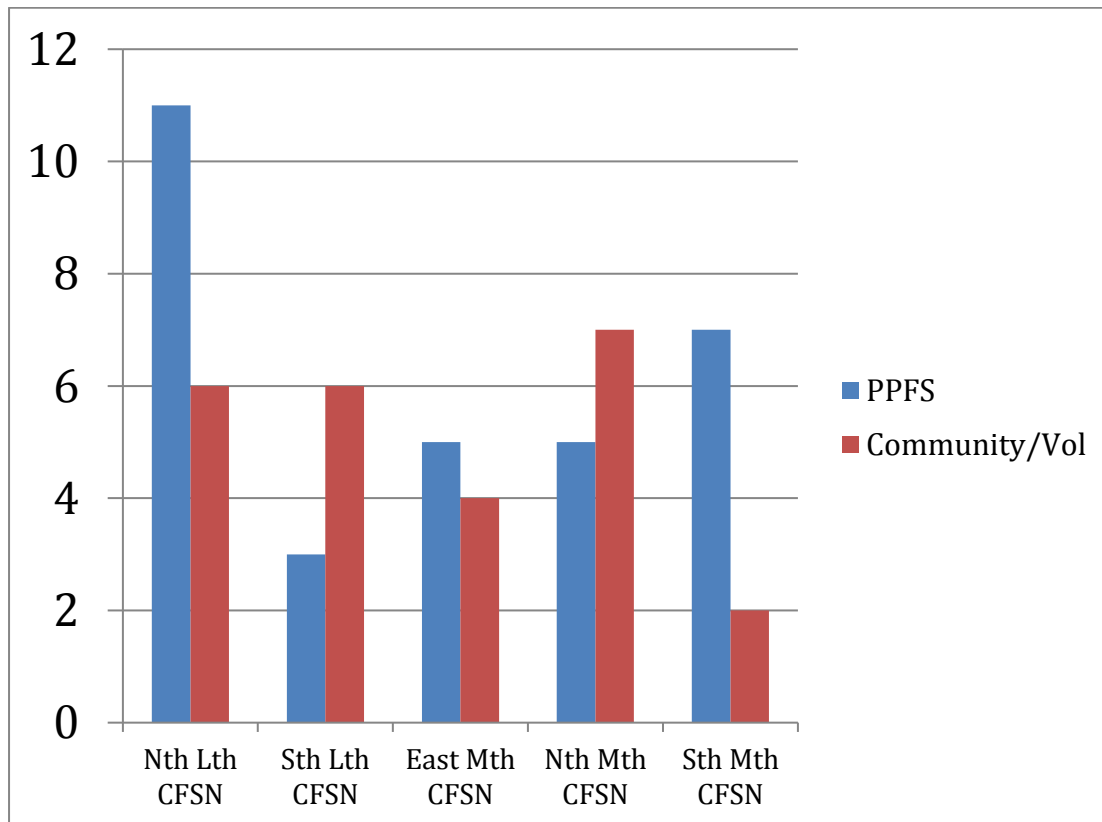


Figure 5: Meitheal lead practitioner breakdown per CFSN, Jan-Oct 2018

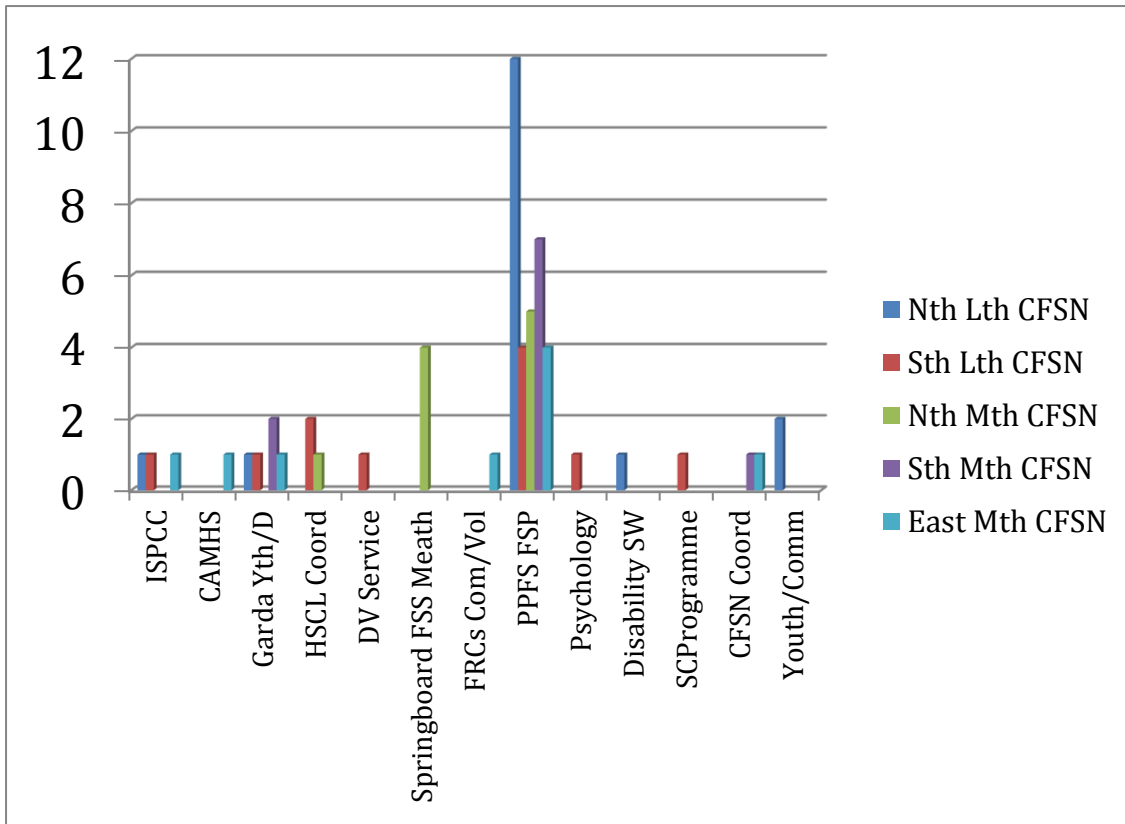
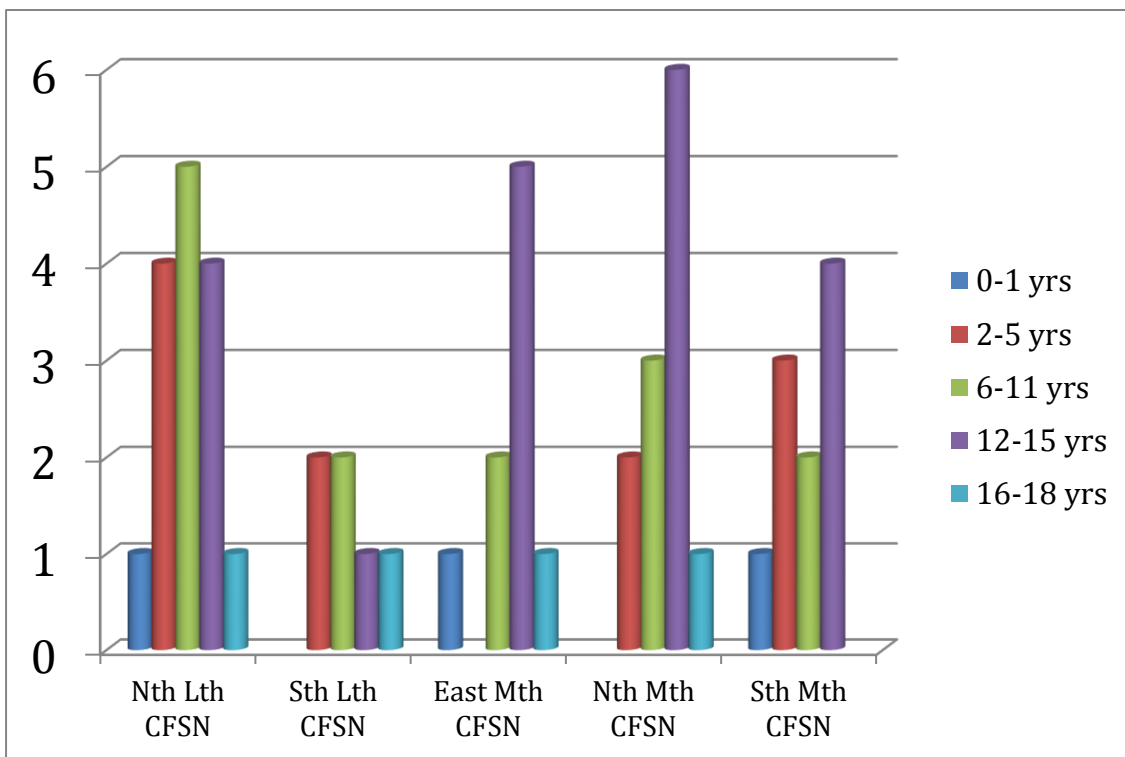


Figure 6: Ages of Meitheal subjects per CFSN



Local authority funding

The draft budget for the year to 31 December 2017 provides for expenditure totalling €98.88m and income of €56.59m. The balance of €42.29m was funded from a combination of the Local Property Tax/General Purposes Grant (which includes the Pension-Related Deductions from Staff Remunerations) and commercial rates.⁴⁸

Louth's spending per capita was below the State average in five of the six budgetary areas described in the Table below. Louth County Council's spending per capita was:⁴⁹

- 13th highest of the 31 local authorities on housing
- 5th lowest of the 31 local authorities on roads
- 7th highest of the 31 local authorities on development management
- 15th lowest of the 31 local authorities on recreation and amenities
- 5th lowest of the 31 local authorities on water
- 13th highest of the 31 local authorities on environment services.

Table 34: Local Authority Spending – €'s per capita

	Housing	Roads	Development and management	Recreation and amenities	Water	Environment Services
Louth	€177	€148.3	€103.1	€61	€52.7	€119.3
Ireland	€253.1	€177.4	€78.7	€89	€87.9	€143.5

Summary

Louth is the second most densely populated county in Ireland after Dublin and contains a young and growing population, with the ninth highest youth dependency ratio per county in the country. The majority of the population live in the two towns of Drogheda and Dundalk. While most of the county is categorised as marginally below average and marginally above average on the Pobal Deprivation Index, Louth is the 13th most disadvantaged local authority in the State, with small areas around the urbanised areas of Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee categorised as being very disadvantaged.

