



Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2011 - 2013

Contact

Suggested text:

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

Please contact: Child Care Manager’s Office, Health Centre, Longford Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Tel: 044 939501920

Copies of this plan are available on: www.westmeathcoco.ie and www.longfordcoco.ie

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Foreword

The National Children's Strategy Implementation Group (NCSIG) was established in 2006 and is chaired by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA). The NCSIG has committed to establishing a network of Children's Services Committees (CSC) under each of the 34 city and/or county development boards in the country. All major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people will be represented on the Children's Services Committees.

Four initial multi-agency Children's Services Committees were established in Dublin City, South Dublin, Limerick City and Donegal in 2007 – 2008. The learning from the set-up and early operation of these four committees is helping to inform the most effective ways of developing the CSC's throughout the country. Five regions in the pre-development phase are Longford – Westmeath, Kerry, Meath, Kildare and Carlow – Kilkenny. It is envisaged that a Children's Services Committee will be established in each county by 2016.

The joint working in the past of both voluntary and statutory agencies in Longford Westmeath collectively has been the cornerstone of delivery of services to date for Children and Families. It is because of this positive ongoing working relationship that the committee agreed to form a single Children's Services Committee for the two counties. The ethos of this committee will be to continue to have a coordinated interagency approach to delivery of services for children and families.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of all those working in Child Care Services in Longford Westmeath (Voluntary and Statutory) in supporting the completion of this report and in the development and progress of the Children's Services Committee for Longford Westmeath. I look forward to working with them in the future so as to ensure an enhanced delivery of Children's Services.

Joseph Ruane

Integrated Service Manager Dublin Mid Leinster (Midlands Region)
Children's Services Committee Chairperson – Longford Westmeath

Section 1: Introduction

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

The Seven National Outcomes for Children in Ireland envision that all children should be:

- **Healthy, both physically and mentally**
- **Supported in active learning**
- **Safe from accidental and intentional harm**
- **Economically secure**
- **Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment**
- **Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community**
- **Included and participating in society**

Note: In Section 6, Action Plan for Children's Services Committees, some outcomes are amalgamated.

Background to the CSC initiative and policy context

Children's Services Committees in Ireland

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) established the Children's Services Committees in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. CSCs do this through interagency collaboration and joint planning and coordination of services.

A major Government policy which influenced and informed the development of the Children's Services Committees is the *Agenda for Children's Services: A policy handbook* (2007). The Agenda sets out the strategic direction and key goals of public policy in relation to children's health and social services. At the core of the Agenda is the promotion of good outcomes for children. In this Children and Young People's Plan the *national* outcomes for children in Ireland are linked with *local* priority areas, objectives, indicators and activities.

Children's Services Committee in LONGFORD/WESTMEATH

Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee was established in recognition of the Nationally recognised need and policy under the Office of the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs to address children's well being and services through one coordinated structure.

The Children's Services Committee (CSC) was formed using the National Tool Kit for Development of a Children's Services Committee and an inclusive information giving process through which a seminar posted by the HSE and Westmeath County Council was conducted in November 2009.

All children and youth agencies were invited to attend this seminar and declared their interest and support for the establishment of this committee. The CSC and the Children's Services Implementation Group was formed from this process.

It is recognised that additional sub committees will be established to lead and steer the actions of each individual project.

Who we are

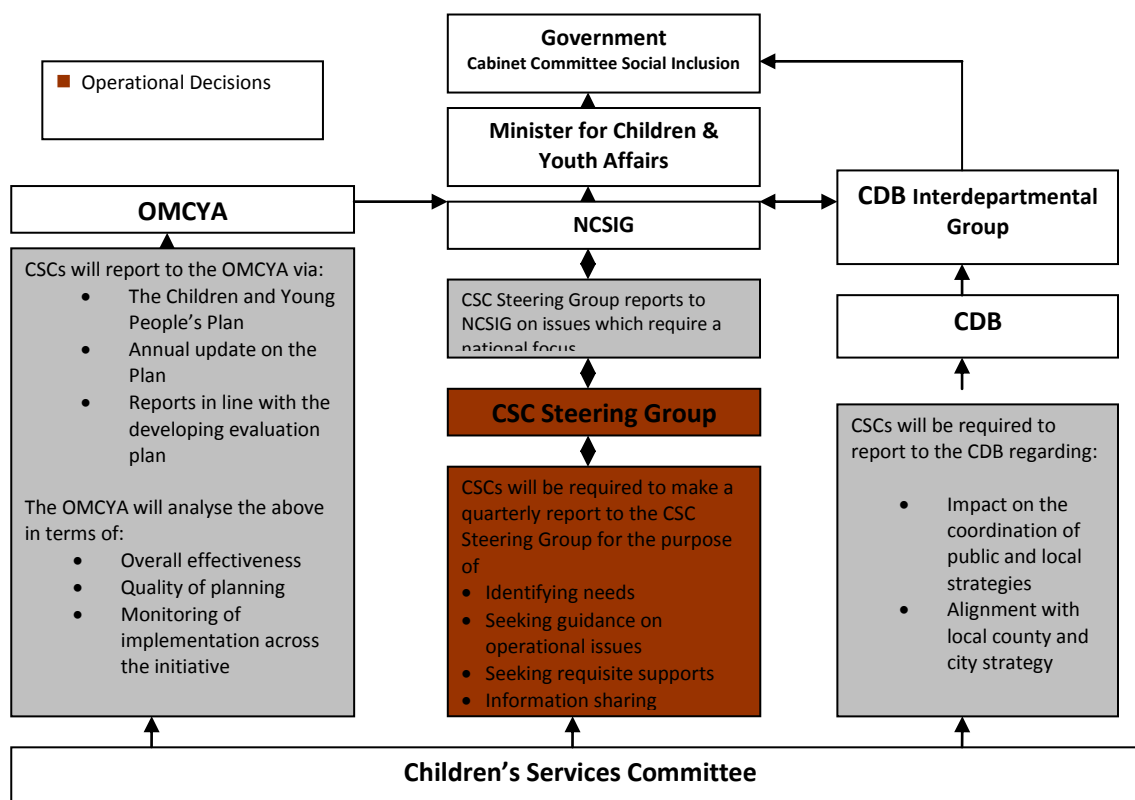
- **Membership of Children's Services Committee Longford Westmeath**

Integrated Services Area Manager HSE (Chair)
 County Manager, Longford County Council
 County Manager, Westmeath County Council
 Chief Superintendent Longford Garda Síochána
 Chief Superintendent Westmeath Garda Síochána
 Child Care Manager Longford Westmeath
 Community Services Manager, Athlone
 Department of Education and Science (work in progress)

Membership of the Children's Services Implementation Group

Child Care Manager, Longford Westmeath
 Community Services Manager, Athlone
 Administrative Officer Longford County Council
 Administrative Officer Westmeath County Council
 An Garda Síochána Longford
 An Garda Síochána Westmeath
 Department of Education and Science (work in progress)

- **Overview of how the Children's Services Committee fits with other structures:**



Achievements to date

The Education Action Research (EAR) project was established in 2005.

The EAR Management team consisted of Representatives from Athlone Community Taskforce (ACT) Board of Management (Chair), Dept of Education & Skills, HSE, Grubb Institute, Westmeath Community Development/ACT

The Partnership Group represented all the stakeholders that participated in any part of the project over its four year lifespan ACT, HSE, MRYS, Community and Voluntary Forum, HSCL from 4 schools and Athlone Community Services Council

The EAR had an expected lifespan of four years and closed on Dec 31st 2008 - There were approximately 12 initiatives developed, piloted and where possible incorporated by existing agencies / services into existing structures.

Post December 2008 a coordinator was appointed by ACT to support agencies to continue with identified EAR initiatives and look at possible new developments hence Gateway

The Gateway Project has been established in Athlone. It's purpose is to "Encourage young people to complete their education so that they can face the working world with ability and confidence". The project has three strands; Youth, Education and Family and is a multi – agency collaboration.

Athlone Community Taskforce, is, on behalf of the Gateway Project, upgrading the facilities in St. Mary's Hall, Athlone, with capital funding received from the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund and from Pobal. The work includes the construction of a Youth Café within the building, the installation of a disability lift from the ground floor to the 1st floor, the installation of a disability lift from the hall floor to the stage area, the construction of an exterior access ramp at the main door, the upgrading of the Hall to meet fire regulations, extending and modernising the stage area and the installation of modern acoustic and lighting systems. Planning permission has been received for this work. The Ardagh and Clonmacnoise Diocesan Trust has leased the building to Athlone Community Taskforce to house the Gateway Project. The lease is to transfer to Foroige when the capital work is completed.

NEYAI Consortium

Established 2011 consisting of HSE,WCC,WCCC,LCCC, Barnardos, ACSC,LCC,LCRL,LWPP - Memorandum of Understanding agreed in May/June 2011 - successful application to OMCYA for 3 yr NEYAI project totalling €300,000.

