



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

**Children and Young People's Plan  
2017- 2019**

## Contact

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

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Copies of this plan are available on: [www.cypsc.ie](http://www.cypsc.ie)

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## Foreward

As Chairperson, I am very pleased to publish our first Children and Young People's Plan.

This is our first interagency plan for Roscommon dedicated to co-ordinating how agencies deliver services to children, young people and families and I am delighted with the progress our committee has made so far. In order to improve outcomes for children, young people and families, agencies must work collaboratively and strategically together and this plan is a result of this collaboration.

Working effectively together is challenging and I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all involved. I would like to thank the committee members for their attendance and dedication.

Since the establishment of **Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)** a lot of work has been done across the area including the collation of statistics, an audit of service and the establishment of working groups to address identified gaps. This plan builds on a draft plan developed in 2015 and reflects the vast amount of work being carried out by Roscommon CYPSC.

We will continue to work in partnership to implement this plan.

I look forward to working with the Committee into the future to secure better outcomes for children, young people and families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Toolis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Toolis,  
Chairperson,  
Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

## Section 1: Introduction

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) seek 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:

- **are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing**
- **are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development**
- **are safe and protected from harm**
- **have economic security and opportunity**
- **are connected, respected and contributing to their world.**



## Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees

### Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, established the Children and Young People's Services Committees (formerly Children's Services Committees) in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. Since then 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 Roscommon

Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee is responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through integrated planning, working and service delivery. The Committee will also ensure that professionals and agencies work together so that children and families receive better and more accessible services.

County Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in 2014 by Tusla, Child and Family Agency under the auspices of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The first meeting of the Committee took place in May 2014 and throughout 2014 and 2015 the Committee undertook a comprehensive programme of consultation with young people and local service providers. Alongside this, a socio-demographic profile and an audit of services were compiled. This work informed the development of a draft Children and Young People's Plan.

During 2015, the Committee established and developed a range of working groups to progress actions presented in the draft Children and Young People's Plan.

## Who we are

Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee is comprised of representatives from Community, Voluntary and Statutory agencies who deliver services to children and young people in Roscommon. In order that the CYPSC can address issues in relation to the national outcomes for children, senior managers represent their agencies on the Committee. Membership of Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee is listed below.

### Membership of Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

Organisation	Member
Child & Family Agency	<p><b>Angela Toolis</b> Area Manager &amp; CYPSC Chair</p> <p><b>Caroline Duignan</b> CYPSC Co-ordinator</p> <p><b>Helen Buckley</b> Principal Social Worker</p> <p><b>Georgina Kilcoyne</b> Principal for Prevention, Partnership and Family Support</p> <p><b>Bridget McGreal</b> Regional Manager Educational Welfare Services</p> <p><b>Marie Gibbons</b> Researcher</p>
An Garda Síochána	<p><b>Fergal O'Donnell</b> Juvenile Liaison Officer</p>
HSE	<p><b>Jan Flanagan</b> Director of Public Health Nursing</p> <p><b>Dr. Philip Tyndall</b> Consultant Child &amp; Adolescent Psychiatrist</p>

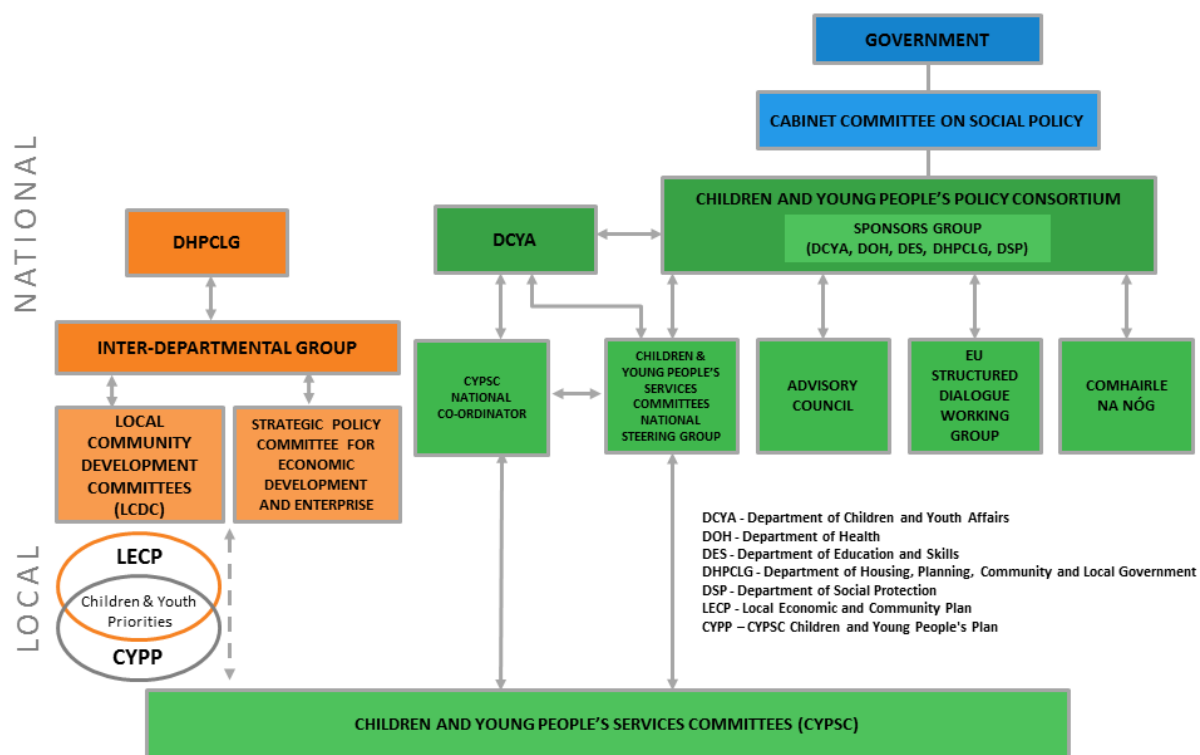
	<p><b>Marian Keegan</b> Disability Services Manager</p> <p><b>Eamon Hannan</b> Manager Support Services</p>
Roscommon County Child Care Committee	<p><b>Irene Cafferky</b> Manager</p>
Probation Service	<p><b>Alma Gavin</b> Senior Probation Officer</p>
Roscommon Leader Partnership	<p><b>Martina Earley</b> Chief Executive Officer</p>
Jigsaw	<p><b>Sarah Simkin</b> Programme Manager</p>
Roscommon County Council	<p><b>Vacant</b></p>
Irish Primary Principals Network	<p><b>Dr. Una Feeley</b> Principal</p>
National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals	<p><b>Elma Nerney</b> Principal, Elphin Community College</p>
Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board	<p><b>Michael Kelly</b> Youth Officer</p>



## National Linkages and Relationships

Children and Young People’s Service Committees form an integral part of the structures set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*. Figure 1 shows the national governance and reporting relationships of CYPSCs.

Figure 1: National governance and reporting relationships of CYPSCs



(www.cypsc.ie)

## Local Sub-structures and Linkages

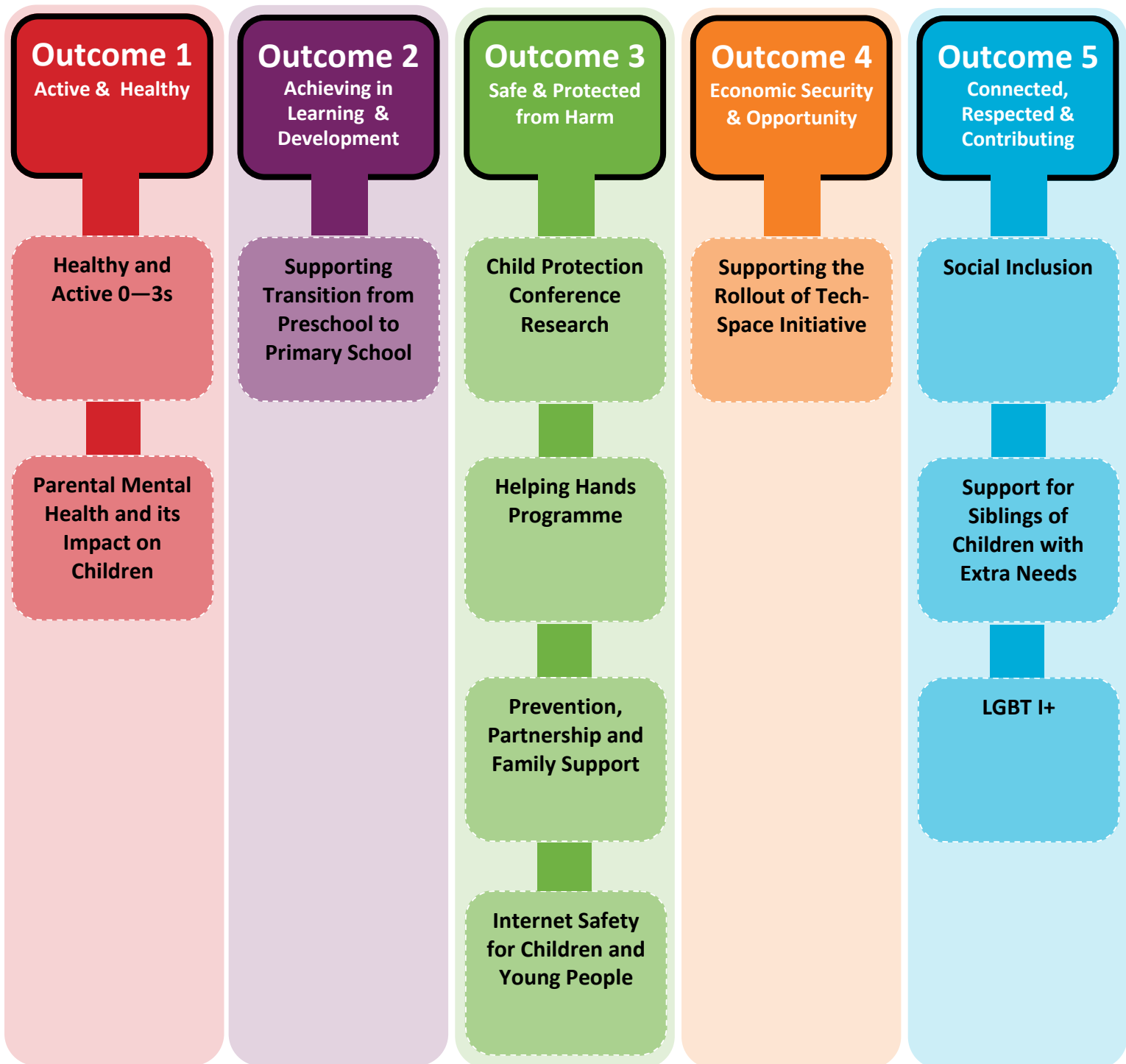
Roscommon CYPSC has an extensive substructure comprising eleven thematic Working Groups and two area-based Child and Family Support Networks\*.

Each Working Group is focused on the delivery of specific actions aligned to the five national outcomes for children and young people. Working Groups also play a key role in bringing emerging issues to the attention of the CYPSC thereby informing the prioritisation of work areas and the sequencing of actions. Working Groups are chaired by CYPSC members and have a broad-based membership of practitioners operating within the community, voluntary and statutory sectors.

Figure 2 demonstrates this work under the headings of the five national outcomes for children and young people.

\*Child and Family Support Networks are geographically defined structures comprising front-line staff from statutory, community and voluntary organisations. As well as identifying gaps and overlaps in local service provision, these networks identify issues where a CYPSC level response is required.

