



National Children's Services Committees Initiative: Responding to Youth Needs

Colma Nic Lughadha

National Co-ordinator for the Children's Services Committees Initiative

Claire O'Toole

Kerry Children's Services Committee Co-ordinator

Joanne Murphy

Louth Children's Services Committee Co-ordinator

Children's Services Committees

Local *interagency* structures to improve outcomes for children & young people

National **government policy** – *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*

- Committees are responsible for **improving the lives of children, young people and families** at local and community level
- Bring together a diverse group of public and not-for-profit organisations in **local county (municipality) areas**
- Engage in **joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people** (do not currently fund services)
- Work **through integrated planning, working and service delivery**
- First four Committees established in **2007**; currently in 20 counties (municipalities)
- **2014 national roll out - All counties in Ireland will have a Committee**

Children's Services Committees and National Outcomes

Each Committee develops and implements an *interagency* 3 year **Children and Young People's Plan for the County**, which is:

- Designed to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area
- Based on the **5 National Outcomes** for children and young people in Ireland

1.

- **Healthy**, both physically and mentally

2.

- Supported in active **learning**

3.

- **Safe** from accidental and intentional harm, and **secure** in the immediate and wider physical environment

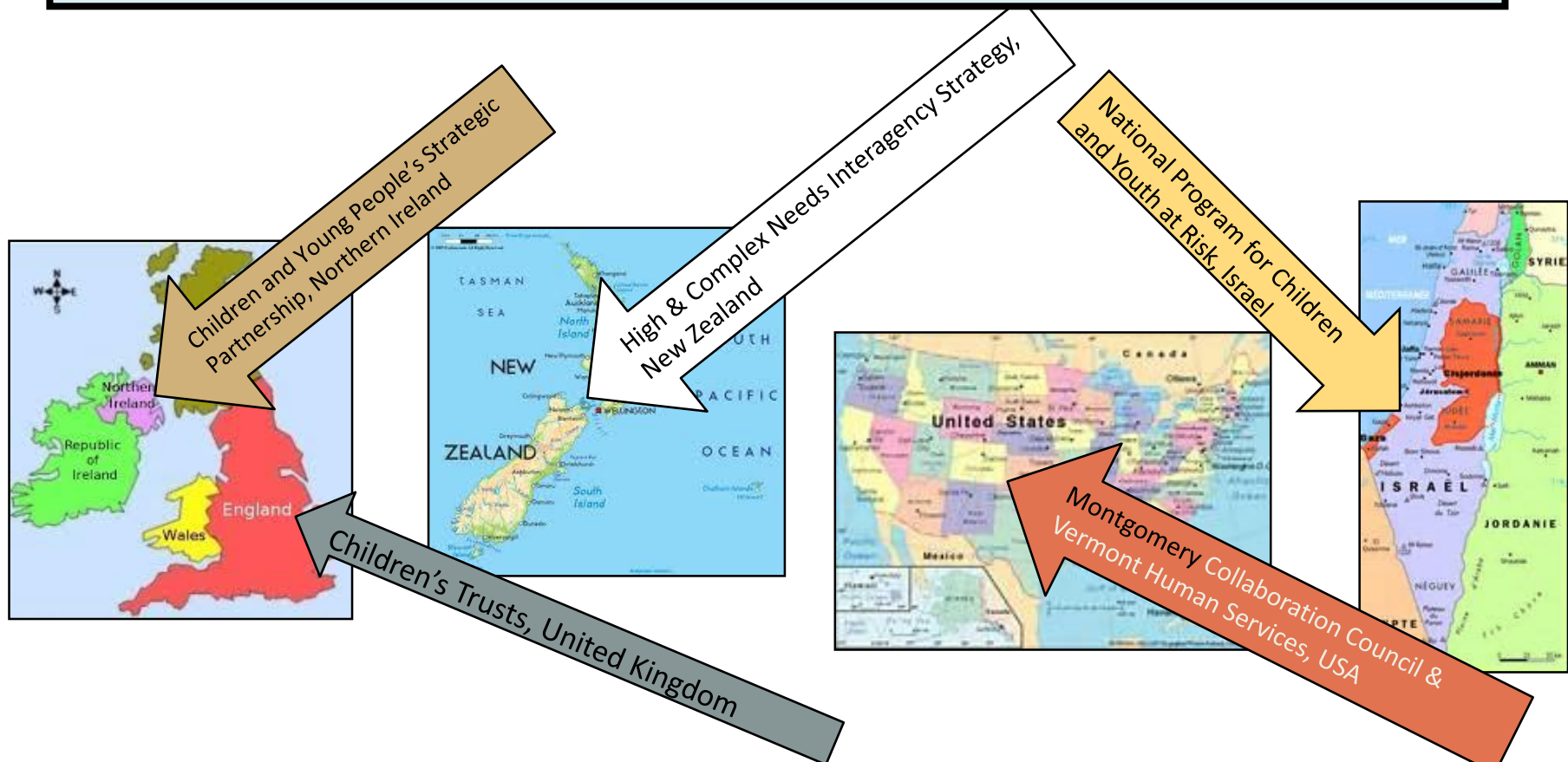
4.