County Childcare Committees in Longford and Westmeath (2 Separate groups)
Board of Directors - Executive Management Committee - Management Committee -
Multi agency representatives from approximately 10 organizations to promote the development and sustainability of childcare provision in Longford and Westmeath.
Funded through POBAL by NCIP funding. Currently responsible for the roll out of the ECCE and CETS schemes to include Siolta and Aistear programmes.

Longford/Westmeath Parenting Project Background:

The Longford/Westmeath Parenting Partnership (LWPP) is an interagency partnership currently comprising seven statutory and non-statutory organisations with the purpose of delivering Triple-P an evidence based parenting knowledge and skills programme to the parents of children aged 3-7 in Longford/Westmeath. It comprises the following members: Westmeath County Childcare Committee, Longford County Childcare Committee, Westmeath Community Development Ltd. Longford Community Resources Ltd. Barnardos, HSE, Longford and Westmeath VEC. All of the partners have made a substantial workforce commitment to this project for the initial 2 years, (Contingent on a successful application with Atlantic Philanthropies).

The LWPP evolved in early 2007 following a meeting of HSE personnel and interested agencies both voluntary and statutory. The purpose of this initial meeting was to address the expressed needs of parents seeking help and support with parenting which had been identified through a variety of sectors. A range of presentations about evidence-based research and particularly Triple-P were delivered.

Following this initial movement and commitment, a partnership group was established to pursue funding opportunities and attain further commitment from related stakeholders. The initial funding is to cover the period 2010-2012.

To date we have secured significant funding from the OMCYA and have a grant application at an advanced stage with The Atlantic Philanthropies (AP), (recommended by Irish board, New York Investment Board reviewing application 3rd November). AP propose to route the grant through a company they have an existing relationship with Archways.

This project will evaluate the rollout of a large-scale universal population approach

to parenting skills and information to the parents of children aged 3 to 7 years in Longford / Westmeath. The aim of this project is to build on established partnerships and to maximise the use of an evidence-based multi-level intervention, the Triple P programme. Each level requires a different level of resources and commitments. The multi-level aims to avoid over servicing of need. Triple-P consists of 5 intervention levels. Outcomes will include, improved interagency working, greater efficiency, improved practice and outputs and enhanced user and staff satisfaction.

A population approach has the benefit of reducing the barriers that prevent people from availing of services and making parenting advice and skills more accessible in the community and to all social strata within the community. Research continually shows that exposing parents of young children to evidence-based early parenting interventions can produce a powerful preventative effect.

How the Children and Young People's Plan was develop

In order to complete this plan a sub committee was formed which comprised of the following

- The HSE
- An Garda Siochana,
- Longford County Council,
- Westmeath County Council

A number of meetings took place during the months of June and July 2011 to collate information, to agree and complete the plan. A number of consultations also took place with existing Children's Services Committees already in operation. The plan was completed by July 31st 2011.

National outcomes for children and young people

Collate a socio demographic profile

Conduct an audit of existing services

Conduct a needs analysis

Identify Priority Areas

Agree objectives for each priority area

Agree both national and local indicators by priority area

Develop an action plan

Consider various forms of consultation, with children, young people and families, including reviewing findings from existing consultation

Monitoring and Review

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Longford Westmeath

Indicator	Measure	LONGFORD	WESTMEATH
Child population ¹	The number of children under 18	8930 (Census 2006)	21124 (Census 2006)
Infant mortality ²	The number of deaths among infants	2 (CSO Vital Statistics – Yearly Summary 2009)	5 (CSO Vital Statistics – Yearly Summary 2009)
Child mortality	The proportion of deaths among children under 19	5 (CSO Vital Statistics – Yearly Summary 2009)	12 (CSO Vital Statistics – Yearly Summary 2009)
Ethnicity	The number of children by ethnicity or cultural background	See table below	
Non-Irish national children	The number of non-Irish national children	638 (Census 2006)	1360 (Census 2006)
Family structure	The number and percentage of children under 18 who live in family household units with only one parent or primary care-giver resident	1,664 (18.6%) (Census 2006)	3,477 (16.7%) (Census 2006)
Parental education level	The percentage of children under 18 whose mother has attained (a) primary, (b) lower secondary, (c) upper secondary or (d) third-level education (e) not stated/not available	(a) 743 (8.5%) (b) 1,693 (19.3%) (c) 2,999 (34.2%) (d) 2,299 (26.2%) (e) 1,025 (11.7%) (Census 2006)	(a) 1,355 (6.7%) (b) 4,271 (21%) (c) 6,646 (32.7%) (d) 5,743 (28.3%) (e) 2,312 (11.4%) (Census 2006)
Traveller children	The number of Traveller children	283 (3.2% of child population in Longford) (2006)	299 (1.4% of the child population in Westmeath) (2006)
Separated children seeking asylum ³	The number of separated children seeking asylum	0	0

NOTE: SEE APPENDIX 1 FOR DETAILED SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE FOR LONGFORD WESTMEATH

¹ Data is available on a county basis from the Central Statistics Office for the following categories: child population, child mortality, ethnicity, non-Irish national children, family structure, parental education, traveller children

² Data available on a regional basis from CSO as the numbers are so small

³ Data is available from the HSE on a regional basis

Ethnicity

Table 1.5 Persons aged under 18 years, usually resident and present in Specific Counties on Census Night, classified by ethnic or cultural background, 2006

Specific Counties	Total	Ethnic or Cultural Group								
		White			Black or Black Irish		Asian or Asian Irish		Other including mixed background	Not stated
		Irish	Irish Traveller	Any other White background	African	Any other Black background	Chinese	Any other Asian background		
Longford	8,933	7,570	290	390	204	14	8	43	112	302
Westmeath	20,842	18,301	289	854	356	38	35	112	257	600
State	1,030,832	908,308	10,894	41,514	17,869	1,576	2,395	8,524	14,128	25,624

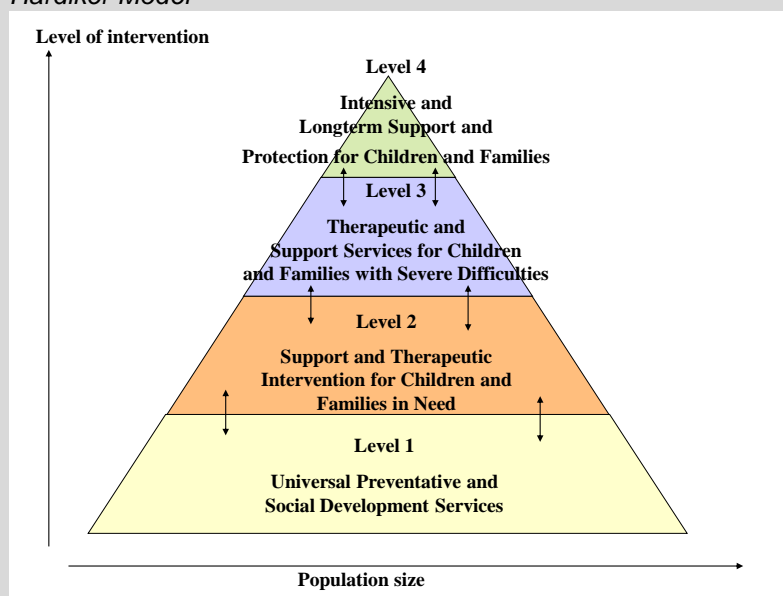
Source: Census 2006

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

This section **summarise's** the services provided to children and families in the Longford Westmeath area, by statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations.