Figure 2: Roscommon CYPSC Sub-structures and Linkages



## Achievements to date

Achievements of the Roscommon CYPSC can be categorised as follows:

### **Organisational development**

- CYPSC committee comprising key stakeholders from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors is meeting regularly, sharing resources and information and supporting collaborative working towards outcomes for children and young people in the County
- Priority outcome areas agreed
- Eleven Working Groups established
- CYPSC Co-ordinator in position
- Draft Children and Young People's Plan compiled

### **Linking and Consulting**

- Comprehensive programme of consultation undertaken with young people and with local service providers
- Audit of local services completed
- Contributed to process informing Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan
- Strong links established with Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg
- Links established with two Area Based Child and Family Support Networks

### **Implementing actions**

CYPSC Working Groups have delivered a number of actions:

<b>Implementing Working Group</b>	<b>Action</b>
Health and Wellbeing in Early Years	Consultations with young children and parents in the County which influenced the development and publication of the first County Roscommon Early Years Health and Wellbeing Plan
Supporting Transitions	Development and publication of 'This is Me' / 'Seo Mise' booklet to aid transition from pre-school to primary school
Parental Perspective on Child Protection Conferences	Research completed into parents' perspectives of Child Protection Conferences
Supporting Children who have Experienced Domestic Violence	Train the Trainers Programme in Helping Hands programme, devised by Women's Aid, delivered to 8 practitioners throughout the County
Prevention, Partnership and Family Support	Roll out of the Meitheal National Practice Model*
	Establishment of two geographically based Child and Family Services Networks
Internet Safety	Research undertaken with young people to establish nature and extent of internet use, seminar on the topic of internet safety took place and module developed for parents on the topic.
Communications	Development of <a href="http://positiveparenting.ie">positiveparenting.ie</a> website outlining all

	the support services available to families and children in County Roscommon along with their contact details.
Social Inclusion	Subgroup set up to address issues of social inclusion in County Roscommon

## How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

Members of Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee commenced work on the Children and Young People's Plan 2017 – 2019 by undertaking a mapping exercise to clarify the nature and extent of service delivery in the county. This data informs the Audit of Services presented in Section 3.

A comprehensive consultation programme was undertaken with children and young people throughout the county. This programme of consultation incorporated engagement with frontline staff from community, voluntary and statutory service providers.

Consultations were structured to focus discussion on three key themes:

- What do children and young people think is good about living in Roscommon?
- What do children and young people think is not so good about living in Roscommon?
- What changes would children and young people like to see take place in Roscommon?

### Attending other consultation processes with children and young people

The CYPSC Coordinator attended Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg AGM's and became a member of the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee to help identify issues of concern.

### Consultation with Staff teams

The CYPSC Coordinator undertook a series of consultation meetings with staff teams delivering services to children and young people in Roscommon.

### External Facilitation

The socio-demographic profile, audit of services and consultation meetings enabled an analysis of need to be undertaken. This informed the selection of priority areas of work.

Objectives, actions and targets were set during an externally facilitated workshop.

Follow-up discussions at CYPSC meetings were facilitated by the Chair and Coordinator.

### Review Group

Following receipt of feedback from the Department of Child and Youth Affairs in 2016 that related to the first draft of the Children and Young People's Plan, proposed amendments were made and agreed by the Committee for its consideration.

## Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Roscommon

County Roscommon is situated in the west of Ireland in the province of Connacht. It has borders with six counties - Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath and Offaly and is the only County in Connacht that does not have a coastline. Roscommon is a land of lakes, rivers, gently rolling hills and picturesque mountains. It is the 9th largest county in the State and the geographical centre of Ireland is located in the county (Roscommon LECP 2016 – 2021). The longest river in Ireland – the Shannon – forms the boarder to the east of the County. Roscommon town, located in the south of the County is the County town.

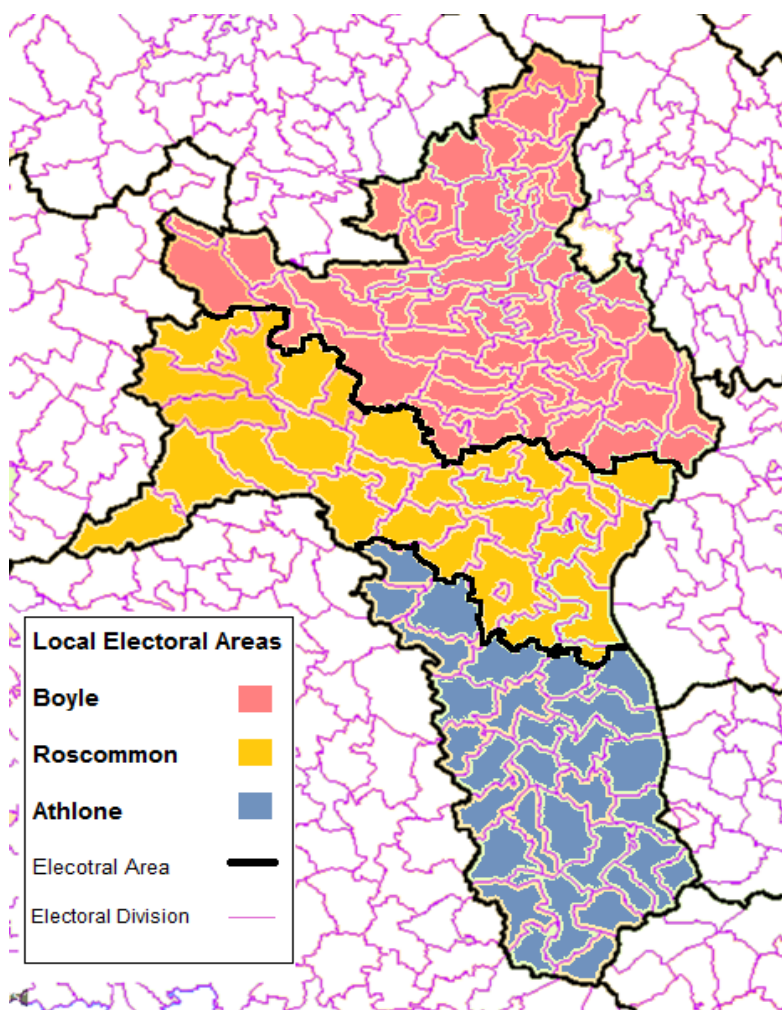
This section presents a socio-demographic profile of Roscommon and is informed by the Census of Population 2016. **Local Electoral Areas** (LEAs) were defined in 2015 by the Electoral Boundaries Commission in an attempt to define a new set of intermediate geographical areas which more closely reflect actual local communities. Nationally, there are 137 LEAs with a more or less standardised population size of about 10,000 households. The three LEAs comprising County Roscommon are Athlone (R), Roscommon, Boyle.

In places, census data has been supplemented by other, non-census, data published by Central Statistics Office. This report draws upon existing analyses of the 2016 Census data that are available from the following sources:

- [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)
- [www.trutzhaase.eu](http://www.trutzhaase.eu)
- <https://maps.pobal.ie>

## Statistical Profile of County Roscommon based on Census 2016 data Summary

Indicator	Source	Roscommon	State
<b>Child and youth population 2016</b> (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: Census 2016	20419 (31.6% of total pop.)	1583004 (33.2% of total pop.)
<b>Child population 2016</b> (aged 0 – 17yrs)	Central Statistics Office: Census 2016	16305 (25.2% of total pop.)	1190502 (25% of total pop.)
<b>Young adult population 2016</b> (aged 18-24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: Census 2016	4114 (6.4% of total pop.)	392502 (8.2% of total pop.)
<b>Infant mortality 2015</b> The number of deaths among infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	Central Statistics Office: StatBank VSA 94	4 (Infant Mortality Rate 5.2)	225 (Infant Mortality Rate 3.4)
<b>Child mortality 2015</b> The number of deaths among children under 18 years per 1,000 live births	DCYA: State of the Nation's Children 2016 (provisional number)	Not known	333 (Child Mortality Rate 2.8)
<b>Travellers 2016</b> Traveller child and youth population (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: StatBank E8001	309 (1.51% of total pop. of children and young people)	18018 (1.14% of total pop. of children and young people)
<b>Non-Irish nationals 2016</b> Non-Irish nationals (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: StatBank E7003	1891 (9.3% of total pop. of children and young people)	155976 (9.8% of total pop. of children and young people)
<b>Ethnic Background 2016</b> Ethnic background other than White Irish and Irish Traveller (aged 0 – 24yrs)	Central Statistics Office: StatBank E8001	2514 (12.3% of total pop. of children and young people)	228960 (14.5% of total pop. of children and young people)
<b>Family structure 2011</b> Children under 18 yrs who live in family household units with only one parent or primary care-giver resident	DCYA: State of the Nation's Children 2016	2080 (13.4% of total pop. of children aged under 18 years)	202444 (18.3% of total pop. of children aged under 18 years)
<b>Parental education level 2011</b> Children under 18 whose mother has attained (a) primary/no formal (b) lower secondary, (c) upper secondary or (d) third-level education	DCYA: State of the Nation's Children 2016	Primary / no formal: 500	Primary / no formal: 48048
		Lower secondary: 1582	Lower secondary: 141329
		Upper secondary: 6634	Upper secondary: 416407
		Third-level: 5303	Third-level: 364299

**Map 1: Map of County Roscommon indicating Local Electoral Areas**

During the period 2011 to 2016, the population of County Roscommon grew by 479 people to 64,544 people. At 0.7%, the percentage growth during this period was significantly lower than the national figure of 3.8%. Within the county, Athlone LEA has seen the most consistent population growth over the past three intercensal periods.

**Table 1: Population and Population Change 2006 to 2016**

	Total Population 2006	Population Change 2002 - 2006	Total Population 2011	Population Change 2006 - 2011	Total Population 2016	Population Change 2011 - 2016
Athlone (R) LEA	17,188	6.9	19,486	13.3	19,979	2.5
Roscommon LEA	21,106	4.5	22,867	8.3	22,734	-0.5
Boyle LEA	20,474	7.0	21,712	6.0	21,831	0.5
Co. Roscommon	58,768	6.1	64,065	9.0	64,544	0.7
State	4,239,318	5.6	4,588,252	8.2	4,761,865	3.8

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017



Table 2 demonstrates that Roscommon is largely rural in character. Less than 27% of people living in County Roscommon are living in towns. This is well below the corresponding national figure of almost 63%.

<b>Table 2: Population Percentage in Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas, 2016</b>					
	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Aggregate Population Town Areas</b>	<b>Aggregate Population Rural Areas</b>	<b>% of population in Aggregate Town Area</b>	<b>% of population in Aggregate Rural Area</b>
Roscommon	64544	17300	47244	26.8	73.2
State	4761865	2985781	1776084	62.7	37.3

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017

The age profile of the County is outlined in Table 3 which shows that the percentage of people aged 24 years or under at 31.6% is slightly below the national figure of 33.2%.

<b>Table 3: Child Population, 2016</b>								
	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years	Total Population 0 - 24 years	25 years and over	Total population all ages
Roscommon	4360	4766	4536	4008	2749	20419	44125	64544
State	331515	355561	319476	302816	273636	1583004	3178861	4761865

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017

## Age Dependency Rate within County Roscommon

The Age Dependency Rate reflects the number of people of an age typically not in the labour force (under 15 years and over 65 years) as a proportion of those of an age typically in the labour force (aged between 15 years and 64 years).