The county faces challenges in a number of areas. Compared to State level, Louth contains lower levels of residents with a third-level education, a higher proportion of births to women under the age of 20, a high registration rate of children and young people with intellectual disabilities and an increasing number of people who are living in homelessness.

48 https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Publications/Finance_Reports/Budgets/Draft-Annual-Budget-2017.pdf

49 <http://www.meath.ie/Community/CommunityDevelopment/MeathEconomicandCommunityMonitor/>

Section 3:

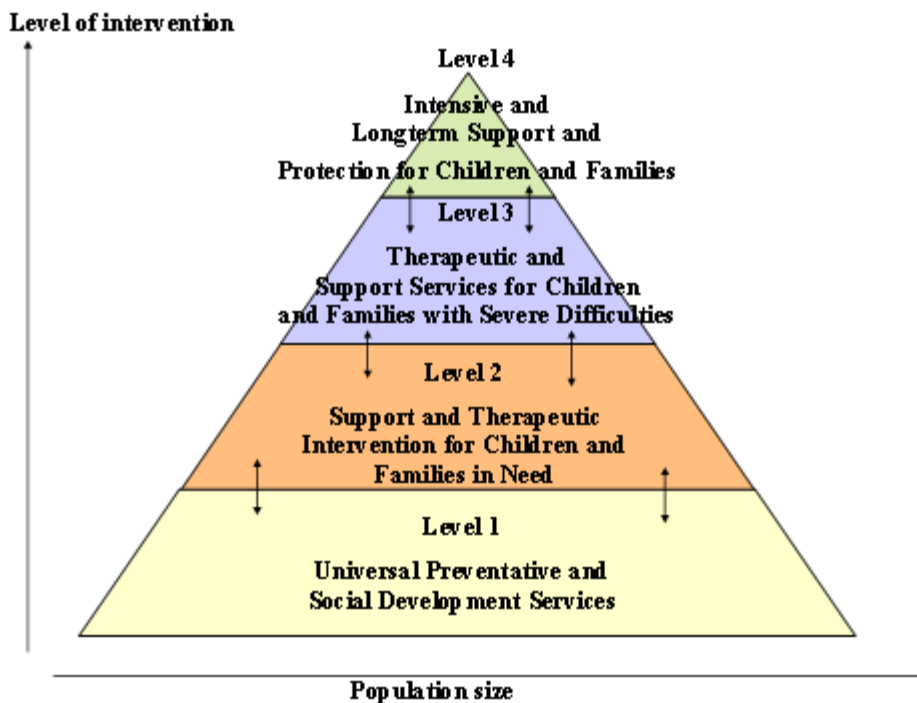
Overview of Services to Children and Families in County Louth

This section summarises up to 650 services provided to children, young people and families in the local area, by statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. This information is based on the audit of services conducted by Louth CYPSC in 2018.

Hardiker Model

Services are presented using the Hardiker Model to reflect the level of intervention which services are providing, from Level 1, being universal preventative and social development services, to Level 4, being intensive and long-term support and protection. The tables below provide a breakdown of services by way of the main national outcomes towards which they work. Please note that service responses have been updated, where possible, for the purposes of this Children and Young People's Plan 2019–2021 to reflect current figures, as of December 2018. If you are seeking further information on any of the services presented please visit www.familysupportlouth.ie or www.helpformychild.ie.

Figure 7: The Hardiker Model



Overview of services

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Health			
Health Service Executive Primary Care	There are 10 Health Centres providing public GP, PHN, Medical Card, GP Visit Card, Child Health, Community Work and Older Persons Health services in Louth. Services also include community speech and language, occupational therapy, dieticians, physiotherapy etc. at community level.	Statutory	Universal
Health Service Executive Public Health Nursing	Public Health Nurses in Louth provide a vast range of community-level services for children, young people and families. Public Health Nurses visit all babies within 72 hours of hospital discharge, provide screening and vaccination clinics, provide support and advice on all aspects of children's needs.	Statutory	Universal
HSE Primary Care	PCTs provide a holistic approach to community needs on a social, welfare, housing, education and health needs basis. The services offered include GP, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Public Health Nursing. There are 46 registered GPs on the GMS system.	Statutory	Universal
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda	A large acute hospital located in Drogheda serving the populations of Louth as well as parts of Monaghan and North Dublin	Statutory	Universal and Targeted
Health Service Executive Disability Services	The Health Service Executive funds agencies in Louth to provide a range of services to support young people who are 18 years + with a disability, including a physical and sensory disability, a moderate-severe intellectual disability, Autism or an Acquired Brain Injury.	Statutory	Targeted
Health Service Executive Child Adolescent and Family Psychology Service	The service provides psychological assessment and intervention for children who present with moderate to severe social, emotional and behavioural difficulties which significantly impact on everyday functioning and impair the child's and family's wellbeing.	Statutory	Targeted
Health Service Executive Child Adolescent Mental Health Service	CAMHS is a specialist tertiary mental health service for children 0-18 with the most severe disabling mental health disorders such as ADHD, eating disorders, depressive disorders and psychotic disorders. Two teams serve North Louth and South Louth.	Statutory	Targeted
Health Service Executive Counselling in Primary Care	CIPC is a short-term counselling service that provides up to eight counselling sessions with a professionally qualified and accredited counsellor/therapist.	Statutory	Targeted

HSE Adult Mental Health Service	This service provides outpatient community-based secondary services. For the purposes of service delivery, the county is geographically divided into North Louth and South Louth, each of which has a multi-disciplinary team.	Statutory	Targeted
Louth County Council	Two swimming pools, in Dundalk and Drogheda Playgrounds, Community Sports Hub and amenity areas	Statutory	Universal
Louth Sports Partnership	Aims to increase participation in sport and to ensure local resources and facilities are used to the best effect. Club development grant scheme; volunteer training; information provision; support for increased participation in sport and recreation at local level.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted
Health Service Executive Drugs and Alcohol Services	HSE Addiction Services support the provision of an integrated range of preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitation services in Louth.	Statutory	Targeted
North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force was established to address issues relating to substance misuse in the North East region.	Community and Voluntary (Funded Services)	Targeted
Health Service Executive Dental Service	Dental services, including emergency services for children aged 16 years and under.	Statutory	Targeted
SNAP	Support group for parents with children who have special needs.	Voluntary	Targeted
Sporting organisations	A total of 188 different categories of sports organisations are listed on the Louth Sports Partnership website.	Voluntary	Universal
Education			
Early Years Care and Education	There are 116 registered crèches providing a range of early years care and education opportunities and after school services. There are 16 childminding services notified to Louth County Childcare committee and 3 notified to Tusla. There are 15 parent and toddler groups. There are 94 ECCE services, 47 TEC services and the numbers of CCS services are 15 CCS and 82 CCSP (as at 07/03/19).	Private and Community and Voluntary	Universal
Schools	Primary Schools: 77 Primary Schools including 8 DEIS schools.	Statutory	Universal
	Secondary Schools: 18 Secondary Schools including 5 DEIS Secondary Schools.	Statutory	Universal
	Special Schools: 3 Special Schools in Louth	Statutory	Targeted
DKIT	Provides a range of third-level education opportunities to students at both degree and Masters level.	Statutory	Universal

Home-school liaison service	Home-school liaison service in designated schools across the county	Statutory	Targeted
National Educational Psychological Service	The NEPS service is a school-based educational psychological service for children and adolescents aged 5–18 years. NEPS supports developmental, learning, social, emotional and behavioural difficulties which impact a pupil's learning and socialisation in school.	Statutory	Targeted
Louth Education and Training Board	5 secondary and 1 Primary ETB Schools	Statutory	Universal
	2 Colleges of Further Education (Drogheda and Dundalk)	Statutory	Universal and Targeted
	Community Education: Back to Education Initiative	Statutory	Targeted
	VTOS (Vocational Training Opportunity Scheme) for 21 yrs+	Statutory	Targeted
	Adult Education Centres offering a range of education, training, apprenticeship and further education opportunities.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted
Music Generation Louth	A music education service for children and young people (0–18) in Co. Louth. It is part of Music Generation – Ireland's National Music Education Programme, initiated by Music Network, co-funded by U2 and The Ireland Funds (2011–14) and by the Department of Education and Skills since July 2014.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted
LMETB Youth Service	3 YouthReach Centres based in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee, which provide second-chance education to young people aged c. 16–21.	Statutory	Targeted
	88 Youth Clubs funded under Local Youth Work Grant Scheme	Community and Voluntary (funded services)	Universal and Targeted
	3 projects under DCYA funded initiative increasing to 6 in March 2019	Community and Voluntary	Universal
	Number of IFI Projects – 6 in 2018 with an increase to 8 in 2019	Community and Voluntary (Funded Services)	Targeted
Louth County Childcare Committee (LCCC)	<p>LCCC coordinates and supports the provision of quality, accessible and inclusive childcare throughout the county.</p> <p>LCCC administers the ECCE, CETS and CCS programmes which provide grants to providers to enable children and parents to access subsidised childcare.</p> <p>LCCC administers the Parent and Toddler grant scheme for local parent and toddler groups.</p> <p>LCCC provides training to the childcare sector including Children First, Access and Inclusion Model, Aistear and Sólta to ensure quality provision.</p>	Community and Voluntary	Universal

National Learning Network	Training courses and support services for people 18 years + who need specialist support (job seekers, unemployed, and people with an illness or disability) in Dundalk	Community and Voluntary	Targeted
Local Development Companies	There is 1 Local Development Company in Louth implementing the SICAP Programme: Louth Leader Partnership. They provide a range of social, community, enterprise and employment supports via State and EU funding programmes. Offices are located at Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted
Louth County Council	Library Service: 3 libraries throughout the county plus a mobile library service which serves local communities and schools. Louth Local Sports and Recreation Partnership supports and promotes inclusive sports and physical activities for all in Louth. Louth County Council Arts Office promotes access to and participation in arts and culture in Louth.	Statutory	Universal
Tusla Educational Welfare Service	Education Welfare Officers in Louth ensure and promote school attendance, participation and retention.	Statutory	Targeted
Safe and Protected from Harm			
Tusla	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support provides early intervention family support at community level through a collective, interagency approach known as Meitheal. Child Protection and Welfare: the duty social work team assesses child protection and welfare referrals; refers to social work teams and provides advice on child protection and welfare concerns. A Child Protection Conference service is available to assess and plan for children who may be at risk of significant harm. Tusla Aftercare Service provides supports to young people leaving care.	Statutory	Targeted
Tusla-funded projects	Specialist youth mentoring projects: YAP, Extern, E+ etc. This is not an exhaustive list of specialist services.		Targeted
The Genesis Programme	A consortium made up of partner organisations delivering the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Based Childhood (ABC) programme • The Changing Lives initiative. The Genesis programme also provides the following interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Incredible suite of programmes • The KiVa anti-bullying programme • The Hanen programme • The First Three initiative • Coaching to capacity building. 	Community	Targeted