The services are categorised according to the different levels in the Hardiker Model, i.e. Levels 1,2,3 and 4 (recognising that some services cross several levels)

Hardiker Model



Children and Family Services in the Longford/ Westmeath area

LONGFORD	Hardiker Model Level	WESTMEATH	Hardiker Model Level
<p>County Longford Youth Service provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to One Mentoring of Young People • Advice and Information – • Programme Development • Referrals – work with young people referred from other state agencies (Garda, HSE, Probation & Social Welfare Services). • Direct Work with Youth Groups • Organisation of Youth Summer Camps • Work with schools –e.g. Halloween Safety Talks, Bullying Program, etc. 	1,2,3	<p>Midland Regional Youth Services provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to One Mentoring of Young People • Advice and Information – • Programme Development • Referrals – work with young people referred from other state agencies (Garda, HSE, Probation & Social Welfare Services). • Direct Work with Youth Groups • Organisation of Youth Summer Camps • Work with schools –e.g. Halloween Safety Talks, Bullying Program, etc. 	1,2,3
<p>Early Years Services & Voluntary Notification of Childminders (2009)</p> <p>Totals: Private (Sessional, Full day Care and after schools) – 23</p> <p>Community (Sessional, Full day care and after schools) – 15</p> <p>Voluntary Notified Childminders – 13</p>	1	<p>Early Years Services & Voluntary Notification of Childminders (2009)</p> <p>Totals: Private (Sessional, Full day Care and after schools) – 73</p> <p>Community (Sessional, Full day Care and after schools) – 22</p> <p>Voluntary Notified Childminders – 33</p>	1

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<p>Garda Youth Diversion Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longford (LEAP) <p>This project aims to support good relations between the Gardaí and the community and to help children at risk.</p> <p>The projects offer opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Employment training • Sport • Art • Music • Various other activities. <p>Most projects operate outside of school hours. However, in areas with a high proportion of early school-leavers, activities may also be planned during the daytime.</p>	2,3,4	<p>Garda Youth Diversion Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athlone (ALF) • Mullingar (EYE) <p>These projects aim to support good relations between the Gardaí and the community and to help children at risk.</p> <p>The projects offer opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Employment training • Sport • Art • Music • Various other activities. <p>Most projects operate outside of school hours. However, in areas with a high proportion of early school-leavers, activities may also be planned during the daytime.</p>	2,3,4
<p>Longford County Childcare Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates the development of an infrastructure of high quality early childhood care and educational services that support the holistic development of children in the context of family and community throughout Longford • LCCC supports 39 Childcare Services in Longford, under the National Childcare Investment Programme. 	1	<p>Westmeath County Childcare Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates the development of an infrastructure of high quality early childhood care and educational services that support the holistic development of children in the context of family and community throughout Westmeath. • WCCC supports 99 Childcare Services in Westmeath, under the National Childcare Investment Programme. 	1

<p>Longford Community Resources Limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longford Community Resources Limited (LCRL) is the integrated local development partnership company for County Longford. One of the main purposes of the company is to tackle social exclusion through the <u>Local and Community Development Programme</u>. The goals of this programme are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services. ➤ Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural activities and resources. ➤ Increase in people's work readiness and employment prospects ➤ Promote engagement with policy, practice, and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities. <p>LCRL is involved in running the following programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Community Development Programme (LCDP) • Volunteer Centre • County Longford Youth Service (CLYS) • Rural Development Programme • Rural Social Scheme (RSS) • County Longford Rural Transport • Primary Health Care Project for Travellers 	1,2	<p>Westmeath Community Development Limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Westmeath Community Development Limited (WCDL) is a partnership which empowers people and communities to overcome disadvantage and enhance the quality of their lives. Westmeath Community Development limited run the Local and Community Development Programme and specifically target the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ long-term unemployed ➤ socially and economically disadvantaged women ➤ young people at risk ➤ travellers ➤ people with disabilities ➤ homeless people ➤ ethnic minorities ➤ lone parents ➤ ex-prisoners ➤ low income households ○ After schools project <p>To date WCDL now operates 3 After School Services in the Rapid area's of Athlone, with 87 children attending daily, funded through the National Childcare Investment Programme the service offers a wide range of activities that meets the needs of the children in their developmental area's, and to aid and support children of Athlone by providing a quality After School Service to enhance their learning abilities and build their self esteem thus, breaking</p>	<p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCRL/Acorn Drop-in Centre. The services provided at this centre include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Support Group Staff and volunteers at the centre provide information and referral to relevant agencies. One to one addiction counselling provided at the centre by Merchant's Quay Ireland. (Wednesdays) Addiction counselling provided by the Ana Liffey Project on Fridays Generic Counselling by appointment. Intergration initiatives in conjunction with the New Communities. Training and capacity building for families 		<p>the trend of early school leaving. Our aim is to provide young people at risk with extra support, and our objectives to break the early school leaving trend, raise awareness of the importance of education in the community, and to support the work of the schools by providing extra tutorials, e.g. Irish and Maths for children who need extra help.</p> <p>The after school service operates from Monday to Friday 2pm to 6pm, also opening when schools are closed i.e. Midterm, Halloween, Easter, and Summer, offering full day camps to facilitate Parent/Guardians whom are in training, education, or part-time employment.</p>	
<p>Midlands Regional Drugs Taskforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Longford Drugs Forum Youth Health Officer 	<p>1</p> <p>1,2</p>	<p>Midlands Regional Drugs Taskforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlone Drug Awareness Group Youth Health Officer 	<p>1</p> <p>1,2</p>
<p>Longford – Westmeath Community Mothers</p> <p>The Community Mothers Project aims to support and encourage parents to reach their full potential thereby enhancing parents' confidence and self esteem. Community Mothers are non professional volunteers who use their experience as mothers as well as local knowledge to support families. Requests for Community Mothers are predominantly from Public Health Nurses but in recent months there</p>	<p>1,2</p>	<p>Longford – Westmeath Community Mothers</p> <p>The Community Mothers Project aims to support and encourage parents to reach their full potential thereby enhancing parents' confidence and self esteem. Community Mothers are non professional volunteers who use their experience as mothers as well as local knowledge to support families. Requests for Community Mothers are predominantly from Public Health Nurses but in recent months there</p>	<p>1,2</p>

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are a growing number of self-referrals especially from the 'new Irish' Communities. Community Mothers offer mother to mother support and recognise parents as equals and experts in the upbringing of their children.		are a growing number of self-referrals especially from the 'new Irish' Communities. Community Mothers offer mother to mother support and recognise parents as equals and experts in the upbringing of their children.	
Vocational Educational Committee	1,2	Vocational Educational Committee	1,2
Mainstream Primary and Post Primary Schools	1,2	Mainstream Primary and Post Primary Schools	1,2
<p>Disability Services (including voluntary & statutory services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-5years Early Intervention Team (HSE) • 5-18years Child Development Team Services (HSE) <p>Non Statutory Organisations funded by HSE who provide Direct Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary Services • Brothers of Charity • St Christophers • Acquired Brain Injury Ireland • RehabCare • Longford Centre for Independent Living • Central Remedial Clinic • Irish Wheelchair Association • Deafhear • National Council of the Blind Ireland 	1,2,3,4	<p>Disability Services (including voluntary & statutory services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-5years Early Intervention Team (HSE) • 5-18years Child Development Team Services (HSE) <p>Non Statutory Organisations funded by HSE who provide Direct Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary Services • Brothers of Charity • St Hildas • Acquired Brain Injury Ireland • RehabCare • Westmeath Centre for Independent Living • Central Remedial Clinic • Irish Wheelchair Association • Deafhear • National Council of the Blind Ireland 	1,2,3,4
Department of Education & Science – National Education Welfare Board & National Education Psychological Service	2,3	Department of Education & Science – National Education Welfare Board & National Education Psychological Service	2,3

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Youth Training Centres	1,2,3	Youth Training Centres	1,2,3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Development & Information Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Development Centre (Fás) 	
<p>Foroige</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attic Youth Juniors Foroige Club –Longford Town • Attic Youth Seniors Foroige Club – Longford Town • Attic Youth Café • Aughnacliffe Foroige Club • Ballinalee Foroige Club • Ballycloughan/ Legan Foroige Club • Ballymahon Foroige Club • Broadway Foroige Club – Longford Town • Edgeworthstown Foroige Club • Multiculturism Foroige Club – Longford Town • Mullinalaghta Foroige Club (North Longford) • Leap Project – Longford Town (also listed above) 	<p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Foroige</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Brother Big Sister – Athlone • Foroige Youth Citizenship Programme – Moate • Ballinahown Foroige Club • Ballynacarraigy Foroige Club • Boher Foroige Club • Castledaly Foroige Club • Coosan Foroige Club – Athlone • CSI Foroige Club – Moate • Cullion Foroige Club – Mullingar • Drumraney Foroige Club – Athlone • Dynamic Foroige Club – Athlone • Miltown Foroige Club • Moate Junior Foroige Club • Moate Senior Foroige Club • Mount Temple Foroige Club • Moyvoughloey Foroige Club – Moate • Rosemount Junior and Senior Foroige Club • Tang Foroige Club • Tubberclair Foroige Club • Midlands Drug Education Programme – Moate • Willow Park Foroige Club – Athlone • Coralstown Foroige Club 	<p>2,3</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>1,2</p>

