



CENTRE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICES



Children's Services Committees

Consolidating and Developing

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Annual CSC Networking Event, 19th September 2013



Purpose of a CSC

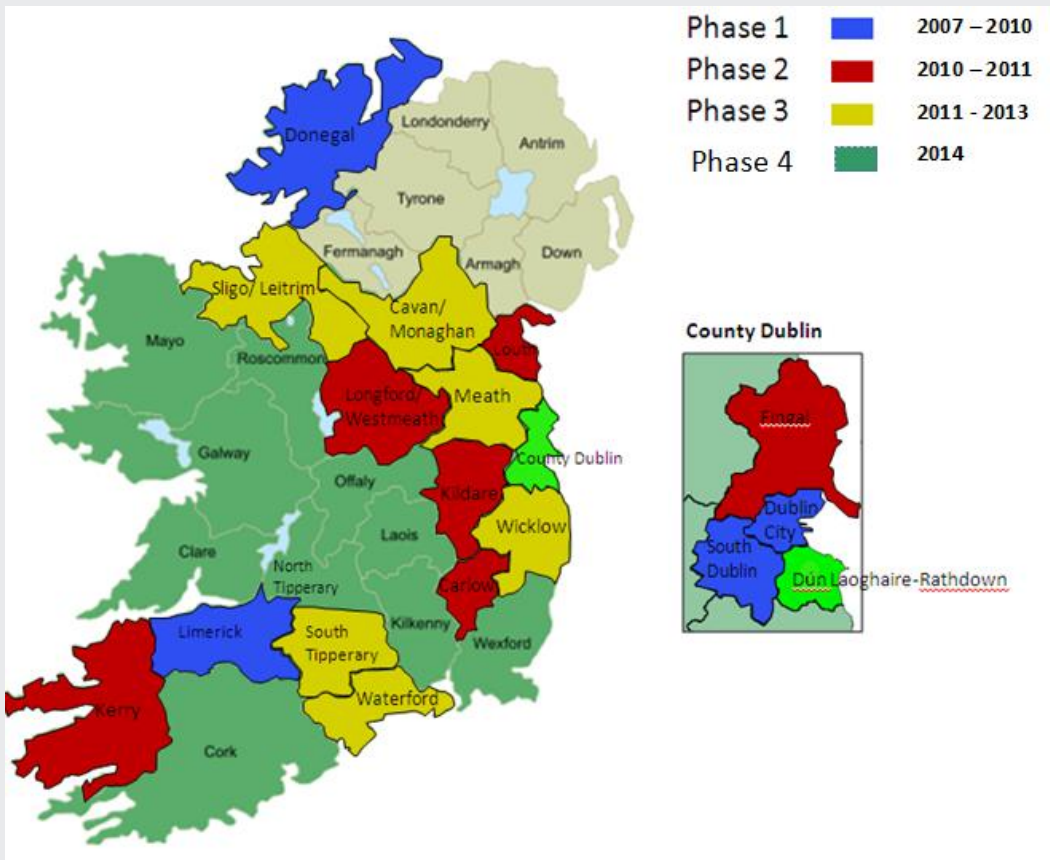
- **Children's Services Committees (CSCs)** are a structure for bringing together a diverse group of agencies in local county areas to engage in **joint planning and co-ordination of services for children.**
- These committees are **responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through co-ordinating, planning and service delivery.** They also ensure that professionals and agencies work together to ensure that children and their families receive improved and accessible services. The overall purpose of the CSCs is to secure better developmental outcomes for children.



National Co-ordinator Role

- Provide strategic leadership for the CSC initiative at national level and enable realisation of the strategic plan for the initiative ensuring that CSCs are embedded into the wider system; Child and Family Agency and Local Government Reform.
- Ensure there is coherence and that a common approach is adopted across CSCs; consistency in key processes e.g. establishment of new CSCs, Protocols, Job description for CSC Co-ordinator and Sharing good practice across the country.
- Harness and motivate energy for the CSC initiative at local and national level. Communications - horizontal and vertical; internal and external. A focal point for the CSC Initiative communicating its *raison d'être*, methods and work, extending understanding of CSCs and gaining commitment.
- Co-ordinate a CSC National Implementation Team, including staff from the DCYA and CES as appropriate.