Family Resource Centre	There is 1 Family Resource Centre in Louth located in Drogheda .Connect FRC involves local people in identifying needs and developing needs-led responses in the community.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted
MACE Project (Intereg Project)	The MACE project aims to transform the lives of vulnerable families who are at risk from multiple adversities, through identification, early intervention and support in the Newry/Louth Region.		
Rape Crisis North East	Rape Crisis Centre offers free and confidential counselling, support and advocacy to all victims of sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse). They also work with the partners, parents, siblings and friends of victims. They also offer training, education and awareness-raising workshops.	Voluntary	Targeted
ISPC	Listening, supporting and protecting young people via ChildLine support line; Child and Family Support Service, mentoring programme for children and parents, missing children's hotline and advocacy on behalf of children in Louth	Voluntary	Universal and targeted
SUST	Substance use service for under-18s meeting young people in youth organisations across the county.	Statutory	Targeted
Community-based addiction services	A range of services that offer confidential supports and programmes to services users, e.g. Turas Counselling Service and Red Door Project.	Community	Targeted
The Probation Service	The Probation Service in Louth works to reduce the level of crime in the community and increase public safety by the effective assessment and management of offenders, challenging offending behaviour and facilitating the integration of ex-offenders. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual case work • Gaining Ground probation project • JARK project • Perpetrators Programme 	Statutory	Targeted
An Garda Siochana	13 Garda Stations 3 Joint Policing committees in Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee Garda Youth Diversion Projects are community based and support youth development projects which aim to divert young people (aged 12-18 years) from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social or criminal behaviour. These projects are a partnership between the Irish Youth Justice Service, Gardaí and North Connaught Youth and Community Service. Youth Action Projects located in Dundalk and Drogheda.	Statutory	Targeted
Garda Protective Services Unit	Designed to provide protection services to cohorts of people including victims of sexual, domestic or child abuse, prostitution and human trafficking.	Statutory	Targeted
Louth County Council	Roads and water safety: Road Safety Officer delivers safety awareness programmes with schools.	Statutory	Universal
Homeless organisations in the community	Providing a range of diverse services to adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Louth area, e.g. Simon Community, Drogheda Homeless Aid.	Community	Targeted

Dundalk Women's Aid	Refuge and support is available to all women and their children on an open-door policy. It enables growth and development through a philosophy of mutual aid and self-help.	Community	Targeted
Drogheda Women's Refuge	Drogheda Women and Children Refuge and Support Service provides refuge accommodation and outreach supports for women experiencing domestic violence.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted
Economic Security and Opportunity			
Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)	There are 3 Intreo offices in Louth located in Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee, which provide a single point of contact for all income and employment supports. There are 2 Social Welfare offices in Dundalk and Drogheda. Job Path is contracted to the private sector to deliver job activation supports to people who are unemployed.	Statutory	Targeted
Local Employment Service	2 Local Employment Services provides information, guidance and job-searching support as well as training and educational opportunities.	Community and Voluntary (funded)	Targeted
Louth/Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB)	Community training provides training and development opportunities for people who are economically, socially, geographically or educationally disadvantaged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Training Initiative is a project-based training and work experience programme carried out in the local community run by local community groups for unemployed persons aged 18–35 years with low-level education. • Community Training Centres provide vocational training for early school leavers, aged 16–21 years. • Our specialist training providers (NLN) offer a range of flexible training programmes and support services for people who need specialist support (jobseekers, unemployed people with an illness or disability). 	Statutory	Targeted
Louth Leader Partnership	Rural Development Programme (LEADER) Louth. Labour Market Activation programmes: Community Employment (CE), Tús and Job Initiative Scheme (countywide).	Community	Universal
MABS	2 MABS offices in Louth offering financial planning and money advice	Community	Universal
Louth County Council	LCC provides a Housing Service which facilitates the provision of housing for those in need. LCC is responsible for planning, economic development, roads, water and environmental services. Local Enterprise Office: Schools Enterprise Programme; Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur.	Statutory	Targeted

Connected, Respected and Contributing			
LMETB Youth Office	As noted above, LMETB supports 88 youth clubs in Louth which support the participation of young people in Louth.	Statutory	Universal
Louth Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils for young people aged 12–18 in the 31 local authorities of the country, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies.	Statutory	Universal
LGBT groups/ Dundalk Outcomers	Dundalk Outcomers is a social and befriending support group for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans people.	Community	Targeted
Culture Connect	Culture Connect is an intercultural group whose aim is to promote the sharing of cultures between Irish citizens and migrants.	Community	Universal
Society of St Vincent de Paul	Providing support and championing the rights of the poorest members of our society. Examples include a full-time office to meet with clients in financial need, a charity shop run by volunteers to fund their charitable work.	Voluntary	Targeted
Citizens Information Service	Information, advice and advocacy on your rights and entitlements, free legal advice service (FLAC) monthly by appointment in Dundalk and Drogheda.	Voluntary	Universal
Foróige	Garda youth diversion project, youth clubs, youth citizenship, youth leadership, advocacy.	Voluntary	Universal
Louth Carers Association	Provides services to family carers, including young carers. Services include Home Respite service; information; training; advocacy, lobbying, and promotional work.	Voluntary	Universal
Louth Volunteer Centre	An independent organisation working with volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations with offices in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee. The Volunteer Centre also provides an outreach services in other parts of the county where resources allow.	Voluntary	Universal
Louth County Council	The arts service works across five main areas – developmental and community arts, programming, funding and partnership, planning, information and advice.	Statutory	Universal

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Louth

Local needs analysis in County Louth was formally undertaken from June 2017 to the completion of this Children and Young People's Plan in August 2019. The process included a range of actions to ensure the plan reflects the current needs and priorities for children, young people and families in County Louth. The needs analysis below summarises and reflects the data gathered from our consultations with stakeholders, young people, parents and services; the socio-demographic profile of Louth for Louth CYPSC; the facilitated work plan development days in June 2017; and ongoing analysis and reflection undertaken by Louth CYPSC and each of the sub-groups.

Key priority areas of work

In addition to the overall need for enhanced service levels across a range of essential services, the local needs analysis identified that a concerted interagency approach is required in relation to a number of key priority areas over the next three years:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Family support
- Parent support
- Substance misuse
- Trauma-informed aware agencies
- Progression pathways in education, training and employment
- New ways of working
- Child and youth development
- Domestic abuse
- Inclusion of minority groups
- Interagency coordination
- Youth participation
- Resourcing.

Strategic approach to achieving national outcomes

Louth CYPSC's strategic approach to addressing the stated priorities above is underpinned by the following cross-cutting themes:

Enhancing co-ordination

Improving the way in which existing services coordinate their interagency response can secure benefits for the children, young people and families they support.

Achieving sustainability

Identifying the existing supports and interventions in our county that are proven as valuable and ensuring that they are put on a secure footing in terms of ongoing resourcing, core funding and mainstreaming.

Innovation

Incorporating innovation into existing services and establishing new services and interventions is a core part of the plan.

Increasing access to services

Making services and supports more widely available to those who need them is an important theme in this plan.

Continuous professional development

We support our workforce to build their capacity to deliver quality services and supports to families through enhancing knowledge, skills and experience.

Progressive universalism

We aim to strengthen services and supports for all, with particular measures for those who need additional support, with services and interventions that are proportionate to the level of disadvantage.

Early intervention and prevention

The approach recognises the impact of adverse childhood experiences on later outcomes for children, young people and families and takes account of the the body of evidence that strongly demonstrates the value of intervening in the early years of a child's life and early in the development of the need.

Geographic focus

Louth CYPSC acknowledges that there are areas of the county where meeting the needs of children and families can be particularly challenging for a variety of reasons, e.g. high levels of deprivation, low levels of service provision, population growth pressures, rural depopulation, high prevalence of critical incidents, and this will be given due consideration in the implementation of this plan.

Consultations undertaken

Stakeholder consultation

In June 2017 all Louth CYPSC stakeholders were invited to participate in our stakeholder consultation to help inform the planning, review and work plan development. Representatives of 82 stakeholders, from agencies both statutory and community and voluntary, attended the workshop. Attendees were asked to answer a range of questions across all five national outcome areas in order to identify the needs and priorities for children, young people and families from the perspective of their work and experience. The key stakeholder priorities identified from the consultation have been highlighted below according to each national outcome: Health; Education; Safe and Protected; Economic Security; and Connected and Respected. A report highlighting the main priorities was written up and is in the appendices.

Consultations with young people

Louth CYPSC, in partnership with Louth Comhairle na nÓg, ISPCC and Tusla Aftercare service, conducted consultations with young people in Quarter 4 2017 to help the development of our Louth CYPSC work plan. 132 young people from schools, youth clubs and targeted youth services were consulted. The youth workers, counsellors and tutors working with the young people were also interviewed via additional focus groups during this consultation process. The focus groups and questionnaires focused on the five national outcome areas and endeavored to work with young people to identify the strengths and weaknesses of service provision for young people in the county. The issues highlighted via this consultation process have been outlined below and have informed the development of this work plan.

'How are they doing? A Community Perspective on Child Wellbeing' (2017)

This study, carried out by Archways in collaboration with the Genesis Programme and funded through the ABC Programme, provided valuable insights into child wellbeing to researchers, policy makers, those who provide services and members of the community at large. The study was conducted in two separate phases and examined the wellbeing of children aged 7, 10, and 12 years living in Clondalkin, Drogheda and Dundalk. The co-operation of 20 schools was sought so that voices of children could be heard. This report has informed the Louth CYPSC work plan and helped highlight key priorities.

Consultations with parents

The Genesis Programme wished to establish the views of parents in Drogheda and Dundalk in relation to parent forums in the area. In particular, they want to understand:

- Their interest in engaging in such forums
- Who should be involved in such forums
- The issues they would like to see discussed.

Four focus groups were facilitated by an external facilitator, two in Drogheda and two in Dundalk. 31 people were involved: 29 women and two men. The groups lasted about 1.5 hours. The issues section of the research was used in the development of Louth CYPSC work plan.