- **Economically** secure

5.

- **Part of positive networks** of family, friends, neighbours and the community, and included and **participating** in society

Similar International Initiatives



Children's Services Committees the vehicle for interagency work in Ireland

Children's Services Committees

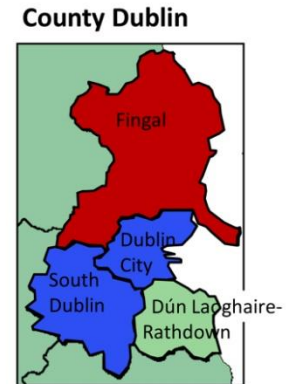


Source: Adapted from Montgomery Collaboration Council (2006) and developed by CES.

National picture of CSCs

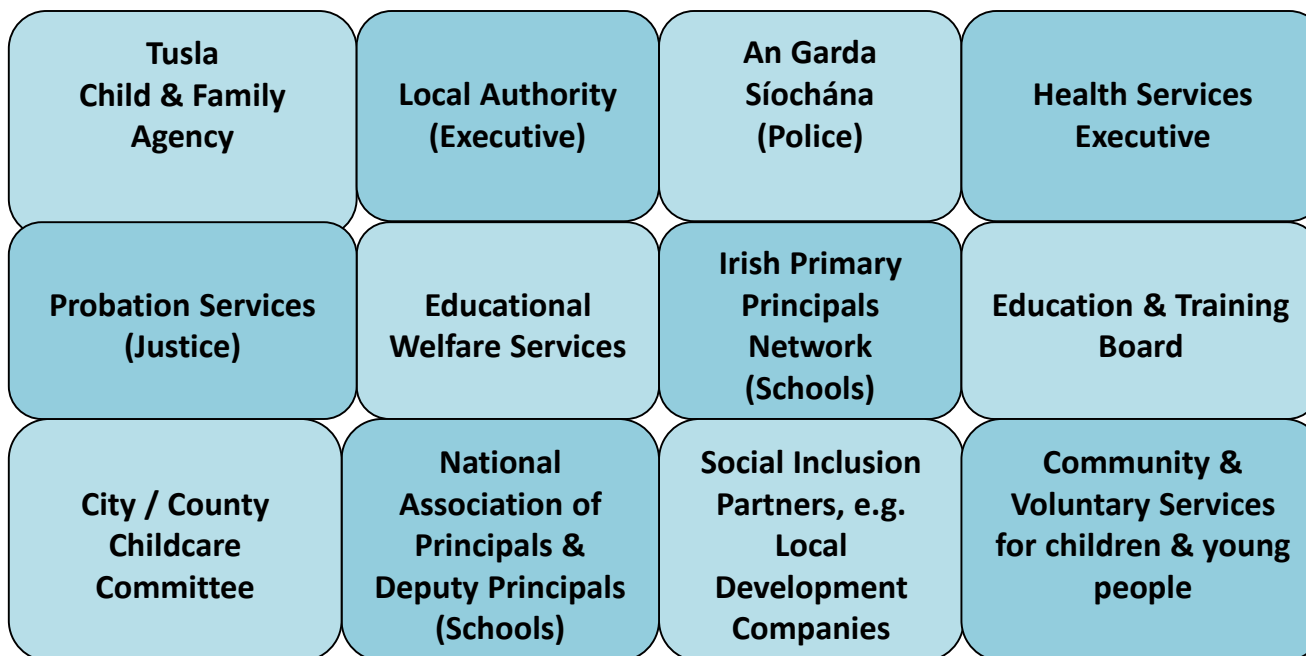
- 2007-2010 Phase 1** ■
- 2010-2011 Phase 2** ■
- 2011-2013 Phase 3** ■
- 2014 Phase 4** ■ Work commenced
- Work to be commenced