<b>Table 4: Age Dependency Rate, 2006 - 2016</b>			
	Age Dependency Rate 2006 (%)	Age Dependency Rate 2011 (%)	Age Dependency Rate 2016 (%)
Athlone (R) LEA	34.7	35.1	36.3
Roscommon LEA	35.7	36.7	38.3
Boyle LEA	35.2	35.7	38.7
Co. Roscommon	35.2	35.9	37.8
State	31.4	33.0	34.5

Table 4 demonstrates that the Age Dependency Rate in each LEA within Roscommon has increased during each of the last three intercensal periods. Each LEA in Roscommon also has a significantly higher Age Dependency Rate than the national average.

## Marital / Civil Status of Population within County Roscommon

In April 2016, 50% of people aged 15 years and over in the state were in a first marriage. Figures for County Roscommon, 49.5%, are broadly in line with the national average. Of all people aged 15 years and over in the state, 11.1% were separated, divorced or widowed in 2016. The corresponding figure for County Roscommon was 12.6%.

<b>Table 5: Detailed Marital Status of Population aged 15 years, 2016</b>								
	Single	Married (first marriage)	Re- married	Registered Same-Sex Civil Part'ship	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Total aged 15 years and over
Roscomm on	18328	25192	921	33	1637	1380	3391	50882
State	1544862	1726196	61729	4226	118178	103895	196227	3755313

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017

## Lone Parents

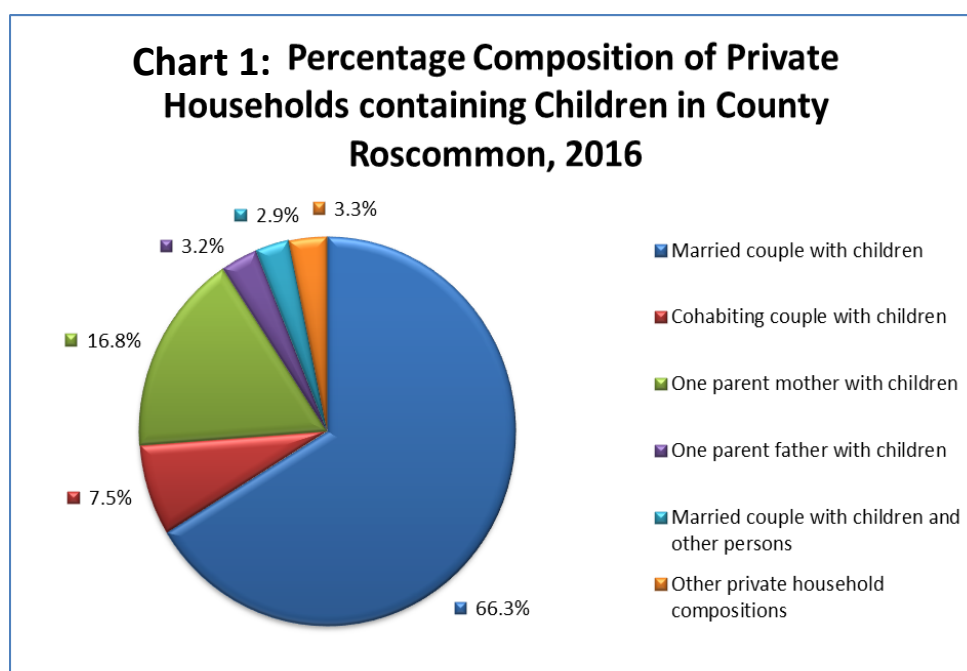
Table 6: Percentage of Families headed by Lone Parents by LEA, 2006 - 2016			
	Lone Parents 2006 %	Lone Parents 2011 %	Lone Parents 2016 %
Athlone (R) LEA	10.9	13.1	13.2
Roscommon LEA	14.8	17.6	16.0
Boyle LEA	15.7	17.6	17.8
Co. Roscommon	14.0	16.2	15.8
State	20.9	21.0	19.9

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017

The percentage of families headed by a Lone Parent in County Roscommon, 15.5%, is notably lower than the national figure of 19.9%. The lower than average percentage of families headed by a Lone Parent is seen in each of the three LEAs but is particularly evident in Athlone (R) LEA where just 13.2% of families were headed by a Lone Parent in 2016. At a county level, the percentage of families headed by a Lone Parent has decreased in the intercensal period 2011 to 2016. This reflects a national trend evident during this time.

## Percentage Composition of Private Households containing Children in County Roscommon 2016

Chart 1 presents the types of private household with children as a percentage of the total number of households with children.



Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017

The percentage of private households comprising a mother with children in County Roscommon, 16.8%, is below the national figure of 18%.

At 3.2%, the proportion of private households comprising a father and children in County Roscommon is above the corresponding national figure of 2.9%.

## Educational Attainment

In 2016, 15.1% of people, aged 15 and over, in County Roscommon had completed their education with a primary level education only. This contrasts with a figure of 13% for the nation as a whole. Of the three LEAs, Athlone (R) has a lower than average proportion, 11.9%, of people with primary education only.

The proportion of people having primary education only has fallen by more than a quarter, from 21.7% to 15.1%, in the period 2006 – 2016. This fall reflects a national trend and is most likely the result of younger, more highly educated, generations succeeding older, less highly educated, generations.

<b>Table 7: Proportion (aged 15 years +) with Primary Education only, 2006 - 2016</b>			
	Primary Education Only 2006 %	Primary Education Only 2011 %	Primary Education Only 2016 %
Athlone (R) LEA	18.3	14.6	11.9
Roscommon LEA	24.0	19.9	16.8
Boyle LEA	22.3	18.4	16.3
Co. Roscommon	21.7	17.8	15.1
State	18.6	15.6	13.0

Table 8 shows that the proportion of people with a third level education in all three LEAs is lower than the national average. With 34.4% of people having a third level education, Athlone (R) LEA is significantly closer to the national figure of 35.9% than either Roscommon LEA, 27.2%, or Boyle LEA, 27.6%. This may reflect the LEA's proximity to Athlone IT.

It is worth noting that the proportion of people with third level education is increasing across County Roscommon. While the national figure increased by 5.3% during the period 2006 to 2016, the corresponding increase in County Roscommon, at 6%, was higher.

<b>Table 8: Proportion (aged years +) with Third Level, 2006 - 2016</b>			
	Third Level 2006 %	Third Level 2011 %	Third Level 2016 %
Athlone (R) LEA	27.4	29.0	34.4
Roscommon LEA	21.8	22.8	27.2
Boyle LEA	22.3	23.3	27.6
Co. Roscommon	23.6	24.9	29.6
State	30.6	30.8	35.9

## Socio Economic Profile

Nationally, the proportion of people working in professional jobs has steadily increased from 32.9% to 36.2% during the period 2006 to 2016. In parallel, the proportion working in semi/unskilled jobs has decreased from 19.3% to 17.9%.

County Roscommon has also seen an increase in the proportion of people working in professional jobs during this period, although at 32.5% to 33.1%, the trend is less pronounced. In contrast to the fall in the proportion of workers working in semi/unskilled jobs that is evident at national level during this period, the proportion of semi/unskilled workers in Roscommon increased slightly from 18.2% to 18.6%.

There is a significant variance between the socio-economic profile of Athlone (R) LEA and Roscommon LEA and Boyle LEA. The proportion of professional workers in Athlone (R) LEA, 38.2%, is higher than the national average and is markedly higher than the proportion in the other two LEAs, 30.2% and 31.5%.

The proportion of Semi/unskilled workers in Athlone (R) LEA, 16.2%, is lower than the national average of 17.9%, and is notably lower than the corresponding proportion in either of the other two LEAs, 20.4% and 18.6%.

	Higher and Lower Professionals 2006 %	Higher and Lower Professionals 2011 %	Higher and Lower Professionals 2016 %	Semi-Unskilled 2006 %	Semi-Unskilled 2011 %	Semi-Unskilled 2016%
Athlone (R) LEA	37.5	36.9	38.2	15.8	15.6	16.2
Roscommon LEA	30.5	29.5	30.2	19.6	18.5	20.4
Boyle LEA	30.2	30.3	31.5	18.7	18.2	19.0
Co. Roscommon	32.5	32.1	33.1	18.2	17.5	18.6
State	32.9	34.6	36.2	19.3	18.2	17.9

## Unemployment Figures for County Roscommon

The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is a nationwide survey of households in Ireland carried out by the Central Statistics Office. It is designed to produce quarterly labour force estimates that include the official measure of employment and unemployment in the state. The ILO- QNHS provides a national average unemployment figure, plus a regional breakdown. The West Region includes Galway City, County Galway, County Roscommon and County Mayo.

<b>Table 10: Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Region and ILO Classification, Quarter 4 2017</b>					
	In employment ('000)	Unemployed ('000)	In labour force ('000)	Unemployment rate (%) (Persons aged 15-74)	Participation rate (%)
West (Galway City, County Galway, County Roscommon and County Mayo)	204.7	12.7	217.5	5.9	60.2
State	2231.0	144.1	2375.2	6.1	62.2

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2018

The Live Register is used to provide a monthly series of the numbers of people (with some exceptions) registering for Jobseekers Benefit (JB) or Jobseekers Allowance (JA) or for various other statutory entitlements at local offices of the Department of Social Protection.

The Live Register includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days per week), seasonal and casual workers entitled to JB and JA. The Live Register offers data at a geographic level defined by local Social Welfare Office catchments.

<b>Table 11: Persons on Live Register (Number) by Social Welfare Office, April 2018</b>		
	Under 25 years	25 years and over
Roscommon town	85	680
Boyle	75	500
Castlerea	105	958
County Roscommon	265	2138
State	24121	199481

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2018

## Population speaking languages other than English and Irish at home

Over 6100 people in County Roscommon speak a language other than English or Irish at home.

<b>Table 12: Population Usually Resident and Present in the State who Speak a Language other than English or Irish at Home by language, 2016</b>									
	All (other than English or Irish)	Polish	French	Romanian	Lithuanian	Spanish	Russian	Portuguese	Chinese
Roscommon	6132	1536	552	155	373	127	207	573	62
State	612018	135895	54948	36683	35362	32405	21707	20833	17584

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017

## Traveller Population

The number of usual residents present in the State and enumerated as Irish Travellers in Census 2016 increased by 5.1 per cent from 29,495 to 30,987. Census 2016 recorded 516 people living in Roscommon as Irish Traveller, an increase of 30.3 per cent from Census 2011.

<b>Table 13: Traveller Population of County Roscommon</b>	
Roscommon	516
State	30987

Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017

## Housing

County Roscommon figures for the average number of persons per room are in line with corresponding national figures.

<b>Table 14: Average Persons per Room, 2006 - 2016</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>
Athlone (R) LEA	.5	.5	.5
Roscommon LEA	.5	.5	.5
Boyle LEA	.5	.4	.4
Co. Roscommon	.5	.5	.5
State	.5	.5	.5

*Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017*

The proportion of owner-occupied households in County Roscommon is significantly higher than the national average. Where 70.3% of all households in the state were owner-occupied in 2016, the corresponding figure for County Roscommon was 78.3%.

During the period 2006 to 2016, the reduction in the proportion of owner-occupied households in County Roscommon from 85.5% to 78.3% mirrors a reduction at national level from 77.7% to 70.3%. The proportion of owner-occupied households in Athlone (R) LEA remains very high at 82.1%.