Facilitated work plan development days

On November 14 2017 a work plan development day was held which engaged members of Louth CYPSC. The day was structured and included: a presentation and review of the Louth CYPSC AIRO Socio-Demographic Report; a review and discussion on the consultations with stakeholders, young people and parents; a presentation and review of the mapping of services for children, young people and families in Louth; a reflection and discussion on the work and achievements of Louth CYPSC and its sub-groups to date. Following these, facilitated focus groups across the five national outcome areas reflected on the emerging themes, priorities and objectives for Louth CYPSC going forward.

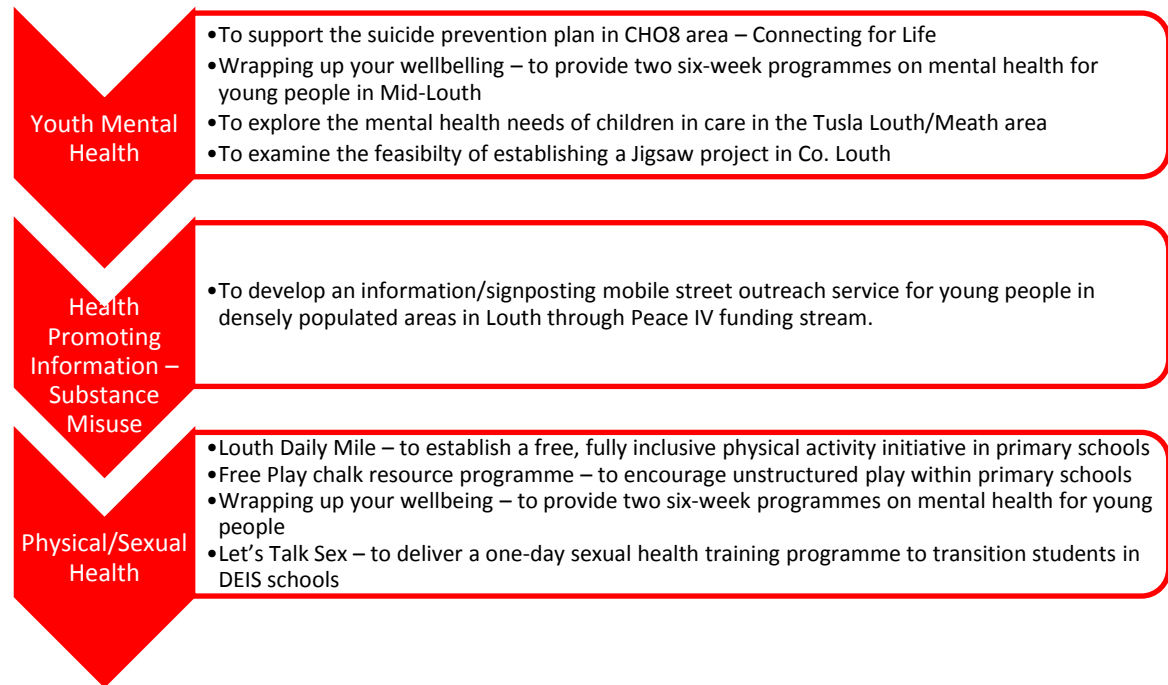
Following the facilitated work plan development day and the work undertaken above, Louth CYPSC and each of the sub-groups then worked to 'translate' the findings and objectives into Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound actions as outlined in this work plan.

The local needs analysis priorities have been summarised and outlined below.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy both mentally and physically	
How are children and young people in Louth doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 35.7%, Louth has the ninth highest youth dependency rate in the State, higher than the national rate (32.3%), indicating a large young population. • Census 2016 recorded that 5.4% of 0–14-year-olds in Louth had a disability, compared to 5.9% at State level and 8.6% of 15–24-year-olds in Louth had a disability, compared to 9.3% at State level. • In 2016, there were 46 births to mothers under the age of 20 in Co. Louth, accounting for 2.5% of births in the county, compared with 1.7% at State level. • 26.9% of children aged 15–17 in the State reported being sexually active, while in the Border region of which Louth is a part the rate was also 26.9%, which is the third highest of the eight regions. • Louth has a higher proportion of all people reporting bad or very bad health (3.1%) than expected from its share of the national population (2.7%).
What did the consultations tell us?	<p>Parents Key issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The link between mental health and bullying • Suicide prevention • The link between mental health and self-esteem (more needed in schools) • Parent mental health was a recurrent theme. <p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a growing awareness, understanding and knowledge of the impact of adverse experiences in early childhood on outcomes for children in later life. The concept of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) is a significant feature of professional discourse about child and family wellbeing at national and local level.
Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing of services to meet identified need is a significant challenge for many services in Louth, including disability, mental health, PHN and dual diagnosis. • There are a number of parental support initiatives through the Genesis Programme in Louth. The programme is committed in 2019 to extending the suite of programmes it delivers and its geographical reach. • There is no defined youth mental health initiative in the county such as Jigsaw. This initiative targets young people in a youth-friendly environment and is proven to be a successful model in engaging with young people. The Jigsaw model can be an early intervention service which can prevent later and more costly intervention. • Research supports priorities such as low breast-feeding rate – which requires a co-ordinated approach, linkage to national policy and resources. The Genesis ‘Preparing for Baby’ was noted along with the Teen Parent Support Programme (TPSP) and preventative measures to address teen pregnancy

Outcome 1:

Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing priorities for Louth

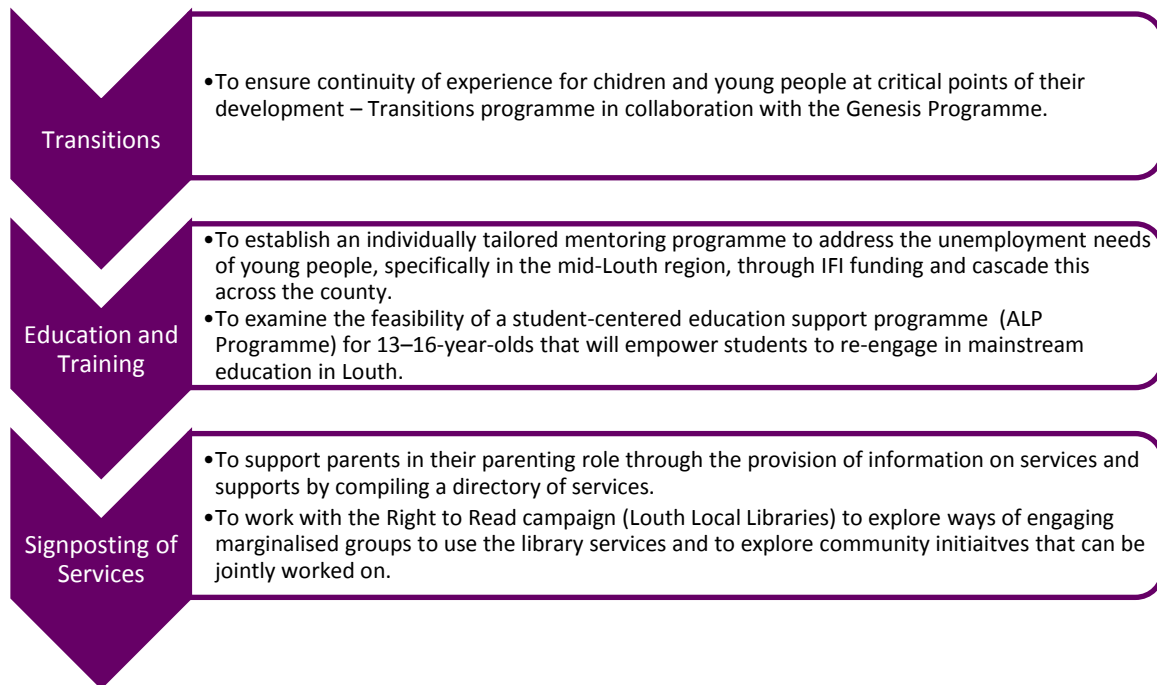


Outcome 2: Achieving in all areas of learning and development

<p>How are children and young people in Louth doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Louth, 19.4% have a third-level degree or higher, compared to 23.5% at State level, the 12th lowest of 31 Local Authorities. Louth contains the 12th highest rate of low educational achievement (no formal/primary only – 12.2%), higher than the State level of 10.3%. • There were 77 primary schools in Louth for the 2017/2018 school year with an average class size of 25.5 students, higher than the State average of 24.6 per class. • Absenteeism levels at primary schools are at 13% (Outcomes4children data 2015–2016) compared to the national Average of 11.4% for primary schools. • 78% of the 105 pre-school services under contract to deliver Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Louth meet the basic capitation criteria, compared to 62% in the State. 22% of pre-school services under contract to deliver ECCE meet the higher capitation criteria, compared to 38% in the State.
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues relating to primary schooling include: absenteeism, supporting learning needs of children in care, helping them to achieve their potential, trauma-informed care in schools, increasing early intervention at primary level. • Managing transitions is important: pre-school to primary, primary to post-primary, post-primary to third-level/further training or employment. • School attendance rates are important. Absenteeism rates across Louth are above national levels, particularly in primary schools, and there are concerns relating to specific groups, e.g. Travellers. • Building literacy and numeracy of young people: early intervention and family-based programmes are critical in achieving good outcomes. <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information deficits: parents don't know what is available for their children. Parents need to have accessible, easy-to-reach sources of information in a soft copy format. <p>Children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on and investment in 15–18-year-olds, specific programmes and education pathways for this grouping, and consideration given to specific agencies focusing on this grouping. • Need for age alignment as young people can leave school at 15 but Youthreach commences at 16. • Apprenticeships in non-traditional areas.