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<p>Co. Longford Sports Partnership (Longford County Council)</p> <p>The key aims of the Local Sports Partnership are to increase participation in sport, and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect. Some of the outcomes they seek are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club development • Volunteer training • Enhanced planning of sport at local level • Local directories of sports bodies & facilities • School, club, community and national governing body (NGB) links • Increased levels of local participation, especially amongst specific target groups such as older people, girls & women, people with disabilities, unemployed people, and those who live in identified disadvantaged communities 	1	<p>Co. Westmeath Sports Partnership</p> <p>The key aims of the Local Sports Partnership are to increase participation in sport, and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect. Some of the outcomes they seek are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club development • Volunteer training • Enhanced planning of sport at local level • Local directories of sports bodies & facilities • School, club, community and national governing body (NGB) links • Increased levels of local participation, especially amongst specific target groups such as older people, girls & women, people with disabilities, unemployed people, and those who live in identified disadvantaged communities 	1
<p>Family Resource Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballymahon • Granard 	1,2	<p>Family Resource Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batteries, Athlone • Ballinacarrigy 	1,2,3
<p>Longford Women's Link Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide direct support to women experiencing domestic abuse, migrant women, childcare and counselling . • Build individual and community capacity through the provision of training courses to enable women to access employment, self employment or further training or participate in their local community • Policy & advocacy work where the issues from the day to day work are brought to local and national decision makers 	1,2,3	<p>Athlone Community Taskforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway Project 	1,2
		St Mary's Youth Ministry	1,2

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St Vincent De Paul	2,3	St Vincent De Paul	2,3
Family Mediation Services	1,2	Family Mediation Services	1,2
		<p>Barnardos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athlone – Springboard <p>A needs based/ outcome focussed family support Service to children and families living in all areas of Athlone town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment of Need ○ Partnership with Parents - One to One Parenting Support ○ Family Work ○ Direct Work with Children- Support to children experiencing bereavement / loss/ parental separation/ parental addiction/ domestic violence ○ Advocacy ○ Building Bridges Programme, to enhance educational outcomes ○ Friendship group to promote social and emotional competence in children ○ Parent Support Group to promote the parent child relationship and child development ○ Drop in advice and information ○ Rehabilitation support from care placement back to home as part of HSE care plan. ○ Community events/ holiday activities 	<p>1,2,3</p> <p>3,4</p>

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		Barnardos Mullingar – The Lir Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs based outcome focussed support to teenagers and their parents - Assessment of need - Family Work - Partnership with Parents - individual parenting support - Individual work with young people - Triple P parenting programme - Rehabilitation support from care/ justice placement to home. 	
		Womens Community Project, Mullingar	1,2,3
		Athlone Rape Crisis centre	1,2,3
Aisling Children's Arts Festival <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each October this festival provides a week of low cost art related activities aimed at encouraging young people, through a range of creative methodologies to explore issues relevant to them. It particularly supports the participation of disadvantaged groups and geographic areas to become involved. 	1	Athlone Community Services Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creche facilities & play schools • Esker House refuge (Domestic Abuse Service) • After school programmes 	1,2 2,3,4 1,2

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Rainbows (Longford Family Centre)	1,2	Rainbows (St Mary's Youth Service)	1,2
Extern (Janus Programme)	2,3	Extern (Janus Programme)	2,3
Longford County Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comhairle na nÓg • Housing for families • Provision of Recreational & Leisure facilities • Provides Specialised Services • Provision of Core services 	1,2,3	Westmeath County Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comhairle na nÓg • Housing for families • Provision of Recreational & Leisure facilities • Provides Specialised Services • Provision of Core services 	1,2,3
Midland Simon Community	2	Midland Simon Community	2
		Westmeath Domestic Abuse Service (Mullingar)	1
Midland Crisis Pregnancy Service	1,2	Midland Crisis Pregnancy Service	1,2
Garda Siochana	1,2,3,4	Garda Siochana	1,2,3,4
Courts Service	1,2,3,4	Courts Service	1,2,3,4

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HSE Services	1,2,3,4	HSE Services	1,2,3,4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Families 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Families 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Conferences 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Conferences 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of Information Requests 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of Information Requests 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Work Department 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Work Department 	1,2,3,4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Residential Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Residential Services 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Sector 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Sector 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Nurse department 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Nurse department 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years Services Inspections of Childcare facilities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years Services Inspections of Childcare facilities 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Services 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitals 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitals 	2,3,4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Practitioners 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual Assault Treatment Unit, Mullingar General Hospital 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Practitioners 	2,3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palliative Care Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental Service 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Medical Officers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palliative Care Services 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Health 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Medical Officers 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Promotion 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Health 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traveller Health Unit 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Promotion 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with Longford Community Resources Limited to deliver Traveller Primary Healthcare to Traveller families in Longford 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traveller Health Unit 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene an interagency group that oversees the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with Westmeath Community Development Limited to deliver the Traveller Health Project in Westmeath 	

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<p>Westmeath Employment Pact – Traveller Conflict and Mediation Initiative that works with Traveller families in Longford and Westmeath who are victims or perpetrators of conflict.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept of Public Health, Midlands Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ is a committed member of both Longford and Westmeath Road Safety Together Working Group. Child safety promotion is a key element. ○ manages the HSE Child Safety Awareness Programme (CSAP). This programme is delivered by public health Nurses to parents/carers of children in the 0 to 5 age group at the core Child Health Surveillance Visits. The CSAP covers child safety in cars and cycle safety. ○ has developed a safety programme for preschool children with Longford County Childcare Committee. The programme was offered to all preschools in Co Longford in 2011. • Primary Care Teams • Family Support Services Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Granard Action Project ○ Family Welfare Conference Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convene an interagency group that oversees the Westmeath Employment Pact – Traveller Conflict and Mediation Initiative that works with Traveller families in Longford and Westmeath who are victims or perpetrators of conflict. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept of Public Health, Midlands Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ is a committed member of both Longford and Westmeath Road Safety Together Working Group. Child safety promotion is a key element. ○ manages the HSE Child Safety Awareness Programme (CSAP). This programme is delivered by public health Nurses to parents/carers of children in the 0 to 5 age group at the core Child Health Surveillance Visits. The CSAP covers child safety in cars and cycle safety. ○ plans to develop a safety programme for preschool children in Westmeath in 2011/2012. • Primary Care Teams • Family Support Services Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family Welfare Conference Service 	
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Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in **Longford Westmeath**

The Children's Services Committee commissioned a Socio Demographic Profile to be completed by Population Health for both counties. (See Appendix 1). The total number of children 0 – 18 years within Longford Westmeath is 30,054 (Census 2006). Based on the findings of the Socio Demographic Profile, the committee agreed on the following four projects to strive towards a universal approach of delivery of services for this demographic area in the first instance :

- Triple P Parenting Programme
- Tus Nua Programme
- Audit of all services for 12 to 18 year age group within the two counties
- Support the Implementation of Children First Guidelines across all agencies

The four projects outlined above individually or collectively are inclusive of all children aged 0 – 18 years.

The projects agreed by the Children's Services Implementation group are designed to focus on the achievement of outcomes in line with the agenda for Children's Services.

All four projects will be evaluated in line with both National and International Best Practice Standards.

It is envisaged that the findings of the Audit of all services for the 12 – 18 years age group will highlight any gaps in local service provision when compared with National Services.

The Children's Services Committee are extremely aware of the need to complete an in depth audit of Services for Children especially in view of the current economic crisis. For this reason one of the projects prioritised will focus on an audit of services for children aged 12 – 18 years. However the committee are aware this audit will very much hinge on the cooperation and transparency of all stakeholders. It is imperative therefore to engage with the stakeholders in a timely manner.

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

National Outcomes	Local Priority Areas * (to be identified following the local needs analysis and the audit of services)
Healthy, both physically and mentally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Triple P Parenting Programme</i> • <i>Tus Nua Programme</i> • <i>Support the Implementation of Children First Guidelines across all agencies</i>
Supported in active learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tus Nua Programme</i> • <i>Triple P Parenting Programme</i>
Safe from accidental and intentional harm / Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support the Implementation of Children First Guidelines across all agencies</i> • <i>Triple P Parenting Programme</i>
Economically secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Audit of all services for 12 to 18 year age group within the two counties</i> • <i>Tus Nua Programme</i>
Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community / Included and participating in society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Triple P Parenting Programme</i> • <i>Support the Implementation of Children First Guidelines across all agencies</i> • <i>Tus Nua Programme</i> • <i>Audit of all services for 12 to 18 year age group within the two counties</i>

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<i>Change Management</i>	<i>Local/ Priority Areas</i>
<i>Change management</i> - CSCs may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level, e.g. development of information sharing protocols, interagency training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1182 327 1957 384">• <i>Audit of all services for 12 to 18 year age group within the two counties</i>

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

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee							
National Outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy, both physically and mentally ▪ Supported in active learning ▪ Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment ▪ Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community/ included and participating in society 							
Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Triple P Parenting Programme	<p>To implement a community based intervention focused on reducing childhood emotional and behavioural problems</p> <p>To increase parent confidence and competence in parenting role</p>	<p>Increased participation levels in the Triple P Parenting Programme</p> <p>Standardised measurement tools will be used (SDQ, Eyeberg Child Behaviour Inventory, DASS, Parenting Scale, RQI, PPC, et al)</p>	<p>20% decrease in total score (with reference to standardised measurement tools)</p> <p>30% increase in self efficacy and use of positive parenting practices</p>	Support LWPP in universal delivery of Triple P multi level parenting programmes across Longford Westmeath	<p>September 2010 – December 2012</p> <p>September 2010 – April 2013</p>	Longford Westmeath Parenting Partnership	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee

National Outcome:

- Healthy, both physically and mentally
- Supported in active learning
- Economically secure
- Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community/ included and participating in society

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be measurable)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Tus Nua Programme	Fostering improved health/ learning and school readiness outcomes among young children	Increased uptake of pre-school year (ECCE Scheme) A National Evaluation Framework under the Department of Health and Children will be carried out by Trutz Haase (See Appendix 4)	100% participation	Raise awareness of ECCE scheme	2011 - 2013	Longford County Childcare Committee, NEYAI consortium (HSE, ACSC, Westmeath County Council, Longford County Council, LCRL, LWPP, Barnardos)	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee

National Outcome:

- Economically Secure
- Part of Positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community/ Included and participating in Society
- Change Management

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Audit of all services for 12 to 18 year age group within the two counties	To ensure a more streamlined provision and delivery of existing services for the 12 to 18 year old age group	The completed Audit which identifies gaps in service provision on a geographic information system. Action Plan	To ensure all agencies (voluntary and statutory) are included in the audit	To develop protocol to gather relevant information for the audit. To develop a sub committee to represent all voluntary and statutory agencies providing services to this client group.	1 st August 2012 to have Audit completed 31 st December 2012 Action Plan agreed	Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee	

Action Plan for Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee							
National Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy, both physically and mentally ▪ Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment ▪ Part of Positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community / included and participating in Society 							
Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Support the Implementation of Children First National Guidelines across all agencies	To ensure that all those working with children and families have received training in the Children First National Guidelines to ensure the health, safety, welfare and protection of all children in the Longford Westmeath area.	Establish a database of all those who have completed the Children First Training	Staff working directly with Children and Families	Provide Information Sessions and Accredited Training in the Children First Guidelines	2011 - 2013	Chair of Children's Services Committee	

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

It has been agreed by the HSE local area to appoint a Children's Services Coordinator to drive this project forward. Regular meetings will be held by the Children's Services Committee, Implementation Group and Sub groups for the projects. External evaluation of these projects will also be carried out for example: Triple P Project and Tus Nua Project.

Biannual reports will be published to ensure that all stakeholders are kept informed to include the Community, Voluntary and Statutory sectors.

Section 8: Appendices

Appendix One

Socio-Demographic Profile of Children in Longford and Westmeath

July 2011

Prepared by: Dr. Áine McNamara, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Department of Public Health, HSE Dublin/Mid-Leinster

Notes re Data Sources:

Most of the indicator data was derived from CSO sources. Information on economic and social status, dependency ratios, educational attainment and deprivation indices was taken from Factfile a Health Intelligence resource available on the HSE website.

Indicators

Child Population

Table 1.1 Child Population of Longford

	Total	Males	Females
Age			
Under 1 year	499	222	277
1 year	505	261	244
2 years	506	262	244
3 years	543	276	267
4 years	558	309	249
5 years	503	270	233
6 years	492	252	240
7 years	505	278	227
8 years	469	248	221
9 years	479	248	231
10 years	491	251	240
11 years	461	228	233
12 years	470	247	223
13 years	465	220	245
14 years	517	260	257
15 years	488	255	233
16 years	526	275	251
17 years	453	229	224
Total	8930	4591	4339

Source: Census 2006

Table 1.2 Child Population of Westmeath

	Total	Males	Females
Age			
Under 1 year	1207	636	571
1 year	1194	599	595
2 years	1195	601	594
3 years	1182	616	566
4 years	1222	603	619
5 years	1208	613	595
6 years	1243	619	624
7 years	1178	620	558
8 years	1143	608	535
9 years	1147	587	560
10 years	1162	612	550
11 years	1114	582	532
12 years	1088	541	547
13 years	1184	598	586
14 years	1184	582	602
15 years	1182	606	576
16 years	1171	572	599
17 years	1120	575	545
Total	21124	10770	10354

Source: Census 2006

Child Mortality

Table 1.3 Child Mortality in Longford and Westmeath

	2007		2008	
	No. of deaths 0-19yrs	Child mortality U19 per 10,000 children	No. of deaths 0-19yrs	Child mortality U19 per 10,000 children
Longford	5	5.3	5	5.3
Westmeath	12	5.2	7	3

Source: CSO Vital Statistics – Yearly Summary 2007, 2008

Infant Mortality

Table 1.4 Infant* and Neonatal Mortality in Longford and Westmeath**

	No. of Infant Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of Neonatal Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
Longford	2	2.8	0	0
Westmeath	5	3.6	3	2.2

Source: CSO Vital Statistics - Yearly Summary 2009

Infant mortality rates*: Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births, classified by area of residence of mother.

Neonatal mortality rates**: Deaths of infants under 28 days per 1,000 live births, classified by area of residence of mother.

Infant and neonatal mortality rates in some areas, based on small numbers are subject to considerable fluctuation and caution should be exercised in their interpretation.

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Ethnicity

Table 1.5 Persons aged under 18 years, usually resident and present in Specific Counties on Census Night, classified by ethnic or cultural background, 2006

Specific Counties	Total	Ethnic or Cultural Group								
		White			Black or Black Irish		Asian or Asian Irish		Other including mixed background	Not stated
		Irish	Irish Traveller	Any other White background	African	Any other Black background	Chinese	Any other Asian background		
Longford	8,933	7,570	290	390	204	14	8	43	112	302
Westmeath	20,842	18,301	289	854	356	38	35	112	257	600
State	1,030,832	908,308	10,894	41,514	17,869	1,576	2,395	8,524	14,128	25,624

Source: Census 2006

No of Non-Irish national children in Longford

Table 1.6: Number of non-Irish national children, by county (2006)

County	Total children	Non-Irish national children	Non-Irish national children as % of all children
Longford	8,933	638	7.1
Westmeath	20,842	1,360	6.5
State	1,030,832	62,800	6.1

Source: Census 2006

Family Structure

Table 1.7: Number and percentage of children under 18 living with lone parent, by county (2006)

County	No.	% within county	% within State
Longford	1,664	18.6	0.9
Westmeath	3,477	16.7	1.9
State	183,744	17.8	100

Source: Census 2006

Parental Education Level

Table 1.8 Number of children under 18, by county and educational attainment of mother (2006)

County	Primary (including no formal education)	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Third-level (Degree or higher)	Not stated/ not available	Total
Longford	743	1,693	2,999	2,299	1,025	8,759
Percentage	8.5%	19.3%	34.2%	26.2%	11.7%	
Westmeath	1,355	4,271	6,646	5,743	2,312	20,327
Percentage	6.7	21.0	32.7	28.3	11.4	
State	63,463	209,775	322,356	308,501	103,769	1,007,864

Source: Census 2006

Traveller Children

In 2006, there were 22,435 Travellers living in Ireland. Of these, 48.7% (10,929) were under 18 years of age. The number of Traveller children living in Longford was 283, representing 3.2% of the child population in Longford. This is the highest proportion of Travellers compared to the total population in Ireland. There are 299 Traveller children living in Westmeath (1.4% of the child population).

Children Seeking Asylum

There are no children seeking asylum in the Longford/Westmeath area (personal communication from the Childcare manager in Longford/Westmeath).

Supplementary Information

The following additional information and analysis (taken from the Population Factfile section of the HSE website) may provide a useful context to understanding the environment in which these children live.

Economic Status

Examination of the principal economic status of the population provides a glimpse of those participating in the labour force and those engaged in other activities. Table 1.9 shows the principal economic status of persons aged 15 years and over in Longford, Westmeath and Ireland in 2006.

- The profile for Longford differs slightly to the national profile. Longford has a lower proportion of employed persons (54%) compared to Ireland as a whole (57%).
- Longford has a slightly higher proportion of persons engaged in home duties (13%) compared to Ireland (11%).
- The profile for Westmeath is almost identical to the national profile.

Unemployment levels are likely to have changed in the current economic climate.

Table 1.9 Principal Economic Status 2006

Principal Economic Status	Longford		Westmeath		Ireland	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Employed	14,527	54	35,469	57	1,930,042	57
Looking for first regular job	269	1	576	1	29,372	1
Unemployed	1,604	6	2,604	4	150,084	4
Student	2,400	9	6,093	10	349,596	10
Retired	3,305	12	6,829	11	377,927	11
Unable to work	1,283	5	2,620	4	138,382	4
Home Duties	3,441	13	7,322	12	387,014	11
Other	99	0	182	0	12,982	0

Source: Census 2006

Social Class

The entire population is classified by the CSO into seven social class groups which are defined on the basis of occupation. The occupations included in each of the groups have been selected in such a way as to bring together, as far as possible, people with similar levels of occupational skill. In determining social class no account is taken of the differences in individuals on the basis of other characteristics such as education.