<b>Table 15: Proportion of Owner Occupied Households, 2006 - 2016</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>
Athlone (R) LEA	90.7	84.7	82.1
Roscommon LEA	84.1	78.1	76.9
Boyle LEA	82.0	77.4	76.2
Co. Roscommon	85.3	79.8	78.3
State	77.7	71.9	70.3

*Source: Central Statistics Office, 2017*

## Child Protection and Children in Care

County Roscommon is part of the Galway Roscommon Tusla Child and Family Agency Area.

During Quarter 4 of 2018, 171 referrals were made to Roscommon Social Work services relating to child welfare and child abuse or neglect. In December 2018 there were 138 families open to Tusla Family Support Services in the County consisting of 241 children (Area Manager Galway Roscommon Report, 2019). In December 2018 there were 108 Roscommon children in care both in general fostering and relative fostering. There was one child in residential care (Area Manager Galway Roscommon Report, 2019).



## Deprivation Index Score

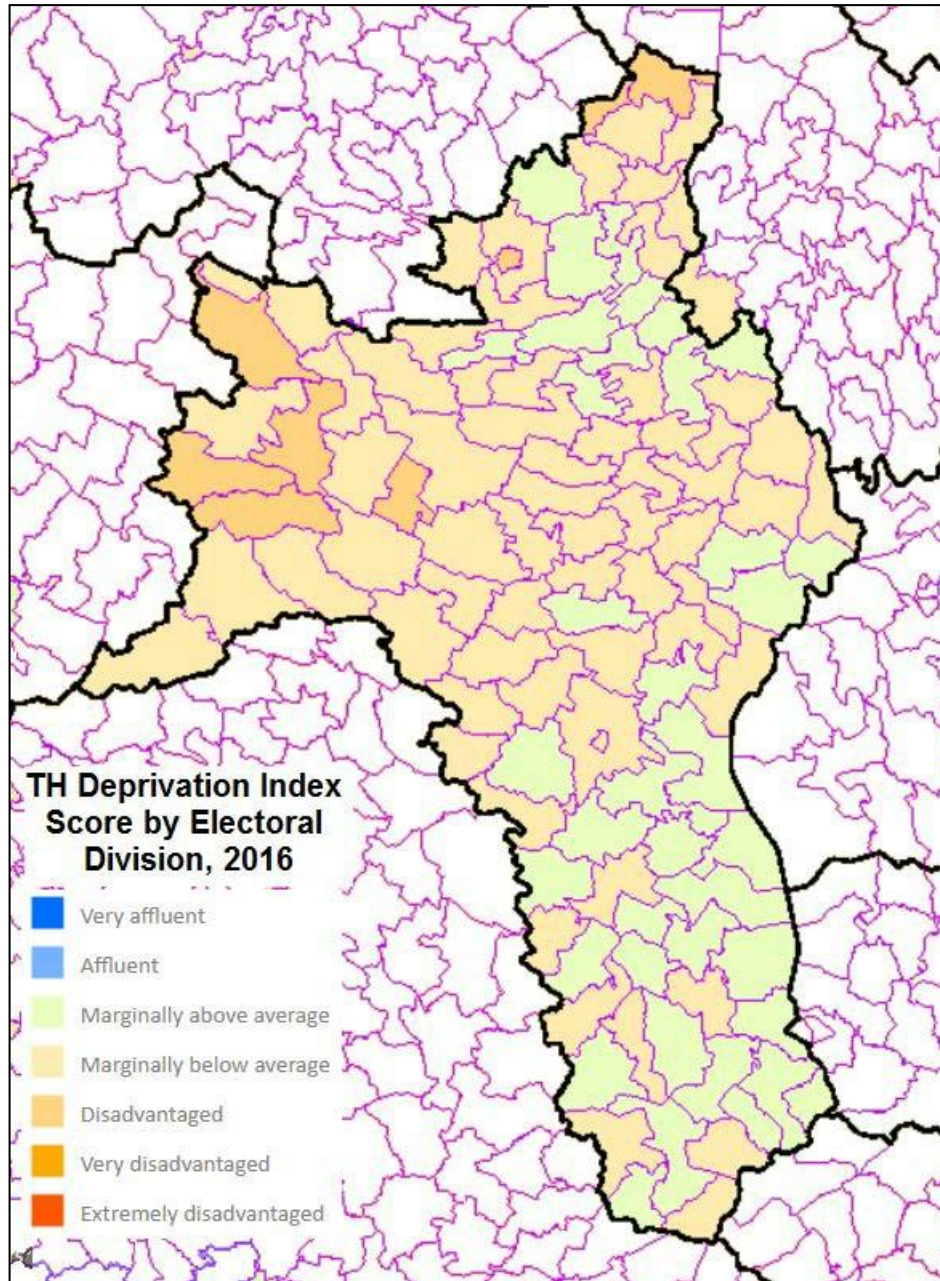
In 2016, County Roscommon experienced a drop in its relative deprivation score from -2.1 in 2011 to -2.4.

Of the 108 Electoral Divisions (EDs) in County Roscommon, the majority, 71, are inclined towards deprivation, i.e. 63 are marginally below average and eight are disadvantaged. Thirty seven EDs are marginally above average. The most affluent areas are the wider environs of Boyle and Athlone, but excluding the towns themselves. Overall, the Western parts of the county are slightly more disadvantaged than their Eastern counterparts.

At a local level, the most disadvantaged EDs are Boyle Urban (-13.3), Lough Allen/Altagowlan (-13.2), Ballyfarnan (-11.5), Loughglinn (-11.2), Cloonfower (-11), Baslick (-10.9), Artagh South (-10.5) and Ballaghdaheen (-10).

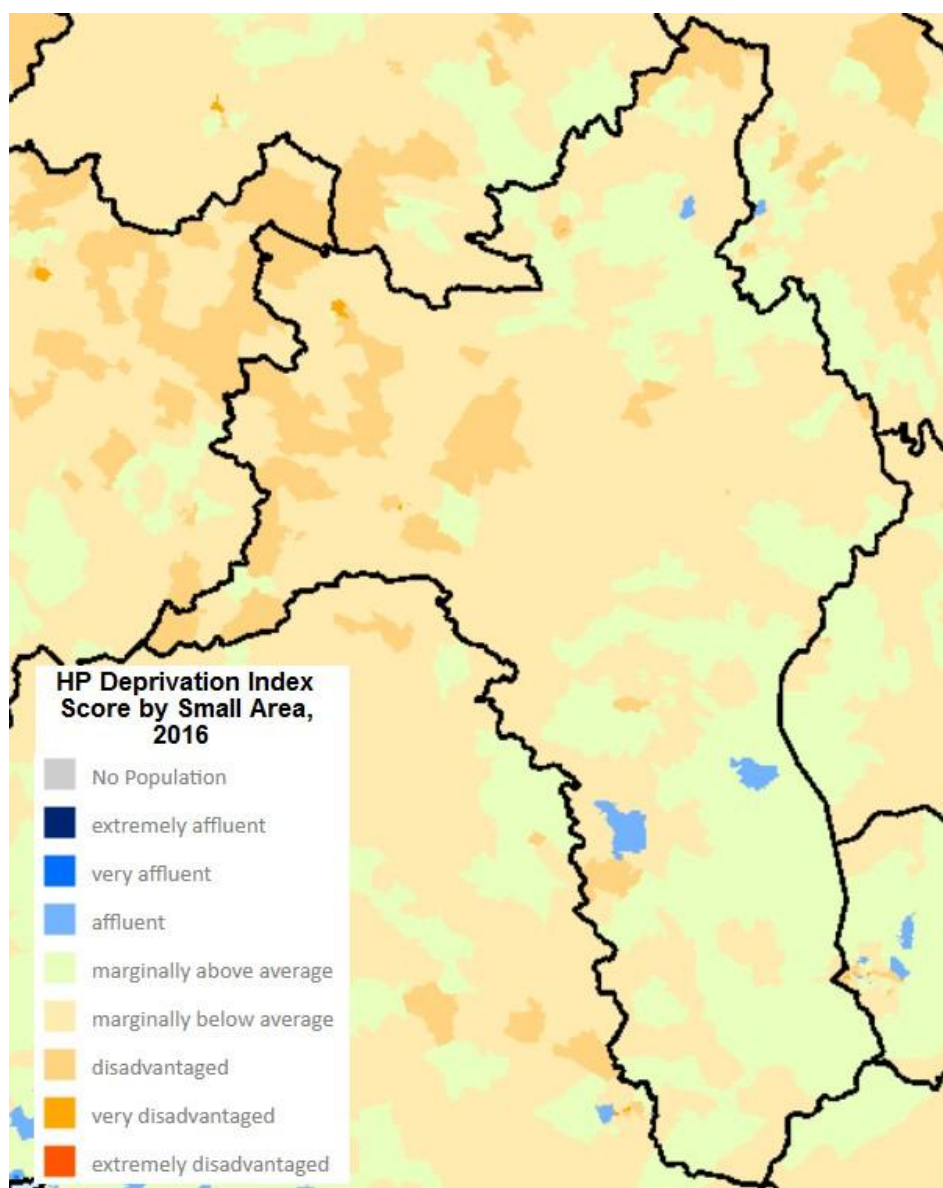
The most affluent EDs in County Roscommon are Oakport (8.3), Dromlosh (7.3) and Kiltoom (6.8). None of these are categorised as affluent on the HP Deprivation Index, rather, they are categorised as 'marginally above average'.

## Map 2: Map of County Roscommon indicating relative Affluence and Deprivation at the Electoral Divisions level, 2016



A relative Affluence and Deprivation Index Score at the more localised Small Area (SA) level is presented in Map 3. Each Small Area in County Roscommon contains approximately 90 households.

### Map 3: Map of County Roscommon indicating relative Affluence and Deprivation at the Small Area (SA) level, 2016



None of the 303 SAs in the county are categorised as extremely affluent or very affluent.

Just three SAs are categorised as affluent. These are SA 197091004 in the ED of Mote (13.2), SA 197085002 in the ED of Lismaha (11.13) and SA 197092002 in the ED of Oakport (10.52). A further 97 SAs are categorised as marginally above average.

While a total 155 SAs were categorised as marginally below average, 44 SAs were categorised as disadvantaged.

Four SAs in the county were categorised as very disadvantaged, these are: SA 197011006 in the ED Ballaghaderreen (-22.43), SA 197022008 in the ED Boyle Urban (-22.87) and SA 197022009 in the ED Boyle Urban ED, -27.24.

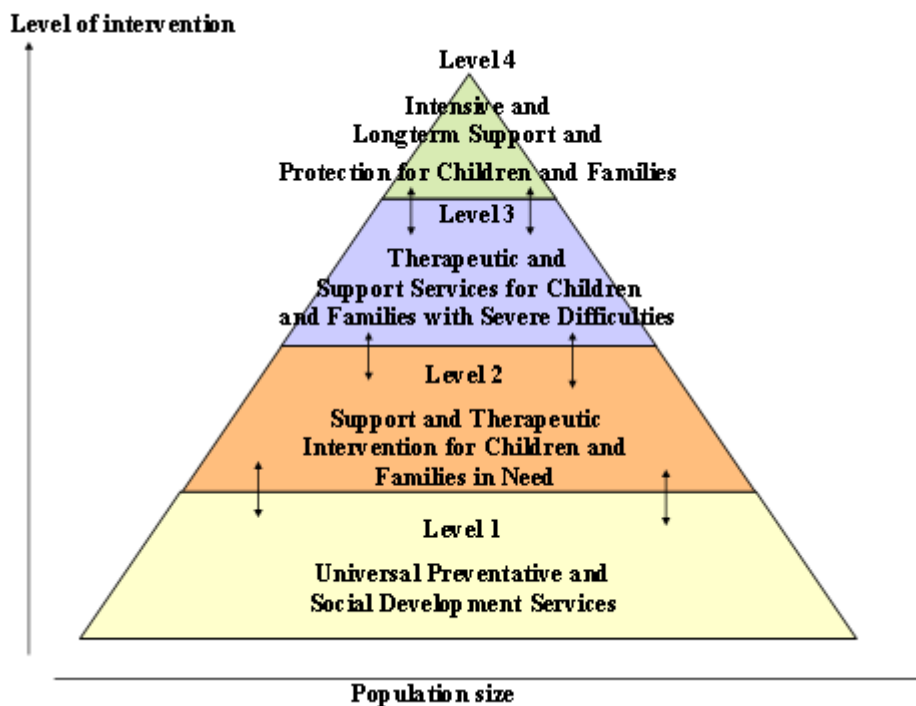
## Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Roscommon

An overview of the services and supports available to children, young people and families in County Roscommon is presented in this section.