<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<p>The following service deficits were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy and numeracy programmes for young people – early intervention and family-based programmes are critical in achieving good outcomes. • Services need to ensure that information is accessible to all including parents with low levels of literacy. • Managing transitions is important- pre-school to primary, primary to post-primary, post-primary to third-level/further training or employment. Vulnerable groups tend to drop out of education and services at critical points. • School attendance/suspensions needs to be explored. Rates across Louth are above national levels, there are concerns relating to specific groups, e.g. Travellers, particular communities.
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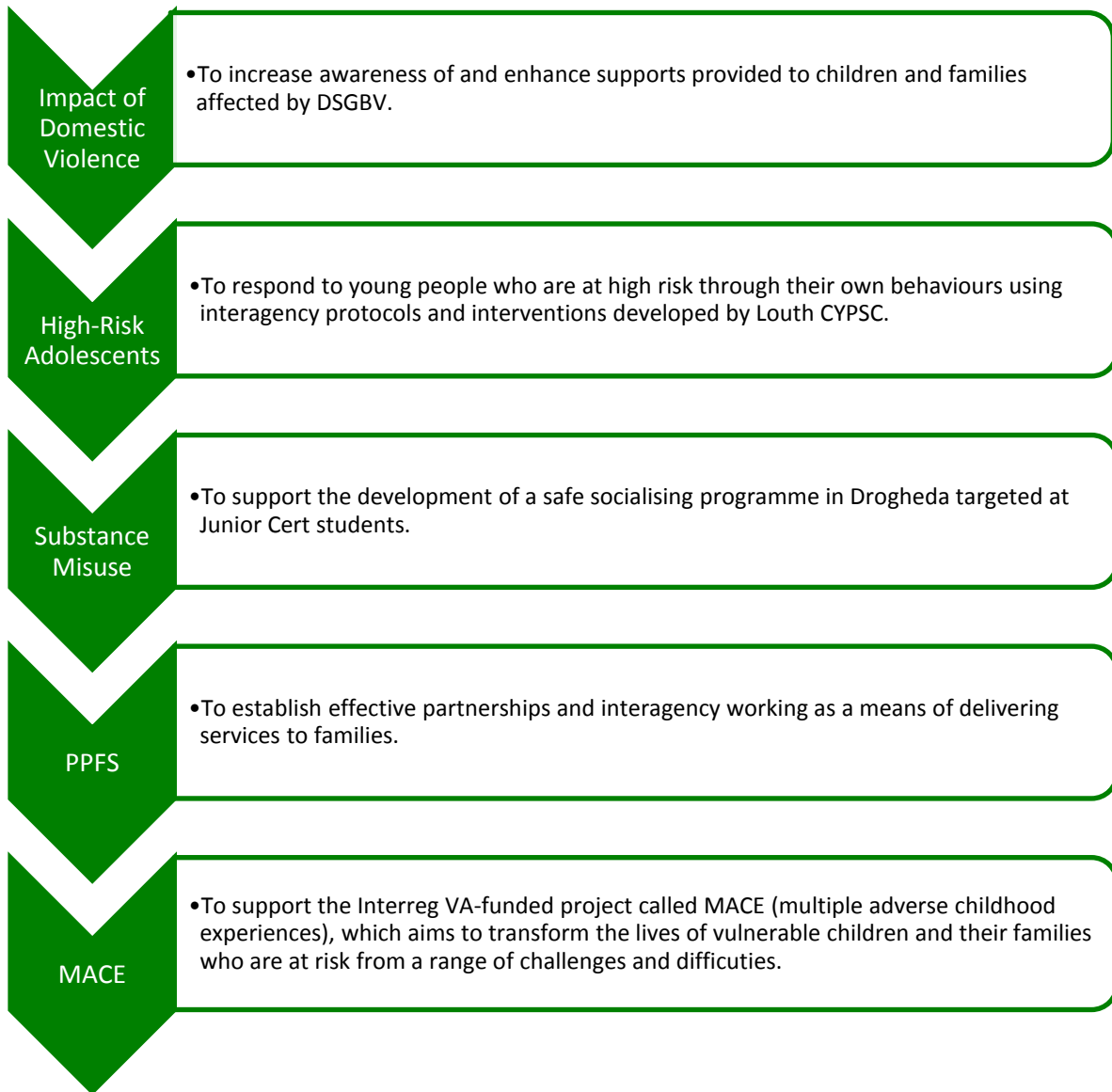
Outcome 2: Learning and development priorities for Louth



Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

<p>How are children and young people in Louth doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from Department of housing indicate that County Louth had a record 176 people designated as homeless – the fourth highest homelessness figure in the country (July 2019). • In 2015, despite a decrease of 6% in the number of children referred from the previous year, the number of referrals to Garda Diversion Programmes increased by 22%, the highest proportional increase in the country by Garda Divisions. Louth’s ratio of 2.4 referrals per child is above the State average of 2.0 and the highest average rate of referrals in the country. • People who live in disadvantaged communities (as per the Pobal HP Deprivation Index) make up 19.4% of Louth’s population, higher than the national county average of 14.4% • There were 258 children in care at the end of 2018.
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support transitions for vulnerable young people, i.e. young people leaving care • The provision of therapeutic supports for victims of domestic abuse and crime • New ways of working with adolescents and communities exposed to drug intimidation and crime <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on parenting programmes • Help with play techniques • Building the capacity of parents to participate in education, programmes, etc. • How to talk to children about drugs and alcohol <p>Children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence and the threat of violence among young people. It is normalised behaviour among some groups of young people. Young people are fearful around their personal safety – afraid of getting attacked when they go out to socialise. • With the increased use of Benzos and other drugs among young people, drug-related intimidation is a problem in some areas. Awareness of drug intimidation programmes for communities.
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is a broad range of family support services in Louth from Hardiker level 1 to level 4, the need for more early intervention and prevention approaches was highlighted. • Additional professional development and training is required to enhance community-based family support services. • There is a need to look at innovative ways of working with young people.

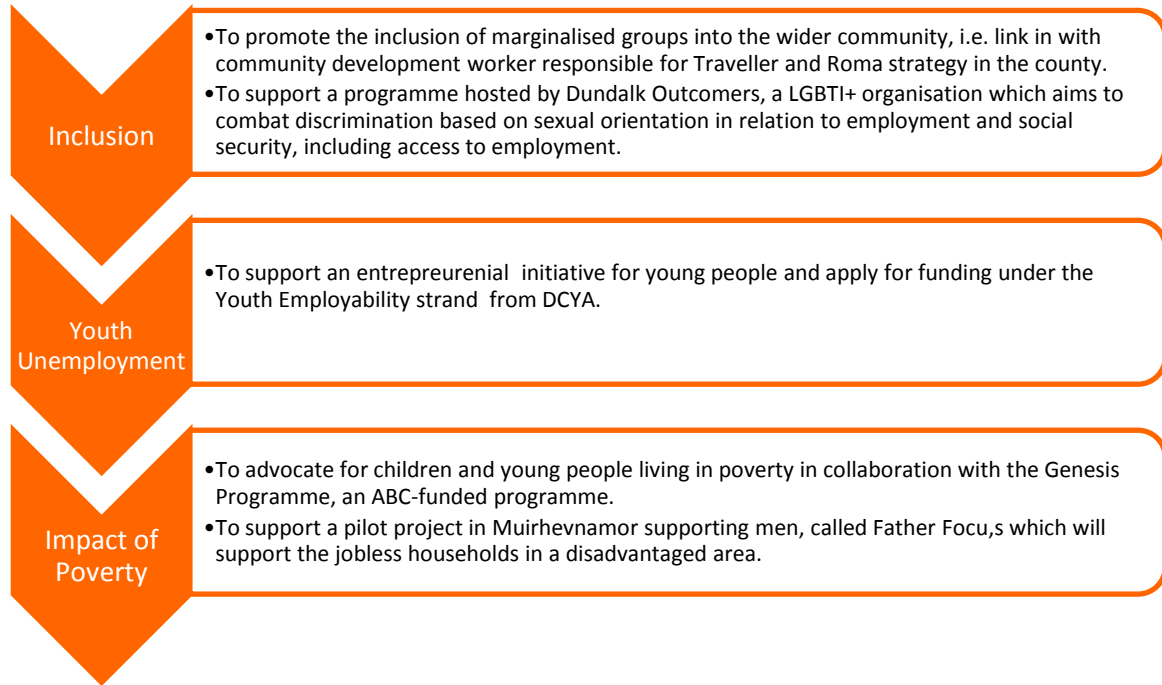
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm priorities for Louth



Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity	
How are children and young people in Louth doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louth has a higher proportion of people who live in disadvantaged areas (3.66%) than expected from its share of the national population (2.71%). • Louth has the second highest number of tenants in receipt of rent allowance as a proportion of its population – in Louth 0.7% of its population receives them, compared to a national average of 0.3%. • Louth has a higher proportion of rent allowance recipients than expected from its share of the national population (which is 2.7%) and its share of this target group (5.5%). • Lone parents make up 4.3% of Louth’s population, higher than the average of 3.7% in all other counties. • The unemployed make up 7.8% of Louth’s population, more than the national local authority average of 6.5%. • Unskilled workers make up 3.8% of Louth’s population – higher than the national county average of 3.2%. • NEETs make up 1.8% of Louth’s population – higher than the national average of 1.4% of the population in each county.
What did the consultations tell us?	<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empirical studies have identified that the characteristics of parents, other circumstances being equal, are likely to exert the main influence on the wellbeing of children, socially and economically.⁵⁰ As such, it is essential that early intervention supports are provided, particularly to more vulnerable family units, to enable children to reach life stage development targets and to give them the capacity to achieve their full life-cycle potential socially and economically. <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity with parents is paramount; personal development is what parents want.
Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater collaboration and interagency working needs to be established and strengthened across youth employment, education and training supports. • A range of innovative employment, training and education opportunities for NEETs needs to be created and co-ordinated in Louth. • Investment needed in evidence-informed programmes for children and young people to support educational achievement (pre-compulsory/ compulsory school-age children). • Any local planning needs to be cognisant of the Irish policy responding to the EU Youth Guarantee – Pathways to Work (2014). Particular attention needs to be focused on those under 25 who are most removed from the labour market and now in the Long-Term Unemployed category (over a year).

⁵⁰ T. Haase, J. Pratschke, *New Measures of Deprivation for the Republic of Ireland*, Pobal: Dublin 2008.