- In Ireland, there is a clear social gradient where health status continuously improves as one moves up the social class ladder, and declines as one moves down it.
- Morbidity and mortality are higher in the lower social class groups than in the higher groups.

Table 1.10 shows the numbers and percentages of the population in Longford, Westmeath and Ireland belonging to each of these social classes.

- The proportion of Professional Workers and Managerial & Technical Workers is lower in Longford than nationally. There is a slightly higher proportion of manual workers in Longford than Ireland as a whole.
- The social class profile in Westmeath is similar to the national picture

Table 1.10 Persons classified by Social Class, 2006

Social Class	Longford		Westmeath		Ireland	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Professional Workers (SC 1)	1,328	4	4,630	6	277,062	7
Managerial & Technical (SC 2)	8,024	23	20,023	25	1,117,986	26
Non-Manual (SC 3)	5,341	16	13,574	17	721,731	17
Skilled Manual (SC 4)	6,587	19	14,011	18	725,938	17
Semi Skilled (SC 5)	3,960	12	8,433	11	469,320	11
Unskilled (SC 6)	1,651	5	3,352	4	180,371	4
Other gainfully occupied/Unknown (SC 7)	7,500	22	15,323	19	747,440	18

Source: Census 2006

Educational Attainment Longford

An individual's level of educational achievement influences his or her job prospects, future income and social status. Education also enables people to exert more control over their own lives, including health related decisions. Table 1.11 shows the educational attainment profiles of people living in Longford, Westmeath and in Ireland in 2006.

- Longford has a higher proportion (19%) of persons aged 15 and over having completed their education at primary level compared to Ireland as a whole (15%).
- Fewer people in Longford (10%) have attained third level education to degree or higher compared to Ireland as a whole (16%).
- Westmeath follows the national profile very closely with no major variation in educational attainment.
- A lower proportion (13%) of the population aged 15 and over in Westmeath than nationally (16%) has ceased education having attained third level education to degree or higher.

Table 1.11 Persons aged 16 years and over classified by highest level of education completed, 2006

Educational Status	Longford		Westmeath		Ireland	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Full-time Education has ceased	23,062	86	52,232	85	2,850,333	84
Primary (incl no formal education)	5,223	19	9,666	16	514,085	15
Lower Secondary	4,942	18	10,950	18	573,411	17
Upper Secondary	6,631	25	15,611	25	803,498	24
Third Level - Non degree	2,090	8	5,406	9	301,327	9
Third Level degree or higher	2,722	10	7,986	13	527,775	16
Not Stated	1,454	5	2,613	4	130,237	4
Full-time education not ceased	3,866	14	9,463	15	525,066	16
At School/University	2,400	9	6,093	10	349,596	10
Other economic Status	1,466	5	3,370	5	175,470	5

Source: Figures extracted from CSO Census 2006

Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio is a figure used to describe the proportion of the population that is available for work and those who are not. The dependency ratio is derived by expressing the young (aged 0 to 14 years) population and old (aged 65 years and over) population as a proportion of the population of working age (15 to 64 years). The ratio, which is expressed as a percentage, is important because as it increases, there is increased requirement on the working population to support the upbringing, pensions and care of the economically dependent population.

The table below outlines the dependency ratios for Longford, Westmeath and Ireland.

- Longford has a higher dependency ratio (52%) when compared to the national figure (46%). This means that in Longford, there is more than one person dependent on every two persons who are working.
- Westmeath has a marginally higher dependency ratio (49%) than the national figure (46%).

Table 1.12 Dependency Ratio

Geographic Region	Persons aged 0-14 & 65+	Persons aged 15-64	Dependency Ratio
Longford	11,789	22,602	52
Westmeath	26,143	53,203	49
Ireland	1,332,375	2,907,473	46

Source: Figures extracted from CSO Census 2006 Principal Demographic Results, 2007

Deprivation

Deprivation is frequently associated with poor health. Those who are disadvantaged socially, economically or educationally are more likely to have poor health. Deprivation indices attempt to measure deprivation, using data available from the census. Two indices that are widely used in this context in Ireland are the Haase and Pratschke Index and the SAHRU Index. Although using broadly similar census information, they are derived differently, and by looking at the results of both indices, we are able to build a comprehensive picture of relative material deprivation in Ireland.

The Haase and Pratschke Index

The Haase and Pratschke Index (1) uses three dimensions of affluence/disadvantage to comprise their index. These are 'Demographic Profile', 'Social Class Composition' and 'Labour Market Situation', each of which uses several census based indicators such as age, educational level attained, skill or social class of the head of the household, the average number of persons per room, and male and female unemployment rates and others, from which an Index Score is derived. A full description of the Index and how it is constructed is available on www.pobal.ie

Maps 1 & 2 shows the results of the latest Haase and Pratschke Deprivation Index Relative Score by ED for County Longford, based on the 2006 Census details.

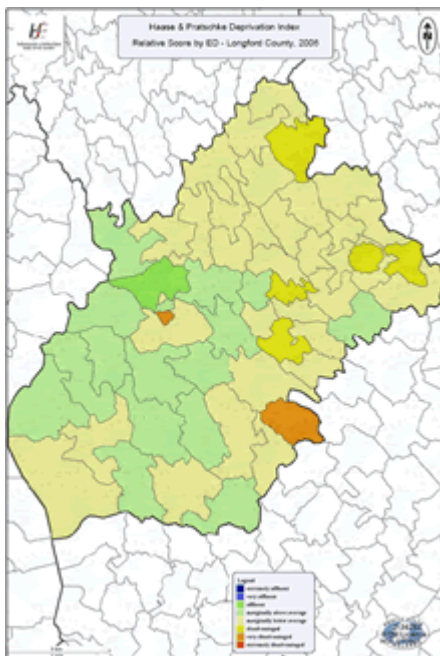
The index labels relative material deprivation in descriptive terms ranging from 'extremely affluent' to 'extremely disadvantaged'.

Longford

- Longford is the third most disadvantaged county* in Ireland as a whole.
- Overall County Longford is not characterised by particular extremes either with regard to affluence or deprivation.
- The only slightly more affluent areas are situated in the wider environs of Longford town and to the western part of the county.
- One ED (Caldragh) falls into the 'affluent' category.
- The whole eastern part of the county is below the national average, with some local areas falling into the disadvantaged spectrum.
- Two EDs (Foxhall, Longford No 1 Urban) fall into the 'very disadvantaged' category which is almost 2% of the total number (68) of 'very disadvantaged' EDs in Ireland.
- Five EDs are categorised as 'disadvantaged' in the county.
- The overall disadvantage of the county is less the outcome of extreme deprivation, but more due to the almost complete absence of any affluent areas.

** There are 34 'counties' for administrative purposes in the Haase Pratschke Index. These include the twenty six counties of Ireland plus five cities plus two further administrative counties for Dublin (Fingal and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown) and counting Tipperary as two (Tipperary North and South).*

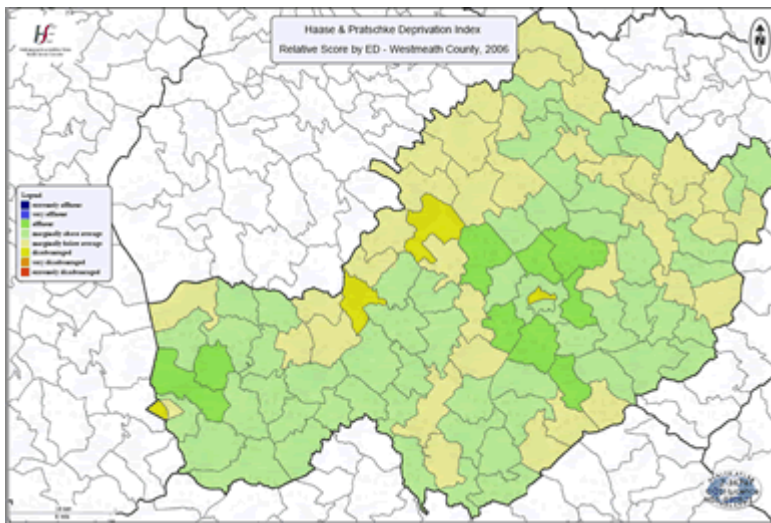
Map 1 Haase and Pratschke Deprivation index for Longford, 2006



Westmeath

- County Westmeath is the fifteenth most affluent county in Ireland as a whole.
- Overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes either with regard to affluence or deprivation.
- The most affluent parts of the county are the wider environs around Mullingar and Athlone, but excluding the towns themselves and their immediate surroundings.
- There are the only four EDs which fall into the 'disadvantaged' category Kilbixy, Athlone West Urban, Mullingar North Urban and Templepatrick.
- The remainder of the county is broadly in the middle field of the overall affluence to deprivation spectrum.