National Picture of the Children's Services Committees Initiative



16 CSC sites

14 established CSCs

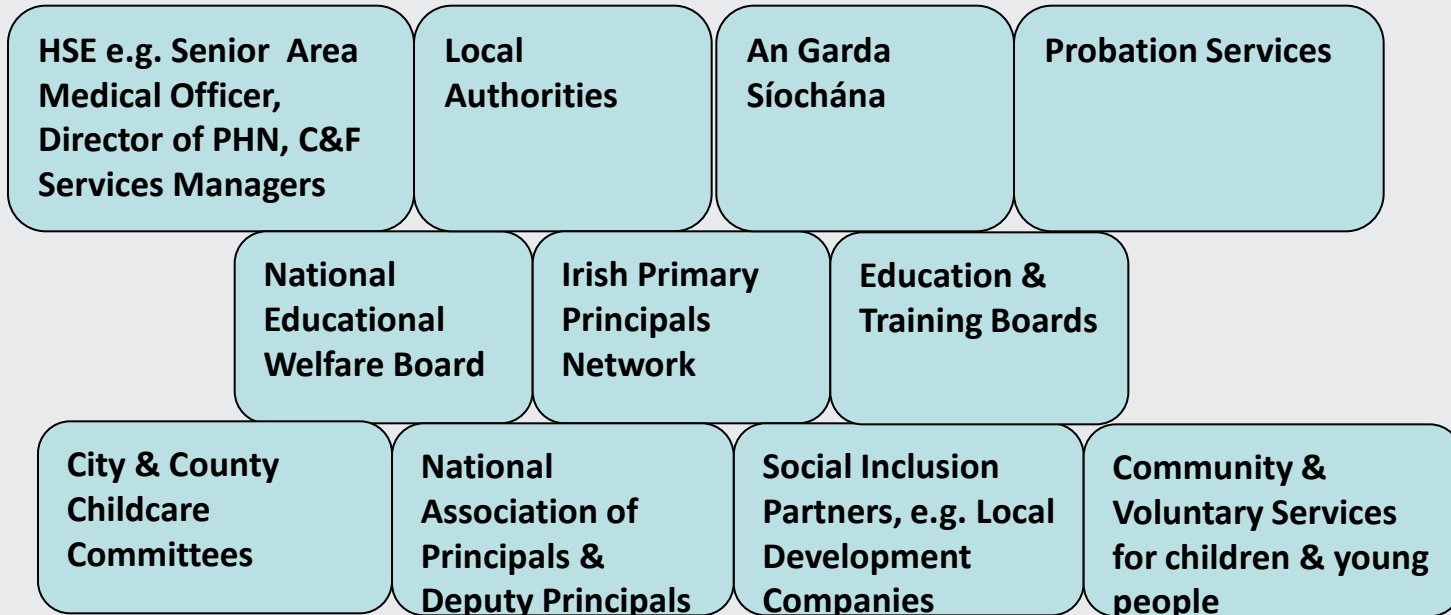
2 CSCs being established

Some in existence 6 years
others in place 18 months

All at differing stages of
development and operation

National Picture – CSC Membership

- The average size of a CSC is 15 people, senior managers, representing a range of agencies/services including



National Picture – CSC Membership and Operation

- Approximately **225** CSC members representing a range of services making a commitment to work together for children and young people across the 16 CSC sites for approximately 700,000 children and young people.
- 14 CSCs are being chaired by or the establishment is being led by the Area Manager for Children and Families, HSE. Two others are chaired by other senior managers HSE.
- Each CSC is required to develop a **Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP)**. The plan is a systematic and comprehensive plan for services which includes
 - a socio demographic profile
 - audit of services
 - needs analysis
 - action plan