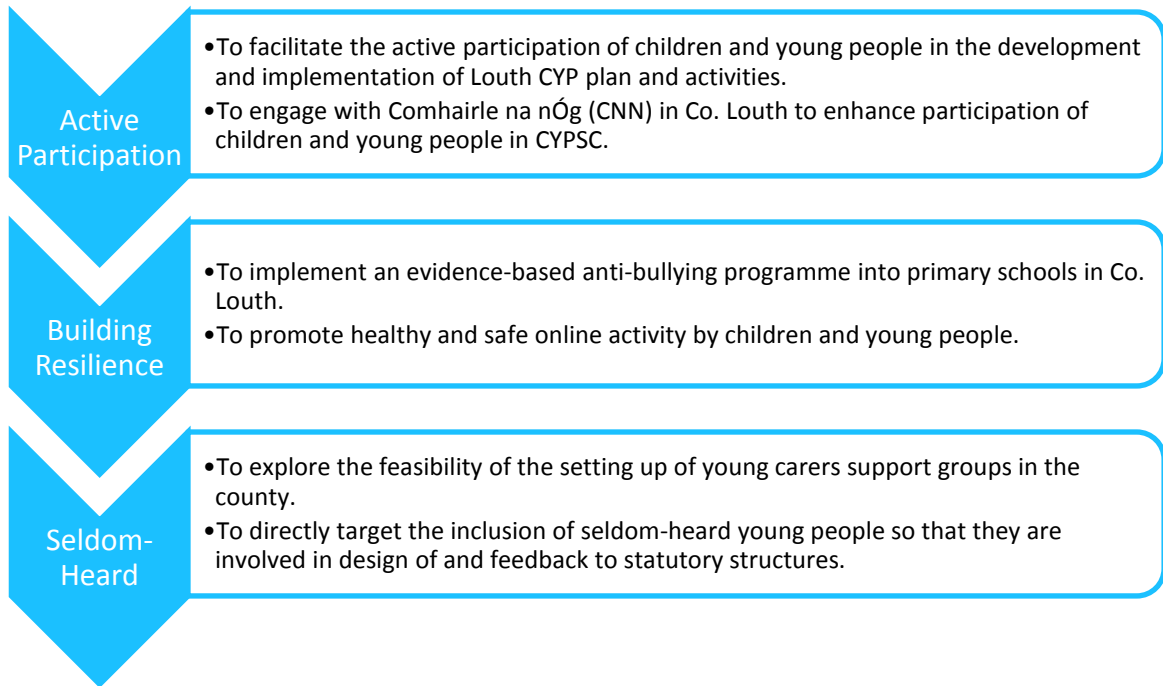
Outcome 4: Economic security priorities for Louth



Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing	
<p>How are children and young people in Louth doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with <i>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures</i> and the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making 2015–2020, Louth CYPSC is committed to promoting opportunities for the participation of children and young people in decision-making bodies. • ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) during childhood were significantly associated with risk behaviours and poor health outcomes in adulthood and different long-term effects on health outcomes in adulthood. • The Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) study 2014 details that 27.4% of children and young people report being bullied at school. BOBF highlights that groups who may be particularly vulnerable to bullying and discrimination include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) young people, those in detention or in care, and children and young people from minorities. • Nationally, significantly more girls than boys report that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week (PISA Survey, 2015), and 73.4% of 15-year-olds reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week. This was less with those of an immigrant background. There were differences by social class but they were not significant. • There are a number of targeted projects for young people in Louth including SPY (Special Projects for Youth), Garda Youth Diversion, YouthReach, Foroige and a range of targeted programmes offered via Family Resource Centres.
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Stakeholders advised Louth CYPSC as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to include the voice of children and young people in our work. • The rights of children and young people as set out in the UNCRC should be promoted via Louth CYPSC. • We need to improve the inclusion of New Irish communities in our work as well as Traveller young people. • LGBT+ youth need to be considered. • Youth representation on Louth CYPSC needs to be developed. • Continued partnership with Louth Comhairle na nÓg remains a core objective. • Young carers were identified as a cohort who have not received funding or momentum to develop in the county. <p>Parents told us that we need to prioritise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people to socialise without alcohol. • The participation and inclusion of all young people;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives to tackle bullying and internet safety. • Bullying was the priority issue for most parents. They were concerned about bullying in and out of school. They discussed how to raise the issues with the school and how to get schools (in some cases) to understand how serious it is for their children. What is the definition of bullying? e.g. Is exclusion bullying? They were concerned about cyber bullying and felt they did not know enough about what was ‘going on’ with social media for their children. • Screen time Parents were concerned about several aspects of screen time, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to restrict screen time • Whether alternatives can be provided • Understanding the impact • The link between screen time and cyber bullying • Screen time and younger children.
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of Family Support services in the county which are attending to the needs of vulnerable and ‘at risk’ children, families and local communities, with a view to supporting them through vulnerable times and ‘stabilising’ them to a greater level of functioning and integration into their own families and communities. Such projects include the Springboard Initiative, Connect Family resource centre, Drogheda, North Dundalk Family Support Hub. • Tusla, in collaboration with other key agencies, have established Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) hubs across the county which will be an important way to identify, work with and co-ordinate supports for vulnerable children, families and local communities. The existence of family support projects as a basis for these hubs will play a central role in supporting this work. • It is important that young people, especially those who are most disadvantaged, have the opportunity and are actively targeted to engage in youth development projects which support building resilience and developing strong social networks. This youth work needs to be supported and its funding protected. • The value of both youth work and community development must be recognised and supported within all plans aiming at creating supportive networks and engagement of young people within their local community and society as a whole.

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing priorities for Louth



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

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth mental health services • Substance misuse • Health and wellbeing
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Learning Programme • Transitions • Right to Read
3. Safe and protected from harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence • High-risk adolescents • PPFS • MACE
4. Economic security and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth unemployment • Jobless households • Traveller strategy • Aftercare scoping exercise
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Communities • Information on services • Participation of young people
Change Management	Local Priority Areas
Change management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing Louth CYPSC • Research and information • Interagency working • Influencing policy and practice • Social media platforms

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

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans or work	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Youth mental health and wellbeing	To support the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Policy – Connecting for Life at a local level	No. of inter-agency meetings attended No. of programmes supported	3 interagency meetings attended 2 mental health programmes supported in the community sector	Implement the actions identified and assigned in Connecting for Life plan	2019–2021	Mental health Lead CHO Area 8	Connecting for Life: Ireland's national strategy to reduce suicide 2015–2020, LECP 2016–2022 8.4.5 Addressing inequalities	National Outcomes 2, 3 and 5
Youth mental health and wellbeing	To support the mental health needs of children in care and adopted in Louth/Meath through improved collaboration between HSE and Tusla	Number of interagency meetings to support the research study Number of sessions to consider findings of research study	3 interagency meetings to support the study 2 meetings attended	To write a robust report based on focus groups To explore the challenges and opportunities to strengthen collaboration between Tusla and HSE To raise awareness of early attachment and how it impacts the lives of children in care To consider the findings of the Research report and respond as appropriate	2019 2020	HSE and CAMHS	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures 2014–2020 HSE Vision for Change	National Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans or work	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Youth mental health and wellbeing	To explore the feasibility of establishing a Jigsaw project in Co. Louth	Numbers of mapping exercises completed Outline of current service provision A feasibility study completed	1 mapping exercise completed 1 baseline report completed 1 feasibility study completed	Evaluate the need for this programme using current statistics, examples from practice and evidence-based reports. Contact made with national Jigsaw office. Decision made to go forward with an application for a service like this.	2021	HSE/Tusla and community groups	LECP 2016–2021 Mental Health of Young People	National Outcomes 2, 3 and 5
Substance misuse	To develop an information/signposting mobile street outreach service for young people in Louth	A cross-community, cross-border project developed with multi-agency buy-in and funding secured through Peace IV initiative	1 funding application developed and funding secured 100 interventions developed and delivered 15 youth workers trained	Successful application to Peace 4 funding stream. Stakeholder buy-in from youth services across Louth. Targets achieved around numbers of young people accessed. Training provided to youth workers and agencies.	2019–2020	Drugs and Alcohol forum, Louth County Council Youth organisation awarded the tender	Healthy Ireland Action Plan 2016–2020 – Louth LCDC National Drugs Strategy 2.1.19	National Outcomes 2, 3, and 5

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans or work	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Healthy Ireland Health and Wellbeing strategic plan	To develop and implement a 2-year strategic plan targeting physical activity, healthy eating/obesity, and sexual health	Implement-ation of 2-year strategic plan No. of stakeholders involved in actions No. of initiatives developed and funded	All actions implemented and evaluated All relevant stakeholders involved in delivery, where relevant	Establish a Healthy Ireland Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group. Implement key actions identified; evaluate all actions.	2019–2021	HSE Health and Wellbeing / Healthy Ireland Advisory Group, Louth Leader Partnership in collaboration with CYPSC	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing (2013–2025) CHO8 Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan – Louth County Council	National Outcomes 2, 3 and 5

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Transitions	To support transitions in early education for 3-5-year-olds	<p>New materials developed – Flying Start Programme materials</p> <p>More coverage of Little steps to big school in settings across Louth</p> <p>Reduce the numbers of children and young people who don't transition to key stages</p>	<p>Resources developed for ELC centres</p> <p>Interagency work on developing materials</p>	<p>A review of current practice, research and theory and an exploration of the models that support transitions</p> <p>Audit of what is available in Louth at present</p> <p>To link in with the transitions working group established in the Genesis Programme</p> <p>To link in with the pilot school readiness programme being piloted in St Joseph's School, Dundalk</p> <p>To contribute to the establishment of a transitions toolkit for special needs students</p>	2018–2019	<p>The Genesis Programme</p> <p>Louth County Childcare Committee</p> <p>All Partners</p> <p>All partners</p> <p>All members</p>	<p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures</p> <p>Healthy Ireland: A framework for improved health and Wellbeing, 2013–2025</p> <p>LECP 2016–2021</p> <p>Early intervention action</p> <p>National Disability Strategy implementation plan 2013</p> <p>National Council for Special Education (NCSE)</p>	<p>Strengthening transitions</p> <p>Engagement and learning</p> <p>Supporting parents</p>

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Education and training	To establish an individually tailored mentoring programme to address the unemployment needs of young people specifically in the mid-Louth region (funding permitting) in different settings in Louth	Funding proposal completed	Funding secured from IFI 10 young people aged 15–25 who are experiencing or at risk of unemployment	A proposal written up and submitted to IFI to fund the programme A needs assessment completed on the issues that young people face An individually tailored programme addressing the young person's specific needs Monitoring and evaluation	2018–2021	Dee Hub – Ardee and a consortium of partners	SICAP Programme LLP FET Plan LMETB LECP Early Intervention Links to the Junior Cycle	Achieving full potential
Education and training	To examine the feasibility of a student-centered education support programme called ALP (Alternative Learning Programme) for 13–16-year-olds that will empower students to re-engage in mainstream education in Louth	No. of alternative options for young people at risk of early school leaving	Pilot programme established in Co. Louth A letter of support to LMETB senior management Presentation to CYPSC meeting Member of working group to establish rationale and assessment of need	Establish a working group to provide oversight. Invite youth officer to CYPSC meeting to present an overview of the project. Provide a letter of support to LMETB senior management supporting the proposal.	2019–2020	Tusla- EWS Dept of Education SCP Local schools LMETB	Tusla Participation, Attendance and Expulsion strategies Wellbeing guidelines in post-primary schools Literacy and numeracy for learning and life	Achieving full potential