Services are categorised by their focus on different levels of need as defined in the Hardiker Model of Need.

Services are presented in this section in alphabetical order.

### Hardiker Model



Organisation / Agency Health	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
An Garda Síochána	16 Garda Stations providing policing services across the County.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	There is 1 Juvenile Liaison Officer based in Roscommon town.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 & 3)
	Roscommon Active Diversion (RAD) Youth Project works intensively with young offenders or those who are at risk of offending.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 & 3)
Brothers of Charity	Services to people with an intellectual disability and their families County Roscommon. Services range from early intervention services for young children with complex needs, in partnership with the HSE and Enable Ireland, through to school-age services and a variety of programmes for adults.	Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2,3 & 4)
Castlerea Prison	Castlerea Prison has an operational capacity of 340 prisoners and is a closed, medium security prison for adult males. It is the committal prison for remand and sentenced prisoners in Connaught and also takes committals from Counties Cavan, Donegal and Longford.	Statutory	Targeted
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS)	Assessment and therapeutic interventions for children and their families with a range of mental health disorders.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2 & 3)
	Inpatient Unit: based in Merlin Park is a 20 bed facility which accepts referrals from community based CAMHS teams for the region of HSE West.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 3 & 4)
Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg are youth councils wherein young people identify, prioritise and progress local topics important to them. Young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age are selected from their schools to attend meetings. There is one Comhairle na nÓg operating in Roscommon.	Statutory	Universal
County Playbus	The Playbus is funded by the Traveller Health Project and Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Service and travels to rural areas		
Department of Education and Skills	DES funds 99 Primary Schools including 2 DEIS schools and 8 Post Primary Schools in the County including 1 DEIS school.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Domestic Abuse Services	Support for victims of domestic abuse is provided by Vita House, Roscommon town, Safelink, Boyle and Roscommon Women's Network, Castlerea. Where families are in need of refuge services they can avail of these in Westmeath, Mayo, Longford and Galway.	Community / Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 & 3)
Early Years Services	59 pre-school services in the County provide a range of full day care and sessional day care services to children.	Private and Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	There are 50 Afterschool Services in the County	Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	15 Parent and Toddler Groups	Statutory and Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Family Resource Centres	Family Resource Centres provide a range of services to children and families such as adult education, meals on wheels, home visit programme, counselling, information provision and support, advocacy and networking and employment support. FRCs also provide developmental opportunities including peer support groups and community groups.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Support children and families who are affected by separation or bereavement, which can include the delivery of the Rainbows programme	Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Boyle Family Resource and Counselling Centre provides afterschool support groups and study groups for children and young people living in their catchment areas. Two	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1 & 2)

Organisation / Agency Health	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
	Family Resource Centres are currently under development in Caslterea and Ballaghaderreen.		
Family Welfare Conference Co-ordinator	One Family Welfare Conference Co-ordinator covers Galway and Roscommon and has the responsibility for convening family meetings to develop plans for children.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 & 3)
Foróige	Youth and Family Support Project provide services for young people aged 10-18 years and their families and are based in Roscommon town, Boyle and Caslterea. Their services include 20 Foroige Clubs, Big Brother Big Sister, Teenage Health Initiative, Family Preservation work, individual and group work and targeted summer camps.	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 & 2)
GAA Clubs	32 Clubs throughout the County offer opportunities for physical exercise, social interaction and community engagement. The GAA are also involved in initiatives such as the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Programme and the Healthy Club Project, run in partnership with the HSE and the National Office for Suicide Prevention.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board	GRETB offers a broad educational service throughout the County both at second level and in its wide network of Adult and Community Education Centres, Literacy Schemes, Outdoor Education, VTOS and Youthreach Programmes. School leavers and mature students can study a range of topics including Business and Media, Social Care, Horticulture, Sport, Music, Theatre and Film and Design and Technology courses.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 & 2)
	GRETB funds youth projects and services across the County including those provided by Foroige and Youth Work Ireland Midlands. This work is supported by GRETB's Youth Officer.	Statutory and Community /Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 & 2)
Jigsaw	Jigsaw Roscommon offers a free and confidential support service for young people, which aims to promote mental health and well-being of young people aged 15 – 25 years.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1,2, 3)
Health Service Executive	Primary Care Networks x 9	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Public Health Nurses (PHN's) Community and Registered General Nurses (RGN's): wide range of nursing services in the community. They are often the first point of contact for people to access a range of HSE services.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Area Medical Officers: developmental assessments of all babies from the age of seven months and follow up of those with an identified developmental, growth or clinical concern; role in relation to the school immunisation programme; medical evaluation of suspected child abuse and neglect	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Dentistry	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Audiology	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Ophthalmology	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Podiatry	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Community Nutrition	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Addiction Services	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2 & 3)
	Health Promotion Officer: Promotion in relation to key areas of physical activity, obesity, alcohol, smoking, sexual health and health inequalities are addressed across different population groups, including children	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)

Organisation / Agency Health	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
	The Urgent Care Centre in Roscommon County Hospital provides services for children of five years of age and over who present with minor injuries. There are no Accident and Emergency, Paediatric or Maternity In-patient services available in County Roscommon. Hospital services are provided in Counties Galway, Mayo and Sligo.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Speech and Language Therapy	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Physiotherapy	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Occupational Therapy	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Community Psychology Services: Assessment and treatment services for children from birth to 18 years with mild to moderate psychological presentations, such as anxiety, grief/loss, behavioural and emotional difficulties	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
Irish Girl Guides	An organisation for girls and young women aged 5 – 26 years, which places a strong emphasis on the outdoors, environment, community responsibility and team work. In County Roscommon there are groups in Boyle, Castlerea, Roscommon and Athlone.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Money Advice and Budgeting Service	The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is the State's money advice service, guiding people through dealing with problem debt. Services in Roscommon are based in Roscommon town.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Roscommon City and County Childcare Committee	Supports implementation of national childcare programmes at local level; coordinates and assists the development of quality childcare services; provides accredited training and in-service training for childcare providers/staff; provides information and resources for childcare providers, parents and the general public.	Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Roscommon County Council	16 x playgrounds; 2 x public swimming pools;	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Library Branches x 6 and one Mobile library Service that travels to schools and community projects and events across the County.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	The Arts Programme of Roscommon County Council includes programmes such as Artists in Schools, Writer in Residence, Roscommon County Youth Theatre and Roscommon County Youth Orchestra.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Talks on road safety awareness to schools and other groups	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	The Arts for Children and Young People programme, provides programmes such as Artists in Schools, Writer in Residence, Roscommon County Youth Theatre and Roscommon County Youth Orchestra.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Roscommon Early Intervention Service (REIS)	REIS provides services for children with complex needs from birth to six years of age. This service is run in partnership between HSE and the Brothers of Charity	Statutory and Voluntary Partnership	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2,3,& 4)
Roscommon Leader Partnership (RLP)	RLP are responsible for local and community development and provide services to children via parenting programmes, co-ordinating the Family Visitor Centre in Castlerea Prison, providing support to young carers, and the development of youth spaces in rural areas.	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1,2 & 3)



Organisation / Agency Health	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
	RLP provides the Local Employment Service, Enterprise Supports, CV Clinics, Employment Skills Workshops and Work Experience Agreements for young people.	Community / Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
	RLP have workers who support travellers by highlighting the main issues that affect the community such as health, accommodation, education, discrimination and enterprise and work issues.	Community / Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
Roscommon Sports Partnership	Practical supports for greater physical activity of children, young people and families. Targets particularly groups likely to be excluded from participation in regular sports activities.	Statutory and Voluntary Partnership	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 & 2)
Roscommon Women's Network	Supports women in the County, especially those who are marginalised or disadvantaged, through the provision of training, counselling services, information and advice both at individual and group levels.	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3)
The Department of Social Protection	DSP serves a wide and diverse group of clients including families, people in employment, unemployed people, people with disabilities, carers and pensioners. It has Local and Branch offices in Roscommon town, Boyle and Castlerea.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3)
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Social Work and Child Care Teams are based in Roscommon Town, Boyle and Castlerea. They provide child protection and welfare, adoption, fostering and aftercare services to children and families. There are no residential care, special care or high support services provided in Roscommon, but Roscommon children have access to these services in other parts of the Country.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 3 & 4)
	Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support Services are provided through two network areas in the North and South of the County. These services provide needs led support to children and families who are experiencing adversity in their lives. A key component of family support is prevention and early intervention to develop strengths and build supports.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 & 3)
	There is 1 Educational Welfare Officer based in the County	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 3 & 4)
	There is 1 Early Years Inspector accessing compliance of pre-school services with the Child Care (Pre-school Services) Regulations 2006	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level )
Tusla Home Management Service	Two Home Management Advisors cover the County providing services in home to families in need of advise around household budgeting, maintaining a home, nutrition and meal planning.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3)
Vita House Family Centre	Based in Roscommon town is a community not for profit agency, which offers many services including family mediation, cancer support, bereavement and loss counselling including the Rainbows Programme.		Universal and Targeted Services Hardiker Level 1 and 2
Western Regional Drugs Task Force	Provides support to existing services working in the field of drugs and alcohol; gathers and collates up to date information; works to improve the provision of drug and alcohol services.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1 & 2)
Youth Work Ireland Midlands	Youth Work Ireland Midlands provides Youth Services to young people in Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Castlerea and Frenchpark. This work involves both individual and group work.	Community/ Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2 & 3)

## Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Roscommon

This analysis is informed by data gathered through a series of consultation events that took place with children and young people and with service providers and CYPSC members in the context of developing the first Children and Young People's Plan for the County. The analysis is also cognisant of related national and local strategies and actions plans adopted by relevant service providers.

A significant correlation was evident between themes that emerged during consultation with service providers and during consultation with children and young people. Specific geographical areas of need broadly reflected the HP Relative Deprivation Index 2011 for electoral divisions (Haase Pratschke, 2012).

Priority areas identified by Roscommon CYPSC for the period 2017 – 2019 contribute to the overarching objectives of the Roscommon County Local Economic Community Plan and Roscommon CYPSC is responsible for implementing actions in relation to young people in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

A synopsis of the main concerns and issues for children and young people in Roscommon, categorised under the five national outcomes for children and young people, is presented below.