Map 2 Haase and Pratschke Deprivation index for Westmeath, 2006



The SAHRU Index of Material Deprivation

The SAHRU Index of Material Deprivation (2) is based on four census based variables, namely: unemployment, low social class, no car and rented or local authority purchased accommodation. This marks a change from SAHRU Indices for previous years as overcrowding was also considered in those indices.

Maps 3 & 4 shows the SAHRU Material Deprivation Index for County Longford.

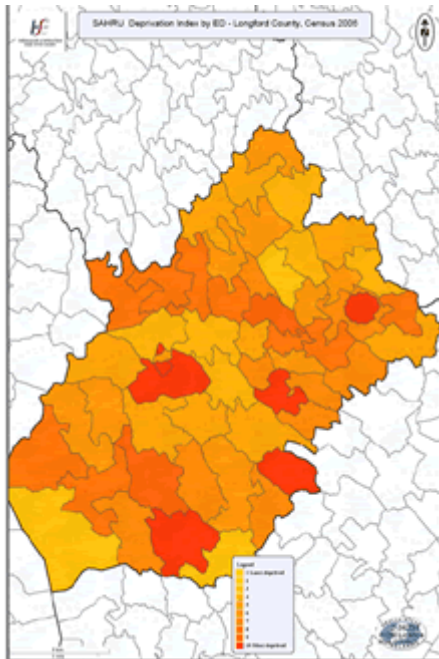
The SAHRU Index applies a scale to illustrate relative material deprivation from 'least deprived' to 'most deprived'. Level 1 is least deprived and level 10 is most deprived.

Longford

- Overall County Longford is quite deprived, with most EDs being classed towards the deprived end of the scale
- The areas of less deprivation are in the south of the county
- The areas of greatest deprivation are by the towns of Granard, Longford, Ballymahon and Edgesworthstown

Further details on the SAHRU Index is available on <http://www.sahru.tcd.ie/services/deprivation.php>

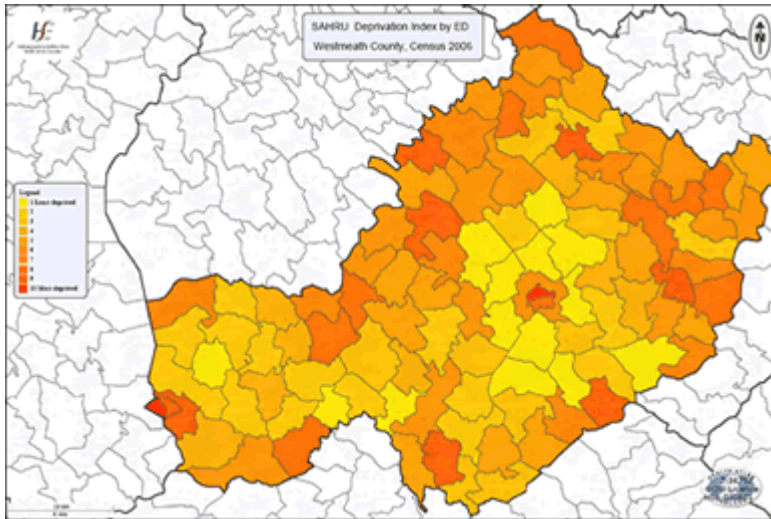
Map 3 Deprivation index by Electoral Division for Longford, Census 2006



Westmeath

- The areas of greatest deprivation lie towards the north east of the county
- Only two EDs are at Level 10 (most deprived) and these are both part of larger urban areas. The EDs are Athlone West Urban and Mullingar North Urban
- The areas showing least deprivation (Level 1) lie in the wider environs of Mullingar and to a lesser extent in the south-west of the county

Map 4 Deprivation index by Electoral Division for Westmeath, Census 2006



The picture presented by the SAHRU Index generally equates with that depicted by the Haase Pratschke Index although there are some local variances

The variables used in the indices may account for some of these differences. Car ownership, for example, is calculated by the SAHRU Index but not by the Haase and Pratschke Index. In rural areas, a car is often deemed a necessity but may not be a sign of affluence. Education level attained is considered in the Haase and Pratschke Index for example, but not in the SAHRU Index.

In both indices, it must be emphasised that not everyone living in deprived EDs is deprived and *vice versa*.

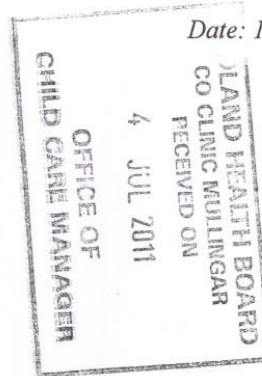
References

- 1 Haase, T and Pratschke, J (2008) **New Measures of Deprivation for the Republic of Ireland.** Dublin: Pobal
- 2 Small Area Health Research Unit **The National Deprivation Index For Health and Health Services Research**, SAHRU Technical Report December 2007

ÚDARÁIS ÁITIÚLA LONGFOIRT
Longford Local Authorities

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Ms. Maria Larkin
Child Care Manager
Longford / Westmeath L.H.O. Area
Child Care Manager's Office
Health Centre
Longford Road
Mullingar
Co. Westmeath




Date: 1st July 2011

Re: Children Services Committee and three year plan

Dear Maria

Further to your letter of the 26th June outlining the Children's Services Committee implementation plan, I am pleased to fully endorse the proposed actions and look forward to working with the committee over the period of the plan.

Yours sincerely


Tim Caffrey
Longford County Manager

Má scriobhann tu chugainn as Gaeilge, freagroimid i nGaeilge.

Appendix Three



**Ms. Maria Larkin,
Childcare Manager Longford Westmeath LHO Area,
Child Care Manager's Office,
Health Centre,
Longford Road,
MULLINGAR.**



29TH June 2011
m/bd

RE: Children Services Committee - Three Year Plan

A Chara,

Further to your correspondence of the 26th June 2011, I wish to confirm this local authority's full support and agreement to the promotion and implementation of the following projects, as part of the Children Services Committee Three Year Plan.

- Triple P Parenting Programme
- Tus Nua Programme
- Audit of all services for 12 to 18 year olds
- Support for the implementation of the Children First Guidelines across all agencies.

I wish your Committee every success in the implementation of these policies and wish to confirm this organisation's ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

**Daniel McLoughlin,
County Manager**

County Buildings, Mullingar, County Westmeath
Áras an Chontae, an Muileann gCearr, Contae na h-Iarmhí
tel: 044 9332000 | fax: 044 9342330 | email: info@westmeathcoco.ie | web: www.westmeathcoco.ie


MidlandsIreland.ie
gateway to growth

National Early Years Access Initiative

Overview of Evaluation

DRAFT

Presentation to NEYAI Projects

Kieran McKeown & Trutz Haase

Ashling Hotel, Dublin, 7 July 2011

NEYAI Vision

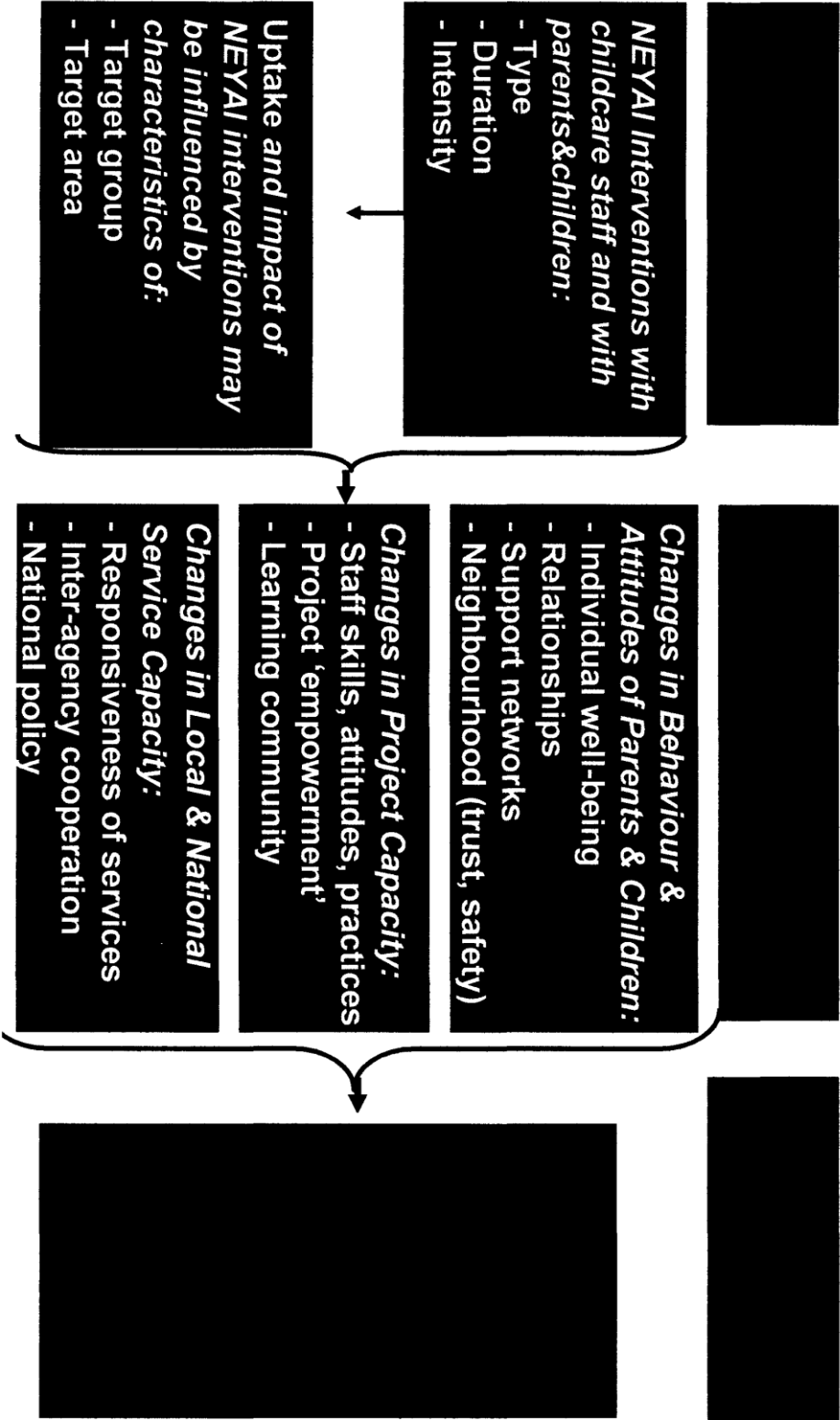
1. The vision for NEYAI has two elements:

- Build a national evidence-base for policy and practice
- Build capacity of services to improve quality, coordination and outcomes

2. This vision is both simple in aspiration but complex in implementation:

- Understanding how an intervention like NEYAI could change capacity and outcomes needs to take account of the 'proximal' and 'distal' influences that operate both in the agency making the intervention and in the children and their parents who receive it.
- Finding out what works in NEYAI must also take account of the fact that this intervention is multi-site, multi-level, multi-activity, multi-agency, multi-focus, etc.
- These considerations draw attention to the need for a clear 'logic model' for NEYAI which shows how all these sources of variation will be taken into account in the evaluation.

General Logic Model of NEYAI



Comparison Group Sample

-
- ☐ The only objective data available to select the comparison group sample is based on the treatment group's catchment area, expressed in terms of its deprivation score using the Pobal-Haase Index.
 - ☐ Detailed analysis will be undertaken of the catchment areas of NEYAI projects and this will be used to identify a set of 11 comparison areas which are matched as closely as possible to the treatment areas.
 - ☐ In each of the 11 comparison areas, 3 childcare centres will be selected from the Pobal database to match the childcare centres in the treatment group.
 - ☐ Each of these childcare centres will be invited to participate in the study and supply the evaluation team with a list of 24 children and their parents, randomly selected.
 - ☐ The evaluation team will draw a random sample of 12 children and their parents from each list, yielding a total sample which is close to the 385 children and parents in the treatment group.
 - ☐ Staff in the comparison group childcare centres will:
 - Complete an assessment of the child at baseline and follow-up
 - Self-complete a questionnaire on various aspects of their work – personal, professional, organisational - at baseline and follow-up

Core Elements of Evaluation

-
- ☐ There are four elements to the NEYAI evaluation:
 - ✓ NEYAI Initiative
 - ✓ 11 Projects
 - ✓ Thematic
 - ✓ Learning Community
 - ☐ The main sources of data for the evaluation are:
 1. Survey of parents in each NEYAI project at baseline and follow-up
 2. Survey of a matched comparison group at baseline and follow-up
 3. 'Benchmark' data from GUI and other normative data to supplement comparison group data
 4. Staff assessment of child: focus on cognitive development & school readiness
 5. Survey of staff in sample of childcare centres
 6. Profile of local project and area
 7. Assessment of learning community
 8. Case studies of individual service models that are known to work

Types of Data to be Collected – Work in Progress

☐ Data on Parents:

- ✓ Socio-demographic, neighbourhood, services
- ✓ Personal well-being, including physical health and lifestyle
- ✓ Home environment
- ✓ Relationship to one child
- ✓ Relationship to partner
- ✓ Experience of childcare centre

☐ Data on Children:

- ✓ Child physical health: Parent completion on 0-6 yr olds
- ✓ Socio-emotional development
 - BITSEA: Parent completion on 1.5-3.5 year olds
 - SDQ: Parent completion on 3.5-6.0 year olds
- ✓ Cognitive development (Renfrew Language Scales): staff assessment of 3.5-6.0 yrs
- ✓ School readiness (Early Development Instrument): staff assessment of 3.5-6.0 yrs

Types of Data to be Collected– Work in Progress

☐ Data on Staff in Childcare Centres:

- ✓ Professional characteristics (qualifications, experience)
- ✓ Personal characteristics (traits, confidence, motivation, morale, burnout)
- ✓ Work environment (support, supervision, involvement, management, staff turnover)
- ✓ Inter-agency working (frequency and quality of contact with other services)

☐ Data on NEYAI Projects and Catchment Area:

- ✓ Type, duration and intensity of intervention
- ✓ Lead agency and consortium members
- ✓ Model of inter-agency working and its implementation
- ✓ Assessment of targeting relative to area profile

Draft Timeframe for Evaluation in 2011-1012

Date	Output
End Sept 2011	Research Protocol finalised
TREATMENT GROUP	
Mid-Oct 2011	NEYAI projects supply list of 70 children and their parents, plus their childcare centres, to be included in evaluation
Oct-Dec 2011	(i) survey of parents (ii) staff assessment of children (iii) survey of staff (iv) profile of project and its area
COMPARISON GROUP	
Jan 2012	Comparison areas and childcare centres identified
Feb-Mar 2012	(i) survey of parents (ii) staff assessment of children (iii) survey of staff (iv) profile of project and context
Apr-May 2012	Data analysis and report writing
May-Jun 2012	Interim report finalised and launched

Some Questions and Issues

- ☐ How will each project define a substantial and sustained intervention in order to compile the list of 70 children and their parents?
- ☐ When will projects know their full list of parents and children?
- ☐ How can projects minimise the risk of drop-outs of parents and children?
- ☐ Staff in childcare centres – both treatment and comparison groups - will require one-day training to carry out the child assessments, preferably organised nationally.
- ☐ Each project will require a nominated person to liaise with evaluation team and manage data gathering from each childcare centre.
- ☐ There is an intense period of baseline data gathering, possibly in Oct/Dec 2011, then a gap two years, and the follow-up in Oct/Dec 2013.

Core Evaluation Questions

- ☐ Does NEYAI have an impact on children and their parents by comparison with a matched sample of those who have not participated in NEYAI?

- ☐ If NEYAI has an impact, how does this come about, for whom, in which projects, using what type of intervention(s)?

Sampling Strategy

The sampling strategy is informed by four considerations:

- ✓ The overall success of NEYAI has to manifest itself ultimately in an improvement in outcomes for children and their parents.
- ✓ NEYAI has a 'hierarchical' structure in which children and their parents are 'clustered' or 'nested' within 11 separate projects. As a result, data collection and analysis must take account of two levels: the individual level of children and their parents (level 1) and the project level in each area (level 2).
- ✓ The sampling strategy should minimise the risk of generating a 'false negative', such as concluding that NEYAI has no impact when it actually has. To minimise this risk, the sample of children and their parents will be drawn from those who are known by each project to be in receipt of a substantial and sustained intervention.
- ✓ The sample of children and parents must be related to each other as family – hence the term 'children and their parents' – since the evaluation needs to assess how NEYAI impacts on children and parents as separate individuals but also as a family unit, including the separate dynamics within the family as possible mediators of outcomes.

Treatment Group Sample

- ☐ Random sample of 35 children and their parents will be drawn in each NEYAI project from those who meet the criterion that they are receiving a substantial and sustained intervention.
- ☐ Projects will supply evaluation team with list of up to 70 children and their parents who meet this criterion from which a random sample of 35 is drawn.
 - This list will contain the names of parents and their children (0-6) and contact details plus the consent of parents to be contacted by evaluation team
- ☐ The evaluation team will arrange interviews with parents at baseline (possibly Oct/Dec 2011) and again at follow-up in Oct/Dec 2013.
- ☐ Staff in the childcare centres delivering the programme will:
 - Complete an assessment of the child at baseline and follow-up
 - Self-complete a questionnaire on various aspects of their work – personal, professional, organisational - at baseline and follow-up

END OF PRESENTATION