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
School attendance	To increase awareness of the importance of school attendance, targeting primary schools	No. of schools engaged Suspension rates of children in primary school examined 1 seminar conducted with school personnel in Dundalk	19 primary schools in Dundalk	1 seminar conducted aimed at school personnel in Dundalk Follow-up meeting on how restorative practice can be rolled out in schools in Dundalk	2019–2020	SCP The Genesis Programme Principals of schools CAMHS EWS	SCP Strategic plans The Genesis Programme plan Tusla Corporate Plan (2018–2020) Action plan for education	Outcomes 1 and 3
Information on services available in Louth	To develop a website outlining services/contacts/projects that are happening in Co. Louth across the 0–24 life stage	No. of hits Coverage across Louth More up-to-date information on programmes, events, etc. that are happening	1 website constructed: www.familysupportlouth.ie	Work with a web designer to create a modern, user friendly web-ite for Louth CYPSC Identify all key contacts and key projects in the county Keep the website updated Increase awareness with key stakeholders	2019	Tusla	Communication plans of all partner organisations	Ensure quality services Support parents Cross-governmental and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development

Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Numeracy and literacy initiatives for communities	To support the Right to Read initiative and provide a link between LCC and communities	No. of sessions with community groups	1 session annually Contact made with potential partners and plan developed for roll-out of programme	Increased contact with the Library Service and community groups in Louth	2019–2021	The Library Service, Louth County Council Community groups	Right to Read campaign Nurture Programme – HSE National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People 2011–2020	Ensure quality services Support parents Cross-governmental and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Impact of domestic violence on children and young people	<p>To increase the knowledge and skills among practitioners on the impact of domestic violence on children, young people and their families</p> <p>To promote best practice in responding to families who are impacted by domestic violence</p>	<p>No. of participants</p> <p>No. of presentations to regional DSGBV personnel</p>	<p>1 nomination approved</p> <p>Training for 50 practitioners in NVR approach to frontline work</p>	<p>To nominate a representative from Tusla to sit on the Probation Service perpetrators programme</p> <p>Examine the area of therapeutic supports to children affected by domestic violence</p> <p>To provide 2 training programmes on non-violent resistance training for responding to child to parent violence and abuse to frontline staff in Co. Louth</p>	<p>2019</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2019–2020</p>	<p>Tusla along with DV providers</p> <p>The Probation Service</p> <p>Community and voluntary services</p> <p>An Garda Síochána</p> <p>EWS</p>	<p>BOBF</p> <p>National Strategy on DV, Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2016–2021</p>	<p>Outcomes 1, 2 and 5</p>
High-risk adolescents	<p>To respond to young people who are at high risk through their own behaviour and through the actions and inaction of their parents</p>	<p>List of private residential units compiled</p> <p>Interagency protocols activated</p>	<p>List distributed to sub-group</p> <p>Interagency meeting re protocols developed</p>	<p>Continuation of an interagency response to adolescents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency protocols, e.g. Meitheal practice model, CYPSC protocols, critical incident plans • Drug intimidation programmes delivered • Develop a designated liaison persons' forum to support decisions re thresholds, emerging trends and responses • To link in with a working group to devise a strategy to recruit foster carers in Louth 	<p>2019</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2019</p>	<p>Tusla along with DV providers</p> <p>The Probation Service</p> <p>Community and voluntary services</p> <p>An Garda Síochána</p> <p>EWS</p>	<p>Children First (2017)</p> <p>Meitheal Toolkit 2016</p>	<p>Outcomes 1, 2 and 5</p>

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Substance misuse – positive lifestyle choices	Supporting the development of safe socialising practices in Co. Louth through activities in Louth for young males and females to engage in positive lifestyle choices as an alternative to engaging in antisocial behaviour Link-in with existing drugs and alcohol fora to ensure the youth agenda is progressed in relation to prevention and treatment	No. of training sessions for youth workers No. of packs developed No. of information events in schools	1 session on adolescent brain development and alcohol 1000 packs developed and distributed Information in 3 schools in Drogheda Attendance at Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum	Convening of an interagency initiative to put together ‘Don’t pour your dreams away’ stay-safe packs Co-ordination of the development and distribution of the stay-safe packs Co-ordination with second-level schools and delivery of stay-safe guidance to all young people in transition year awaiting Junior Certificate results Convening of a multi-agency conversation by CYPSC on the issue of substance misuse by under-18s Support the delivery of Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum action plan on actions relating to youth Support the NERDATF in promotion of programmes for Louth Sibling Support Programme	2019	Boomerang Youth Service, Drogheda	Healthy Ireland LECP 9.3, 10.3 National Youth Mental Health Task Force National Youth Strategy CH01 Youth MH Junior Cert Resilience Building HSE Healthy Families Aistear Early Childhood Curriculum Framework National Drugs Strategy Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017–2025 Goal 2	Outcomes 1, 2 and 5

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
PPFS	<p>To establish effective partnership and inter-agency working as a means of delivery within all PPFS work streams</p> <p>To advise and support the implementation of MACE Project through active promotion of its benefits</p> <p>To identify ways in which parents from all settings can engage with PPFS/Tusla and other agencies</p>	<p>No. of services/ organisations actively engaged with PPFS committee on a cross-sectoral basis</p> <p>Level of engagement at CFSN level</p> <p>Source of MACE requests and training</p> <p>Involvement of services/ parents working across all levels of Hardiker model</p>	<p>Active representation across sectors</p> <p>Evidence of uptake of interventions and training opportunities across agencies</p> <p>Children who are negatively impacted by parental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alcohol use • drug use • mental health difficulties • homelessness 	<p>To participate on the PPFS steering committee and review activities on an incremental basis</p> <p>Support the development/rollout of the MACE Project. Support the provision and uptake of appropriate training on a cross-sectoral basis.</p> <p>Assist in the development of a Parenting Implementation Plan to increase understanding and responses to children who are negatively impacted by parental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alcohol use • drug use • mental health difficulties • homelessness. 	<p>2019–2020</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2019</p>	<p>Tusla along with Outcome 3 members and community and voluntary sector</p> <p>MACE Consortium led out by Tusla staff</p> <p>Parenting strategy led out by PPFS</p>	<p>BOBF Participation Toolkit 2016</p> <p>Meitheal Toolkit 2016</p> <p>50 key messages</p>	<p>Outcomes 1,2 and 5</p>

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transform-ational goals
Young Travellers	To support the development of a Traveller interagency group with an emphasis on being a champion for the participation and progression of Travellers within labour market programmes	A working group established	Interagency links with community development worker in Louth established through 3 meetings per year	To create links between key stakeholders to identify those who will benefit most from inclusion in programmes	2020	LLP LCC DSP Tusla SOLAS	SICAP LECP National Traveller/ Roma Inclusion strategy 2016-2020	Outcome 2: Active learning Transformational goals: Ensure quality services Cross-government and interagency collaboration
LGBTI	To support a programme hosted by Dundalk Outcomers which aims to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation in relation to employment and social security, including access to employment, training, pay and freedom to join unions and professional organisations	Awareness raising with frontline staff in relation to best practice in supporting LGBTI young people and their families	1 half day training programme for Tusla staff 2 meetings with Dundalk Outcomers to assess the needs of LGBTI young people accessing training, education and employment	To support a pilot programme hosted by Dundalk Outcomers aimed at supporting initiatives favouring the labour inclusion of LGBT, particularly transgender, people To explore what trade unions can facilitate to support the LGBTI + community	2019-2020	Dundalk Outcomers LLP Trade unions	LECP Social Inclusion LCC LLP	Listen to and involve the voice of young people

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transform-ational goals
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETS)	To support a joint application to DCYA for young people in Dundalk	No. of programmes established	1 application designed and delivered in Dundalk To strengthen links with 4 existing stakeholders	1 proposal written up and submitted to LMETB for submission to DCYA for funding a training programme	2019	Dundalk Youth Centre LMETB YouthWork Ireland Cox's Demesne Youth and Community Project	LMETB youth work plan Action Plan for Jobs	Connected and contributing to their world
Impact of poverty	To support the Genesis Programme in the implementation phase of the project	Numbers of Programme Committee meeting attended Numbers of high-level meetings with funders to plot strategic direction	4 executive meetings per year. 2 meetings a year with key stakeholders and funders to advocate on behalf of the project	Support the work of the Genesis Programme To be a member of the Programme Management Committee of the Genesis Programme To co-work on joint pieces of work pertinent to emerging issues in the county To assist in the realignment of ABC programme within Tusla commissioning department	2019–2021	LLP Tusla Genesis Consortium	Report card on children's rights 2017 European convention on Human Rights LECP	Early intervention and prevention Listen to the voice of the child

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transform-ational goals
Seldom-heard young people	To gain an understanding of the profile of those young people in aftercare (aged 18–23) that are in education and training	Report on the progression routes of young people in aftercare and enablers and barriers to participation	1 scoping report completed	To conduct a scoping report in relation to barriers to education and training for young people in aftercare aged 18–23. This will be followed up by recommendations and a meeting with Area Manager re report.	2019	Aftercare service, Tusla	Tusla Louth/ Meath Service Plan 2018 LECP 2016–2021 Young persons supports	National Outcomes 2 and 5 Strengthen transitions
Jobless households	To increase skills and further options for employment/training developments for lone parents	No. of Father Focus programmes delivered No of lone parents accessing the programme	1 programme per year 10 parents accessing the programme	To pilot an innovative creative programme called Father Focus in Dundalk with a particular emphasis on fathers	2019–2020	LLP DSP CYPSC	CSO stats Pathways to Work New policy on jobless households SICAP plan LCDC	Outcome 5

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Active youth participation	To facilitate the active participation of children and young people in the development and implementation of Louth CYP plan and activities	No. of young people involved in the consultation process/mechanisms	A consultation report 2017 and other consultations conducted and incorporated into the CYP plan, to be expanded on going forward Young person recruited to sit on Louth CYPSC meetings	Using existing structures to support consultations and active youth participation, e.g. CNN AGM, Investing in Children Awards, Gaisce Awards, PPN Awards, Children in Care fora	2019–2021	Outcome 5 group	National Participation Strategy (2016) CYPSC Seed Funding Programme Tusla Participation strategy	BOBF 2014–2020
				To ensure inclusivity across all areas – disability, sexuality, age range, ethnicity, seldom-heard groups – through communication with specific groups, terms of reference, ways of working To identify, profile and support models of good practice, such as the Lundy model of participation, in this area among organisations to develop capacity within Louth Cross-reference with all sub-groups regarding what we want to ask children and young people, e.g. link in with LMETB Youth Officer Explore the feasibility of consulting with pre-school children to elicit views on living in Louth	2019–2020			