### **Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being**

#### **Healthy and Active 0-3 year olds**

*Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, national policy framework for children and young people (2014)* states that 'investment in early years care and education reaps significant dividends throughout a child's life and to society as a result of better outcomes' (p. ix). The call for a greater emphasis to be placed on early years care and education is mirrored in *Healthy Ireland: the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Ireland (2013, p.49)*, which states 'child health, wellbeing, learning and development are inextricably linked, and the most effective time to intervene in terms of reducing inequalities and improving health and wellbeing outcomes is before birth and in early childhood...intervention in the early years has been shown to be a good investment, as it provides a greater rate of return than that for later intervention'. Also, the Growing Up in Ireland research has found that almost one quarter of all three year olds nationally had a Body Mass Index beyond the range that is considered healthy for this group (2011). Given that Roscommon has a population of 4,360 children under the age of four years and if one quarter of these have a Body Mass Index beyond the range that is considered healthy, this implies that 1,090 children in the County could be affected, which the CYPSC regards as a significant number.

Local services are currently working, and reporting, to a wide range of national policy guidelines and strategies. The need to coordinate an interagency approach to the delivery of services for 0 – 3 year olds emerged as a key concern for service providers. The potential of greater interagency collaboration to help focus existing services promoting healthy eating and diet was also stressed.

The importance of positive mental health and the impact of parental mental health was a common theme emerging from consultations with children, young people and service providers.

Acknowledging the interconnectedness of the mental health and well-being of parents and their children was seen as a challenge within a framework of service provision characterised by a demarcation between adult services and services for children and young people. Despite a

recognition of the potential for employing a more holistic, family-wide, response to mental ill-health, current practice does not allow for such an approach.

Roscommon CYPSC has identified the following as priority areas for the period 2017 – 2019:

- Healthy and Active 0-3 year olds
- Parental Mental Health and its Impact on Children

### **Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development**

The national policy framework for children and young people, *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures* states that ‘children and young people experience a number of key transitions in their journey from childhood to adulthood...Planning for and providing coordinated support at key moments of transition can help ensure better outcomes’ (2014, p. 8). Both the Aistear and Síolta frameworks highlight the importance of supportive and smooth transitions in early childhood and the transition from preschool to primary school is a priority area of work in the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment’s *Strategic Plan, 2015-2018*.

‘A coordinated information sharing process between the preschool and primary school is an important way of supporting children making this transition’ (O’Kane 2016, p.12). The lack of such a process was identified as a significant gap in support within the city and county.

Roscommon CYPSC has identified the following as priority area for the period 2017 – 2019:

- Supporting the transition from Preschool to primary school

### **Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm**

Issues relating to safety and protection were identified as a concern by children and young people at all of the consultation events undertaken. Similarly, service providers stressed the fundamental importance of ensuring the safety and protection of children and young people. The need to recognise new and emerging threats to children and young people and to develop innovative and effective approaches to tackling these threats was identified by young people and service providers alike.

During consultations, service providers referred to the need to educate children and young people, as well as their parents, so that they are aware of dangers and are equipped to protect themselves from harm. This point was stressed when discussing the online activities of children and young people, not least because service providers reported feeling under-skilled and poorly positioned to influence behaviour in online environments. Both service providers and young people valued online activity as an exceptional resource for the educational advancement and social development of children. However, both cohorts noted the potential for serious consequences where children and young people were unable to recognise online risks and to act appropriately. In the absence of an overarching national internet safety strategy for children and young people, Roscommon CYPSC has committed to supporting children and young people (as well as their parents, schools, child/youth work practitioners, information and the communications technology industry) to ensure online environments are safe and age appropriate.

The detrimental impact that domestic violence can have on children emerged as another key theme for Roscommon CYPSC member organisations. Focus groups with service providers consistently advised that domestic violence was a principal cause of referrals. The positive working relationship

that exists between statutory and community / voluntary service providers in the county was identified as a key strength that can be built upon. The potential for statutory and community /voluntary services to collaborate on a joint initiative working directly with younger children affected by domestic violence was proposed. This initiative would seek to enhancing self-esteem and increase the capacity for safety planning among children of primary school age.

Roscommon CYPSC recognises the value of a Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Working Group that will work to improve outcomes for children by intervening to resolve problems at as early a stage as is practicable. Two local Child and Family Support Networks consisting of local statutory providers, local voluntary/community children and family services have already been established. These will be supported and developed throughout the period 2017 – 2019. Meitheal, the national practice model\*, will continue to provide a common approach to the identification of strengths and needs and to the coordination and review of supports through a 'Team around the Child' approach.

The importance of supporting parents in their parenting role emerged as a strong theme of the consultations with service providers. A range of parenting supports are provided across the county by a variety of service providers including Tusla, the HSE, Roscommon Childcare Committee, the Family Resource Centres and other community / voluntary organisations. The delivery of parenting programmes is well co-ordinated in the County, with one agreed parenting programme – Common Sense Parenting - being provided by various stakeholders across the county. It is important that parents in the County are aware of this provision and to address needs in this area an internet site will be developed as an information point and resource bank for parents. This will complement national online resources by providing up-to-date detail of local initiatives and services.

Roscommon CYPSC has identified the following as priority areas for the period 2017 – 2019:

- Keeping Children Safe Online
- Impact of Domestic Violence on Children
- Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
- Supporting Parents

#### **Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity**

When consulted, children and young people in the county emphasised that in rural areas there are gaps for them if they are not into sport or the GAA. To address this gap Roscommon CYPSC member organisations agreed to progress the development of Information and Communication Technology Skills.

Roscommon CYPSC has identified the following priority area for the period 2017 – 2019:

- Support the rollout of Coder Dojo and Tech Space initiatives in the County which are provided by Foróige.

\*Meitheal is a national practice model to ensure that the needs and strengths of children and their families are identified, understood and responded to in a timely way so that a children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and to realise their rights (Tusla, 2013, p.1)

## **Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world**

The themes of rural isolation and lack of transport surfaced in every consultation with children and young people and in the majority of consultations with service providers based in Roscommon. Currently, a network of extensive but low frequency scheduled rural services operates throughout the county. Young people reported that these services do not meet their needs in relation to routing or scheduling. Young people felt that their ability to engage fully with community and society was being undermined by their inability to access transport services. The negative effects of isolation on mental health and participation rates in society are well documented (Hirsch and Cukrowicz 2014; Chip et al, 2011).

Roscommon CYPSC will actively address social exclusion. National policy aimed at tackling poverty for children and families is articulated in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, the national policy framework for children & young people 2014-2020* and calls for a whole-of-government approach to tackling child poverty, building on the lifecycle approach adopted by the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 – 2016*.

One of the gaps for young people in County Roscommon highlighted by the audit of services was the lack of supports for young LGBT+ people in the County. Roscommon CYPSC membership aims to ensure that there are supports available to these young people in the County.

Roscommon CYPSC has identified the following priority areas for the period 2017 – 2019

- Social Inclusion
- Supports for LGBT+ young people

### **Across all Outcomes: Change Management**

Consultation events also considered the process of how services are delivered. Service providers identified the potential of more coordinated working between community / voluntary organisations, statutory organisations and the private sector. The development of information sharing protocols and practices were seen as key to progressing an interagency approach at local level. Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee was recognised as a forum wherein service delivery can be coordinated and joint initiatives developed.

Roscommon CYPSC and its Sub-groups will ensure that accurate information on services and supports across priority action areas is available to young people, families, front line practitioners, communities and agencies through the further development of the website and Facebook page [positiveparenting.ie](http://positiveparenting.ie)

CYPSC member organisations acknowledged the need to develop and maintain positive relationships with children and young people and will involve young people in Sub-groups where possible, and have young people present on topics at meetings. Also, the CYPSC Co-ordinator is a member of the Comhairle na nOg in the County to facilitate communication between both structures.

## Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People's Plan for Roscommon

The CYPSC will identify a priority area for each outcome, or it may have several priority areas under one outcome. CYPSCs should include both newly identified and existing priorities or major initiatives being undertaken on an interagency basis.

\*to be identified following the local needs analysis and the audit of services

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy and Active 0 – 3 year olds</li> <li>• Parental Mental Health and its Impact on Children</li> </ul>
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the Transition from Pre-school to Primary School</li> </ul>
3. Safe and protected from harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping Children Safe Online</li> <li>• Impact of Domestic Violence on Children</li> <li>• Prevention, Partnership and Family Support</li> </ul>
4. Economic security and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Tech Space initiative</li> </ul>
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Inclusion</li> <li>• Supports for LGBT+ Young People</li> </ul>

Change Management	Local Priority Areas
Change management - CYPSC may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level, e.g. development of interagency protocols, development of information sharing protocols, interagency training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interagency working and collaboration</li> </ul>

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Healthy and Active 0 – 3 year olds	To agree Interagency Plan for progressing the health and wellbeing of 0 – 3 year olds in the county	Publication of a health and wellbeing plan for 0 – 3 years olds in Roscommon	A multiagency group commits to working together to develop an interagency plan to support the health and wellbeing of 0-3s	Form a Working Group and undertake consultation  Compile a plan; agree with stakeholders	Mid 2018	Roscommon Leader Partnership  Partners: All services and relevant community & voluntary groups	Roscommon County Child Care Committee Plan  Get Ireland Active: National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland  Roscommon County Local Economic and Community Plans  Nurture Programme  Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing	BOBF TG 6: Cross-government and Interagency Collaboration and Coordination  BOBF TG 2: Earlier intervention and Prevention  BOBF TG 4: Ensure Quality Services

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
							2013-2015 HSE National Service Plan.	
Introduction of the Smoke Free Homes Project in County Roscommon	To increase awareness of the impact of second hand smoke on health, with a particular focus on pregnant women and children	Reduction of Smokers in County Roscommon	Recruitment of ten adults in the County to participate in a support programme to stop smoking	Recruitment of a Smoke Free Homes Project Worker  Design of Information Leaflets for the Project	Q 1 2019	Roscommon Leader Partnership  Partners: All services and relevant community & voluntary groups	Roscommon LECP  Nurture Programme  Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2015	BOBF TG 6: Cross-government and Interagency Collaboration and Coordination  BOBF TG 2: Earlier intervention and Prevention
Parental Mental Health and its Impact on Children	To reduce the negative impact of parental mental illness on children	Number of children affected by parental mental illness accessing support services	That a specific programme for children affected by parental mental health is launched	Deliver a Family Talk programme that provides age appropriate supports to children of parents who are receiving treatment for mental disorders	End 2018	HSE Psychology, Adult Mental Health, CAHMS  Jigsaw, HSE Suicide Prevention, Family Resource Centres, AIMS,	Connecting for Life 2015–2020  Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy - A Vision for	BOBF GT 1: Support Parents  BOBF TG 2: Earlier intervention and Prevention



## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
						Tusla Family Support,  Tusla Social Work	Change	BOBF TG 4: Ensure Quality Services BOBF TG 6: Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination
	That all parents whose mental illness is impacting upon children have an appropriate care plan in place	Number of parents (whose mental illness is impacting upon children) who have an appropriate care plan in place	To design and introduce working protocols to enable an holistic / family-level response where children present with mental health difficulties that are being caused or exacerbated by parental mental illness	End 2018	HSE Psychology, Adult Mental Health, CAHMS  Jigsaw, HSE Suicide Prevention, Family Resource Centres, AIMS, Tusla Family Support, Tusla Social Work	Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy - A Vision for Change	Connecting for Life 2015–2020  Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy - A Vision for Change	BOBF TG 6: Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		Number of training programmes delivered to practitioners	That 30 professionals from a range of services attend training	Deliver training programme to practitioners working with children affected by parental mental illness	End 2018	HSE Psychology, Adult Mental Health, CAHMS  Jigsaw, HSE Suicide Prevention, Family Resource Centres, AIMS, Tusla Family Support, Tusla Social Work	Connecting for Life 2015–2020  Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy - A Vision for Change	BOBF 2 TG 4: Ensure Quality Services  BOBF TG 6: Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination

Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2 Achieving full potential in learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Supporting Transition of Preschool Children to Primary School</b>	To support children transitioning from pre-school to primary school	Number of children being supported during transition from pre-school to primary school	That all children in Roscommon who are transitioning from pre-school to primary school have a transitions booklet that serves to introduce their individual abilities to teachers	Develop and pilot a transitions booklet.  Distribute booklet (and guidance) to all pre-schools in county.	End Q1 2017  End Q2 2017  Evaluate, amend and re-run in 2018 and 2019	Roscommon County Childcare Committee  Partners: Pre-school service providers, Primary Schools, Parents' groups	Roscommon County Childcare Plan  Tusla 50 Key Messages for Parents  Aistear Curriculum and Síolta Quality Framework  Better Outcomes Brighter Futures 2014 - 2020	BOBF TG 2: Earlier Intervention and prevention  BOBF TG 5: Strengthening transitions  BOBF TG 6: Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Keeping Children Safe Online</b>	To provide supports for staff and parents to keep children safe online	Percentage of staff and parents who have attended internet safety seminars and events	To deliver an internet safety seminar for the Area  To design a parenting programme on the topic of internet safety	Map current internet safety workshops for parents  Co-ordinate delivery to ensure blanket access to workshops across the County  Host a seminar on internet safety	End 2017  End 2018	Tusla Family Support  Partners: Schools, Youth Services, Youth advocacy orgs, An Garda Síochána, Centre for Data Analytics at NUI, Galway and Community and	Tusla Parenting Strategy  National Action Plan on Bullying	BOBF TG 1: Support Parents  BOBF TG 2: Earlier Intervention and Prevention  BOBF TG 6: Cross-governmental and Interagency Collaboration and Coordination
		Percentage of parents attending Parenting Programmes with an Internet Safety element	That 100% of parents attending parenting courses in the county be offered a module on internet safety	Devise, pilot and roll-out a module that can be offered as a supplementary element for parents attending parenting programmes	End 2017	Tusla Family Support  Partners: Schools, Youth Services, Youth advocacy orgs, An Garda Síochána, Centre for Data Analytics at NUI, Galway and C&V Groups		

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Impact of Domestic Violence of Children</b>	To increase children's understanding of feeling safe and to promote behaviours which will contribute to a safe environment	Number of trainers trained in evidence-based programme (Helping Hands)	That 8 staff are trained in the Helping Hands programme across the county	Adapt Helping Hands programme for use in Republic of Ireland.	End 2017	Tusla Family Support Services  Partners: Domestic Violence Services, An Garda Síochána, Community and Voluntary Groups	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures  Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021	BOBF TG 2: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
				Train the trainers in programme delivery.	End 2017			BOBF TG 3: Listen to and Involve Children  BOBF TG 6: Cross-governmental and Interagency Collaboration and Coordination BOBF TG 2: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Prevention, Partnership and Family Support</b>	To provide family support services across the county	Number of referrals to PPFS	That every child and family referred to PPFS receives a quality service appropriate to their need	That services deliver a quality service appropriate to the needs of the child and/or family	Ongoing	Tusla Family Support Services  Partners: all relevance statutory, community and voluntary service providers	Tusla National Service Delivery Model  Tusla PPFS suite of documents	Outcome 2: Achieving in all areas of learning and development  Transformational Goal:
	To improve coordination and collaboration among family support service providers	Number of service providers contributing to the PPFS Sub Group  Number of Child and Family Networks established and maintained	That every relevant service contributes to the PPFS Sub Group  That 2 Child and Family Networks are established and maintained	Establish and support PPFS Sub Group  Establish and support Child and Family Networks	End 2017  End 2017	Tusla Family Support Services  Partners: all relevance statutory, community and voluntary service providers	Tusla National Service Delivery Model  Tusla PPFS suite of documents	Cross government and inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination
	To implement the Meitheal National Practice Model	Number of practitioners who received Meitheal training  Number of Meitheals established	That every practitioner receives Meitheal training	Roll out training across the county	On-going	Tusla Family Support Services  Partners: all relevance statutory, community and voluntary service providers	Tusla National Service Delivery Model  Tusla PPFS suite of documents	

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Supporting Parents</b>	To promote evidence-based parenting programmes to all parents across the county	Number of parenting courses delivered	That no parent would have to wait for more than 6 months to access a place on a suitable parenting course	Map current delivery of parenting courses	End Q2 2018	Tusla Family Support	Tusla National Service Delivery Model	
		Geographical spread of parenting courses delivered	That at least one parenting course would be delivered in each Child and Family Network each year	Promote parenting courses as a community education initiative rather than as a child welfare initiative	End 2018	Partners: Schools, GRETB, FRCs, Community Education Centres, Parent Support Groups, Community and Voluntary Groups	Tusla PPFS suite of documents	
	To provide and maintain an online database of parent supports available in the county	Online database established	That all statutory and community & voluntary services are profiled on the website.	Design web-based interface	End Q2 2017	Tusla, Family Support Services	Tusla National Service Delivery Model	
		Number of unique visitors to database	That the website is updated on an on-going basis so that information is accurate and current	Populate database Launch website	End Q2 2017 End 2018	Partners: All statutory and Community & Voluntary services		
				Maintain the database by updating information regularly	On-going	Tusla, Family Support Services	Tusla National Service Delivery Model	
						Partners: All statutory and C&V services		

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	To make engagement with Child Protection Conferences more positive for parents and families	The attendance rate of parents at Child Protection Conferences	To identify attendance rate of parents and to increase this rate by 10%	To make engagement with Child Protection Conferences more positive for parents and families	End 2017	Tusla, Social Work Services  Partners: NUI, Galway, CYPSC member organisations / other participating organisations, Family Support Services	Tusla National Service Delivery Model	
	To establish a model of support for parents and siblings of children with a serious illness diagnosis	Number of families affected by a serious childhood illness diagnosis receiving support	Scope needs of parents and siblings  Support pack designed and delivered to families	To research national and international models of support for families who have received a serious illness diagnosis of a child  To design a support pack for families affected by these issues	End 2019	CYPSC member organisations / other participating organisations, Family Support Services, Childhood Cancer Foundation	National Cancer Strategy 2017 - 2026	



## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Providing opportunities to develop employable skills outside of school</b>	To create capacity among youth workers to run creative technology and STEM education programmes to promote creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.	Number of Youth Workers trained with Techspace	To train youth workers to deliver Techspace in county	Invite Techspace to present to the CYPSC	End 2017	Techspace, Foróige	Local Youth Employment Strategies	BOBF TG 4: Ensure Quality Services
				Map existing youth work infrastructure	End Q2 2018	Partners: Youth Work Ireland, Schools, Community and Voluntary Groups, GRETB	National Youth Strategy	BOBF TG 6: Cross-government and interagency collaboration and cooperation
				Identify Techspace locations	End Q2 2018			
		Number of Techspace initiatives established	To equip Techspace initiatives across the county	Train Youth Workers	End Q3 2017			
				Equip initiatives	End 2019			

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Social Inclusion</b>	To improve access to services and reduce the isolation experienced by children and young people in rural areas	Number of young people accessing existing rural transport initiatives	To increase the number of people accessing existing rural transport initiatives by 10%	Undertake audit and mapping exercise of existing transport assets  Investigate current models of providing rural transport	End Q1 2019  End Q2 2019  End Q3 2019	Local Transport Co-ordination Unit (Local Link)  Partners: Integrated Development Companies, Comhairle na nÓg, Youth services	Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future: A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020  Transport 21	BOBF TG 4: Ensure Quality Services  BOBF TG 6: Cross-governmental and interagency collaboration and cooperation
		Number of new transport initiatives introduced to service children and young people	Amend and expand existing transport services to reflect needs of children and young people	Undertake needs analysis  Submit proposals to Local Transport Coordination Unit (Local Link)	End 2019	Local Transport Co-ordination Unit (Local Link)  Partners: Integrated Development Companies, Comhairle na nÓg, Youth services	Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future: A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020  Transport 21	
	To address emerging social inclusion needs in the County for children, young people and their families	Identified gaps in service provision for young people in the county	Research best practice models nationally  Support the development and expansion of universal		End 2019	Roscommon Leader Partnership  Partners: Local Transport Services; Youth Organisations	Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future: A New Transport Policy for Ireland  Transport 21	BOBF  Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan

Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	experiencing disadvantage		youth service provision in the county  Communicate merging social inclusion at local, regional and national levels					
<b>Support and Advice Services for LGBT+ young people in Roscommon</b>	To establish LGBT Support Services for young people in County Roscommon	LGBT+ Friendly Services in County Roscommon	To design and display an LGBT+ friendly logo  Design and deliver Awareness Raising Session	Establish Support Group  Design and Launch Symbol  Hold 6 LGBT awareness raising sessions with services across the County  Establish LGBT Support Group in County	Q 1 2017  Q 2 2017  Q 3 2017  Q 4 2018	Roscommon CYPSC Members, including Foroige, Roscommon Leader Partnership, Secondary Schools in the County, HSE Suicide Prevention Office	Connecting for Life National Strategy to Reduce Suicide over the period 2015-2020	Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan  Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 -2020  Family Resource Centre's Western Area Code of Practice

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Change management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners		Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Interagency Working &amp; Collaboration</b>	To facilitate information sharing among member organisations	The development of interagency protocols	That information sharing protocols are put in place where appropriate	Identification of barriers to information sharing  Address barriers to information sharing	Ongoing  Ongoing	CYPSC  CYPSC	Local Economic and Community Plan  Better Outcomes Brighter Futures  Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents	BOBF TG6: Cross-Government and Interagency collaboration and coordination
		Attendance at CYPSC Meetings	That CYPSC member organisations attend no less than 75% of meetings	Convene regular meetings	Ongoing	CYPSC		
		Issue of CYPSC newsletter	That 2 issues of CYPSC Newsletter and issued per year	Seek features, compile newsletter, distribute newsletter	End Q2 2017 (Ongoing thereafter)	CYPSC		
	To promote interagency working among statutory, community and voluntary organisations working with children and	Number of partnerships and collaborations	That all CYPSC member organisations undertake at least one collaborative piece of work per year	Coordinate delivery of Child and Family Networks	Ongoing	CYPSC		

## Action Plan for Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Change management

<i>Priority Area</i>	<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeframe for completion</i>	<i>Lead Responsibility and partners</i>		<i>Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)</i>
	young people						Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents	BOBF TG 4: Ensure quality services

## Section 7: Monitoring and Review

### **How will we make sure we deliver our aspirations in this plan?**

This Roscommon Children and Young People's Plan covers the three year period from 2017-2019. It sets out the Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee's objectives across all priority action areas. Roscommon CYPSC members will work together and with children, young people, families and communities to implement the actions outlined in this plan.

Working Groups will be established to progress each action within the Action Plan. Each active Working Group will present a progress report at meetings of the Roscommon CYPSC. Data relating to indicators specified in the plan will be collected by each Working Group as appropriate.

A progress review will take place annually. This process will categorise stated objectives in terms of progress made and will inform the committee's priorities for the following year.

Roscommon CYPSC reports to local and national structures as follows:

- Roscommon Children and Young People's plan has been mapped against the County Local Economic and Community Plan. Roscommon CYPSC will contribute to reviews of these plans as requested.
- Roscommon CYPSC is required to report on progress under the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework, by providing an Annual Programme of Work, Mid-year Progress Update and Annual Progress Report to the CYPSC National Co-ordinator.