All at differing stages of development and operation

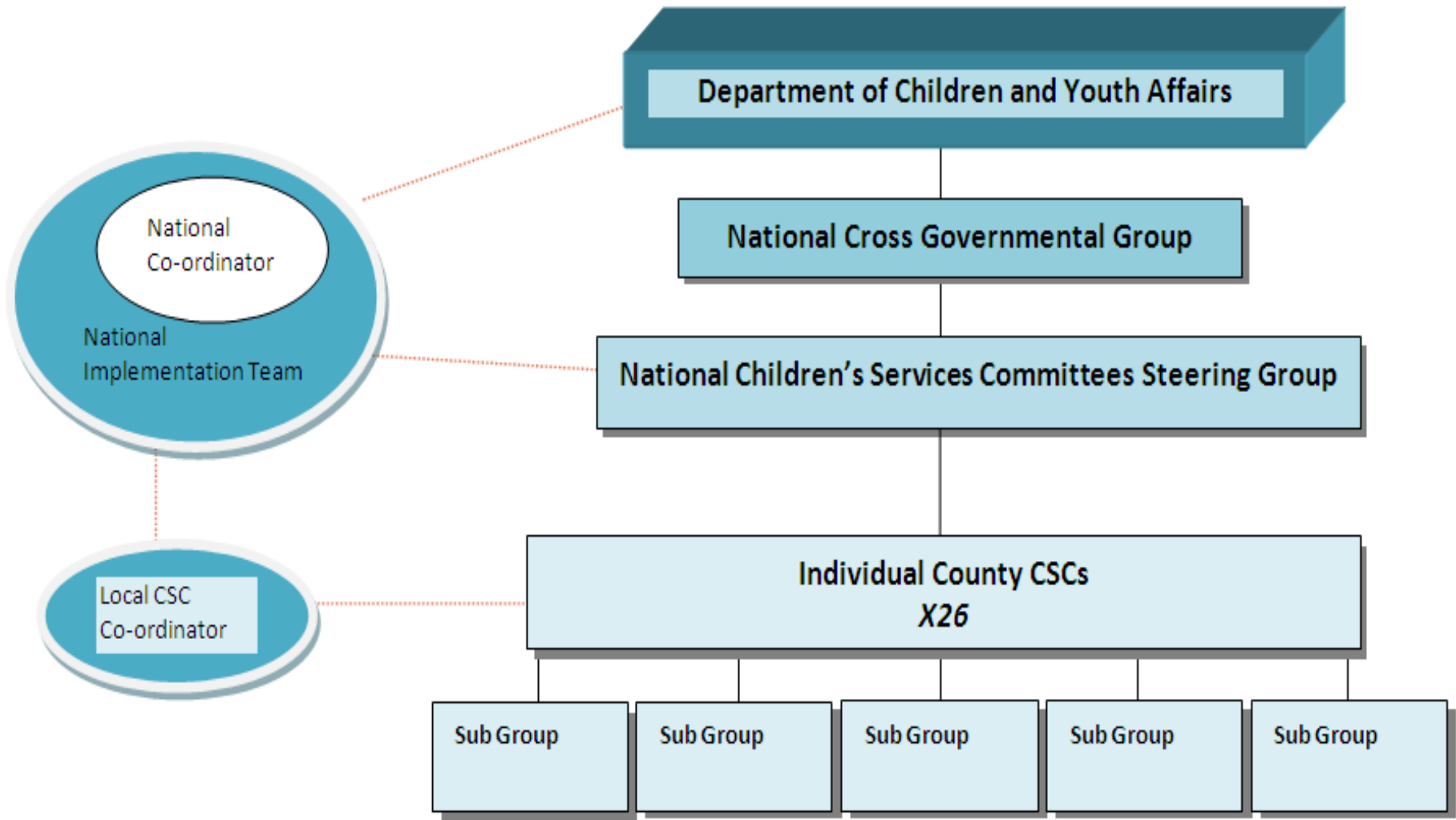


Membership of CSCs

Senior managers, representing a range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations.