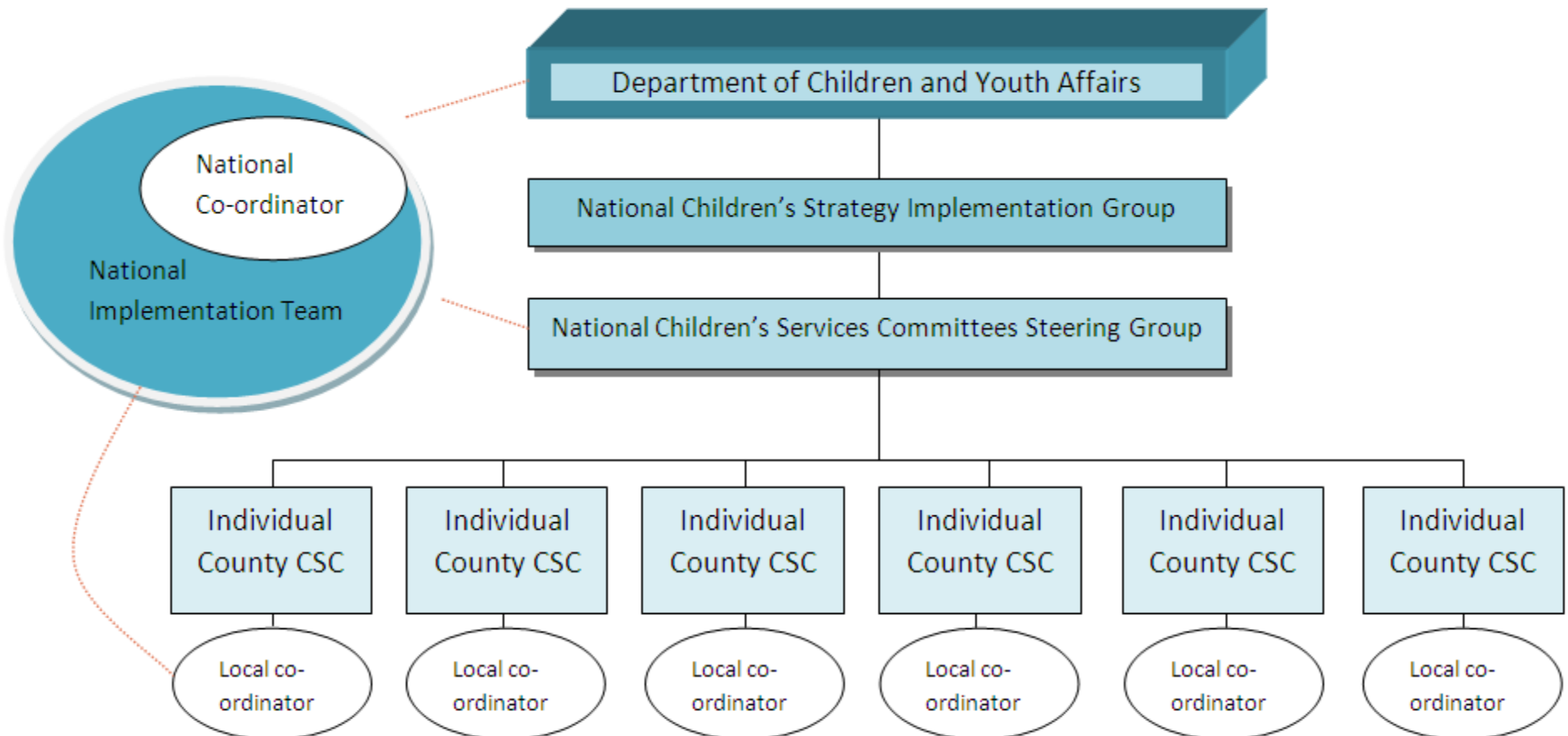
National Picture – CSC Membership and Operation

- Each CSC has 5 to 7 Sub Groups which reflect the five national outcomes for children and young people and reflect the priority areas in their Children and Young People's Plans.
- Each sub group could comprise of 5 to 10 people, many of whom do not sit on the CSC. So any one CSC could have up to **70** individuals cooperating and collaborating to improve services for children, young people and families.
- CSC Sub groups vary across the country. Typical sub groups include:
 - Education
 - Youth Mental Health
 - Parenting Support
 - Research and Information (developing data sharing protocols.)
 - Interagency (developing interagency protocols.)

National Picture – CSC operation

- Each CSC has a co-ordinator. There are 14 CSC Co-ordinators in post responsible for
 - communication
 - developing relationships
 - reporting
 - information provision
 - organisation and administration of meetings on behalf of their CSC.
- Currently 12 posts are wholly or part funded by the HSE.
- *Hearing the Voice* - Consultation with children and young people has been an integral part of the development of Children and Young People Plans. This is manifested through cooperative work with Comhairle na nÓg and additional activities undertaken by a CSC and it's members.