## Section 8: Appendices

### Appendix 1

#### Summary of Consultations with Children and Young People and Service Providers around needs in Roscommon

##### Consultations with Children and Young People in Co Roscommon

Consultations with children and young people took place with the Co-ordinator in three sites in the county; Strokestown, Roscommon town and Castlerea, with children and young people from throughout the county. Five consultations were conducted with children and young people ranging in age from 10 to 18 years and a total 49 children and young people were involved in these. The children and young people were accessed through after- schools projects, Comhairle na nOg and Foróige and were asked:

What is good about living in your area?

What is not good about living in your area?

What you would like to change/ any suggestions for your area?

Theme	Responses	Suggestions
<b><i>Buildings, infrastructure</i></b>	<p><b>Positives:</b> Good schools, shops, library, outdoor swimming pool, parks, the prison (good security), playgrounds for younger children, train station, and animal shelter. Close to Athlone.</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b> The prison (scary), no cinema, no good shopping centre in the county, no good hotel, no A and E in the county. No indoor swimming pool locally. Litter is a problem in some areas.</p>	Need for public indoor swimming pools, cinema, more shops (Pennys), indoor play areas, Youth Cafes and outdoor space for teenagers to hang out, need for study spaces, an A and E in the area. More street lights. Better shops locally. More hotels, less traffic.

<p><b>Facilities and Services</b></p>	<p><b>Positives:</b> Schools, Youth Projects and afterschool groups, football/ sports clubs, boxing clubs, cycling clubs. Good GP and pharmacy services, Good train links to Dublin and other areas accessible by train, good mental health services, fabulous youth centre,</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <p>No places to hang out, playgrounds are often vandalised. No fishing places, no pet shop, no paintball centre, no nightclubs, nothing to do for girls, lack of knowledge of different activities, very little to do in rural areas. No activities on Saturday nights. Inland county- no water sports.</p>	<p>Have more places to hang out, especially in rural areas and outside of big towns, Have cooking classes or makeup classes for girls, have a soup kitchen for homeless. Study spaces are needed that are not linked to schools or library. Re-open the cinema.</p>
<p><b>Transport</b></p>	<p><b>Positives:</b> Getting to Athlone on public transport is straightforward from most areas. Poor transport between other areas,</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> Getting between local areas and in and out of county towns is very difficult for sports and youth clubs etc.</p>	<p>Local transport initiatives linking in with youth projects to help with transport, cheaper transport options. Teen discounts for buses, trains, rural bus services.</p>



<p><b>Costs</b></p>	<p><b>Positives:</b> Affordable gym sessions in one area.</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b> The cost of doing activities, cost of transport.</p>	<p>Cheaper facilities as gym and pool are too expensive to join as a member; Taxis and buses are too expensive; it is hard to settle into college and bridge gap between start of college and grant coming through. Introduce a student discount card for facilities and transport.</p>
<p><b>Perceptions/ personal thoughts</b></p>	<p><b>Positives:</b> It is peaceful and friendly people and communities, good opportunities for jobs, it's a scenic county, lots of time to think, quiet and safe and a tight knit community. Not a lot of traffic, nice food. Living in a secluded part of the county is good for mental health- can shout loud and be alone when needed and have lots of time to think.</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <p>No celebrities from Roscommon. No music group, Have to explain to some people that Roscommon is not part of Galway, poor treatment of young people in discos. Stigma on accessing mental health services and lack of information on how to access services for young people. Stigma if you are academic or speak Irish. Lack of a voice for young people in school.</p> <p>Castlerea prison makes some young people feel unsafe.</p>	<p>Advertise the county better. More part time jobs, more places that are warm and sheltered to hang out. Address litter issues. Have better information on how to access mental health services,</p>

## Consultations with very young children in County Roscommon

A series of consultation sessions with very young children in Co. Roscommon in relation to their health and well being needs were facilitated by Marie Gibbons in early 2017. The sessions were conducted as part of the broader ongoing consultative process that is seeking to engage key stakeholders concerned with the health and well-being of young children. The consultation processes will inform the development of the Early Years' Health and Wellbeing Plan by Roscommon CYPSC. The process is also being studied as part of a PhD study in conjunction with the U.N.E.S.C.O Child and Family Research Centre, N.U.I.Galway\*.

The consultations took place in early 2017 in six Preschools in the county, in Roscommon Town, Ballaghaderreen, Tarmonbarry, Frenchpark and Monksland. In total, 15 consultation sessions took place involving 120 children (aged 3 ½ - 4 years) with support from the staff in the services. The theme of the consultation was *'What do young children in Co. Roscommon think would help them to live healthier, happier and more active lives?'*

### The Consultation Process followed a number of steps:

- **Information sharing:** the CYPSC facilitator met with staff teams to explain the purpose and rationale for the consultations and to begin the process of getting parental consent.
- **Capacity Building Sessions;** A capacity building session on participation, listening to and consulting with young children as part of decision making processes was held in each service before the consultations with the children took place.
- **Planning the sessions:** CYPSC facilitator met with each staff team at least once to plan the sessions. Ideas were discussed on how the consultation sessions should proceed. An early idea from one service to use the Food Pyramid as a template was agreed in other services. Other activities were planned such as games, voting, drawing and art work. Language to be used during consultation process with children was discussed and generally agreed. Roles were agreed, materials and resources were organised. Time frames were agreed.
- **Consent and assent:** Services took on the process of gaining parental consent. They also agreed to prepare the children for the facilitators' visits.
- **Getting to know the children:** CYPSC facilitator spent time with children before the session, explained what she was doing and asked for their help with it.

### The Consultations

- **The Invitation:** The facilitator explained the purpose of the consultations in a child friendly way. Children were invited to take part and were reassured that they did not have to. There was another activity planned for children who did not want to take part.
- **The involvement of the Happy and Healthy Volcano:** The early idea of the food pyramid was adopted by all services and then adapted and changed with each session. The children were also asked for their ideas for the consultation sessions once they had been introduced to the overall theme and were familiar with the facilitator. The plan was to facilitate children to display their understanding of health and well-being in a visual format. The process that was developed involved a game using health related visual images. The children were asked to either vote or group these images depending on how they rated their importance for health and well-being. The children were then asked to draw their own ideas on what they felt was important for good health and well-being. These drawings were taken away by the facilitator

and grouped into themes. Images that represented each theme was sourced and printed. For example, several children drew playing with bubbles so an image of a child blowing bubbles was sourced from Google images and printed.

On the next visit the children were invited to develop their own happy and healthy pyramid. They were given the freedom to make their own decisions within the framework agreed with the Early Years Practitioners (EYP's). The framework was that important or vital health and wellbeing actions or behaviours would form the base of the pyramid, next would be desirable actions or behaviours and on top would be occasional actions or behaviours. Once this was explained to the children, they began working together with the Early Years Practitioners and the facilitator. This involved discussion and debate amongst the children as to where certain images should go. They often looked to the EYPs for support if there was a disagreement or uncertainty but also worked independently. Each service created their own version but there are striking similarities across each project. In the third service, the children were not happy with the idea of a pyramid and instead asked if it could be a volcano. The idea of a volcano was then taken on in the remaining services.

#### **The findings of the consultation process:**

Young children recognise that there are some basics that they need to be healthy and feel happy. They told us that they need us adults to make sure that EVERYDAY (and very often during the day):

- they get hugs and cuddles from grownups who care about them
- they spend time with Mammy and/or Daddy having fun
- they have lots of laughter
- they get enough sleep
- they get lots of water to drink and they eat lots of fresh fruit and vegetables
- they are reminded and helped to brush their teeth and to wash their hands after using the toilet/ before meals
- they get lots of fresh air
- that they get story time during the day and especially at night before bed

They also told us that they want and need OFTEN and as much as possible to be happy and healthy:

- playing inside and playing outside
- playing with grandparents
- playing with pets
- blowing bubbles
- jumping in puddles
- rough and tumble
- Spending time in nature- looking for spiders
- running down hills
- having bubble baths
- doing puzzles and games
- going to the park/ playground, going for walks, riding bikes,

The children also told us about other activities that they like to do occasionally, but that they know they shouldn't do too often as they may not be good for them. They called these TREATS

and think that adults need to know that they **do not need** them every day to be happy and healthy: drinking fizzy drinks, eating sweets and chocolate, playing on a tablet or phone. They also said that they need to sometimes visit the doctor and dentist to be healthy.

These findings have been represented in a visual format - the Happy and Healthy Volcano which was launched on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 by the Ombudsman for Children Dr. Niall Muldoon.

\*The PhD study is entitled 'A study of the participation of very young children, early years' practitioners and local policy decision-makers in a collaborative consultation process in the context of Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)'. The PhD researcher is Marie Gibbons and the research is being supervised by Dr. John Canavan and Dr. Allyn Fives.

## Consultations with Service Providers

Consultations were held with service providers during meetings with the CYPSC Co-ordinator to explain the role of the CYPSC. The question asked of staff was:

What are the needs of children and young people you are working with in Roscommon?

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Number of Times Identified</b>	<b>Agency</b>
<p>Lack of facilities for young people in County</p> <p>Need for more youth spaces in the County</p>	2	<p>Comhairle na nÓg</p> <p>Galway/Roscommon Education and Training Board</p>
<p>Lack of transport for young people in County living in rural areas</p> <p>Transport that does exist in County is not accessible for young people</p> <p>Issue is not necessarily the lack of services but one of lack of access to services</p>	4	<p>Comhairle na nÓg</p> <p>Galway/Roscommon Education and Training Board</p> <p>Youth Work Ireland</p>
<p>Lack of activities for young people on Friday and Saturday nights and also school holidays</p> <p>Lack of work initiatives for 14 – 16 year olds</p>	2	<p>Galway/Roscommon Education and Training Board</p> <p>Social Work/Child Care/Family Support Teams</p>
<p>Huge gaps in relation to disability services for children in County</p>	1	<p>Social Work/Child Care/Family Support Teams</p>

<p>Support for children whose parents have mental health issues</p> <p>Number of recent incidents of copycat self-harming in Castlerea – Jigsaw doing some work around this</p> <p>Social Isolation and accompanying mental health problems</p>	3	<p>Social Work/Child Care/Family Support Teams</p> <p>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</p>
Venues for access for children in care, lack of suitable child friendly venues and large enough venues	1	Social Work/Child Care/Family Support Teams
Need to target expectant mothers when they are pregnant to link in to services/pre-schools. Also to emphasise the importance of reading to their children	1	Roscommon County Childcare Committee
Need for more youth leaders/trained volunteers	1	Galway/Roscommon Education and Training Board
More funding needed for all youth groups – facilities, equipment etc	1	Galway/Roscommon Education and Training Board
No afterschool services for young people who are in secondary school	1	Roscommon County Childcare Committee
Cuts in services to children and young people are 6 times the size of	1	Youth Work Ireland

other cuts		
Different issues for children and young people depending on whether they are living in urban or rural areas of the County	1	Youth Work Ireland
Cyberbullying	1	Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board
General cuts in funding impacting on all services	1	Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board
CSC should be working with parents and not solely focused on working with children	1	Western Regional Drugs Task Force
High levels of substance misuse across the Western Region	1	Western Regional Drugs Task Force
Addiction Services should be seen as part of services to families and not separate	1	Western Regional Drugs Task Force
High levels of children who are overweight or obese in County reflecting a national trend	1	Social Work/Child Care/Family Support Teams