National to local operation



Evidence informed approach

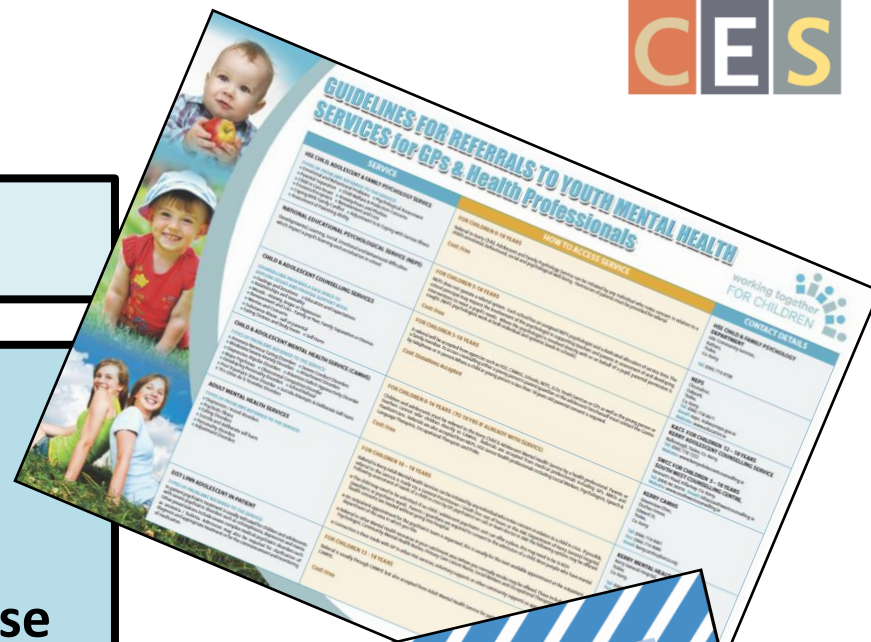
- Using emerging evidence in a structured way
- Interagency approach –
Effective interagency working acts to create the ‘permitting circumstances’ for better functioning of front-line services and front-line staff. (Ghate in Statham, 2011)
- Learning from other structures nationally and in other jurisdictions
- Consultation with children and young people

Youth Mental Health Kerry CSC

- What should we be doing in Kerry to support Youth Mental Health?
- What are we doing to support Youth Mental Health?
- In answering these questions the Kerry CSC Youth Mental Health Working Group developed a strategy for county Kerry to address the question:
- What can we do better to improve Youth Mental Health services in County Kerry and improve outcomes for our children and young people?

Achievements to date

- Guidelines for referrals
- Interagency protocols and practice
- Interagency critical incident response protocol & Suicide Response Plan
- Education, preventative and community level supports:
 - THINK Booklet & app
 - Youth Mental Health Conference



Consultation with children and young people Louth CSC

Louth Children's Services Committee



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
Article 12

Horizontal principle across Louth CSC

Hearing the Voice

Consultation with children and young people has been an integral part of the development of Children and Young People's Plans.

This is manifested through cooperative work with Comhairle na nÓg (Council for children & young people) and additional activities undertaken by a CSC and its members:

19 groups in Louth.

Sibling Support Programme

- Issue - drugs and alcohol
- Sub-group formed
- National Drugs Strategy
- National Family Support Network
- Ten week programme for siblings of drug using people – multiple partners
- Recruitment
- Funding
- Self evaluation
- Referral pathway
- Seminar – dissemination



Working Together


When we work together we can make a positive difference to the lives of our children and young people.

Working together in a sustained way is challenging, takes time and requires continuous learning; but it's worth it.

We are doing this through Children's Services Committees....

(Source: Internal Communications Plan 2010-2012)

Links

- www.dcy.gov.ie scroll down and click the logo → 
- www.effectiveservices.org/our-work/childrens-services-committees-initiative
- www.kerrychildrensservices.com
- www.louthcsc.ie



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs



Contact

Colma Nic Lughadha

National Co-ordinator for the Children's Services Committees Initiative

e: csc@effectiveservices.org

t: 0 353 1 4160511