National Governance for the CSC Initiative



Implementation Supports for CSCs

A National Co-ordinator for the Children's Services Committees Initiative funded by the DCYA was appointed June 2013 to co-ordinate the CSC initiative at a national level and support CSC co-ordinators at local level.

A CSC Co-ordinators Network was established in 2010 and meets twice a year.

This network promotes the sharing of practice and common approaches and collaboration across CSCs.

Suite of documents and resources to draw on to consolidate the first 16 CSCs and support "new" CSCs. These are available on line at <http://www.dcy.gov.ie> and include the

Toolkit for the Development of a Children's Services Committee, DCYA 2012.

Panel of facilitators provided by DCYA supporting initial CSC set up and to help with development of plans. Avoiled of by 15 CSCs to date to positive effect.

The Centre for Effective Services (CES) has provided ongoing support to the CSC initiative since the beginning of 2009.

What are the challenges?

Participation and engagement by some stakeholders

Perception amongst some that the CSC Initiative is not being driven forward at the required pace at national level

Lack of common understanding of the policy direction underpinning CSCs

Managing change at national and local CSC level – Practice, Structures and People

Fit with the new service model being developed by the Child and Family Agency – Local Area Pathway (LAP)

What are the challenges?

Scope and remit of CSCs relative to other existing interagency structures at local level

Sustaining and supporting CSC Co-ordinators

Geographical boundaries. (Co-terminosity)

Accessing data and information at county level

Resources in a stretched work environment – People, Time, Budgets

Striking the balance between Universal and Targeted

Cascading the interagency approach within CSC member organisations

What is needed?

- **Strong leadership** – where strong leadership is demonstrated it has helped to keep people at the table and to integrate services. Leadership is manifested as
 - Making connections
 - Keeping individuals involved
 - Maintaining membership at a senior level

Leadership occurs at multiple levels – CSC Chairperson, CSC Co-ordinator, CSC Sub Group chairpersons and CSC members

- **Quick wins**
 - Building on interagency working already present in many counties
 - Service directories both hard copy and online
 - Interagency training
 - Children First Training
 - Leveraging funding through CSCs – across members organisations and from external sources
- **Communication** - maintaining lines of communication – up, down and across

Benefits of the CSC structure at local level

CSC as a
catalyst for
reform within
services

Mobilisation of
CSC member
organisations –
efficiently and
effectively:
*“Making links
fast”*

Improved
understanding
of each others’
organisations
and roles

Accountability
to each other

A sense of
camaraderie
and
development of
trust between
members

Body of county
level evidence
and information
used to inform
service
development

Highlights

**Engagement
and
participation of
range of
stakeholders –
Key senior
stakeholders
actively
participating at
the CSC table**

**Development
of Children and
Young People's
Plans –
systematic and
comprehensive
for each CSC
area**

**Ongoing
consultation
with children
and young
people**

**Supporting the
development
of innovative
projects and
initiatives as a
response to
gaps identified
in their
Children and
Young People's
Plans**

Highlights

**Protocols developed:
critical
incident,
interagency,
information
sharing**

**Co-ordination
of services,
projects and
initiatives at
local level**

**Building
information
and data on
children's lives
at county level**

**Sharing people
as a resource**

Priorities Oct 2013 – Dec 2014

- National roll out of CSCs to remaining counties
- Aligning CSCs with the service model for the Child and Family Agency (National Service Delivery Framework) and Local Government Reform (Socio-Economic Committees)
- Communication about and across CSCs
- Supporting the implementation of the CSC Initiative. Both to existing and to be established CSC sites:
 - Children's Services Committees Steering Group (CSC SG)
 - National Implementation Team comprising National Co-ordinator & P/T Administrator, DCYA Policy, Strategy Dev & Business Support Unit, DCYA Research Unit and Centre for Effective Services
 - Children's Services Committees Suite of Documents and Resources
- Producing county level data and integrating data from multiple sources.

Working Together

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

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

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



CENTRE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICES

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