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Active participation	To engage with Comhairle na nÓg (CNN) in Co. Louth to enhance participation of children and young people in CYPSC	No. of Comhairle meetings No. of issues raised	2 meetings/ events per annum Presentation to CNN at meetings by co-ordinator	Attend meetings of Comhairle na nÓg in an advisory capacity Raise issues of interest to CNN with CYPSC members Invite CNN to attend Louth CYPSC meeting to outline the work plan	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	CYPSC Co-ordinator and Comhairle na nÓg	National Youth Strategy	Outcome 5 Transformational goal: Listen to and involve young people
Building resilience	To implement an evidence-based anti-bullying programme into primary schools in Co. Louth To promote an online safety event for young people	Reduction in both self- and peer-reported bullying and victimisation in schools Reduction in anxiety and depression among students Increased pro-social behaviours among peer groups No. of events	1,600 children, 800 parents, 100 teachers 1 event hosted by CYPSC and partner agencies	A targeted programme at various age groups Data programme to assess changes in behaviour Material for teachers, students and parents Develop a county-wide internet safety event (including all facets, i.e. gaming, sexting, legal consequences of searching and sharing, etc.)	2018-2021 2020	The Genesis Programme (funded by CYPSC and ABC funding programme) Outcome 5 sub-group	BOBF National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health	Outcome 1

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Young carers	To explore the feasibility of the setting up of young carers support groups in the county	Individual needs identified Training programmes established to help young carers stay safe and well Links made with organisations around young carers	1 group supported by CYPSC and Youthwork Ireland	A targeted group supported in the community One-to-one support Outreach to other carers in the community through Louth Carers Group	2020–2021	Youthwork Ireland Outcome 5 sub-group	Young Carers Study (2010) Child and Family Research Centre	Outcome 1
Seldom-heard young people involved in the decision-making process	To directly target the inclusion of seldom-heard young people so that they are involved in design of and feedback to statutory structures	Report into a specific cohort of migrant youth in Drogheda	1 consultation report which will be submitted to the LCC for inclusion into the new Integration strategy	Hold focus groups with the young people in the cohort Document the experiences/findings Present the findings to the decision makers/influencers and ask for a response to the report Plan further actions to improve engagement	2019	Culture Connect Outcome 5 sub-group members	Promoting the participation of seldom-heard young people (2014)	Listen to and involve young people

Change management								
Priority area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time-frame for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to national outcomes or transformational goals
Local data and information hub	To link in with Outcomes4children Data hub project where statistics on child indicators, consultations, annual reports, Resources developed can be housed.	No. of partner agencies trained in the resource	1 training session through CYPSC meeting	Awareness session on how practitioners can use the portal and advertise the portal through website www.familysupportlouth.ie	2020	Louth CYPSC alongside Louth County Council and key stakeholders	BOBF	Ensure quality services Avoid duplication
Provide accurate information to the public and key stakeholders	To maintain the Louth section of the www.cypsc.ie website which will provide accurate 'signposting' information for children, young people, parents, frontline practitioners	To increase the profile of Louth on the CYPSC website The number of 'hits' on the website	Quarterly submissions to the website and 'good news' stories submitted on a regular basis	Update the Louth section of the website regularly Explore other ways of disseminating information, e.g. Twitter	2019	Louth CYPSC coordinator and Outcome 5 members	BOBF	Ensure quality services Avoid duplication
Critical protocol planning	To improve the co-ordination and effectiveness of the interagency response following a critical incident	No. of critical incident policies developed No. of meetings held to look at supports for agencies and the general population affected by violence in their communities	1 policy developed 2 meetings per year	To develop a critical incident policy for Louth To develop resources and programmes to assist agencies and communities	2019–2021	Tusla, AGS, LCC, Communities, Drugs and Alcohol task force	SICAP Plan LECP	Outcomes 3 and 5

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

Louth CYPSC is committed to the ongoing review and monitoring of the implementation of the three-year plan. Louth CYPSC will work at a committee level, sub-group level and with children and families to ensure the work plan remains relevant, specific and achievable.

The monitoring and evaluation will be carried out on a number of different levels:

1. A review of Louth CYPSC's remit, change management and outcomes on an annual basis using the reporting and planning framework template
2. A review of the sub-groups and outcomes on a yearly basis
3. A review of specific projects/initiatives driven by the sub-groups at each CYPSC meeting.

The sub-groups and working groups are responsible for the objectives outlined in the work plan and together with the Change Management sub-group will track and monitor progress on the impact on children's lives.

The section below shows how the Louth CYPSC intends to monitor implementation of the plan and review the plan locally during the course of its three-year lifespan. Louth CYPSC will aim to produce a number of reports in line with the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework (2017) which includes an Annual Programme of Work, a CYPSC Mid-year Progress Update and a CYPSC Annual Progress Report, as reflected in the Local CYPSC Planning and Reporting Cycle. There will also be an Annual National Progress Report which will reflect all the local CYPSC reports from across the 27 CYPSCs, as per the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework. The following is a brief overview of the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework which Louth CYPSC will aim to adhere to during the lifespan of their CYPP.

Annual Programme of Work

Louth CYPSC will produce an annual statement of intent/action outlining the work to be undertaken and achieved by the CYPSC in each calendar year. This statement of intent will be called the Annual Programme of Work and it will be derived from the CYPSC's three-year CYPP. It will provide a high-level overview of what and how the CYPSC will deliver against each of the agreed local objectives and strategic actions for that calendar year. The performance of Louth CYPSC will be monitored by the Committee on an ongoing basis, applying the principle of mutual accountability, and annually by Tusla – Child and Family Agency, on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, through the CYPSC's submission of an annual progress report.

CYPSC Mid-year Progress Update

Louth CYPSC will produce a Mid-year Progress Update to Tusla. The Mid-year Progress Update will be utilised locally by each CYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. It is primarily a monitoring tool to determine whether the CYPSC annual programme of work is on schedule. This Mid-year Progress Update will also provide Louth CYPSC with a mid-year opportunity to highlight to national-level structures any issues or challenges being experienced locally.

CYPSC Annual Progress Report

Louth CYPSC will produce an Annual Progress Report on its activity and impact for Tusla. The Annual Progress Report will be utilised locally by Louth CYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. The report will inform local CYPSC decisions to enact developments

or changes within its three-year strategic plan, i.e. the CYPP. The report will enable each CYPSC to be responsive to emerging local need as well as national policy imperatives. The CYPSC Annual Progress Report will encompass:

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

Section 8: Appendix

Terms of reference for Louth Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)

Who are Louth CYPSC?

There is a strong history of collaborative working in County Louth. This is reflected in a number of successful multi-agency initiatives through the work of the Genesis Programme, Age Friendly County Initiative, Sports Partnerships, Development Initiatives and other community initiatives. Collaborations and working relationships are strong across the statutory and voluntary/community sectors and many agencies work positively for children, young people and families. County Louth CYPSC is guided by the national framework *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014–2020*. This document integrates a whole-of-government focus and emphasises the importance of shared responsibilities in achieving improved outcomes for children and young people. It is rooted in Ireland's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The five national outcomes for children and young people:

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

Statement of purpose

The purpose of Louth CYPSC is 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 Co. Louth. Louth CYPSC will work to support and strengthen families through collaboration in policy development and strategic planning.

Guiding principles

- Child and young person centered
- Family oriented
- Equitable
- Inclusive
- Action oriented
- Innovative
- Integrated

Term

This Terms of Reference is effective from May 2018 and continues until 2020.

Roles and responsibilities

1. Each member undertakes to promote the interests of the child and child centred planning in their organisation in relation to services which involve children and families.
2. Louth CYPSC acknowledges that when organisations work together on policy development and delivery of services there is greater potential for positive outcomes for children, young people and families. We (the member agencies and representatives) therefore commit to working together on strategic policy development and delivery of services for children and young people (0–24 years old) and their families in Co. Louth.
3. Each member organisation will seek to remove unnecessary duplication and blockages to the delivery of child centred policies and services both within their own organisation and in co-operation with other organisations.
4. In order to develop a framework for child centred policy development and service delivery the committee will identify existing models of good practice and develop new models where necessary.
5. The committee acknowledges that there are other agencies involved in the delivery of services to children and families and will endeavour to work collaboratively and in partnership with these agencies to promote the ethos of the committee and best outcomes for children.
6. As the service delivery framework in Tusla develops, the committee will be integral to the consultation and implementation of the National Commissioning Strategy as it embeds itself in local planning structures.

Children and Young People's Services Committee meeting principles

1. The role of the chairperson of the CYPSC will be held by the Area Manager Louth/Meath of Tusla – Child and Family Agency. The chairperson will oversee the operation of the committee and ensure that the committee delivers on its work programme. A vice-chairperson will be nominated from the core membership of the committee to chair meetings in the event that the AM is not available.
2. The committee will meet six times per calendar year. A quorum of at least half the membership is required for meetings to proceed.
3. Agency representatives need to be mandated and empowered to act on behalf of the whole agency on the CYPSC. In accepting a position on the committee the respective agency undertakes to prioritise the work of the committee as part of the core work of the respective agency.
4. Each committee member will liaise as is appropriate with the co-ordinator regarding the workings of the committee and sub-groups, e.g. apologies, information requests, correspondence, etc.
5. In the unlikely event that a committee member was unable to attend three consecutive meetings, the relevant member/agency will be asked to reconsider their ability to commit to the role and to consider the option of an alternative nominee.
6. The CYPSC reserve the right to co-opt a substitute representative nominated from any of the membership agencies in the event that the standing member is temporarily unavailable. The

substitute member should be of sufficient authority to make appropriate decisions on behalf of the agency being represented.

7. It is envisaged that appropriate committee members will be nominated to chair or participate in sub-group meetings. Each chairperson should have an element of expertise in that specific priority area and would be expected to provide leadership and direction to the sub group.

8 It is expected that each committee member will be prepared for each meeting by reading the relevant materials.

9. In the event that the committee cannot make a consensus decision and there is a tied vote the chairperson may exercise a casting vote.

Amendment, modification or variation

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